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CAMARADERIE

Second Edition 2020

VOL. 51 NO. 2

**ADF SALARIES
UPDATE**

**DEFENCE DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE STRATEGY**

VETERANS VS THE ATO

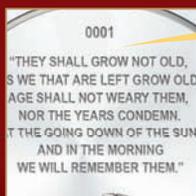
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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Vol. 51. No. 2 Second Edition 2020



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 5 November 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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Advertising: All enquiries to the Editor.

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Please keep the articles coming in - I have recently received a number of articles from members and when space permits and if appropriate, am happy to publish. Send to me at editor@dfwa.org.au in Word format (not PDF).

Les Bienkiewicz

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Royal Australian Navy Officer, Lieutenant Andrew Roberts a pilot with 816 Squadron conducts pre-flight checks on an MH-60 Romeo helicopter on the flight line at HMAS Albatross 816 Squadron is the Fleet Air Arm's operational support squadron for the MH-60R 'Romeo' Seahawk multi-role maritime combat helicopter. 816 Squadron's aircrew and technicians are specialists in flying and maintaining the MH-60R in order to provide a ship or task group with an enhanced anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare capability. 816 Squadron conducts routine training flights in various conditions, in order to maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of its pilots and aircrew.

Photo courtesy of Defence Media

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1959



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SOUTH AUSTRALIA (0412 574 444) - sabbranch@dfwa.org.au WESTERN AUSTRALIA (08 93834055) - wabbranch@dfwa.org.au

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

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

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

If in any doubt, contact the National Office.

DFWA RELIEF FUND

The DFWA maintains a **Relief Fund** to provide financial assistance to those "in urgent and necessitous circumstances involving real hardship". Financial support is available to members of the Association; regular members of the ADF; Reservists on full time duty; or their widows / widowers and dependants.

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



Yes, 2020 has been an interesting year to date!

With bushfires across the country and Covid-19 across the world we have all had to adjust the sails and moderate much of what we do and how we interact with family and those around us. Government at all levels has taken steps to interfere in our lives to an extent unknown since WW2. It is fair to say however that we as a people and a nation have adjusted well and with good humour. The word stoicism comes to mind and wry humour is increasingly evident.

We should be thankful that there are some excellent cartoonists and comics that have tapped into the nation's mood with take downs of our present situations and challenges. It is a truism that Australians do have an interesting sense of humour. Thankfully we can appreciate it while those from across the seas are forever quizzical – 'what are those Aussies smiling at'?

ANZAC Day

Interesting times demand interesting solutions. ANZAC Day 2020 was one such a time as we were all forced to adjust our individual, family, community and national observance of the 25th April. The Prime Minister and the Federal Leader of the Opposition paid the nations respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the War Memorial. There was a poignancy about these two leaders laying a wreath in the solitude of the Tomb with none of the normal milling VIPs and others to disrupt the solemnity of the ceremony.

Across the nation we all embraced the notion of standing in the driveway at 6.00am with candles and the Last Post in the background. Many streets responded in unison in this simple act of remembrance. Again, a moving and for many, a touching ceremony unlike many have experienced in past years.

It all reminded me that ANZAC Day belongs to us all. ANZAC Day and the way in which we as a nation commemorate it has evolved since 25th April 1916. In that year the first remembrance services were held in London, Egypt, France and back here in Australia. During the world wars it was used for patriotic purposes and recruiting campaigns, but the rituals slowly evolved to that which we have seen in recent years. What will happen in 2021 is a moot point considering how we commemorated in 2020.

No one ex-service group has ownership of ANZAC Day. Some have sought to claim it as theirs, some use it for fundraising

purposes and sadly compete for preference. Across the country and overseas individual Australians are increasingly stepping up to organise, to conduct the annual commemoration or remembrance. May it always be so.

Sadly, as I write this, I am conscious that across the country there are individuals and groups defacing the very statues and cenotaphs that are central to ANZAC Day remembrance. We have dumbed down our education system, denied the place of our culture and our history in the formation of our children and our future as a nation. Football teams mindlessly 'take a kneel' when all we want them to do is play football. So called prominent people or celebrities attempt to tell us how to respond politically, when to laugh or not laugh when all we want to do is laugh.

It is in this environment that the ex-service community must commit to come together and fight to refocus the nation on what it is good about Australia and not give credence to those who would divide us.

Alliance of Defence Services Organisations (ADSO)

ADSO draws together 18 ex-service organisation's for the purpose of 'speaking with one voice'. It is a noble ideal and one which seeks to project a common view on the important issues that the veterans and their families face. It is a work in progress as each member ESO seeks to protect their own issues, but these often morph into a common ADSO view as many individual members belong to several of the member associations.

Indeed, many members of the ADSO associations are individual members of the RSL and its numerous sub-branches yet the RSL itself is not a member of ADSO. Neither is Legacy.

In a perfect world it would be ideal if ADSO also comprised the RSL and Legacy along with numerous other active ESOs. However, that is not going to occur in the near future. My ideal would be that each of the many veteran associations respect the views and the enthusiasm of others and where possible speak with one voice when addressing issues to government and the bureaucracy. Yes, I am a glass half full guy!

Type casting or pigeon-holing issues is a fraught exercise and, frankly, not worth the angst that often occurs when strong individuals and long held positions come up against the changing circumstances we are living through at present. The challenge is to maintain a focus on why we do what we do – it is for the benefit of the present and the future veteran and their families.

Your support in achieving a 'common voice' to the present veterans' issues would be a perfect first step into the future.

Life Member's 100th Birthday

Colonel Carl McCarthy Retd celebrated his 100th birthday on 20 March 2020. Carl was of that era when RDFWA was formed in 1959, he knew the 'founding fathers' and is aware of the background to why there was a need for what is now DFWA - a great milestone.

Purpose

Need I remind you that the Purpose of DFWA is:

'to foster the best interests and wellbeing of all members of the Australian Defence Force and their families in any matter likely to affect them during or after their period of service.'

Thank you to all who continue to support the work of the DFWA.

Kel Ryan
Kel Ryan - National President
Email: president.national@dfwa.org.au
Ph: 0418 759 120



WHEN WAS THE LAST US CIVIL WAR PENSION PAID ?

1952? 1960? maybe even 1970?
GO TO PAGE 30 TO FIND OUT!
YOU WILL BE SUPRISED!

THE NEXT ADF WAGE CASE

What's happening?!

The current ADF pay arrangement is about to expire, and a new Workplace Remuneration Arrangement (WRA) for three years was scheduled to be considered by the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) later this year. The DFWA will be involved again in the WRA process and will provide an independent voice to ensure the interests of members of the ADF and their families are properly considered as the WRA proceeds is developed is negotiated.

The DFWA supports the recent decision of the Government, and as endorsed by the CDF, that any salary and salary-related allowance increases that are scheduled to occur over the next 12 months be deferred by six months. The effectively means that the pay rise that would ordinarily be expected at the end of the year, as part of the new WRA, will now not occur until mid-2021. The DFWA notes and supports the CDF comment that "we must be in step with community standards and expectations, so

that while many Australians and families are facing significant economic difficulties, we take a pause on pay increases for ADF members".

Whatever happens ...the major issue for the DFWA is that there is no removal of Conditions of Service, and that the pay increase, when it comes, is fair and reasonable having regard to the general cost of living and what's happening with Defence APS. ADF members will recall our past success in previous WRAs when we fought for, and won, the removal of "offsets" (such as leave entitlements etc) to fund pay increases.

The DFWA will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated as the matter progresses. Should you have any comments you wish to make, drop the DFWA a note to wra@dfwa.org.au

NATIONAL OFFICE ROUNDUP (February 2020 - June 2020)



Generations young and old will likely remember 2020 along similar lines that our Monarch did back almost 30 years ago when, following the fires that almost destroyed Windsor Castle, she described 1992 as being 'not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure'. It was a year that turned out to be an 'Annus Horribilis' one.

To a multitude of millions around the world but particularly the peoples throughout Australia who bore witness to and experienced in turn first hand a crippling drought, then soul-destroying bush fires, even floods, then a pestilence from which recovery will be slow and painful, a silver lining to the dark cloud will be long in coming. Barely a week or two back most will have wondered, as I did, what more could go wrong, until suddenly the world literally turned itself upside down when many seemed to suffer autism disbelief to any alternate views other than their own. One can be forgiven for wondering how future generations will judge the events of this barely half-way done and dusted tumultuous year.

But it is a year the second half of which still looms for serving ADF members at least with the prospect of a better than a zero sum outcome from the scheduled hearings in November of the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT). But unlike in 2017, there appears little prospect that the Government will give an early indication of an agreement with the ADF that the next three year Workplace Remuneration Arrangement (WRA), commencing November 2020, will give ADF members a 2% pa wage increase for each of the next three years.

Needless to say, DFWA will be involved again in the WRA process and will provide yet again an independent voice to ensure the interests of members of the ADF and their families are properly considered during pay negotiations. Yet again, we will guard against any proposed increase being offset or degraded by any reductions in ADF member conditions of service or entitlements. And guard against a pay increase being degraded in other ways such as Defence-inspired increases in rents. That said, there is some prospect, given the state of the economy driven by the Covid-19 pandemic, that any increases in wage and salary-related allowances may be deferred by perhaps six months.

On other fronts, disappointingly there has been no discernable effort from the Government to redress issues that have been outstanding for far too long. Those issues include fair indexation not just for the over 55 DFRDB pensioners but all military pension recipients; redressing the long standing inequities derived

out of using out-of-date life tables to calculate DFRDB fortnightly super payments; providing portability of preserved MSBS funds; tackling the way in which TPI Special Rate Pensions were year-by-year so drastically falling behind in value; and even providing veterans with 'top up' hearing aids when clinical needs dictate that requirement.

On the positive front, arguably Veterans' mental health issues are being actively addressed, albeit sadly there still remains the fact that suicide among Veterans who have transitioned from the ADF is unacceptably too high. Although calls for a Royal Commission continues unabated, there looms a new chapter in the care of Veterans and their families who served their nation with honour by way of the pending appoint of an independent National Commissioner for Defence and Suicide Prevention tasked to investigate cases of suicide not only in the veteran community but also among serving ADF members. And by way of the appointment of a Veteran Family Advocate tasked with placing families at the heart of policy and decision-making promoting better health outcomes for Veterans, thus reducing the risk of suicide. Being positive initiatives, DFWA supports them.

Perhaps enough for this issue except for the usual plea I make in every issue of Camaraderie. In that regard, a big thanks on two fronts. Firstly to those members and friends of DFWA who realise that the work the Association does on behalf of both the serving and the veterans community requires resources oft times beyond what membership dues alone can bring in. Your donations were gratefully received.

An equal big thanks must go the Bradford Exchange whose generous and welcome sponsorship helps immeasurably and eases the financial pressures of DFWA's operations. Their advertisements can be viewed in the pages of this Camaraderie. Please support them if ever in need of high quality collectable memorabilia for personal use or as a gift that marks commemorative occasions.

Finally, if you are not a member of DFWA, or if you are currently a 'Virtual Member', please consider joining as an 'Ordinary Member'. And if you feel that you would like to help by making even a small donation, or continue to make a donation, it will help greatly going forward. And please know that DFWA is there for you. Your feedback on any issue of concern is always welcome.

Alf Jaugietis - Executive Director

“MAKE YOUR BED”

BY ADMIRAL WILLIAM H. MCRAVEN

This speech was delivered as the commencement address to the graduates of The University of Texas at Austin on May 17, 2014. The speech was originally published on the University of Texas website. Its message remains as relevant today as it was when it was delivered . . .

President Powers, Provost Fennes, Deans, members of the faculty, family and friends and most importantly, the class of 2014. Congratulations on your achievement.

It's been almost 37 years to the day that I graduated from UT. I remember a lot of things about that day. I remember I had throbbing headache from a party the night before. I remember I had a serious girlfriend, whom I later married - that's important to remember by the way - and I remember that I was getting commissioned in the Navy that day.

But of all the things I remember, I don't have a clue who the commencement speaker was that evening, and I certainly don't remember anything they said. So, acknowledging that fact, if I can't make this commencement speech memorable, I will at least try to make it short.

The University's slogan is, “What starts here changes the world.” I have to admit - I kinda like it. “What starts here changes the world.”

Tonight there are almost 8,000 students graduating from UT. That great paragon of analytical rigor, Ask.Com, says that the average American will meet 10,000 people in their lifetime. That's a lot of folks. But, if every one of you changed the lives of just 10 people - and each one of those folks changed the lives of another 10 people - just 10 - then in five generations - 125 years - the class of 2014 will have changed the lives of 800 million people.

800 million people - think of it - over twice the population of the United States. Go one more generation and you can change the entire population of the world - eight billion people.

If you think it's hard to change the lives of 10 people - change their lives forever - you're wrong. I saw it happen every day in Iraq and Afghanistan: A young Army officer makes a decision to go left instead of right down a road in Baghdad and the 10 soldiers in his squad are saved from close-in ambush. In Kandahar province, Afghanistan, a non-commissioned officer from the Female Engagement Team senses something isn't right and directs the infantry platoon away from a 500-pound IED, saving the lives of a dozen soldiers.

But, if you think about it, not only were these soldiers saved by the decisions of one person, but their children yet unborn were also saved. And their children's children were saved. Generations were saved by one decision, by one person.

But changing the world can happen anywhere and anyone can do it. So, what starts here can indeed change the world, but the question is - what will the world look like after you change it?

Well, I am confident that it will look much, much better. But if you will humor this old sailor for just a moment, I have a few suggestions that may help you on your way to a better world. And while these lessons were learned during my time in the military, I can assure you that it matters not whether you ever served a day in uniform. It matters not your gender, your ethnic or religious background, your orientation or your social status.

Our struggles in this world are similar, and the lessons to overcome those struggles and to move forward - changing ourselves and the world around us - will apply equally to all.

I have been a Navy SEAL for 36 years. But it all began when I left

UT for Basic SEAL training in Coronado, California. Basic SEAL training is six months of long torturous runs in the soft sand, midnight swims in the cold water off San Diego, obstacles courses, unending calisthenics, days without sleep and always being cold, wet and miserable. It is six months of being constantly harrassed by professionally trained warriors who seek to find the weak of mind and body and eliminate them from ever becoming a Navy SEAL.

But, the training also seeks to find those students who can lead in an environment of constant stress, chaos, failure and hardships. To me basic SEAL training was a lifetime of challenges crammed into six months.

So, here are the 10 lessons I learned from basic SEAL training that hopefully will be of value to you as you move forward in life.

Every morning in basic SEAL training, my instructors, who at the time were all Vietnam veterans, would show up in my barracks room and the first thing they would inspect was your bed. If you did it right, the corners would be square, the covers pulled tight, the pillow centered just under the headboard and the extra blanket folded neatly at the foot of the rack - that's Navy talk for bed.

It was a simple task - mundane at best. But every morning we were required to make our bed to perfection. It seemed a little ridiculous at the time, particularly in light of the fact that were aspiring to be real warriors, tough battle-hardened SEALs, but the wisdom of this simple act has been proven to me many times over.

If you make your bed every morning you will have accomplished the first task of the day. It will give you a small sense of pride, and it will encourage you to do another task and another and another. By the end of the day, that one task completed will have turned into many tasks completed. Making your bed will also reinforce the fact that little things in life matter. If you can't do the little things right, you will never do the big things right.

And, if by chance you have a miserable day, you will come home to a bed that is made - that you made - and a made bed gives you encouragement that tomorrow will be better.

If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed.

During SEAL training the students are broken down into boat crews. Each crew is seven students - three on each side of a small rubber boat and one coxswain to help guide the dingy. Every day your boat crew forms up on the beach and is instructed to get through the surfzone and paddle several miles down the coast. In the winter, the surf off San Diego can get to be 8 to 10 feet high and it is exceedingly difficult to paddle through the plunging surf

unless everyone digs in. Every paddle must be synchronized to the stroke count of the coxswain. Everyone must exert equal effort or the boat will turn against the wave and be unceremoniously tossed back on the beach.

For the boat to make it to its destination, everyone must paddle. You can't change the world alone - you will need some help - and to truly get from your starting point to your destination takes friends, colleagues, the good will of strangers and a strong coxswain to guide them.

If you want to change the world, find someone to help you paddle.

Over a few weeks of difficult training my SEAL class, which started with 150 men, was down to just 35. There were now six boat crews of seven men each. I was in the boat with the tall guys, but the best boat crew we had was made up of the the little guys - the munchkin crew we called them - no one was over about five-foot-five.

The munchkin boat crew had one American Indian, one African American, one Polish American, one Greek American, one Italian American, and two tough kids from the midwest. They out-paddled, out-ran and out-swam all the other boat crews. The big men in the other boat crews would always make good-natured fun of the tiny little flippers the munchkins put on their tiny little feet prior to every swim. But somehow these little guys, from every corner of the nation and the world, always had the last laugh - swimming faster than everyone and reaching the shore long before the rest of us.

SEAL training was a great equalizer. Nothing mattered but your will to succeed. Not your color, not your ethnic background, not your education and not your social status.

If you want to change the world, measure a person by the size of their heart, not the size of their flippers.

Several times a week, the instructors would line up the class and do a uniform inspection. It was exceptionally thorough. Your hat had to be perfectly starched, your uniform immaculately pressed and your belt buckle shiny and void of any smudges. But it seemed that no matter how much effort you put into starching your hat, or pressing your uniform or polishing your belt buckle — it just wasn't good enough. The instructors would find “something” wrong.

For failing the uniform inspection, the student had to run, fully clothed into the surfzone and then, wet from head to toe, roll around on the beach until every part of your body was covered with sand. The effect was known as a “sugar cookie.” You stayed in that uniform the rest of the day - cold, wet and sandy.

There were many a student who just couldn't accept the fact that all their effort was in vain. That no matter how hard they tried to get the uniform right, it was unappreciated. Those students didn't make it through training. Those students didn't understand the purpose of the drill. You were never going to succeed. You were never going to have a perfect uniform.

Sometimes no matter how well you prepare or how well you perform you still end up as a sugar cookie. It's just the way life is sometimes.

If you want to change the world get over being a sugar cookie and keep moving forward.

Every day during training you were challenged with multiple physical events - long runs, long swims, obstacle courses, hours of calisthenics - something designed to test your mettle. Every event had standards — times you had to meet. If you failed to meet those standards your name was posted on a list, and at the end of the day those on the list were invited to a “circus.” A circus was two hours of additional calisthenics designed to wear you down, to break your spirit, to force you to quit.

No one wanted a circus.

A circus meant that for that day you didn't measure up. A circus meant more fatigue - and more fatigue meant that the following day would be more difficult - and more circuses were likely. But at some time during SEAL training, everyone - everyone - made the circus list.

But an interesting thing happened to those who were constantly on the list. Over time those students - who did two hours of extra calisthenics - got stronger and stronger. The pain of the circuses built inner strength, built physical resiliency.

Life is filled with circuses. You will fail. You will likely fail often. It will be painful. It will be discouraging. At times it will test you to your very core.

But if you want to change the world, don't be afraid of the circuses.

At least twice a week, the trainees were required to run the obstacle course. The obstacle course contained 25 obstacles including a 10-foot high wall, a 30-foot cargo net and a barbed wire crawl, to name a few. But the most challenging obstacle was the slide for life. It had a three-level 30-foot tower at one end and a one-level tower at the other. In between was a 200-foot-long rope. You had to climb the three-tiered tower and once at the top, you grabbed the rope, swung underneath the rope and pulled yourself hand over hand until you got to the other end.

The record for the obstacle course had stood for years when my class began training in 1977. The record seemed unbeatable, until one day, a student decided to go down the slide for life head first. Instead of swinging his body underneath the rope and inching his way down, he bravely mounted the TOP of the rope and thrust himself forward.



“ ... if by chance you have a miserable day, you will come home to a bed that is made - that you made - and a made bed gives you encouragement that tomorrow will be better. ”

It was a dangerous move - seemingly foolish, and fraught with risk. Failure could mean injury and being dropped from the training. Without hesitation the student slid down the rope perilously fast. Instead of several minutes, it only took him half that time and by the end of the course he had broken the record.

If you want to change the world sometimes you have to slide down the obstacle head first.

During the land warfare phase of training, the students are flown out to San Clemente Island which lies off the coast of San Diego. The waters off San Clemente are a breeding ground for the great white sharks. To pass SEAL training there are a series of long swims that must be completed. One is the night swim.

Before the swim the instructors joyfully brief the trainees on all the species of sharks that inhabit the waters off San Clemente. They assure you, however, that no student has ever been eaten by a shark - at least not recently. But, you are also taught that if a shark begins to circle your position - stand your ground. Do not swim away. Do not act afraid. And if the shark, hungry for a midnight snack, darts towards you - then summon up all your strength and punch him in the snout, and he will turn and swim away.

There are a lot of sharks in the world. If you hope to complete the swim you will have to deal with them.

So, if you want to change the world, don't back down from the sharks.

As Navy SEALs one of our jobs is to conduct underwater attacks against enemy shipping. We practiced this technique extensively during basic training. The ship attack mission is where a pair of

SEAL divers is dropped off outside an enemy harbor and then swims well over two miles - underwater - using nothing but a depth gauge and a compass to get to their target.

During the entire swim, even well below the surface, there is some light that comes through. It is comforting to know that there is open water above you. But as you approach the ship, which is tied to a pier, the light begins to fade. The steel structure of the ship blocks the moonlight, it blocks the surrounding street lamps, it blocks all ambient light.

To be successful in your mission, you have to swim under the ship and find the keel - the centerline and the deepest part of the ship. This is your objective. But the keel is also the darkest part of the ship - where you cannot see your hand in front of your face, where the noise from the ship's machinery is deafening and where it is easy to get disoriented and fail.

Every SEAL knows that under the keel, at the darkest moment of the mission, is the time when you must be calm, composed - when all your tactical skills, your physical power and all your inner strength must be brought to bear.

If you want to change the world, you must be your very best in the darkest moment.

The ninth week of training is referred to as "Hell Week." It is six days of no sleep, constant physical and mental harassment, and one special day at the Mud Flats. The Mud Flats are area between San Diego and Tijuana where the water runs off and creates the Tijuana slues, a swampy patch of terrain where the mud will engulf you.

It is on Wednesday of Hell Week that you paddle down to the mud flats and spend the next 15 hours trying to survive the freezing cold mud, the howling wind and the incessant pressure to quit from the instructors. As the sun began to set that Wednesday evening, my training class, having committed some "egregious infraction of the rules" was ordered into the mud.

The mud consumed each man till there was nothing visible but our heads. The instructors told us we could leave the mud if only five men would quit - just five men - and we could get out of the oppressive cold. Looking around the mud flat it was apparent that some students were about to give up. It was still over eight hours till the sun came up - eight more hours of bone-chilling cold.

The chattering teeth and shivering moans of the trainees were so loud it was hard to hear anything. And then, one voice began to echo through the night, one voice raised in song. The song was terribly out of tune, but sung with great enthusiasm. One voice

became two and two became three and before long everyone in the class was singing. We knew that if one man could rise above the misery then others could as well.

The instructors threatened us with more time in the mud if we kept up the singing but the singing persisted. And somehow the mud seemed a little warmer, the wind a little tamer and the dawn not so far away.

If I have learned anything in my time traveling the world, it is the power of hope. The power of one person - Washington, Lincoln, King, Mandela and even a young girl from Pakistan, Malala - one person can change the world by giving people hope.

So, if you want to change the world, start singing when you're up to your neck in mud.

Finally, in SEAL training there is a bell. A brass bell that hangs in the center of the compound for all the students to see. All you have to do to quit is ring the bell.

Ring the bell and you no longer have to wake up at 5 o'clock. Ring the bell and you no longer have to do the freezing cold swims. Ring the bell and you no longer have to do the runs, the obstacle course, the PT - and you no longer have to endure the hardships of training. Just ring the bell.

If you want to change the world don't ever, ever ring the bell.

To the graduating class of 2014, you are moments away from graduating. Moments away from beginning your journey through life. Moments away from starting to change the world - for the better. It will not be easy.

But, YOU are the class of 2014, the class that can affect the lives of 800 million people in the next century.

Start each day with a task completed. Find someone to help you through life. Respect everyone.

Know that life is not fair and that you will fail often. But if take you take some risks, step up when the times are toughest, face down the bullies, lift up the downtrodden and never, ever give up - if you do these things, then the next generation and the generations that follow will live in a world far better than the one we have today.

And what started here will indeed have changed the world - for the better.

Thank you very much. Hook 'em horns.

BOOK REVIEW: Vietnam Vanguard

The 5 RAR Association in cooperation with the Australian National University Press have recently published a new book titled "Vietnam Vanguard – The 5th Battalion's Approach to Counter Insurgency 1966". The book recounts 5 RAR's insertion into Vietnam as the initial major unit of the 1st Australian Task Force, the securing of Nui Dat and major offensive operations conducted throughout 1966.

The book comprises 456 pages including 17 chapters written by 33 contributing authors, 7 appendices, 44 photographs, 13 maps and 3 diagrams in full colour. Vietnam Vanguard was launched at the 5RAR 55th anniversary reunion on the Gold Coast on 2 March by Major-General Stuart Smith AO, DSC who is the son of a 5RAR member killed-in-action on the battalion's second tour of Vietnam.

The book can be read free on line or purchased in hard copy for \$55 plus postage. The link <https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/vietnam-vanguard> will take you direct to the book.

Vietnam Vanguard - A Review

Reading Vietnam Vanguard was like reading my personal diary of the events of 1966. I was called up for national service in June 1965 and after recruit and infantry corps training joined 5RAR in early January 1966. I deployed to Vietnam in May of the same year. The Army certainly moved at a rapid pace once the decision had been made to deploy a significant force to Vietnam.

No one who grew up in the post-WW2 period could forget the term, the 'Domino theory' which saw the progressive fall to communism, of Asian countries, as a crisis that would eventually overwhelm Australia. Such was the environment that pervaded at the time and in part muted the public response to the Vietnam involvement and national service for 20-year-old males.

As a Rifleman in D Company I then became part of the history of 5RAR or the 'Tiger' Battalion. It is a period and a war that defined the lives of the men and women who served there. It has also defined the future of those who were part of what was



for many of us, including the national servicemen, an adventure. We were not to know what the future held though.

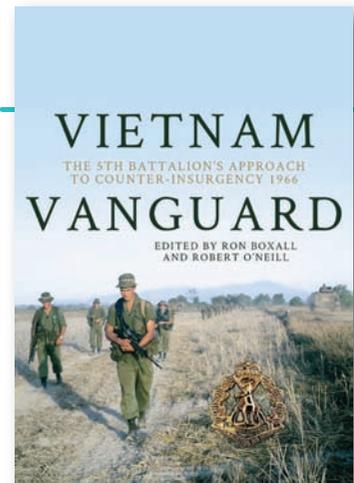
Vietnam Vanguard outlines the diplomatic and military settings that caused the deployment to Vietnam

of the Australian Army Training Team in 1962, 1 RAR in 1965 and the selection of Phuoc Tuy Province as the Australian Area of Operations. 5RAR, being the first battalion to arrive into Phuoc Tuy, and then into Nui Dat became the 'vanguard' of operations for the next seven years.

The book draws on the recollections on 30 members of the ADF who deployed to Vietnam during the war. Twenty-seven of the contributors deployed with either 5RAR itself or in supporting or HQ roles. They include a cross section of all ranks, pilots and medics, gunners and regulars and national servicemen. This cross section of memories is the first point that resonates in reading the book. 5RAR fostered and maintained a cohesion as it developed confidence in operations in that strange land. The smooth melding of the unit in both training and operations, across sections, platoons and companies was evident (and thankful) to those of us who gave more than a passing thought to the future.

The calibre of the contributors is revealed in their considered reflections, drawn from their writings of the times but often from their memory, which for us all remains stark. Authors such as the section commanders wrote of the tension of heading into the Nui Dinh hills or the Nui Thi Vai hills which had been safe havens for the enemy since the days of the French. These hills became known as the 'Warburton mountains or 'the Warbies'. The popular song of the time, "They say don't go on Wolverton Mountain" became, "They say don't go on Warburton Mountain". The 'Warburton' came from Private Graham 'Nugget' Warburton who sadly was killed not long before D Company set foot into the hills for the first time.

Platoon Commanders, some drawn from six months training at Scheyville, and often younger than the men they commanded all pondered on the unique challenge of leadership. Contemplating that demand, Lt Terry O'Hanlon, a national serviceman, reflecting on the death of Private Errol Noack, the first national serviceman to be killed, writes that "War is a dangerous and unforgiving business in which innumerable factors are at play".



Continued page 38



DEFENCE'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGY

Defence Community Organisation - Department of Defence

Family and domestic violence is a widespread social issue that affects millions of people around the world. Anyone in the community can be affected, including those in the Defence community. It has devastating consequences on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, and on society as a whole. The current coronavirus pandemic is placing additional burden and may result in an increase of family and domestic violence; especially, as people have to self-isolate with someone who is abusing them or they are cut off from their usual support systems. Research from previous emergency or natural disaster events, such as the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria, demonstrates that presentations of family and domestic violence increases. Family and domestic violence is a complex yet preventable social issue, and everyone has a vital role to end abuse and to create safer communities.

A wide variety of strategies have been used to address family and domestic violence in Australia and internationally. Family and domestic violence is a deeply ingrained problem and the evidence suggests that using an integrated approach with sustained government funding may be effective. In line with a whole-of-government approach, the Australian Defence Force has made a commitment to reducing family and domestic violence, and to ensuring that those who are affected receive timely and appropriate support and referral. Family and domestic violence is in stark opposition to Defence's fundamental values and behaviours, and the overarching vision is for a Defence community that is safe and free from all forms of violence.

What is Family and Domestic Violence?

There can be a great deal of confusion and misinformation surrounding what constitutes as family and domestic violence. While definitions of family and domestic violence vary, it is generally defined as a pattern of behaviour that is violent, threatening, coercive, controlling or intended to cause the intimate partner, ex-partner, family or household member to be fearful. Essentially, if one person in a relationship hurts another or makes them feel unsafe, then it would be classified as family and domestic violence.

Violence isn't always physical and can include: sexual, emotional, financial, legal, verbal and social abuse. The perpetrator often uses a myriad of tactics, such as isolating the victim from others or social activities, or using humiliation as a way to erode the person's sense of self-worth. It is also important to be aware that research and coronial inquest reports indicate that non-physical behaviours are less likely to be recognised as family and domestic violence.

Unfortunately, a large proportion of family and domestic violence goes unreported. This may be for a variety of reasons, such as the victim being scared of the repercussions if they seek help, fear of not being believed, or there can be a reluctance from others to interfere in what some view a 'private family matter'.

Who can be affected?

Anyone in any relationship can be affected by family and

domestic violence – this can affect those from any country, religion, gender, sexuality, culture or social background. The majority of victims are women and children, although men can also be victims. 1 in 6 women and 1 in 16 men will have experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner or previous partner.

Every person has the right to live free from abuse and the threat of violence. Regardless of the circumstances, including the current stressful and uncertain times, there is NEVER an excuse for violent behaviour and it is not OK.

If you realise this is happening to you or someone you know, then seek help as soon as possible, there is a range of support available.

Defence's response to combat family and domestic violence

Defence is actively engaged in the national response to addressing and reducing family and domestic violence. The organisation is developing and implementing a range of strategies to ensure that people who are experiencing violence are supported, and also to make sure that people who use family and domestic violence are held to account.

In 2017, Defence developed the Defence Family and Domestic Violence Strategy 2017–2022, a unified strategy across the Army, Navy, Air Force and Defence APS workforce, which focuses on culture, communication, training, referral and support, and policy. The strategy, and subsequent action plans, broadly aim to promote awareness and enhance the safety and support services for all Defence personnel, and their families, who are affected by family and domestic violence. In addition, a number of educational tools and initiatives have been developed to promote an accurate understanding of family and domestic violence and how to respond appropriately. This includes a general awareness brief and a commanders and managers brief (policy focused), which accompanies a 'responding to family and domestic violence' commanders and managers guide, as well as a number of online resources and factsheets that are available on the Defence Community Organisation website.

Defence is also aware that the impact of COVID-19 and increased social isolation may place those at a greater risk of family and domestic violence. As part of Defence's ongoing support to Defence members and families, a range of new measures have been put in place alongside existing support services. This includes: 24/7 access to immediate support, assessment or referral from the Defence Family Helpline; crisis intervention and support from the Defence Family Helpline and regionally based Defence social workers; and educational factsheets and webinars focusing on COVID-19 and maintaining mental health and wellbeing.

Where ADF members and their families can seek assistance

There are a number of support services available to assist people in the Defence community who are affected by family and domestic violence.

In the first instance, if you fear that you or someone you know is at imminent risk of harm or danger you should contact emergency services on 000.

Staying safe when you decide to leave

The Special Accommodation for Emergencies (SAFE) scheme provides accommodation for current ADF members, and the dependants of ADF members, in situations where they can't remain in their home due to threat of, or actual domestic crisis. SAFE is accessed through the Defence Family Helpline (1800 624 608).

Open Arms - Veterans and Families Counselling also offers crisis accommodation, which can be accessed by contacting 1800 011 046 (24/7 service).

Finding support within Defence

Defence Family Helpline 1800 624 608 - Operated by the Defence Community Organisation, the Helpline is a 24/7 service that offers advice, intervention, safety planning and referrals to people who are experiencing family and domestic violence. Contact can be made anonymously.

Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Office (SeMPRO) 1800 736 776 - A victim-focused Defence organisation that provides an advice service to ADF members, former members, and ADF families who have been impacted by, or are experiencing sexual misconduct.

Finding support outside of Defence

1800RESPECT 1800 737 732 (or through online chat) - A professional telephone and online crisis and trauma counselling service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Contact can be anonymous.

MensLine Australia 1300 789 978 - A professional telephone and online support, information and referral service, helping men to deal with relationship problems in a practical and effective way. Open Arms Veterans and Veterans Family Counselling 1800 011 046 – Provides free and confidential counselling to anyone who has served at least one day in the ADF, and their families.

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 - A free, private and confidential, telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people up until the age of 25.

MEDICALLY DISCHARGED VETERANS VS THE TAX OFFICE

- NOW TO THE FEDERAL COURT

A year ago, in Camaraderie Vol 50, No.2 we provided a report on the veterans Vs Commissioner of Taxation cases in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) in Brisbane. The veterans had challenged the Australian Tax Office (ATO) treatment of Class A and B Invalidity Benefit payments paid by the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) scheme and the Military Superannuation Benefits Scheme (MSBS), both managed by the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC).

While the Veterans have won their case at the AAT, the Commissioner of Taxation has lodged appeals to the Federal Court and has advised that they will not change their current practices until a final decision is made to that effect at the end of the appeals process. Read on ...

TO RE-CAP

The Issue

Without getting too legalistic, these CSC Invalidity Benefit payments are not “lifetime” pensions as they can be reviewed for medical and other reasons, and can go up, down and be reduced to zero. Similar reviewable payments from civilian superannuation disability insurance are not treated as taxable “income stream benefits”, but as superannuation disability payments and are treated more generously by the tax system. However, both CSC and the ATO treat the invalidity benefits from military superannuation as “income stream benefits” and taxes them accordingly. Many veterans, noting this different treatment, had lodged objections to their tax assessments.

The Test Cases

The CSC, the ATO and relevant Ministers had refused to state the precise legal basis in the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Regulations (SISR) 1.06 for their decision that the benefits were “income stream benefits”. Over a period of two years, there was classic “Yes Minister” obfuscation. After a media campaign, three veterans, were offered Test Case Litigation Funding in September 2017 to challenge the ATO ruling. This funding is granted for matters of public importance and supposedly puts the veterans on a level playing field by funding their legal representation to same level as the ATO. Any decision from these Test Cases will also set a precedent for all other veterans on Class A and B Invalidity Benefits.

Complexity and Ethics Gone AWOL

As the cases progressed, it became clear that the military superannuation legislation interactions with normal general superannuation and taxation legislation were exceedingly

complex. During the Wayne Douglas (DFRDB) hearing on 01 June 2018, a “fatal flaw” developed in one of the ATO arguments, and affected the other MSBS cases as well. The ATO requested a lengthy adjournment to Wednesday 12 December 2018 to “consult” on ways ahead. In an act of bastardry, on 7 December, just before Parliament rose hours later for Christmas, precluding any discussion, the government introduced amendments to regulations which attempted to fix the “fatal flaw” in the ATO argument.

This was like the losing side in a footy match being able to pause the game and change the rules in the middle of the game to overcome a previously disallowed goal.

Michael Hartⁱ, Principal of DFVAQ Honorary Legal Advisor (Cleary Hoare Solicitors) who are representing Peter Burns and Wayne Douglas, met with and made representations to Stuart Robert, the Assistant Minister to withdraw these “reprehensible” changes. Both he and our National President made further written representation without success. DFVA then commenced lobbying MPs and Senators to support a Disallowance Motion to block the “2018 Amendment Regulations”. The election intervened.

SINCE THEN

Unfortunately, DFVA was unsuccessful in having the regulation change disallowed. There was only limited time (ie, Parliament sitting days) after the election where this could have occurred. Over 150 individual letters were sent to MPs explaining the situation. Several media briefings were given with journalists interested but the focus before the election was on popular issues and afterwards the interest was on how the pollsters and media predictions were all wrong. Veteran issues were low on both media and political party interests both after and, as we all observed, before the election.

Significant delays ensued as the regulation change impacted on the hearings in progress. Over 15 months later, with further submissions related to the involvement of a reluctant CSC, Justice Logan was finally able to hand down separate decisions for each case in the March/April 2020 period.ⁱⁱ

WHAT JUSTICE LOGAN STATED REGARDING THE RETROSPECTIVE REGULATION CHANGES

Apart from the complexity of legislation, and many issues that fell out during hearings, the length of these cases were extended further by the introduction of the “2018 Amendment

Regulations” which were introduced as result of these hearings. As stated by Justice Loganⁱⁱⁱ “The development was not a surprise, given the earlier course of submissions at the initial hearing.”

His Honour also made the following comment that DFWA and the Veteran Community should take note for future reference.

“iv . . . it is within the remit of the Governor-General in Council, even during the course of a review by the Tribunal of an administrative decision, to make subordinate legislation which at least purports to touch on that decision for reasons such as those in the Explanatory Statement. It is not for the Tribunal to impeach or question the political value judgement entailed in the tendering of advice to Federal Executive Council for the making of any regulations, only to construe their effect according to law. The merits of subordinate legislation are for a House of Parliament upon any motion for disallowance and, perhaps ultimately, for the electorate.”

Comment: If the government faces a loss in the court, it has demonstrated that it is prepared to change the law during a legal hearing to get the outcome it wants from that hearing. It is prepared to change the law to make previously illegal actions, legal.

These cases will probably go to the High Court. If the decision there eventually favours the Veterans, based on experience in this case and the Goodfellow case (See DFWA website), the government is likely to introduce legislation changes to nullify or limit the effects of the court decision.

It is up to DFWA and the Veteran Community to influence legislation so that the wellbeing and welfare of veterans and their families is not adversely affected.

A VETERAN WIN - AAT DECISIONS

Despite the government’s action in backdating laws, the Veterans still won. In the three separate decisions, the AAT ruled that the Commissioner of Taxation previous decisions in respect of the veterans’ objections to their taxation assessments be set aside and that the veterans’ objections be allowed.

For All Veterans Receiving Class A or B Invalidation Benefits from CSC

The decision in all three cases was that the Invalidation Benefit payments should have been, in legalistic terms:

- a “superannuation benefit”,
 - a “superannuation lump sum” and
 - a “disability superannuation benefit”
- and was required to be treated as such in accordance with s 307-145 of the Income Tax Assessment Act. That is, less tax is to be paid.



L-R: Veteran Peter Burns, John Lewis (DFWAQ Pres), Veteran Wayne Douglas (seated), Rob Shortridge (DFWAQ Exec VP), and Pat Jackman (DFWAQ VP SEQ) at the AAT in Brisbane

The Effect

As these are test cases, the decisions apply to all veterans who have received and are receiving Invalidation Benefits from DFRDB and MSBS, and probably from DFRB and ADF Cover. If the decision stands, it means previous years’ assessments must be revised and refunds made, and future years’ taxation assessments have to be in accordance with the decision.

Comment: The ruling that the Invalidation Benefits paid fortnightly (but are reviewable) are regarded as “lump sums” may seem strange. However, the legislation classes super payments as either an “income stream benefit” or as a “lump sum”. If the payment does not meet the definition of an “income stream benefit”, it is therefore automatically legally regarded as a “lump sum”. The CSC invalidity benefit does not meet the definition of the “income stream benefit” for several reasons, including that it can be reviewed and reduced to zero. It is therefore a “lump sum”.

For Veterans Granted Retrospective Medical Discharge and Receiving Lump Sum Back Payments

Veteran Wayne Douglas originally had a normal discharge from the Army and had received a normal DFRDB super pension and commutation. 12 years after discharge, he applied for and was awarded a retrospective medical discharge on a Class A Invalidation Benefit. This resulted in a lump sum back payment for about 12 years of the Class A Invalidation Benefit which would have increased each year. It also meant he had to repay the normal DFRDB super pension and the commutation he had previously received.

These involved calculations going back over several financial years, with CPI increases to the super pension and the tax paid on it each year. The commutation amount and the tax paid on it also had to be calculated. These amounts then had to be subtracted from the lump sum back payment of the Invalidation Benefit and the tax due on that. As result of initial checking, it

appeared that Douglas had paid tax of \$8346.66 twice and should have received credit for it. The Commissioner of Taxation agreed with this.

CSC Calculations were Wrong

In further exchanges between the ATO and CSC during the course of the hearing, CSC, on 4 October 2019, changed the lump sum in arrears payment to Douglas of \$331,136.00 previously provided in the PAYG payment summary, on which the ATO based the taxation to be paid. The new figure provided was \$272,642.40 (being the total arrears received). The ATO had received incorrect information from CSC and as a result Douglas had been taxed incorrectly. The procedures used in making the earlier incorrect calculations were not explained by CSC.

In his judgement, Justice Logan observed:

The reply of CSC of 4 October 2019 was, with due respect, singularly unhelpful v...

It is the CSC, not the Commissioner of Taxation or the Tribunal in his place, which is charged with the calculation and administration of payments under the DFRDB Act.....The best assistance that the CSC has offered entails no explanation for how it came to specify \$331,136.00 (as the amount of arrears payment) but an explanation that indicates that it should have specified \$272,642.40. vi

As a result of the miscalculations revealed during the hearings, the calculated refund due to Wayne Douglas went from the originally claimed amount of approximately \$8000 to about \$48,000.

The Effect

This affects any Veteran who had a normal discharge from the ADF and subsequently received a DFRDB super pension and commutation lump sum, and subsequently was granted a retrospective medical discharge. The procedures used (and still used) by CSC in calculating lump sum Class A or B Invalidity Pension arrears amounts and refunds on a previously paid DFRDB super pension and commutation and associated taxation amounts were ruled incorrect. If the decision stands, recalculations, and a refund are required.

THE COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION APPEALS AGAINST THE AAT DECISIONS

In April, the Commissioner of Taxation lodged three separate appeals to the Federal Court against the AAT decisions. This means there is no effective change to current CSC or ATO practices until a final appeal decision is confirmed by the Federal or High Court. While it is understood that the ATO was hopeful of making the August 2020 sittings of the Federal

Court, and failing that, the November sittings, both are in doubt because of COVID restrictions.

Other aspects may also cause delay.

- The ATO is challenging virtually every aspect of the reasons for the decisions in all cases. This includes those areas where the ATO had previously accepted the veteran argument during the AAT hearings.
- Apart from the three Veterans, the ATO has also designated the AAT as a respondent in these cases. This is most unusual and adds another layer of complexity and indicates a potential broadening of the battle lines.
- The ATO has also engaged another QC, indicating a greater battle ahead. Under Test Case Litigation funding, this also entitles each of the veterans to engage a "funded" QC to provide the level playing field.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

ATO Advice

The ATO has advised Veterans that they will make the taxation assessments the same as they have before the AAT until the appeals process is completed. They have also contacted some veterans with objections already lodged and encouraged them to withdraw them until the appeal process is over. From the ATO website: vii

"Until the appeals process is completed, the ATO will continue to administer the taxation of invalidity benefits paid by the DFRDB Scheme and the MSB Scheme in line with our current view that the invalidity benefits are superannuation income stream benefits..."

If you are affected by this litigation, we encourage you to refrain from seeking amendments, applying for a private ruling or objecting to your income tax assessments until the appeals process is finalised.

Any applications for a private ruling, objection or amendment will be put on hold until the appeals process is completed. You will retain your full rights to seek review of your income tax assessments in the future.

You won't be disadvantaged if you don't lodge an objection now. You'll be able to lodge an amendment request once the appeals process is completed. In the event that your amendment period has expired, the Commissioner will give favourable consideration to any requests to extend the time for lodgment of an objection.

The Author Questions This Advice

There is nothing to be lost by taxpayers' exercising their full rights for amendments, private rulings or objections.

The ATO may gain by not being swamped with “pending” objections and improve their Performance Indicators, but there may be other reasons.

- The government can attempt to amend, limit or remove “full rights” by introducing new or changes to existing legislation or regulations. It is more difficult for the government to do this if taxpayers have already exercised their rights by lodging objections etc.
- These ATO appeals challenge Justice Logan’s reasoning that veterans retained their accrued rights in the 2018 Amendment Regulations introduced in the middle of the Hearings.
- The government has a demonstrated history of changing regulations and legislation to undermine accrued rights. In case of veteran Goodfellow vs Commissioner of Taxation concerning the taxation of a Class A Invalidity pension, Goodfellow won at the High Court, and had his previous tax refunded as did other (DFRB and DFRDB) veterans who had previously lodged objections. However, the government immediately introduced legislation which removed the tax exemption for future tax years. The legislation was also so worded that other veterans who had been wrongly taxed, but who had not previously lodged objections (and therefore lost accrued rights), were not able to claim the refunds for previous years. (See DFWA Website.)

FINAL WORDS OF JUSTICE LOGAN

The original objections were raised in 2016. The AAT cases commenced late 2017. The complexities of military superannuation legislation interacting with industry standard legislation geared toward the Australian civilian norm, was recognized by all parties, and revealed itself as the cases developed in oral Hearings. The introduction of the backdated regulation changes in the middle of the Hearings and the reluctant involvement of CSC in proceedings, further added to the delay.

In handing down his decision in the Douglas case, Justice Logan stated his concern about the whole process and treatment of these veterans:

“.. if the encounter in this case is any guide, to the prospect of being “broken by age and war” there must now be added for members and former members of the ADF the prospect of encounter with how we as a Nation State have come to regulate and tax the bargain struck on enlistment.”

Comment

Military superannuation legislation does not fit with industry standard super legislation and the tax regime and this can disadvantage veterans. This is another reason why, the veteran community must continue to push for the Veterans’ Covenant to include the “no detriment” principle where – “veterans and their families should not be disadvantaged in their access to services or by legislation, compared with other Australians.” Clearly, the veteran suffers from both the complexity of military superannuation legislation and the complexity of its interaction with “normal” super legislation and tax regime enjoyed by other Australians.

SPECIAL THANKS

Due recognition must be given to the three veterans, (Wayne Douglas, Peter Burns and ANON) involved in these test cases. While Test Case Litigation funding helps, there are still the personal financial and emotional costs in being involved in the protracted litigation, not just on the veteran, but also on families. As the cases have ‘evolved’ there have been numerous decisions to be made along the way and instructions given to solicitors. Knowing that these decisions may impact on the results of cases which affect other veterans and their families adds to the responsibility felt.

- i Sadly, Mick Hart passed away in May. Mick was a Nasho who was a graduate of the Officer Training Unit 2/69 Course and served in the Military Police and the Legal Corps. He was a strong supporter of veteran issues. He will be sadly missed.
- ii Wayne Douglas vs Commissioner of Taxation. Brisbane AAT 2016/6964 and 6965. 13 March 2020. (DFRDB: Incorrect taxation yearly and of lump sum back- payments in Retrospective Medical Discharge.)
Peter Burns vs Commissioner of Taxation. Brisbane AAT 2017/1647-1549 and 2017/1663. 25 March 2020. (MSBS pre-2004: Incorrect yearly taxation.)
GDGR vs Commissioner of Taxation. Brisbane AAT 2017/2105-2108 and 2017/4218-4223. 30 March 2020. ((MSBS post-2004: Incorrect yearly taxation.) Closed Hearing.
- iii Wayne Douglas vs Commissioner of Taxation. Brisbane AAT 2016/6964 and 6965. 13 March 2020. Para 23
- iv Ibid para 25
- v Ibid para 113
- vi Ibid para 114
- vii **ATO Website.** <https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Super/In-detail/Withdrawing-and-using-your-super/Treatment-of-military-invalidity-benefits-following-Administrative-Appeals-Tribunal-decisions/>

A LIFE OF SELFLESS SERVICE

Former DFWA NSW Branch President
Colonel John Sutherland Haynes, AM, Retd

1 November 1929 - 15 February 2020

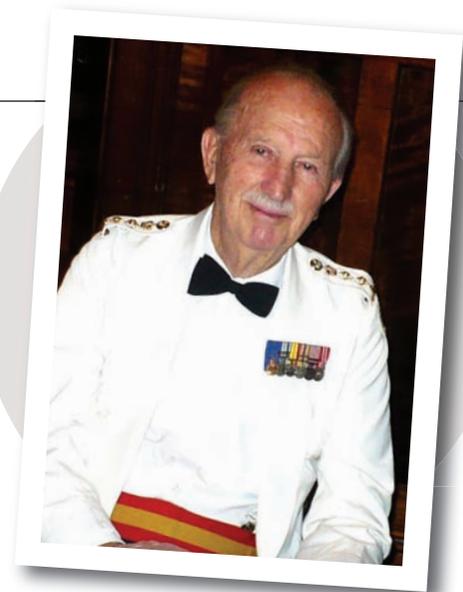
In 1948, when John Haynes was 18, he joined the Civilian Military Forces (CMF) and assumed full time duty in the Army soon after. He was commissioned in 1950 and served in 13 different Army Corp Units, his regiment being the 1st Armoured Regiment.

When he left the Army in 1984, completing his final posting as Inspector of Army Administration, he began his volunteer career with Ex-Service Organisations.

Between 1986-1991 he served as President of the Regular Defence Force Welfare Association (RDFWA), subsequently DFWA and remained on the NSW Branch Executive until his death in 2020.

During this time he not only conducted a robust recruitment and education program for those preparing to leave the Service, he undertook Advocacy for Ex-Service men and women. He also helped and advised War Widows of their legal entitlements.

However, perhaps John Haynes' most lasting achievement will



be the dedication of a National Boer War Memorial in Canberra where he was aware that no recognition existed for the Boer War although all other conflicts in which Australia had been involved, were represented.

Enlisting the volunteer support of the Royal Australian Armoured Corp Association (RAACA) he began a campaign to create a suitable monument to the Boer War. After more than 20 years, and with the help of the then Prime Minister, John Howard who promised to provide a site on Anzac Parade in Canberra, \$4 million was raised and construction began.

On 31 May 2017, the National Boer War Memorial was dedicated in Canberra in the presence of His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove.



CALLING ALL GRADUATES & STAFF OF THE OCS PORTSEA (1952 - 1985)

3,544 officers were commissioned through OCS Portsea (including 68 who did the OCS course at OTU Schevville). 30 officers were commissioned into the RAAF and 688 were commissioned into the armies of fourteen other countries.

If you have lost contact with your old classmates, have a look at <https://www.ocsportsea.org/>
Click on "Class Lists" to see your old class list and photographs. Make contact through the "Contact Us" page.

The website also shows details of a 180cm high bronze statue of a saluting officer cadet which is awaiting Parks Victoria approval to be mounted on the foundations of the now re-located Memorial Wall, overlooking the old parade ground.

If you wish to contribute towards the costs of the statue, details will soon be on the website.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE MATTER OF

ENTITLEMENT FOR SERVING AND EX-SERVING MILITARY MEMBERS PERTAINING TO THE ISSUE OF THE DEFENCE LONG SERVICE MEDAL (DLSM)

The following matter from a retired ADF members was recently brought to the attention of the DFWA. Whilst DFWA does not normally pursue matters relating to Honours and Awards, it is provided below for the information of readers.

I am a soldier who has served the army since 1971 as an army cadet in the pre-Whitlam government period, when the military cadets remained part of the national defence system, as a regular army soldier from 1975, and as an army reservist who has served primarily in regular army units since 1998. As an experienced serviceperson, I am herein presenting what I understand is an inequity imposed on many serving and ex-serving persons through an oversight in the drafting of the regulations pertaining to the issue of the Defence Long Service Medal (DLSM) – which was introduced from 1998. The basis of complaint is the content and interpretation of the DI (G) PERS 31-1 particular to paragraph's 20, 36a, 44 and 45. An amendment to such would not alter the authority related to the Letters Patent dated 26 May 98, or the Act.

The primary concern is that although the officially stated primary purpose of the DLSM is that the medal does not discriminate between rank levels, Regular or Reserve service, the regulations particular to its issue does in fact impose a discrimination against many members and ex-members who were serving up to the date the DLSM was introduced. Although the Act is not in question, the regulations specify a choice to regular and reserve members with a Defence Force Service Award (DFSA) to either retain their issued DFSA or to surrender it in order to receive their DLSM entitlement as a replacement. The resulting discrimination is apparent because those of the regular and reserve ranks who opted to retain their DFSA are supported with a continuance of DFSA recognition through an ongoing issuing of clasps; but it is apparent that no consideration was given to those members with a DFSA who transitioned between the regulars and reserves and had not yet met the qualifying period for the DFSA for their new service. They are generally not entitled to gain further issues of clasps to their DFSA associated with the pre-transition service and they are unable to wear a long service award of any description to represent service in the newly transitioned service unless they surrender their DFSA from their pre-transition service and accept the DLSM.

This situation has disadvantaged every ADF member who was awarded a DFSA and who subsequently transferred either from regular to reserve service or visa-versa without attaining a DFSA

particular to the post-transfer service at the time the DLSM was introduced. Those people thereby have no recognition for their decades of subsequent service since 1998.

The simplest remedy is to amend the regulations to allow those disaffected persons be issued their entitled DLSM without surrendering their pre-transfer DFSA correct to the date the DLSM was introduced.

I raised this issue with Honours and Awards who advised me that they were unable to address the matter because they simply enforce the regulations rather than amend them; and they suggested that a Redress of Grievance (ROG) be raised with Army. Subsequently, I began the ROG but Army advised me that they were unable to address the matter because a wrong had not been incurred because I had not actually surrendered my DFSA; even though my continued service since 1998 is not recognised.

I re-raised the matter as a ministerial request for assistance to the Minister for Defence, Senator the Honourable Linda Reynolds CSC in July of 2019 who then forwarded it to the Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Honourable Darren Chester MP. I received a written response from the Minister for Veterans Affairs on 1 Nov 2019 the essence of which was that the government is not addressing the matter. I then raised the matter to the attention of the General Manager of the National RSL, Mister Kim Henshaw on 8 Nov 2019 but I have not received a response.

As an individual soldier my writing skills are limited and as a single voice I suspect not a lot of weight is credited to my standing on this matter; but the fact is this matter probably affects hundreds of serving and ex-serving personnel. If you consider this issue falls within your portfolio to address; it would, I am sure, be of great appreciation from many serving and ex-serving Australian military members. Either way, any advice from your office will be well regarded.

Your anticipated consideration for action in the pursuit of fair and equitable recognition is welcomed.

Yours Sincerely



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

A close friend, Colonel Lawrence Wright AM, forwarded your 3rd 2019 edition to me. He drew my attention to that article, a subject he and I have discussed, together with a number of my medical colleagues who have served in the ADF.

The primary concern of the medicos is not touched on at all in the Wall Street Journal article. I feel compelled to raise it for an Australian readership.

Imagine this only too realistic scenario:

A woman in our defence forces is captured. She is raped repeatedly by a number of the enemy. Her contraceptive medication is confiscated or her contraceptive injection runs out of potency.

She becomes pregnant, perhaps more than once, to different enemy soldiers, or even to civilians, for whom she is a sex slave.

The children have been brought up locally, and therefore despise Australians, of which nation she is, by now, a pathetic example. Think of our POWs when captured by the Japanese.

Some years later, when the tide of battle turns, she is rescued, perhaps with a number of children of the enemy.

What experience could be more traumatic for any woman. Can she ever recover?

To the collective minds of us medicos, this possibility, even probability, overrides all other concerns about having women in the front-line, even close to it, or in the air above it.

Sincerely,

Dr Peter Arnold OAM BSc MBCh BA (Philosophy, Politics, Economics). Retired General Practitioner. Formerly: Chairman, Federal AMA; President AMA(NSW); Deputy President, NSW Medical Board; President, General Practitioners; Society in Australia

Dear Sir,

I refer to the article by Lt Col Linwood in 1st edition 2020 of DFWA Journal. I support the Col's position having served a tour at Butterworth with the RAAF 1974 /1976. During that time the CT were active only a few kilometres away from the Base. Indeed, our security forces discovered a mortar device set up in a village area just to the south-west of the base aimed at our aircraft flight line. This resulted in the erection of protective revetments being

constructed on our flight line. Also the RMAF were continually in operation, dropping ordinance on CT areas just some 10kms north of the base.

GpCapt John McCoombe RAAF {Retd}

Dear Sir

You may remember our conversation in late 2019 where we discussed an article in Camaraderie about hearing loss compensation and you suggested that I consult an advocate. I therefore consulted an advocate at my local RSL and he assisted me with a claim for hearing loss.

I also claimed for solar keratosis that I had had treatment for whilst serving and made a claim at the time which was rejected.

The result from the above was that I now have a "White Card" with those two specific conditions included, a small disability pension and new hearing aids supplied and maintained.

Late last year I was having prostate problems and had to have it operated on by a urologist.

The pathology came back showing prostate cancer. I remembered seeing an earlier article in Camaraderie about certain types of cancer now being accepted under certain conditions.

I sent off to DVA a request for information and claim form and filled it in with an endorsement by my urologist. A couple of weeks later a letter came accepting the claim and advising that cancer treatment was now included on my White Card.

Camaraderie deserves great credit for the information that prompted me to start the claims.

(Name withheld by request)

Dear Sir

I commend John Lewis (Is there a pattern here? Vol 51 No 1) for his article. The reply to his rhetorical question is a resounding "Yes!".

Bert Hoebee
Life Member, Defence Force Welfare Association

THE VETERAN LAPEL PIN & ADF RESERVES

by MAJGEN Paul Irving (Retd)
President of the Defence Reserves Association



The Defence Reserves Association (DRA) that represents the interests of all Defence Reservists, together with other veteran's organisations, has, along with the DFVA, advocated for many years for an 'Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant' to recognise the unique nature of military service.

In the advocacy for an 'Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant', the DRA and those other veteran's organisations did not seek a Lapel Pin or a Veteran Card.

Associated with the Covenant, however, the Federal Government through the Department of Veterans' Affairs, decided to issue a Lapel Pin and Veteran Card to any member, or former member, of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who had completed one day's full-time service. A separate Lapel Pin but no Veteran Card has been provided to Defence Force Reservists who have had no period of full-time service. The decision to introduce a Lapel Pin and Veteran Card with a separate Lapel Pin and no Veteran Card to ADF Reservists who have had no period of full-time service was taken without the necessary and considered consultation such a decision warrants. At no time was the DRA consulted or asked for its opinion.

The DRA considers that issuing a separate Lapel Pin to Defence Reservists, and without a Veteran Card, is both divisive and contrary to the aims of a totally integrated Defence Force.

For the past five years, the Service Chiefs have actively pursued the promotion of a 'Total Force' concept, appreciating the significant additional capability provided by their respective Reserve components in support of ADF operations. The Service Chiefs promote the structure of their Service as having a full time and a part time component and openly acknowledge that without the contribution of the part time component, they would not be capable of delivering the outcomes demanded by Government.

The part time component has become critical to ensuring the delivery of ADF operational capability. In this regard, the position of the Service Chiefs has been undermined and has left many Reservists questioning where they stand. Serving Reservists do not want a separate 'Reserve' Lapel Pin; they do not wish to be differentiated or highlighted as 'something

different' within the Total Force, where they proudly serve and contribute in a significant way to Defence capability.

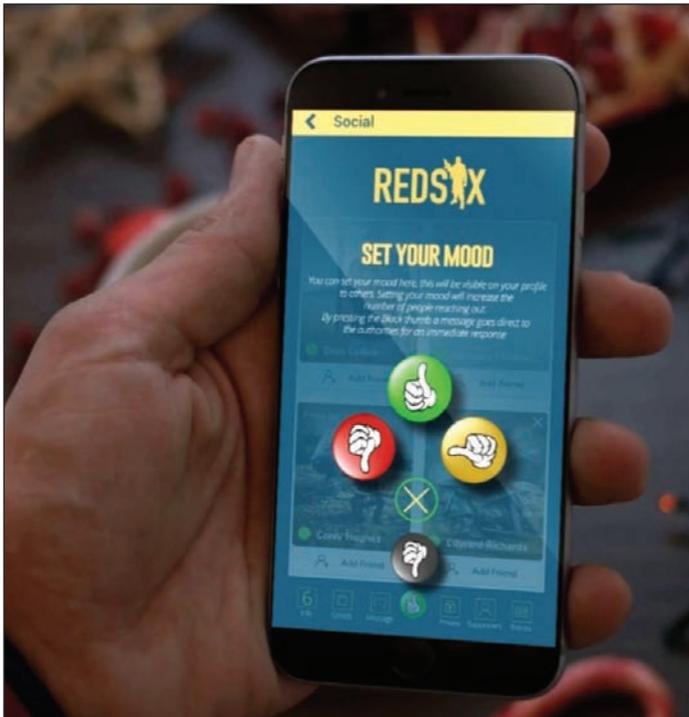
Many of these Defence Force Reservists have extensive periods of service and are disappointed that their service appears to be undervalued by the Federal Government.

The nature of part time service provides the Service Chief with the option of employing a Reservist on either a full-time service contract or, using Reserve Service Days (RSD). In the past, on many occasions, particularly where the task required a relatively short period of engagement, Reservists were employed utilising RSD rather than being placed on full time service. Typical of such tasks were short term domestic security operations and provision of aid to the civil community. For many years, the soldiers of the Regional Force Surveillance Units regularly conducted operational patrols across northern Australia, serving not on full time service but rather on RSD. In other circumstances, Reservists were widely employed in Defence units utilising RSD, to cover the release of full-time personnel to undertake operational service. They undertook the same tasks and delivered the same output as the full time component members they replaced.

None of this argument was presented or taken into account in the decision to introduce a separate Lapel Pin and no Veteran Card to ADF Reservists who have had no period of full-time service. In this regard, the failure to consult with relevant organisations such as the DRA has meant The Department of Veterans Affairs failed the Minister and in turn, the many Reservists who have provided extensive and critical service over many years.

The DRA strongly advocates that all Defence Reservists, past and present, should receive the same Lapel Pin as full time members of the ADF, and in addition the same Veteran Card. We must eliminate the notion held by some in the Department of Veterans Affairs that a Reservist, a part time member of the ADF, is somehow a lesser form of Service personnel.

The notion, evidently held by some in the Department of Veterans Affairs, that a Reservists, a part time member of the ADF is somehow a lesser form of service personnel must be eliminated.



CHECK THIS ONE OUT! **REDSIX**

**A Veteran's approach
to addressing Veteran Suicide**

A Veteran App that works

REDSIX is aimed at helping lower the growing suicide rates amongst the veteran community by providing peer to peer & professional services at a touch of a button.

The app was designed from the real-life experience of a veteran who has lived with the fear of suicide.

Users log in daily & indicate their mood (how they are feeling) by choosing one of 4 mood buttons:

Green = I am feeling good,

Amber = Feeling okay,

Red = I am feeling down & could do with some support,
& The **BLACK** button = I am feeling suicidal and

need to speak to professional services.

www.redsix.com.au



Pictured showing the drawing of tickets: L to R : Ralph Derbidge, Raffle co-ordinator; Michael Stuart-Watt, President, NSW Branch.
The Draw took place at Victoria Barracks, Paddington on 11 July 2020.

RESULT OF THE DFVA 2020 RAFFLE

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

FIRST PRIZE: Travel to the value of \$5,000.00 plus \$500 spending money
Mr John Lewis
REDCLIFFE QLD 4020
(Ticket No: 20260)

SECOND PRIZE: \$1,000.00
Mr Tom McDonald
BOMADERRY NSW 2541
(Ticket No: 45411)

THIRD PRIZE: \$500.00
Mr Bruce Hughes
COMO WA 6152
(Ticket No: 34735)

CONSOLATION PRIZES: \$150.00
Mr Arthur Shelton
YANCHEP WA 6035
(Ticket No: 34132)
Mr D Mazlin
EAGLEMONT VIC 3084
(Ticket No: 16176)
Mr W Keogh
WANGURI NT 0810
(Ticket No 2518)
Mr M B'Sammy Seal'
PARA VISTA SA 5093
(Ticket No. 1715)



100 YEARS YOUNG!

Colonel Charles "Carl" McCarthy

By Stephen Turner, President DFWA (Vic)

The date of birth recorded for DFWA members is not something we regularly look up. Perhaps this is an oversight on our part and it certainly was in the case of one of our longest serving members, Colonel Charles "Carl" McCarthy.

You see Carl achieved the magic ton - 100 years young on the 20th of March - and, but for a message from Carl's daughter Maria to our Association's Executive Director, DFWA may have missed the opportunity to celebrate and commemorate this magnificent achievement.

Carl served in the Ordnance Branch of the Australian Army and retired from active service in 1973. He was a friend and colleague of one of the Association's founding members, Brigadier Bill Lord. Since leaving the Army Carl has maintained his DFWA Ordinary Membership.

Carl lives with his wife in an aged care residential complex in South Melbourne. To celebrate Carl's turning 100 the National Executive of our Association approved the award of an Honorary Life Membership to Carl and on the 19th of March I had the privilege of representing all DFWA members presenting Carl with his Honorary Life Membership certificate.

The following is a brief history of Carl's service with the Australian Army as provided by his daughter Maria.

"In 1937, after working with the weather bureau for quite some time, Carl was transferred to a permanent position in Victoria Barracks which was the beginning of his association with the Army until 1973 (more than 35 years). The Weather Bureau was considering subsidising Carl's university science degree (maybe ending up as a meteorologist, something he loved, but war broke out and the Defence Department was expanding).

In 1938 Carl was working as a clerk in the Ordnance Branch, F Block, Victoria Barracks. In 1942 Carl found himself commanding a group of about 100 troops on the train to Brisbane, then Papua New Guinea (a notable adventure). Carl was appointed as officer-in-charge of a draft of reinforcements consisting of eight officers and 100 other ranks. The ship "Taroon" took them across the Coral Sea to Port Moresby. Not too long after Carl

took on a position of ordnance officer with Headquarters 7th Infantry Division (Soputa). Around 1942/1943 Carl ended up in Oro Bay to take charge of No. 101 Forward Ordnance Depot. Towards end of 1943 Carl was transferred back to 10AOD Port Moresby. In 1944 Carl ended up back in Australia and was ordered to go to No. 5 Base Ordnance Depot, location at Liverpool, New South Wales. In July 1943, Carl was promoted to the rank of Major and late 1944, he was transferred to No. 2 Advance Ordnance Depot at Bathurst.

In 1946, Carl started work at Albert Park Barracks. In December 1950, Carl was posted for two years exchange service with the British Army in the UK. Carl was accompanied on this posting by his young wife and two small children. In early 1951 the family became residents of Bath where Carl worked at Fulwood Barracks in the Headquarters of the 42nd Infantry Division (Territorial Army). Carl's work entailed regular visits to the various components of the Division situated throughout Lancashire and Cheshire. During some of Carl's exchange posting the family resided in Blackpool. In all Carl and his family spent two and a half years in the United Kingdom which was unusual for exchange postings at that time.

In 1953, Carl and family returned home to Australia on the SS Strathnaver. Carl was able to retain his temporary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and accepted an appointment at Albert Park Barracks. In 1955 Carl completed the Army Staff Course at Queenscliff before being posted to Adelaide as the Commanding Officer of the 4 Base Ordnance Depot, Keswick Barracks with about 150 staff. In 1956 Carl spent time at the Atomic tests at Maralinga. In June 1957, Carl was appointed to the position of Chief Instructor, Army Ordnance School, Broadmeadows where he responsible for the theory of management and work study courses. Between 1961 and 1964, Carl was Commanding Officer at 3 Base Ordnance Depot, South Kensington, Victoria and from 1965 to 1969 at Albert Park Barracks in a staff appointment; and from 1969 until his retirement from the Army in March 1973, Carl was Area Commander of the logistic complex at Broadmeadows, as well as Commanding Officer of No. 2 Central Ordnance Depot."

An outstanding contribution to Australia and, I am confident, all DFWA members wish Carl and his loved ones all the best for the future.



If you're a veteran
or serving member
of the Australian
Defence Force entry
to the Museum
is on us

Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC)
has a long history of serving members of the
Australian Defence Force.

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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CSC – the experts in superannuation for Australian
Government employees and ADF members



“LIFE JUST WENT TO CRAP”

Why Army Veterans are twice as likely to end up in prison

Kellie Toole, _University of Adelaide
Elaine Waddell, _Flinders University [1]

The question of whether Australia does enough to support its ex-service personnel is growing in urgency, for example the recent calls for a royal commission into veteran suicides[2]

The numbers are alarming - between 2001 and 2017, 419 serving and ex-serving [3] Australian Defence Force personnel died by suicide. But while the suicide rate for men still serving was 48% lower than in the equivalent general population, the rate is 18% higher for those who had left the military.

For women it's a similar story, where the suicide rate for ex-serving women is higher than Australian women generally. However, the small numbers of ex-service women who have been studied means the data are limited.

But there's another issue afflicting ex-military men that's not often discussed: they are imprisoned twice as often as men in the general Australian population. This is according to the first known Australian prison audit to identify incarcerated ex-service members, conducted in South Australia last year.

In fact, these findings support research from England [4], which identifies ex-service men as the largest incarcerated occupational group.

READ MORE: ENOUGH INQUIRIES THAT GO NOWHERE – IT'S TIME FOR A ROYAL COMMISSION INTO VETERAN SUICIDE [5]

The high rate of imprisonment, along with the spike in the suicide rate of ex-members, reflects the challenges some service people face transitioning from military service back to civilian life, and the critical lack of available transition planning and support.

WHY DO SOME VETERANS TURN TO CRIME?

When a United States ex-Marine fatally shot 12 people in California in 2018, President Donald Trump promoted a

widespread, oversimplified connection between military service and criminal offending. He said [6] the shooter

was in the war. He saw some pretty bad things [...] they come back, they're never the same.

We have so far interviewed 13 former service men for our ongoing research, trying to explain the findings of the South Australia audit. And we found the connection between military service and criminal offending is more complex than Trump suggests.

READ MORE: VETERANS HAVE POORER MENTAL HEALTH THAN AUSTRALIANS OVERALL. WE COULD BE SERVING THEM BETTER [7]

The combination of childhood trauma, military training, social exclusion and mental health issues on discharge created the perfect cocktail of risk factors leading to crime.

For many, joining the service was a way to find respect, discipline and camaraderie. In fact, most interviewees found military service effective at controlling the effects of childhood trauma. One man we interviewed said he

could see me life going to the shit, that's when I went and signed up for the army [...] The discipline appealed to me. To me I was like yearning for it because I was going down the bad road real quick.

Another explained that joining the military was the

BEST thing I ever did. LOVED it. Well they gave me discipline, they showed me true friendships and it let me work my issues out [...] I loved putting my uniform on and the respect that I could show other people, whereas before I'd rather hit them.

LEAVING THE MILITARY CAN AGGRAVATE PAST TRAUMA However, all men complained military discharge was a complete, "sudden cut". This sudden departure from the service, combined with the rigorous military training, can aggravate previous

trauma. As one ex-service member put it:

the military is a fantastic thing [...] but the moment that you're not there [...] it magnifies everything else and it's just like a ticking time bomb.

I mean you're trained to shoot people.

Another reflected that when he left the army, he lost the routine that kept his past traumas at bay.

I was working myself to the bone just to stop thinking about it. Then when I got out issues were coming back, coming back. I've lost my structure [...] and life just went to crap.

Every man we interviewed had been diagnosed with some combination of post traumatic stress, multiple personality disorder, anti-social personality disorder, bipolar, depression, panic disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder or alcohol and other drug dependence.

They arose from various combinations of pre-service and service-related trauma.

All interviewees lacked support from the Australian Defence Force or government veteran services. One explained how he found it difficult to manage post traumatic stress since his usual strategies were “getting very thin”.

READ MORE: FROM SHELL SHOCK TO PTSD: PROOF OF WAR'S TRAUMATIC HISTORY [8]

And the lack of support for their mental health issues worsened when they were incarcerated because they said the Department of Veterans Affairs cut ties, and “no-one inside the prison system is going to pay for psychological help”.

MAINTAINING IDENTITY

For some men, joining criminal organisations was a deliberate way to find a sense of belonging and the “brotherhood” they missed from the defence force. One man reflected:

I found a lot of Australian soldiers that are lost. You think you're a civilian but you're not, you never will be [...] even three years' service in the army will change you forever. And the Australian government doesn't do enough.

Ex-service men in prison are a significant, vulnerable part of that community. The Australian Defence Force and government veteran agencies need to urgently reform transition support services because current discharge processes are costing lives.

(READ MORE: 5,800 DEFENCE VETERANS HOMELESS IN AUSTRALIA – THAT'S MORE THAN WE THOUGHT [9])

English research [10] has found peer support helps service men transition into civilian life, but the men we interviewed did not receive peer support until they were in prison.

Then, it was through a welfare organisation [11] and Correctional Services, not defence agencies.

One man told us that after his discharge

I actually went back and asked if I could mow the lawns for free, just so I could be around them still. They wouldn't allow it.

If ex-service men could maintain contact with the Australian Defence Force through peer support and informal networks, their identity and sense of purpose could be maintained to reduce the risk factors for offending and re-offending.

Links:

- [1] <https://theconversation.com/life-just-went-to-crap-why-army-veterans-are-twice-as-likely-to-end-up-in-prison-128129>
- [2] <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/we-must-do-better-labor-backs-royal-commission-into-veteran-deaths>
- [3] <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/veterans/national-veteran-suicide-monitoring/contents/summary>
- [4] <https://www.bmj.com/content/342/bmj.d3898.extract>
- [5] <https://theconversation.com/enough-inquiries-that-go-nowhere-its-time-for-a-royal-commission-into-veteran-suicide-119599>
- [6] https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trump-rankles-veterans-with-comments-about-ptsd-and-california-shooter/2018/11/09/2c4ab5ba-e463-11e8-a1c9-6afe99ddd92_story.html
- [7] <http://theconversation.com/veterans-have-poorer-mental-health-than-australians-overall-we-could-be-serving-them-better-119525>
- [8] <http://theconversation.com/from-shell-shock-to-ptsd-proof-of-wars-traumatic-history-37858>
- [9] <https://theconversation.com/5-800-defence-veterans-homeless-in-australia-thats-more-than-we-thought-123695>
- [10] <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09638237.2017.1370640>
- [11] <https://xmrc.com.au/>

A man in a dark suit and a soldier in full military camouflage gear are walking away from the camera on a dirt path. The man is on the left, carrying a briefcase. The soldier is on the right, wearing a helmet with a night vision device and a large tactical backpack. The background consists of bare trees and a hazy sky.

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PKF Australia comes on board as a Corporate Partner of DFWA Nationally

Many years ago, a Partner of PKF received a phone call from a long time friend of his, who we will call Jim. They had grown up together and there was always a respect towards Jim's commitment to serve his Country.

When Jim discharged, it was difficult for someone who had not served to see the unique stress he was facing with the challenges of returning to civilian life. So when he reached out to his friend for assistance it was not only as his accountant but as a lifelong friend.

Jim was adjusting to integrating back into the community, rebuilding and establishing relationships, finding a place to call home as well as adjusting to the changes in culture and social norms. To add insult to injury, he was financially stressed and struggling to digest the services and support available to him.

It saddened his friend at PKF that there were so many issues facing Jim and these were hindering Jim so severely that it could prevent a progressive and positive readjustment towards a bright future.

PKF believe that they have an obligation to support those who risk their lives to keep us safe. After learning more about Jim's experience and the struggle he endured they quickly discovered that this was a common frustration across the defence wide community.

This experience was the catalyst for the inception of a service dedicated to providing accounting and advisory services specifically for veterans and members of the armed forces and PKF in the last quarter have reached out to the DFWA and formed a Corporate Partnership.

Today PKF Adelaide can support PKF Nationally and specialise

in the unique financial opportunities available to veterans. They have built a team that are experts in providing tailored advice based on each situation that has its own set of circumstance and are working closely with DFWA to foster links with ESO's that truly make a difference.

Professionally, PKF are positioned to provide our Members, friends, service members and families with real time long term solutions that will nurture all accounting and financial needs. In the spirit of mateship and loyalty, PKF are about more than just about the numbers.

PKF are about supporting the initiatives of the DFWA and supporting the Veteran Community including families and extended families of those that currently serve and have served. Jim now has peace of mind that his children and grandchildren will have a solid financial foundation through the guidance and mentorship of our specialist advisers and the DFWA are proud to be associated with such a Veteran focused organisation now and well into the future.

At PKF we stand with those who stand for us.

Mark Evans
mark.evans@pkfsa.com.au
Dom Cosentino
dom.cosentino@pkfsa.com.au



CHANGES TO ADF HOUSING / SUPERANNUATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Government recently announced that veterans their families will benefit from changes to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Super and the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS) eligibility criteria, following amendments recently passed through Parliament today.

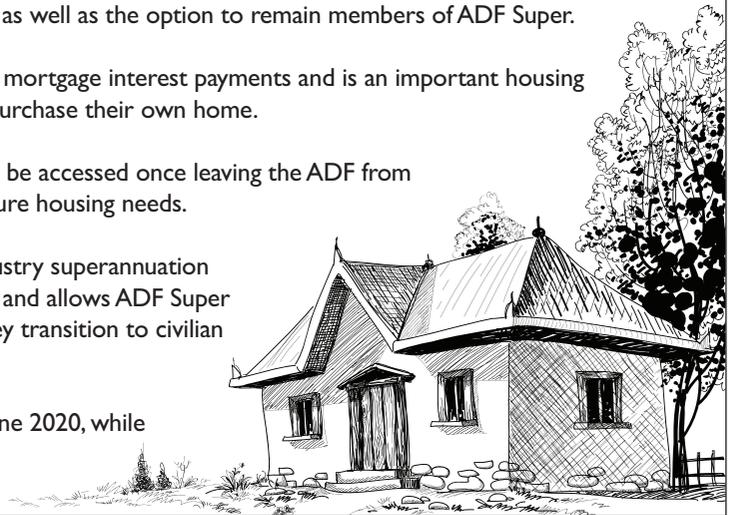
The Defence Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2020 will allow ADF members transitioning to civilian life to access DHOAS for five years after they leave Defence service, as well as the option to remain members of ADF Super.

DHOAS provides eligible members with a monthly subsidy on mortgage interest payments and is an important housing benefit provided to assist current and former ADF members purchase their own home.

The legislation increases the timeframe for which DHOAS can be accessed once leaving the ADF from two years to five years, allowing additional time to support future housing needs.

The change to ADF Super will align the fund with broader industry superannuation arrangements as well as other public superannuation schemes, and allows ADF Super members to choose to remain contributing members after they transition to civilian life.

Changes to DHOAS will come into effect before the end of June 2020, while the change to ADF Super will commence on 6 July 2020.



THE LAST CIVIL WAR PENSION ... HAS ONLY JUST BEEN PAID !

For the last nine years of her life Irene Triplett was a jolly soul, spending her days sitting with staff in a North Carolina nursing home, chewing tobacco.

“She would sit between me and Christy Shew,” said Jamie Phillips, the activities director at the home in Wilkesboro, and they would try to look away as she dispensed of the juice.

Ms Triplett’s final days were unremarkable, but her death revealed something extraordinary. She was America’s last surviving civil war pensioner - receiving \$73.13 a month from the Department of Veterans Affairs. With her death in May 2020 aged 90, the work that began with President Lincoln’s promise in 1865 “to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan,” was finally complete.

Ms Triplett’s father, Mose, was born in Tennessee in 1846 and joined a North Carolina infantry regiment aged 16. The next year he deserted. His regiment was destroyed at Gettysburg and a year later he joined the Union army. His daughter was born when he was 83.

“He served his time out with the Union so he would get a pension,” his grandson, Charlie Triplett, told The Wall Street Journal in 2014.

Irene, like her mother, suffered a cognitive disability that entitled her to a lifelong pension. She recalled being bullied at school as the daughter of a “traitor” who had betrayed the South. Occasionally people tried to get her to tell her story. “She would derail the conversation and start talking about a fire in Texas,” Ms Phillips said.

WHAT'S THE LESSON FOR AUSTRALIA ?

The Civil War generated payments / entitlements for over 150 years ! ... this shows just how long a policy based on a promise can stay on the books. The last widow of a serving soldier (Confederate) died only 12 years ago. The last Union widow died 17 years ago.

How long will Australia be paying for its involvement in Vietnam and more recently the Middle East ? At this rate ... 2120 and beyond?

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Rank Family Name

Given Names Post Nominals

Address

..... State Postcode

Contact Telephone Year of Birth

Email

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

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

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

DFWA NSW BRANCH, Bldg 96, Victoria Barracks Paddington. Locked Bag 7005, Liverpool, NSW 1871
(T) 02 8335 5447 (E) nswbranch@dfwa.org.au BANK DEPOSIT TO: BSB 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 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:	Governor of New South Wales Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC, QC
Vice Patrons:	Fleet Commander, Forces Commander, Air Commander
President:	Michael Stuart-Watt
Vice President (Navy):	TBA
Vice President (RAAF):	Alan Hind
Vice President (Army):	Richard Healy
Treasurer:	Ralph Hannaford
Secretary:	Alan Hind
Assistant Secretary:	Richard Healy
Membership Sec.	John Kane
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

CENTRAL WEST	SHOALHAVEN
Anthony (Tony) Horsington 45 Dalton Street PARKES NSW 2870 Mobile: 0412 299 331	Mr Christopher Clifford 6 Platypus Avenue, SANCTUARY POINT NSW 2540 Ph: (02) 4443 7725
HUNTER VALLEY	
David Winkelmann AFC PO Box 467, MAYFIELD NSW 2304 Ph: (02) 4968 3811	Mr Kevin C Buchanan 12 The Triangle, CULBURRA BEACH NSW 2540 Ph: (02) 4447 2461

A report to NSW Branch activities to NSW Branch members is provided in the insert NATTER.

WELCOME ACT CHAPTER MEMBERS !

As advised in the ACT Branch News, we welcome from 1 July the members of the ACT Branch who will now join the NSW Branch, whilst still maintaining their independence as the ACT Chapter. We promise you will be well looked after !

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:

Mr L J Clark, Mr R C Colluci, Mr C Dawson, Mrs V A Eldridge.

VALE

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

Major G E Ball, Mr K O Beutel, Mr H L Brierley, Mrs S D Church, Mr C M Cliff J P, LTCOL D Fock, Mr M G Gardner, Mr T J Gay, Mr M W Geeves, Colonel J S Haynes AO, OAM, SURG LT CMDR P J Hoare, Mrs J S A Hughes, Mrs D Kilgannon, Mrs G Mills, Mr V J O'Brien MBE, Mr K J Salter, Mrs E M Windsor, CMDR M T Wright.

ACT CHAPTER (NSW BRANCH)

President:	Les Bienkiewicz
Treasurer:	Paul Jones
Postal Address:	GPO Box 2272 Canberra ACT 2601
Email:	actchapter@dfwa.org.au
Telephone:	(02) 6265 9496 (answering service only)
Convenor ACT DWG:	Christine Lamb. Should you wish to contact the DWG please leave a message at (02) 6265 9776 or send an email to dwg-act@dfwa.org.au

MEMBERS AGREE TO CHANGE!

Over the past year ACT Branch members were advised of the decision of the Committee to implement new operating arrangements. The new arrangement will involve the unincorporation of the Branch as a registered Association in the ACT, and the establishment of an ACT Chapter of the NSW Branch (which is a registered Association in NSW). Two notices were sent to members in August 2019 and March 2020, both as inserts in Camaraderie, explaining the proposal.

Result of Members' vote. In May / June 2020 all 405 members were contacted by mail and given the opportunity to vote on this proposal. The results of the vote were that 184 members voted (representing 45% of the membership), of which 182 voted in support of the proposal, one abstained and one voted against. As a result, and in accordance with the requirements of the Branch Constitution, the agreement of the membership means that the new arrangements will be implemented and will come into force from 1 July 2020.

ANNUAL DWG LUNCHEON

Regretfully the COVID 19 crisis has forced the decision to cancel this year's annual luncheon. DWG members will be advised of further activities during the year as matters progress.

MEMBERSHIP AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Branch membership is currently being audited by our Membership Manager in preparation for transfer of members to the NSW Branch. As previously advised, members will be identified as being a member of the ACT Chapter. As part of this transition process, members whose subscriptions are paid up to date (i.e. to 2020) will have their membership extended by one year to 2021

VALE

With regret we note the passing of AIRCDR John Trinder (Retd)

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

President:	John Lewis
Exec Vice President:	Robert Shortridge
VP – South Queensland:	Pat Jackman
VP – North Queensland:	Vacant
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 Lewis
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

COVID-19

Victoria Barracks was closed to non-essential workers due to COVID-19 Lockdown. This has hindered any DFWA work in our office at RUSI Hall.

CAMARADERIE

The lockdown was introduced just as the last edition of Camaraderie was delivered to the office. Normally, the committee has a "Cam Stuffing Day" accompanied by a rather calorie overload morning tea. This was not possible. With a bit of ingenuity, aided by years of experience in administrative and

Q store ways and means, our Treasurer, Wally, managed to extract the magazines and spirit them to another location, where the mail out was completed. With the assistance of Pearl and Harry Mee and Lindy Cavanagh, Camaraderie with raffle tickets (thanks NSW) and the Qld newsletter, Hotline, was posted out.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Due to COVID restrictions, our Committee meetings have been conducted via the internet using the Zoom application which allows people to join in a video conference from their own home.

RESIGNATION OF RAY MARTIN

Ray Martin has resigned for his position as VP Townsville to concentrate on his major focus as Project Manager for Operation Compass (NQ Public Health Network's ex-ADF and Families Suicide Prevention Trial project) and family. Ray continues doing tremendous work in addressing suicide prevention for veterans and the wider community and is a pioneer in the RU OK initiatives. Ray has contributed massively over the years, playing a major part in winning the pay case for the troops back in 2014. There was press and TV coverage of his protesting outside the gates of Lavarack Barracks in October of that year. A solo man with a solo sign, however that soon changed drawing unprecedented public demonstrations which eventually lead to the restoration of conditions of service and an increased pay award for ADF members. Since then, he has been fully involved in the frontline of Veteran mental health issues as well as waving the DFWA flag. We are obviously sorry to see him go but can only wish him well as he continues his dedicated support to the veteran and broader community.

ADVOCACY SUPPORT

Although hindered by the COVID19 lockdown measures, Wally Buldo and Clem Russell, continued providing advocacy support through the period working from home as has been common practice for some time.

VETERANS VS THE TAX OFFICE – BRISBANE AAT CASES.

The AAT decision in the three veteran cases was handed down in March/April and ruled that the ATO had wrongly taxed the Class A and B Invalidity Pensions paid by DFRDB and MSBS. As expected, the ATO has appealed the AAT ruling to a Full Bench of the Federal Court. Further details are in a main article in this magazine and on our website.

TRANSITION SEMINARS

The planned ADF Transition Seminars have been postponed up to the end of September. We normally had an information stand at the Seminar. Supposedly there are other arrangements to assist in Transition but as yet we have not been advised what these arrangements are. These Seminars were for serving members. Many will have since discharged missing out on this service.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

We had provisionally booked RUSI Hall at Victoria Barracks in May for an Information Session for DFWA members, other ESO reps and serving ADF Members. These sessions provided an update on many current issues from speakers who were involved in the activities and provided an opportunity for attendees to pose questions. We now plan to hold an Information Session early next year as there will be plenty occurring – A new ADF Pay Case (Workplace Remuneration Arrangement), Update on the ATO appeal against the AAT ruling that Invalidity Pensions were incorrectly taxed, Productivity Commission recommendations and the new National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide. We are looking at the option of an alternative venue due to new security rigmarole involved in getting people into Victoria Barracks.

DFRDB

The Ombudsman ruled recently that there was no case for the ceasing of the reduction on DFRDB super payments for veterans who had commuted, on reaching the life expectancy age in the DFRDB Act. This was despite the finding that serving members had been misinformed by the ADF when making the choice to commute or not on discharge. DFWA is now investigating a possible challenge to the Life Expectancy Tables as they are now 10 years out in actual life expectancies, meaning the reduction in super pensions was too much. The team looking at this for DFWA is led by Win Fowles, our VP Sunshine Coast, assisted by Rob Shortridge and John Lewis.

DFWAQ RE-ORGANISATION

The DFWAQ Re-organisation Plan involving unincorporation is currently on hold due to possible difficulties with eligibility for grants, a major source of income. There is also an opportunity to learn from other activities affecting governance of DFWA, including ACT unincorporating by the end of June and continuing on as a Chapter of NSW and the planned rewrite of the DFWA National constitution which will impact on all Branches. We shall keep you informed.

OTHER NATIONAL OFFICE SUPPORT

Apart from IT support to DFWAQ, Chris Lewis has been working on several projects for National Office, including website redevelopment, a revitalisation of the national database endeavours and has produced reports on payment of Branch capitation contributions to National Office and a report on DFWA stakeholder influence for future DFWA policy strategy and planning.

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:	0412 574 444 or email sapresident@dfwa.org.au

The SA Branch continues to move in a positive direction and have put in place a number of initiatives that will see the SA Branch well placed to deliver support to a number of Organisations associated with providing direct support to Veterans in the second half of this year.

Our main achievement was finalising our agreed Strategic Plan for the SA Branch. Our strategic plan aligns directly to the Nationals' purpose and intent. We then also focus on several strategies to deliver actions and projects to revitalise the branch including but not limited to:

- Support to the National office and its principles,
- Raise and distribute funds to the veteran community, and
- Create events, engage with members and secure new members.

We were very grateful for the \$3000 grant from the National DFWA Trust Fund that we received since the last publication of Camaraderie. These funds directly enabled support to be provided to three veteran organisations, The Plympton Veteran Centre, The Northern Hub (XMRC) and (FOVA) The Partnership Hub.

Our second initiative during the first months of 2020 was to also engage with a number of State based Ex Service Organisations who are themselves delivering much needed support to Veterans but would benefit from a collective approach to administration and marketing.

The Co-operation instigated by DFWA – SA has brought these organisations together and they are now liaising and building a strong "Virtual Community" which is part of the local strategy and will boost dramatically the DFWA footprint in South Australia.

Interestingly, our reaching out to groups identified another two like minded organisations one located in the Port Adelaide area and one the other in the Gawler region.

We have to date facilitated two meetings with these veteran groups and are pleased to say they have accepted DFWA-SA leadership with enthusiasm. At the recent meeting we arranged for a senior representative from the Council of the Ageing (COTA) whose aim is to assist these groups with “wellbeing programs” and potentially volunteers to deliver programs to Veterans.

A coup for us was the inclusion of Professor Sharon Lawn, who is one of three Mental Health Commissioners for the SA Government. Professor Lawn is veteran friendly and has a considerable portfolio of work with DVA.

Increasingly, the veterans that use the services of the various organisations within the South Australian veteran network are younger “working age veterans” who insist that if any service organisation is to be successful in these modern times families need to be included.

Further, not only must families have a voice so to must the wider veteran cohorts including female, CALD and Indigenous veterans. The leaders and team of the DFWA SA Branch see the future leadership coming from these groups which will all help to refocus service delivery on the needs of the younger working age veteran.

The DFWA team in SA have also been negotiating with PKF Australia who are a large international finance and accounting group who contacted us and agreed to a Corporate arrangement and will sponsor DFWA, Nationally.

This partnership will only work for us as a collective if we engage with PKF Australia and use their range of services and refer our own membership and those members of the organisations we support to PKF.

The PKF portfolio includes much needed services for our group including classic “home loans” which may be of an advantage post the COVID 19 virus as they accept DVA income for the serviceability for loan purposes.

A more immediate success has been PKF providing access to one of its partners, an insurance agency and their price for The Combined Mess in Adelaide has seen a potential reduction of an estimated 30% in premiums

Our partnership with Flinders University continues to bear fruit, they have told Team member A/Professor Ben Wadham that his proposal (Supported by DFWA-SA) for an “Australian Centre for Research on Veteran’s Transition” has been approved and he has

been made the leader.

Additionally, the original MAPP, a program to assist veterans into higher education has been extended which all goes well for DFWA-SA connecting with the younger veteran community.

Our Links to ASCN-NZ international webinars continues. On 18/6 there is a specific webinar on women veterans broadcast from the USA. This has been circulated through our network and it is one way to keep abreast of health developments through leading and international research bodies.

The SA Branch has also commissioned a contractor to build a modern website capable of providing and receiving significant information to be used as the National face of DFWA online. This will be aimed at our potential working age veteran audience as it is well recognised that they prefer on-line communications to the written form and expand the presence of our growing list of corporate partners.

Ongoing Projects:

1. Education, training, and employment programs (currently impacted by COVID),
2. Discussions on the Corporate Governance procedures for the National use of the tax deductibility status held by National,
3. Investigation of the possible benefits of becoming an NDIS provider, a test case has commenced,
4. Investigations on the use of a centrally based office in Adelaide CBD are continuing,
5. Develop links with potential commercial partners, commencing with PKF,
6. Co-ordination several veteran supportive Psychiatrists to write blogs for new website,
7. Commenced discussions with COTA re assisting DFWA with volunteers,
8. Discussed alliance with Equally Well a nationally funded organisation in mental health and wellbeing, and
9. Commenced succession planning for new and future team of younger leaders.

The above projects are more long term and will be reported on as and when they occur.

Lastly and relating to the XMRC Hub which we have financially sponsored we have written to the Premier of SA, The Honourable Steven Marshal who also hold the portfolio of Minister for Veteran Affairs to inform him of the excellent work that has been undertaken by the young A/CEO of the Centre. Please see below an extract from the letter:

we bring to your attention an act by a young working age veteran that bears recognition by yourself as Minister for Veteran Affairs in South Australia. His name is Dion Cowdray, the acting CEO of the Ex-Military Rehabilitation Centre at Edinburgh Park.

The initiative, his own showed caring leadership when he recognised there were some older veterans in the community that were unable to access the necessary day to day staples, he organised, prepared and delivered “care packages” that provided for the basics needs. In short, he took control and addressed the situation and here are his own words some interesting statistics that highlight his efforts:

“Overall, to date 45 packages have been delivered within 30 days at a cost of \$6750.00 (contents). Area covered from Yorke Peninsula to Fleurieu Peninsula.

Supporting Veterans from a wide variety of conflicts and wars. Recipients ranged from 20s up to 99 majority being in the higher age group. All feedback has been of a positive nature with not one single negative comment from those directly involved”

Whilst Premier, small in whole numbers it showed the commitment this younger working age veteran made and reflects the time”-honoured saying of “Never leave your mate behind”.

This photo was taken as part of the combined meeting of the “Virtual Community” gathering at the XMRC, Edinburgh Park SA. 5/6/2020



L-R: David Everitt (DFWA-SA), Professor Sharon Lawn (SA Government) Dion Cowdray (XMRC), Jeanette Richards (COTA) AND Lee Bowes, President of DFWA-SA

Next Months report will include background on the various centre that make up the “Virtual Community”

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

The current corona virus pandemic has wrought many changes in the community. Not all of which have been bad.

With regard to the Victorian Branch of the Association there has been time to do a significant “spring clean” of all the old files and junk that had accumulated in the office over several decades. Also, at a national level, the National Executive Committee now meets regularly via internet conferencing on the ZOOM app which means we are better able to identify the issues important to veterans wellbeing and to decide how the Association may tackle these matters.

VALE

Since the last edition of Camaraderie, the Victorian Branch has been advised that the following Victorian members have passed away: Mr H. Hall; Mr D. Grover; Mrs I. Procter; Brigadier P. Davies AM

Lest we forget.

MEMBERSHIP

As at the end of May Victorian Branch membership stood at 419 being 170 Ordinary Members (full annual fee paying); 37 Ordinary Members (half annual fee paying); 4 Associate Members (individual); 4 Associate Members (Organisation); 199 Life Members; 4 Honorary Life Members; and 1 Honorary Member.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Branch’s finances continue to be well managed by our Secretary / Treasurer.

DIARY DATES

The planned 27 May meeting of the Branch Executive Committee was cancelled due to the COVID 19 lockdown requirements.

The Executive Committee has postponed the Annual General Meeting until Wednesday 26 August. Excepting any change in the COVID 19 situation, it is expected that the AGM will proceed and relevant papers will be forwarded to Victorian Branch members prior to the meeting date.

The final Branch Executive Committee meeting for 2020 will be on Wednesday 25 November

Branch Executive Committee meetings are normally held at the Mail Exchange Hotel, corner Burke and Spencer Street, Melbourne commencing at 11.00 am.

DFWA (Vic) members are most welcome to attend Executive Committee meetings and your Committee encourages members to attend the AGM. 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 and Wed 1000 to 1400 hrs
Email:	wabranche@dfwa.org.au
Location:	Karrakatta Community House Matapau Road Irwin Barracks KARRAKATTA WA 6010

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

NEW MEMBERS

The President and Committee offer a warm welcome to Mr Raymond Puzey (ex RAAF) who lives in Mandurah and to Mr Tom Goodlich (ex Army) who lives in Rockingham.

VALE

With deep sadness we note the passing of Mrs Shirley Dee, widow of the late WgCdr Ken Dee, Mr John O'Shea, Mrs Marie Shehan, (aged 101) and Mrs Greta Eurell.

LOST CONTACT

The Branch has lost contact with the following members and if anyone can assist tracing them, please let The Secretary know: Mrs Pauline McGuinn, Mr D Guan (recently lived in Scarborough), Mr Brian Hammond (of Karrinyup), age 83, and Mr Norman Anderson (of Balga).

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mr Neville Clark OAM who has been recognised in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours with a medal of the Order of Australia for his work with veterans and their families.

RAFFLE AND THANK YOU

The Branch wishes to thank all members who purchased raffle tickets this year, and we want to say a special thank you to those who made donations in lieu of buying tickets. Many members have asked NOT to receive raffle books in future, and we have noted these requests. It is a shame that just as the raffle books were being distributed, COVID-19 travel restrictions were being imposed. 1st prize of \$5,000 worth of travel seemed unattractive!

RAAF ADVANCED PILOTS' COURSE GRADUATIONS

We are aware members look forward to reading reports about the graduation parades at RAAF Pearce, and about the winner of the DFWA Award for Air Navigation. Regrettably, Covid 19 has got in the way of all these ceremonies, but as soon as they are back, we'll let you know.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

These dates will be confirmed at a later date, and are subject to COVID-19 restrictions;
Annual General Meeting - Wednesday 2nd September at RAAFA Bull Creek
Annual Christmas Lunch - Thursday 10th December (hopefully in the new function rooms at RAAFA Bull Creek)

Richard Usher OAM President, WA Branch



BOOK REVIEW continued:

We knew that we were well led by the CO, Lt Col John Warr, a veteran of BCOF, badly wounded in Korea, was almost a fatherly figure to the soldiers. He inspired a confidence that, in hindsight allayed the fears of many about the future. The undoubted success that the battalion achieved in Vietnam can confidently be identified with the steady and considered leadership of the CO. As Robert O'Neill, one of the editors wrote, "we all agree we were very lucky to have faced the challenges of being at war for a year under the outstanding leadership of John Warr".

Vietnam Vanguard is the account of the Battalions introduction to and its development of counter-insurgency operations in Vietnam. The Vietnam War was unlike the Army's then recent experience in Malaya-Borneo and Korea. The catalogue of operations is again a walk through my diary and a reminder of the constant patrolling, the night marches to get into positions for the cordon and searches of the villages, the rubber plantations, the monsoons, the running creeks, the constant H&I, the 10 man sections that inevitably became five or six with the consequent lack of sleep. Yes, it was all life changing.

The book details the internal workings of the CO and his staff

who continued to develop the battalion's operations based on the lessons learnt – it was a constant learning and demanding environment. All this with the backdrop of operations, of casualties, of KIAs, of WIAs and illness and the demands of maintaining morale.

The real heroes of Vietnam Vanguard are the men who served, who struggled to remain alert to the ever-present danger which was a constant. Some like Corporal Bob Kearney were pragmatic who quoted Forest Gump, when asked his thought on the war said, 'well we walked a lot and it rained a lot'. Others were more contemplative such as Major Ron Hamlyn who is quoted as saying that, "every night I used to thank the Lord for giving 5 RAR John Arnold Warr as commanding officer; the most compassionate and caring man I ever met". We would all agree with that sentiment.

Vietnam Vanguard is a good read. Yes, for me a walk through my diary but for anyone interested in the history of 5RAR's first deployment to Vietnam and the development of counter-insurgency operations there it is a must read.

Kel Ryan

Kel Ryan was commissioned through OCS Portsea, served again in Vietnam. Served in PNG with 1 PIR, SASR, 1 RAR and was CO of 51 FNQR. He retired after 24 years in the Army.

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 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 !



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



To claim a deduction for work-related expenses

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

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

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

Car expenses



- ✓ **You can claim** a deduction when you:
 - drive between separate jobs on the same day
 - drive to and from an alternate workplace for the same employer on the same day – eg if you are required to travel from your normal Army base to another military base to attend a fitness assessment.
- ✗ **You generally can't claim** the cost of trips between home and work, even if you live a long way from your usual workplace or have to work outside normal business hours – eg a military exercise held over the weekend.

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

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

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

Fitness expenses



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

Home office expenses



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

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

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

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

Self-education expenses



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

Other common deductible work-related expenses



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



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



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