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# CAMARADERIE

FIRST Edition 2023

VOL. 54 NO. 1



ADF WAGE CASE

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GARRISON HEALTH SERVICES

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VALE JIM MOLAN

INTRODUCING

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# THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



Vol. 54. No. 1 First Edition 2023

PROUDLY SERVING MEMBERS OF THE ADF AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1959

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**Please do not contact the Editor for membership enquiries. Membership enquiries should be directed to your State Branch – see page 4.**

*Camaraderie* is produced with the object of keeping members, their families and the broader ADF and veteran community informed of the issues being addressed by DFWA on their behalf.

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

Readers 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.

Readers 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 8 June 2023.**

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

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## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Another year and another three editions to work on! Members are always welcome to drop me a line with suggestions for articles... in the meantime, best wishes and happy reading... ☺

Les Bienkiewicz

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## FRONT COVER

*On Monday 7th December, 2022, five F-35A Lightning II aircraft from 2 Operational Conversion Unit (2OCU), lead by Commanding Officer Wing Commander Jordan Sander, conducted a formation flyover of RAAF Base Williamtown to celebrate the graduates of the Operational Conversion Course.*

*Photo courtesy of Defence Media*

# DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1959



## NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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

Members from Tasmania are normally managed by Victoria Branch, and members in the Northern Territory are normally managed by Queensland Branch. Residents in the ACT are invited to join the ACT Chapter of the NSW 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](http://www.dfwa.org.au) and in the Branch Reports at the end of this magazine.

If in any doubt, contact the National Office.

## PLEASE DONATE TO DFWA

The DFWA needs your (tax deductible) financial support to enable it to continue its good works in supporting ADF members, veterans and their families. Donations can be made simply by going online to [dfwa.org.au/donate](http://dfwa.org.au/donate)

Our thanks to the many recent donations received, all of whom elected not to publish their names.

## NATIONAL OFFICE ROUNDUP (November 2022 – February 2023)



### WHAT A YEAR 2023

**PORTENDS TO BE.** Since its election on Saturday 21 May 2022, the new Labor Government with barely a year under its belt is finding that the realities of Government are starting to bite hard. Almost daily news bulletins report on the growing hardships families and businesses alike are experiencing as a result of crushing inflationary pressures, sky-

rocketing price hikes on almost every conceivable commodity, and a hard-to-decern ripple on any wage increases of consequence to help anyone's cause. All that coming on top of two years of Covid 19 lockdowns, and a multitude of bushfires and floods that consumed many communities throughout the country.

ADF members from all three Services in essence became 'essential workers' contributing mightily to the welfare of those communities. Not to be overlooked throughout that period that they themselves were asked to accept a stay in any increases to their remuneration entitlements and allowances. In effect, the ADF Workplace Remuneration Arrangement (WRA) for 2020- 2023 was placed on hold. That being the case, the looming WRA towards the end of this year will be a critically important one to all ADF members battling the scourge of inflationary pressures. No hearing dates for meetings of the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal have yet been announced. All should be assured that DFWA will be involved as an approved intervenor – member's interests will be protected, as they have always been in the past.

No member of the ADF should forget that DFWA has had a history of opposing Arrangements even if the Tribunal in its deliberations endorsed the Government's proposed pay offer without amendment. With the strong support of ADF members, DFWA's has always taken the position that, firstly, no pay offer should be at the expense of offset in reductions of any conditions of service. Secondly, any WRA should at least match the movement of the 'Employee Living Cost Index', not just inflation. That would at least have a chance of maintaining the real purchasing power of ADF salaries. Anything less represents a pay cut, a cut ADF members should accept.

What always makes it easier to lobby strongly for pay fairness and allow DFWA to continue fostering the best interests and welfare of all members of the Australian Defence Force, including their families, is a stronger membership base. DFWA is there for all ADF members both during their service and certainly after it.

While on a 'membership base', a big thanks and a warm welcome to those who are known to have recently joined. But a plea I have regularly made in issues of Camaraderie: if you are a member and know of a friend and/or a colleague that is not, please gently encourage them to consider joining. We need a strong team to go forward and the only way to strengthen it is through membership growth. Please help in any way you are able.

And remember also, if you are still serving you can either join us as a full member or as a 'Virtual Member', the latter will cost you nothing. But it will give you direct on-going electronic feedback on issues of major concern to you vis conditions of service and pay. Equally importantly, you will get feedback on what is being done on your behalf to protect your interests and that of your family.

Readers of Camaraderie will have found a compelling example of this feedback via DFWA's regular reporting of the Douglas and Boys Cases. It has been the only ESO actively lobbying for and pursuing positive outcomes for the many affected. Both cases have had profound implication, not the least being the Boys success over the Repatriation Commission where he was awarded full TPI status. More in this and other issues of Camaraderie will follow.

As for other looming issues of importance to veterans and ADF members alike in the coming year, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicides will undoubtedly continue as a lead topic of interest during conversations in most forums. After all, following the release of its Interim Report on 11 August 2022, the Commission's work has been extended out to 17 June 2024. Significant volumes of work have demanded it, not the least of which has thus far included examining over 1300 submissions, completing eight public and private evidence-gathering hearing sessions throughout Australia, and gathering/analysing volumes of data gained from both domestic and international sources.

Perhaps other lead issues of importance will include the success of the now Labor Government's pre-election promise to cut waiting times and the backlog of compensation claims. Yes, positive efforts to redress the long-standing grievance of many claimants is encouraging. As are efforts by DVA to reduce barriers to successful claims lodgement through MyService.

Other 'promises' such as increasing the number of Veterans Hubs, boosting Defence housing ownership, developing a national family's engagement and support strategy, and building housing and funding specialist services for homeless veterans, will all be closely monitored.

Not to be overlooked in matters that are to be the subject of interest and debate are such issues as the fallout from the

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

A change of Command

**I HOPE YOU HAD** a chance to have a break over the Christmas and New Year period. It was a good chance to re charge the batteries for a very busy year ahead.

To be one of an estimated 5000 ex service organisations can be daunting. I believe what sets DFWA apart from most include the following:

- We have a long history of getting things done.
- We are agile - while able to continue working on the legacy issues, we are looking at what the contemporary issues are and what we need to do next.
- We are listening to ex serving and current serving members. We support with Defence Reserves Assn (DRA) with Non Liability Health Care ( NLHC) for Reservists. We are also aware of child care being an issue for current serving families.

I have been working in the welfare and mental health space for the past five years which has given me an insight into issues that current serving and transitioned members and their families are facing. Not only are their concerns about healthcare but finding and affording a house to live in. Housing and healthcare are certainly current and possibly worsening issues. The state and national executives of DFWA have to be talking to those who can do something about those issues, and also listening to the veterans and their families who are experiencing them. Please let us know what your issues are that you are facing regardless or you being current serving, transitioning or ex service.

Listening to the movie 'Finding Nemo' with my grandchildren reminded me about one of the situations : Marlin was looking for Nemo and he is feeling really deflated, Dory says to him 'when life gets you down you know what you've got to do? Just keep swimming. Just keep swimming. Just keep swimming, swimming, swimming'. DFWA has to keep swimming. We need to be the voice for those who cannot be heard.

All the very best for 2023 to you and your families.

*Del*  
**National President, DFWA**



## NATIONAL OFFICE ROUNDUP CONT.

Brereton Report. Except for an initial front-page foray, little media attention has been publicised about CDF's demand for officers involved in particular episodes during the Afghan war to justify as to why they should keep their distinguished and conspicuous service awards. But the issue is a 'live' one unresolved and controversial. The ASASA, the Commando Associations and RSL National have spoken out publicly on the issue.

And dare I mention the AWM's proposal to feature so-called 'Frontier Wars'. Some ESOs and many veterans have expressed alarm. Many have expressed the view that the AWM should remain a place honouring the sacrifice and service of those who have worn military uniforms and fought under the Australian flag.

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

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

*Alf Jaugietis*



# AUSTRALIAN PARTNERS OF DEFENCE

## – RECOGNISING THOSE WHO SERVE WITH EVERYDAY SAVINGS

### HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT APOD?

Founded by Veteran families and for Veteran families, APOD (or Australian Partners of Defence) is the benefits program provided in partnership with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Veterans' Recognition Program.

We understand that when one person serves in the military, the whole family serves. This understanding comes through our team, which comprises veterans, spouses, and defence family members. Service is at the centre of everything we do!

We are all facing cost of living pressures and finding ways to save is critical to managing the home budget. Whether it be to help cover:

- weekly expenses like fuel or groceries;
- help save for that one-off purchase, including electrical items or jewellery; or
- an experience, a weekend away, a night out or tickets to an event.

To help the 140,000 (and growing) defence and veteran families across the country who access APOD's service, we now have over 4,000 offers available from large national businesses, including Ampol, RM Williams, Mitsubishi Motors, Harley-Davidson, Woolworths, through to smaller local businesses and online-only offers.

These offers are found either on our website, or on our Apple or Android App, making it easy to search by location or a keyword.

Given our history of being founded by Military spouses, we strongly support the entrepreneurial spirit within the military community. Actions speak louder than words, so we are privileged to promote 600 veteran-owned and operated businesses. If you want to support your community, log on to APOD and search for 'Veteran Owned'.

Through our partnership with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, access to APOD is free for all eligible Veteran Card holders and veteran spouses. To become a member of APOD, veterans must have completed at least one day's continuous full-time military service and have a Veteran Card.

If you or someone you know has served, sign up for APOD today and help spread the word to your network. With over 140,000 families already using the platform, there's no better time to join, take advantage of the benefits, and put some money back in your pocket!

Our website ([www.apod.com.au](http://www.apod.com.au)) has all the information you need to start enjoying the benefits. Alternatively, you can call us on 1300 00 APOD (2763), and our friendly Member Services Team will aim to answer any questions you have.

© Australian Partners of Defence (APOD). Article for Camaraderie magazine, February 2023 edition.

## ARE MEDICAL PRACTICES CHARGING YOU WHEN USING YOUR CONCESSION CARD?

**DFWA HAS RECEIVED REPORTS** that some GPs are charging concession card holders gap fees or co-payments, including DVA Gold and White Card holders.

"My GP clinic just sent out an email saying that concession card holders will need to pay a \$15 gap fee" – John, Newport

Health care providers cannot charge a gap-fee or co-payment for services provided to you, if you are using your DVA Gold or White Card.

However, if you are using your Medicare Card and a Pensioner or Seniors Health Card, the provider may charge you a gap fee.

Where possible, use your DVA Gold or White Card when receiving health care!

On a related matter, there will be significant changes over the next few years in how health care is funded by the Commonwealth and the States. DFWA is following this with interest, and will be advocating for DVA to ensure that the funding model for veterans keeps up with those changes.

We would be interested to hear any views from members on these matters, in particular how has your DVA card been accepted or not accepted by your medical provider.

Drop us a line at [cards@dfwa.org.au](mailto:cards@dfwa.org.au)





# DFWA SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE ECONOMICS COMMITTEE

## - ISSUES RELATING TO THE DOUGLAS DECISION -

**CAMARADERIE HAS PUBLISHED** many articles “the Douglas decision” in recent editions, reporting on the extensive work done by the DFWA Queensland Branch.

The Government announced on 25 July 2022 that it would retrospectively and prospectively reverse the impact of the Commissioner of Taxation v Douglas (the Douglas decision) in relation to all schemes other than the invalidity benefits and death benefits for beneficiaries of invalidity pensioners paid from the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) and Military Superannuation Benefits (MSB) schemes that commence on or after 20 September 2007.

The measure also introduces a non-refundable tax offset to prevent any adverse income tax outcomes for affected veterans in the DFRDB and MSB schemes. These changes will also apply to the Spouse and Children’s pensions following the death of a member of a DFRDB or MSB scheme affected by the Douglas decision.

Whilst the “Douglas case” brought benefits to most, it did have some bad effects and the legislation entrenches the discriminatory less favourable treatment of some veterans. It is expected to be voted on in the Senate during March. Most senators, MPs, serving ADF (incl its hierarchy), are not aware of the discrimination and the resultant adverse effects on mental health and families and the likely effect on recruiting and thus the defence of Australia.

The Senate Economics Committee is currently examining this matter and is due to report on its findings in March. The DFWA (Queensland) Branch submitted a detailed response to the Senate Committee, as did DFWA National. The shorter DFWA National submission follows, and all submissions including the more extensive DFWA Queensland submission can be found at

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/TLABno42022](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/TLABno42022)

### THE DFWA NATIONAL SUBMISSION

While DFWA support some aspects of the proposed changes, we also believe that the amendments as drafted will further embed inequity in the tax treatment of superannuation benefits for veterans.

#### Areas which are supported:

- Legislation of The Commissioner of Taxation vs Douglas decision:
  - This embeds the findings of the Douglas decision to allow Veterans in receipt of a payment as a result of invalidity to be recognised as a lump sum with a Disability Superannuation Benefit (beneficial tax treatment).

<sup>1</sup>Federal Court of Australia: The Commissioner of Taxation vs Douglas, The Commission of Taxation vs Burns, The Commission of Taxation vs Walker, 4 December 2020, FCAFC 220. Hereafter referred to as ‘the Douglas Decision’



- Improves on the Douglas decision:
  - The amendments extend the benefits of the Douglas decision to spouses and children of deceased veterans receiving invalidity pensions
  - Implements a Veterans' superannuation (invalidity pension) tax offset:
  - This offset allows ensures that no veterans are worse off as a result of this change in legislation. A minority of veterans have received a negative tax outcome as a result of the Douglas Decision. This offset negates this negative effect and ensures equitable outcomes.

**Areas which are not supported:**

- Restrictive date:
  - The proposed amendments only apply to those veterans whose 'invalidity pay commenced on or after 20 September 2007'. This enshrines inequity under legislation, where date of payment of invalidity benefits

determines whether a veteran will receive preferential tax treatment. Same service, different outcome.

- Superannuation schemes covered:
  - The amendments specifically cover the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973 and the Military Superannuation and Benefits Act 1991. Since 2016, new members of the Australian Defence Force have no option to join these schemes, and instead have access to ADF Cover and ADF Super. This means that newer veterans will not be able to access the preferential tax treatment which recognises the disability and lack of employment options for which the payment has been received.

We submit that Schedule 9 should be expanded to include veterans on ADF Cover/ADF Super; and that no date should be included in the legislation. This would allow all veterans to receive the same benefits as a result of their service.

## Have you served in the ADF?

### Your story can help others

We can give you free legal advice and help to get your story heard by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

We are independent from the Royal Comisson, ADF and DVA.

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**1800 33 1800 (FREE CALL)**

[www.defenceveteranslegalservice.org.au](http://www.defenceveteranslegalservice.org.au)



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Women in war Stamp Designer: Stacey Zaas, Page 12; © Australian Postal Corporation 2017

I-124 on the surface



# Darwin's Submarine

## THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY'S I-124

by  
Dr Tom Lewis

**OUTSIDE DARWIN'S HARBOUR**, an enormous Japanese submarine still lies with her 80-man crew on board. 20th January 2022 was the anniversary of her sinking in 1942.

She is part of the secret history of the assaults on northern Australia. The aircraft carriers of the famous February 1942 strike were not the first major attack on the Australian landmass. They were the second strike – the first attempt to close down the northern port was made a month earlier with a submarine squadron.

In January 1942 four giant vessels of the Sixth Submarine Squadron's Imperial Japanese Navy were deployed to northern Australian waters. Darwin was a harbour of considerable strategic importance. Sweeping south after the assault on Pearl Harbour, and carrying all before them, the Japanese knew the deployment of any Allied warships or aircraft from the northern port would be a dangerous attack on their right flank as they drove east to secure New Guinea.

Built by Kawasaki Heavy Industries, the four submarines of the Sixth Submarine Squadron were armed with twelve torpedoes in four 21-inch bow tubes and a foredeck 5.5-inch gun. They carried 42 mines, launched through torpedo doors

in the stern. Under the leadership of Commander Endo, they made their way south, and deployed quietly around Bathurst and Melville Island.

On the morning of 20 January one of the submarines attacked the US Navy fleet oiler USS *Trinity* with three torpedoes. The tanker was escorted by two destroyers. As the torpedoes were seen the USS *Alden* turned and launched depth charges. The response was unsuccessful, and the destroyer lost the contact and broke off the attack. But the alarm was given in Darwin.

Later the Australian corvette *Deloraine* was searching near the scene with sonar. The Bathurst-class vessel, commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Desmond Menlove, was a newly launched ship, and her first action was nearly her last. *Deloraine* was ambushed by the I-124. Frank Marsh, a stoker on the vessel, remembered seeing: "...the trail of the torpedo which missed our stern so closely that the wake thrown up by the propellers actually caused the torpedo to come out of the raised sea surface."

The torpedo streaked towards the corvette. *Deloraine* turned right inside the torpedo's course. It missed the ship's stern by metres. Then she charged straight down the



*HMAS Deloraine possibly in Darwin*

weapon's track. An attack commenced with patterns of depth charges exploding astern of the warship as she wheeled and swooped as directed by her sonar. Then a Deloraine bridge lookout reported the submarine was breaking the surface, and abruptly the conning tower was seen ahead. Deloraine powered towards her enemy, and this time the depth charge explosion caught the submarine as it dived. Soon sonar confirmed it as motionless on the seabed. The boat's captain, Lieutenant Commander Koichi Kishigami, his division commander Endo, and 78 others were dead or trapped on board.

Later the boom defence vessel HMAS Kookaburra was deployed to the site, and Australian divers attempted to find I-124. They were unsuccessful, and engaged the help of divers from the American submarine repair ship USS Holland. The divers found the submarine, several nautical miles south of Bathurst Island, with hatch gaskets blown out, suggesting the stern sections were flooded. Some reports claim that divers from the American ship Blackhawk descended and heard the Japanese crew, still inside, tapping on the hull. The Allies were interested in recovery: taking the submarine's codebooks would be a great intelligence coup. Secretly the Navy began to make arrangements for recovery, moving personnel and equipment to Darwin in preparation. But three weeks later Darwin was struck a shattering blow by the same carrier task force that had devastated Pearl Harbor. It was now too dangerous to attempt recovery.

However, the submarine was not to quietly lie in her grave. Controversy was the I-124 companion for the next 50 years. Strange stories and theories surround the wreck. One sought to connect the I-124 with a supposed Japanese submarine working with the German armed raider Kormoran which sank HMAS Sydney in November 1941. Michael Montgomery, in *Who Sank The Sydney?* suggested a submarine was

refueling or re-arming Kormoran when the Sydney was sighted, dived to escape detection, and torpedoed the Australian cruiser, winning the battle for the raider. Other stories say that a seaplane was sighted in the vicinity of the battle: many Japanese boats did carry folding planes in hangars on the foredeck. Suggestions have been made that a second submarine wreck – which some claim lies nearby – could be that alleged helper of the Kormoran; other stories have the I-124 itself involved as the Japanese submarine. Other fanciful theories suggest inside the wrecked boat the captain's safe contained an answer.

More than one source suggests codebooks were indeed recovered from the I-124, helping to win the Pacific war. Ed Drea in MacArthur's Ultra wrote:

“Shortly after the outbreak of the Pacific War, US Navy divers had salvaged the Japanese Navy's Water Transport “S” codebooks from a submarine that had been sunk off Darwin Australia in January 1942. With these documents in hand, navy cryptanalysts were able to read Japanese naval shipping messages...”

In the 1950s the daughter of the sub's commander, Atsuko Kishigami, began a campaign to have the submarine raised and its entombed bodies returned to Japan. The Japanese Fujita Salvage Company, then in Darwin salvaging the wrecks of ships still lying in the harbour, made a brief investigation into the proposal, before it was decided the costs were prohibitive.

In 1972 local salvage operators Sid Hawks, Harry Baxter, George Tyers and John Chadderton began preliminary salvage work on the submarine with three vessels. But ownership disputes arose between Baxter and the remaining three, including shots fired, and after a split the potential salvors were denied rights by the Federal Government and warned off the site. In 1976 Harry Baxter tried new recovery attempts, claiming his salvage attempts had penetrated the hull. By this time he had probably removed items from the exterior. He was warned off again and in a fit of pique went out with explosives to destroy the submarine. In November 1984 Navy divers from HMAS Curlew carried out descents to the boat to verify its condition: they reported the conning tower had been damaged, but the casing appeared undamaged and sealed.

In 1989 the research vessel Flamingo Bay, captained by David Tomlinson, sent down a Remote Operated Vehicle: an unmanned mini-submarine equipped with a TV camera. The ROV sent back pictures of the I-124's conning tower, still upright but with a list to one side. With personnel from NT and WA museums involved, the Flamingo Bay operation hoped to dive the submarine for research purposes, but the project was eventually cancelled due to political considerations.

Stories about I-124 continued to re-appear. Claims that a valuable cargo of mercury was present on board appeared in the media. Baxter continued to make claims about the submarine, saying he had “been arrested by ASIO.” His stories appeared in the popular magazine Australasian Post, stating that he had been visited by a Japanese ambassador from Washington, who was worried about the “ship’s safe.” Baxter died a little while later, taking any secrets to the grave.

In February 2017 the 80 men entombed in the submarine were commemorated in Darwin’s Parliament House. The unveiling of a plaque, to be later installed on Casuarina Cliffs, was undertaken by the Japanese Ambassador to Australia; federal Senator Nigel Scullion, and the Chief Minister of the NT, together with the President of the Australian-Japanese Association (NT). Mr Takashi Ootaki, grandson of crew member Petty Officer Second Class Ryohei Ootaki, made a short speech. WWII RAAF veteran, Mr Brian Winspear AO,

who experienced the first Darwin air raid, was present in his uniform to reconcile with the Japanese Ambassador. Those attending were gifted with a paper crane to take away, which carried the name of a submariner. At 7pm, at the end of the event, 80 balloons were released outside to free the souls of the dead.

I-124 still lies outside Darwin today. Strangely, she is less known to Australians than the three midget submarines which attacked Sydney Harbour also in 1942. But I-124 remains one of the country’s most interesting stories of the country at war: a tale of bravery on both sides, loss, and an insight into the secret war fought in Australia’s north.

*Dr Tom Lewis OAM is a military historian. One of his books is Darwin’s Submarine I-124, published by Avonmore. He served in the Royal Australian Navy, retiring as a lieutenant-commander.*



**ATTENTION ADF MEMBERS!**

.....

Your pay arrangements are due to be revised at the end of 2023 when your current three year workplace remuneration arrangement (WRA) expires.

The DFWA has in past considerations of WRAs intervened on your behalf in order to give the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) an objective voice – i.e., YOUR VOICE!

We have in past wras invited adf members and their families to give us their views, by way of an online survey and direct contact. We plan to do similar for this coming WRA and more information will be provided in the next edition of Camaraderie.

In the meantime, if you have any views on this matter and / or wish to be kept informed of actions the DFWA will take on your behalf, drop us a line at [wra@dfwa.org.au](mailto:wra@dfwa.org.au)



## 1 Year of Service, 1000 PEOPLE HELPED

FREE ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS, ADF MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES

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**A free legal service for veterans and Defence members has marked its first anniversary by boosting the assistance it provides to them.**

In the past year more than 1,000 people have been helped across Australia by the Defence and Veterans Legal Service (DAVLS).

This service provides free, confidential and independent legal support to people who want to share their story with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

### KEY DATES

Submissions to the Royal Commission must be received by October 13 of this year. But if you want to have a private one-on-one session with a Royal Commissioner, you must submit your request by April 28 of this year.

DAVLS also helps with issues relating to veterans' entitlements and other legal problems commonly experienced by current and former ADF members.

For free, independent legal support, call 1800 33 1800 or visit [DefenceVeteransLegalService.org.au](http://DefenceVeteransLegalService.org.au)

"In response to high levels of demand, we are increasing the support we provide to current and former ADF members –

and their families," says Jasmine Stanton, a former Navy officer and Army Reservist who is now the Director of DAVLS.

"Our legal help is free and confidential – and it's completely independent. We don't work for the Royal Commission, or the Defence Department, or the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"We help people share their story with the Royal Commission in an informed and safe way that protects their rights and ensures their voice is heard.

"Real change can happen when people are empowered to speak up."

DAVLS provides tailored legal advice about issues including:

- making a submission
- the rights and obligations of people who make a submission
- privacy, confidentiality, and defamation
- national security laws, and confidentiality provisions in ADF employment contracts
- legal protections for people who make a submission.

For free, independent legal support, call DAVLS on 1800 33 1800 or visit [DefenceVeteransLegalService.org.au](http://DefenceVeteransLegalService.org.au)



# CENSUS 2021

## Key findings - ADF Service

**THE RESULTS OF THE 2021 CENSUS** were released in June 2022. One of the questions related to service in the ADF, and the key findings are interesting!

### A QUICK SUMMARY

**Out of a population of just over 25 million,**

- There were 581,100 people who had ever served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), 2.8% of the Australian population aged 15 years and over.
- Townsville had a higher number of current service (5,500 people) and previous service (8,700 people) members than any other region (at the SA3 level).
- One in twenty (5.3%) Australian households (dwellings) had at least one person who had served in the ADF (that is, at least one person who was either currently serving or had previously served in the ADF).
- 13% of previous service members needed assistance with the core activities of self-care, mobility or communication.
- Three in five (60%) previous service members had a long-term health condition.
- People who had served in the ADF were more likely to have volunteered in the previous 12 months (21%) than those who had never served in the ADF (15%).

### MORE DETAIL ABOUT WHAT THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS SAID

Serving in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) provides a unique variety of opportunities and experiences (1) and can have a significant impact on a person's life, both during their service period and beyond. It may affect where they live, their connection with family and other social networks, as well as their health and wellbeing.

Returning to civilian life following ADF service can present challenges, and previous service members may have distinct characteristics and health needs (physical and psychological) that require special consideration due to their military training, service and deployments.

The 2021 Census included a new question about service in the ADF. While records exist for current Australian Defence Force service, limited records exist for previous service personnel.

The following article analyses the characteristics of both currently serving members of the ADF and those who previously served in the ADF, aged 15 years and over, based on 2021 Census data. The data provides information to enable better delivery of services and support for veterans, to geographic areas where it is most needed.

### DEFINITION OF SERVICE

Currently serving includes those who, at the time of the 2021 Census were aged 15-64 years and were part of the:

- Australian Army (including NORFORCE (North-West Mobile Force))
- Royal Australian Navy
- Royal Australian Air Force

**A current ADF service member may be engaged in:**

- Regular service: considered a person's main ongoing job, with most roles full-time in nature. They may have also engaged in Reserves service previously.
- Reserves service: normally part-time in nature and can include up to 200 days of service per year, depending on the role. They may also have also engaged in Regular services previously.

Previous service includes former ADF members aged 15 years and over who served in Regular or Reserve services (including the National Service and the Second Australian Imperial Force) who are not currently serving in the ADF.

Total ever served includes those currently serving and those with previous service in the ADF.

Never served includes all people aged 15 years and over with no current or previous service in the ADF.

Note this analysis does not capture people who have served in non-Australian defence forces and excludes overseas visitors.

## POPULATION

According to the 2021 Census, there was a total of 581,100 people who had ever served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), 2.8% of the Australian population aged 15 years and over.

Of those who had ever served in the ADF:

- 10.4% (60,300 people) were currently serving in Regular service
- 4.2% (24,600 people) were currently serving in the Reserves service

- 85.4% (496,300 people) had previously served in either the Reserve or Regular service and were not currently serving.

Among those who were currently serving:

- 79.4% were male (67,400 people)
- 20.6% were female (17,500 people)
- The average age of those in the Regular service was 34 years
- The average age of those in the Reserves service was 41 years.

**TABLE 1. PEOPLE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE REGULAR SERVICE BY AGE AND SEX, 2021**

	Male (no.)	Male (%)	Female (no.)	Female (%)	Total (no.)	Total (%)
<b>15-24 years</b>	10,893	74.1	3,815	25.6	14,710	100.0
<b>25-34 years</b>	16,499	77.9	4,666	22.0	21,168	100.0
<b>35-44 years</b>	10,514	81.1	2,447	18.9	12,963	100.0
<b>45-54 years</b>	7,092	83.2	1,434	16.8	8,528	100.0
<b>55-64 years</b>	2,498	85.6	424	14.5	2,917	100.0
<b>Total</b>	47,495	78.9	12,791	21.2	60,286	100.0

**TABLE 2. PEOPLE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE RESERVES SERVICE BY AGE AND SEX, 2021**

	Male (no.)	Male (%)	Female (no.)	Female (%)	Total (no.)	Total (%)
<b>15-24 years</b>	2,004	80.0	506	20.2	2,505	100.0
<b>25-34 years</b>	5,242	80.8	1,240	19.1	6,486	100.0
<b>35-44 years</b>	4,682	79.5	1,206	20.5	5,889	100.0
<b>45-54 years</b>	3,881	78.4	1,074	21.7	4,950	100.0
<b>55-64 years</b>	4,082	86.0	662	14.0	4,745	100.0
<b>Total</b>	19,896	80.9	4,683	19.1	24,581	100.0

Among those who had previously served in the ADF:

- 86.6% were male (429,600 people)
- 13.4% were female (66,700 people)
- The average age was 64 years.

**TABLE 3. PREVIOUS SERVICE MEMBERS OF THE ADF BY AGE AND SEX, 2021**

	Male (no.)	Male (%)	Female (no.)	Female (%)	Total (no.)	Total (%)
<b>15-24 years</b>	3,501	73.9	1,238	26.1	4,735	100.0
<b>25-34 years</b>	22,133	83.7	4,310	16.3	26,441	100.0
<b>35-44 years</b>	34,324	81.9	7,583	18.1	41,909	100.0
<b>45-54 years</b>	56,384	79.8	14,290	20.2	70,673	100.0
<b>55-64 years</b>	72,773	86.0	662	14.0	4,745	100.0
<b>65-74 years</b>	116,853	90.3	12,583	9.7	129,437	100.0
<b>75-84 years</b>	79,469	93.0	5,950	7.0	85,416	100.0
<b>85 yrs + over</b>	44,207	91.3	4,194	8.7	48,396	100.0
<b>Total</b>	429,637	86.6	66,639	13.4	496,276	100.0

The age profile of ADF service members varies considerably by whether they were current or previous service members. Currently serving ADF members have a much younger age profile, with over half (53%) aged under 35 years.

Those who previously served in the ADF were more likely to be older, with over half (53%) aged 65 years or more.

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?** Go to <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/australian-defence-force-service>

# THE UNIQUE NATURE OF MILITARY SERVICE A REPOCHARGE!

The concept of The Unique Nature of Military Service has, over the past few years, become a well known expression often used by politicians, media commentators and the like. It had its genesis some 10 years ago when the DFWA, actively led by past President David Jamison and Vice President Kerry Mellor, originated the idea and lobbied for its inclusion into legislation as part of a wider push to put a Australian Military Covenant (or Accord) in place.

Anecdotally, The Unique Nature of Military Service seems to be less recognised than it was, or should be. The article below was written in 2015 and it is timely to revisit it.



## MILITARY SERVICE IS UNIQUE

by  
WIN FOWLES

**T**HE WORD *UNIQUE* IS OVERUSED these days. Everything seems to cop the 'unique' label even if it is not.

The dictionary says that unique means: "of which there is only one; unequalled; having no like."

Military service is unique in the correct sense of the word despite the efforts of some to bundle military service in with civilian emergency services. Or, worse, to bundle military service in with the public service. But servicemen and women are not emergency services workers or public servants.

*Camaraderie* has featured articles on the unique nature of military service before. This article looks briefly at the one key feature that makes military service unique. Genuinely unique.

That key feature is *obligation*.

The key difference between military service and disciplined emergency services such as police and fire-fighters – with whom some would put in the same box – is one of obligation.

Here's why. Servicemen and women, and only servicemen and women, are required – compelled – to obey lawful commands that involve risk up to and including the possible or probable or even certain loss of their life.

Emergency services people do not share that same obligation. Nor do public servants or anybody else.

The difference is not a matter of bravery or courage or other individual qualities. Emergency services people demonstrate these qualities in spades frequently, and deserve our admiration for doing so. But emergency services people cannot be ordered to place their lives in mortal danger even though some may choose to do so. ADF people can be so ordered if the order is lawful.

Article 3 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights says that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person. Australia is party to this declaration. But, unlike all other Australians, ADF servicemen and women can be compelled to give up their right to life if their country so requires. That's unique.

Servicemen and women of all ranks value their lives as much as any other Australian – and military leaders are obliged to shield their subordinates from harm in any reasonable way possible. So they should. But, in extremis, those leaders can and indeed must order their subordinates into situations where one or more of those subordinates may well pay the ultimate price. So may the leader. And the subordinate, whether a volunteer or a conscript, has no choice in the matter.



Assuming that the military leader's command is lawful, a subordinate is subject to severe sanction for disobedience. Some may say that any sanction is better than being wounded or killed in battle but this then raises the fraught issue of the good of the individual as opposed to the good of the nation. Military service is all about the latter.

ADF members are not public servants, as some people seem to want to believe. The fundamental difference, obligation, is recognised nationally in a number of ways. These include:

### Employment Status.

- ADF people are members, not employees. They do not enjoy the same workplace rights as all other Australians, a fact formally recognised two decades ago when the now-defunct Armed Forces Federation of Australia attempted to become the ADF's de facto trade union. Public servants are employees and enjoy workplace rights that ADF members do not. And that's fine.
- If our sailors, soldiers and airmen & women enjoyed the same workplace rights as all other Australians then the ADF as a legal entity could not and need not still exist as it does today. We would have to find a new word to describe those who would be employed to defend the nation. That word is "mercenary".

Structure. The Department of Defence is, uniquely, run by a diarchy under its minister.

Legal System. ADF members are governed by both civilian and military law.

### Post-Service Care.

- Australia has a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) in recognition of the nation's unique obligations to its ADF men and women. Most civilised nations do likewise. But Australia does not have and does not need a Department of Ex-Public Service Affairs.
- Some may still believe that DVA should be subsumed into the civilian welfare system. Such a proposal emerges from time to time and is always rejected, properly, by both sides of politics because of the unique nature of military service. Again, ADF members are not public servants.

The fact that this Camaraderie article even needs to be written is a disappointing reflection on much of the current discussion in certain academic circles and elsewhere. Much – not all – of these discussions is based on assumptions or opinions that are either naïve or shallow or both. And many commentators seem to start with the premise that military service is not different in principle from other service although most seem to recognise that military service is different in degree. But military service is different in principle. It is unique.

For example, one recent on-line academic article discussing the proposed Australian Military Covenant (or Accord) was

surprisingly naïve. It was enjoyable reading but warranted a response, some of which is outlined below.

The author wrote: *"The proposed accord is an attempt to articulate to the public the unique nature of military service by emphasising the role played and sacrifices made by defence personnel and their families."* Of course that's true, but only up to a point. Police and fire-fighters and others can also make family sacrifices but do not have the unique obligations of ADF members. It was clear (and disappointing) that the author, a former ADF member, did not recognise the defining distinction between military service and other service.

And again: *"The concept of "difference" in the nature of service life may be difficult to reconcile with societal norms."* The author appears to completely miss the point. ADF operational service is well beyond "societal norms". The two cannot be reconciled in the way the author seems to want. It is not "difficult" to reconcile military service life with societal norms. It is impossible. Combat is not a "norm".

Australian society may not want to see its military men and women put themselves in harm's way for the greater good but that's what defence forces do if they have to. If that's unacceptable then should the ADF not be disbanded? Then what happens?

Further, the author seems to believe that a Military Covenant, if introduced, means that the ADF somehow would see itself as an equal partner to the Australian government. The very idea is breathtaking. The author says: "The armed forces in a democracy are not an equal partner, but subordinate to the civil power."

What can one say? Of course the ADF is subordinate to the civil power. Nobody claims otherwise for any reason. Perhaps the author is confusing 'subordinate to the civil power', which the ADF is, with 'subordinate to the civil (public) service', which the ADF is not.

And: "The ADF exists only because the taxpayer calls for and financially underwrites it; that is the social contract." The author places the ADF in the same category as every other government function paid for by the taxpayer, and does not acknowledge the unique nature of military service or, importantly, the national existential reason for Australia having a defence force in the first place. If an academic with personal experience of military service does not understand the fundamentals then it is not surprising that others will not.

There's more to all this, of course. But it seems clear that the misunderstanding of the ADF's place in Australian life, as evidenced by the author's piece and by the wide lack of understanding of the obligations that underpin the unique nature of military service, means that organisations such as DFWA, the Returned and Services League, the Australia Defence Association, the Department of Defence and others need to embark on a public education campaign.

Unique means unique.

## VALE

### JIM MOLAN

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Readers may not be aware that Jim was a good friend to DFWA, providing lobbying support and readily giving advice when sought. He will be sadly missed by many.*

*As a junior cadet at Duntroon I remember Jim well – always a commanding presence, and one of the “good guys”. His funeral, which was held at the RMC Chapel, reflects the strong bond we Duntroon graduates from that era share.*

*The following tribute written by classmate Ross Eastgate is one of two that appear in Ross Eastgate's blog, with this initially appearing in The Spectator ...*

# Jim Molan

## REMEMBERING THE EARLY YEARS

by  
ROSS EASTGATE

**EACH OF US IS** allotted at birth three score years and ten to make our mark on the world.

Some squander those years, some pass unnoticed, others leave a legacy soon forgotten, and a few blaze brightly throughout their lives and after.

Andrew James Molan will definitely be regarded in the latter category in life's register.

A commanding presence with an intellect to match, no one was ever in any doubt about where they stood with Jim nor what he could, and did achieve. His latter years and achievements are well known, but less is known of his beginnings, except by the select group of once young men who were, and remain, his Duntroon classmates.

From Melbourne's CBD, the young Molan entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon in January 1968, a remarkable class by any measure.

They were the first cadets to receive bachelor degrees from UNSW on their graduation in December 1971, an



arrangement initially regarded with some trepidation by the university, but which has since proved remarkably successful.

It was a tough, challenging environment, a mix of military and academic training with an emphasis on physical fitness and sport.

Despite the almost monastic poverty of their lives, they worked and played hard, creating an unbroken bond that has lasted 55 years.

It helped that Jim was a star ruckman on the Aussie Rules field, his solid aggression making him a formidable player.

It was then customary that new cadets were 'introduced' to Canberra's social life in a torturous half-day's entertainment called The Tennis Party, though only the most enthusiastic hosts and their female guests wielded racquet and ball.

Jim was fortunate having a cousin his age living in Canberra, so he invited her while she insisted on bringing her best friend from the then remote wastes of Lyons.

Soon Jim was being described as 'the bachelor with a wife',

forming a lifelong bond with his partner Anne. A couple of youthful anecdotes reveal Jim's robust approach to life.

On a training visit to Sydney coinciding with a multi-national naval exercise, Jim noticed a Canadian Navy Warrant Officer being evicted from one of Kings Cross popular, though less than salubrious watering holes. 'Throw him out and you'll have to throw me out with him!' insisted Jim, the pair of them hitting the pavement together, where they were discovered sharing one of the two bottles of Bundaberg Rum the Canadian had under his arm.

Later during an experimental sojourn at the UNSW Kensington campus, when entering the lecture theatre for the first time Jim noticed a timid wee chap, wispy beard, Che Guevara t-shirt, beret, and moratorium badge who seemed apprehensive at the sight of the unwarranted intrusion by a bunch of Duntroon cadets. Jim sat next to him, put a protective arm around his shoulder, whispering in his ear, 'You're mine, mate! I'll look after you!'

His career, though distinguished, was far from usual. Others will comment in detail on his military and political achievements, but a brief summary is instructive of the span of Jim's career.

The McMahon government, having withdrawn Australia's combat forces from Vietnam, made the 1971 Duntroon class the first in a couple of generations not to serve as junior

officers on operations.

Jim went to the Pacific Islands Regiment, as close an experience as then possible to operational service, through regimental appointments, language training, flying training, command, and staff college, commanding at every level from platoon to Division, diplomatic appointments, culminating with a senior command in Iraq.

US Commander General David Petraeus was fulsome in his praise for Jim Molan, regarded by contemporaries as the individual with an unrivalled understanding of the application of firepower to ground, the fundamental principle of strategy and tactics.

Retirement was never a word in Jim's vocabulary.

He joined other distinguished, senior military officers who transitioned to parliament, fighting with military precision a bitter pre-selection battle intended to deny him that role.

He effectively died in harness, for he believed he had much more to do, even in opposition.

Jim would regard his most significant achievements as his enduring marriage with Anne, their four children, and now six grandchildren.

He fought his ill health as he fought every other battle, with determination, grit, and courage, observing as always his class's bastardised Latin motto, 'Nil Bastardo Carborundum.'

## PUTIN AND THE UKRAINE INVASION

**LAST YEAR MAX HASTINGS** wrote an article in The Times reflecting on what the ultimate purpose of his Ukraine adventure is. More recent events on the battlefield may have dated the article, nevertheless it provides food for thought...

A short extract follows:

*Reading Carl von Clausewitz in bed, as one does, I found myself wondering whether Vladimir Putin has been doing likewise. The Prussian Officer, supreme theorist of war, wrote in 1818: "Even when we cannot hope to defeat the enemy totally, a direct and positive aim still is possible: the occupation of part of his territory. The point of such a conquest is to reduce his national resources. We thus ... increase our own. As a result we fight the war partly at his expense. At the peace negotiations, moreover, we will have a concrete asset in hand, which we can either keep or trade for other advantages."*

*It is a contradiction that baffles many strategic gurus and futurologists, that a year ago Russia was perceived as a fading power, ill-equipped to face the challenges of the 21st century. It seeks to sustain a front-rank place in a world to which it offers only oil, gas and an appetite for extreme violence. Yet in the past six months, Putin has leveraged these assets to extraordinary effect. His unprovoked aggression in Ukraine has had shattering global consequences: the energy crisis, inflation, hunger and threatened economic disaster in the southern hemisphere. The collapse of order in Sri Lanka is, to borrow the phrase of an informed observer, "a canary in the mine", likely harbinger of similar upheavals in other vulnerable societies. This week's progressive strangulation of gas supplies to Europe is plainly intended as a demonstration of Russian muscle and ruthlessness.*

*Putin has demonstrated that even if his country possesses scant will or capacity to contribute positively to global progress or indeed stability, it wields a massive wrecking power. Six decades ago, when America's chiefs briefed the incoming defence secretary Robert McNamara on the superiority of their arsenals – above all, nuclear weapons – over those of all rivals, he brushed aside their claims. What mattered he said, was less US possession of 17 times as many atomic warheads as the Soviet Union, but instead "usable power".*



# Corporal Cosmo

For those of you whom wear the uniform of the Australian Defence Force, 2023 will be another very busy year. You will also notice and be affected by, substantial changes in how the ADF is structured, managed and tasked.

If you have subordinates, this won't come as a surprise because, (of course) you regularly check for new Directives from your Service and Defence Chiefs' as well as take the time to read DEFGRAMs on an – at least – weekly basis.

CDF Directive 16/2022 (15 Dec 22), and more recently DEFGRAM 048/2023 (9 Feb 23) provide background and notification about how the ADF People System will be reformed, managed and administered to meet the growing demands placed upon the ADF and Defence, more broadly. But enough of that. If you're not wearing two or more stars, there's not much about these changes that are within your control. Your role will be to implement the changes or to be on the end of a posting as a result.

## **WRA 2023-2026**

2023 will also see the imposition of a new Workplace Remuneration Arrangement for ADF members of non-star rank, once it is agreed by the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal, under section 58KD of the Defence Act. This will occur towards the end of the year, when the current WRA expires. I use the term 'agreed' pointedly, as the DFRT may only accept or reject the proposed WRA when it is presented to the DFRT by the CDF – on behalf of ADF members – and the Commonwealth as an agreed proposal. Specifically, section 58KD prevents the DFRT from arbitrating an 'offer' when presented as an agreed proposal. ADF members will never know how their salaries may otherwise be varied, unless section 58KD is ignored, or withdrawn from the Act.

In any event, workplace bargaining will take place for Defence Public Servants prior to the outcome of this year's WRA and, if history is anything to go by, any salary adjustments for uniformed members of the ADF will be within a percentage of their APS colleagues.

Rest assured that the Defence Force Welfare Association will be in attendance when the WRA is presented to the DFRT and will be advocating strongly for a fair outcome for ADF members salary adjustments.

## **The additional \$2,000 in June 2023**

In his letter to ADF members of 14 Nov 2022, CDF

advised all trained force permanent and reserve ADF members will receive a salary increase of \$2,000, 'to support any impacts from the transition to Military Factor and other program initiatives'. For the majority of members, this increase will be quickly absorbed by increased costs of living – particularly electricity and gas price increases which are forecast to increase by 25%-50% this year alone.

## **Garrison Health Services**

An issue that is increasingly coming to my attention is the adequacy – or inadequacy – of health support and health services being delivered to ADF members via contracted solutions operating out of local on-base medical and dental facilities.

One large base in particular keeps popping up in reports and includes difficulties with securing appointments in a reasonable time frame, quality of care and solutions to complex injury cases. For obvious reasons, I will not go into specific details, however individual members should feel as if they are having their health care requirements met to a high-quality standard and certainly in line with community standards.

Each and every member of the ADF is a contract manager when it comes to the delivery – and quality – of garrison health services. One way that you can manage that contract is through performance reporting. I believe that Joint Health Command should make it mandatory to complete a two-minute survey, each time you access on-base Health Services. Until they do, you should take it upon yourself to complete Webform AD092 – Healthcare Compliment, Feedback or Complaint or, scan the QR code that is displayed in Health Centres that will take you to a short survey. Providing your name is optional on the online survey and don't forget, you can also include good experiences.

Better outcomes for ADF Health Services depend on increased feedback so, over to you!

## **Now some Good News**

- From 1 July 23 all permanent ADF members will receive an increase of an additional five days of Basic Recreation Leave
- Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme Improvements:
- Reduced qualifying period for permanent serving

members from four to two years

- Reduced qualifying period for Reserve members from eight to four years
- The post-service cap (of five years) to access benefits under DHOAS, have been permanently removed.
- ADF Accommodation assistance and Contributions capped at 3%
- 2023 is the second year in succession that Defence (People Group) have stepped in to cap rent increases for ADF members

### How do the recently-announced conditions of service changes impact You and your Family?

I'm genuinely interested to learn how initiatives under the ADF Employment Offer Modernisation program are impacting individuals, families and whether or not it is an influencing factor regarding your decision to serve in the ADF. In particular, I would like to hear from members and families about their experience of taking up the offer of an extra RLLT. Do Fringe Benefit Tax liabilities come into play when deciding to use this entitlement?

If you were in receipt of allowances absorbed by Military Factor, has it (positively or negatively) affected your overall remuneration package?

### What else can be achieved?

I reckon there's a whole bunch of initiatives and reforms Defence could take a look at to improve the remuneration package for ADF members. Here's a couple that have emerged following recent experiences:

- When you go to the optometrist, instead of being limited to a single price limit per frame, why not allow the member to be limited by the total cost of their frame entitlement? This way, should you choose a cheaper

pair of frames, you may use the savings on a slightly more expensive pair. Any costs above the total entitlement cost would still be the responsibility of the individual member.

- How about DHA implement an Energy Efficiency Rating for properties under their management?
- Amend Departmental (business) travel policy to allow members to use their Defence Travel Card after they've completed their travel, to withdraw eligible allowances? (this is actually cost-neutral as members may only access funding for which they were approved).

### Final Word – Recognition of Prior Learning

There exists a wide-held misconception within ADF ranks that you will not receive certification of Nationally-recognised skills, whilst serving and that you will only receive RPL upon Transition from the ADF. UNTRUE!

The Defence Registered Training Organisation (Australian Defence College, Joint Capabilities Group) advises that Serving ADF members may make one RPL application per year for the recognition of skills and qualifications they have achieved or currently use.

If you have questions about applying for RPL of current skills, qualifications or competencies, I strongly urge you to reach out to the Defence RTO team they may be contacted for advice:

Defence.rto@defence.gov.au or

ADF.civilrecognition@defence.gov.au

Cheers for now,  
- *Corporal Cosmo.*

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

## CONGRATULATIONS DEL PREZ!

We congratulate our new National President, Del Gaudry for the award of a Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) in the 2023 Australia Day Honours. Her citation reads... for outstanding achievement in implementation of the National Action Plan on Woman, Peace and Security, and in the welfare and mental well-being of Royal Australian Air Force members. Squadron Leader Gaudry was instrumental in assisting Air Force to integrate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, peace processes; and return, resettlement and reintegration programs in post-conflict settings. She identified the benefit of more contemporary Mental Health training aimed at early intervention rather than recovery strategies and treatments as a force-multiplier in the context of workforce sustainment. She has also driven the inclusion of elements of coaching and Mental Health First Aid to compliment training initiatives aimed at improving Human Performance.



# Thank You Kel!

**A**T THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE meeting in Sydney last November, Kel Ryan handed over the office of National President of DFWA to our new National President, Del Gaudry.

When Kel took up that office, on 20 November 2017 – nearly five years to the day earlier – he might have been excused for thinking that he was about to inherit a role that for him would be one of serene consolidation, thanks to the achievements of his predecessor David Jamison. Kel certainly was standing on the shoulders of a giant.

David's transformative tenure as National President saw the DFWA develop from being a small, but valuable advocate for the interests of serving and former members of the ADF and their families, to becoming - in addition to all that – an influential contributor of advice at the national level on policy affecting serving members and veterans alike.

DFWA, under David's leadership, had secured widespread acceptance by Government of the principle of the unique nature of military service (a principle originally articulated by DFWA). It had proposed and pursued the adoption of a Military Covenant for Australia, and had become a frequent and effective contributor to parliamentary committees, inquiries and policy initiatives both at the political and bureaucratic levels. It had also become a valued participant in the proceedings of the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal, and had become the parent of ADSO, an offspring of growing influence and importance.

Kel was soon to discover that, far from being the fortunate beneficiary of this rich legacy, he had stepped into a cyclone of challenges, many of them created by DFWA's own successes.

Kel is a Queenslander who, at the time of his taking up the National Presidency, was living in Brisbane. He was pursuing a Doctorate at James Cook University, preparing his thesis on the history of the Repatriation movement in Australia.

The demands on his time of university studies, family and DFWA would have daunted many a heart no less stout than the one that beats within Kel. Not the least of those demands



was for frequent travel to Canberra from Brisbane, and later, when he had moved his home, from Cairns. As if those demands were not enough, he managed to visit all the DFWA branches more than once, from Brisbane to Perth and everywhere in between.

Kel's leadership of DFWA has been characterised by calm, reasoned discourse. Whether he was dealing with politicians, leaders of the ADF, bureaucrats of DVA, CSC and other agencies of Government, or fellow members of DFWA,

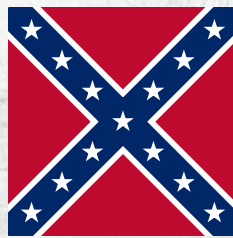
he maintained a consistent approach of mastery of his brief (not infrequently superior to that of his interlocutors), willingness to listen, patient exposition and a clear commitment to the advancement of the interests of DFWA, and through it, of serving members and veterans.

Not everyone agreed with Kel all the time. As DFWA's influence grew in wider Defence and Veteran's circles, problems and challenges arose within DFWA itself; some of these emerged from trends in the wider veterans' community and were beyond DFWA's ability to control, and some from differences of opinion among the Branches and the Association's National Office as to the best policy options to adopt to meet them.

Declining and ageing membership, and its effect on the financial and manpower resources available to meet the task DFWA had set itself, developments within the Defence Department and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, parliamentary and political initiatives all laid a heavy burden on Kel's time. His unflagging, generous and energetic leadership further enhanced DFWA's reputation as an important voice in the Defence and Veterans' communities. Not the least of his achievements has been the growth of ADSO in both membership and influence. He continues his work for Veterans with that body.

Kel's efforts inevitably had an impact on his family and we owe them our gratitude for their unwavering support to Kel. DFWA extends its gratitude and appreciation to Kel for the magnificent contribution he made and wishes him every success in his future endeavours.

# The Australian Pirates of the CSS SHENANDOAH



*Left: Battle flag  
of the CSS Shenandoah*

by  
LTCOL ALISTAIR POPE, PSC, CM, (RETIRED)

**T**HE CSS SHENANDOAH was an iron-rigged, teak planked screw steamer, built in Glasgow in 1863. Rigged as a clipper ship with 21 working sails, it was 70m long and capable of 17 knots at full sail, and nine knots under steam. To get around British neutrality laws, the Confederate government purchased the Shenandoah in London and converted it into a ship-of-war while at sea, fitting it out with eight guns, including four 8-inch shell guns and two 32-pounder Whitworth rifled guns.

Given his location in the south Atlantic at the time of the propeller shaft failure that was damaged beyond the ship's limited repair capabilities, Captain James Waddell had only two realistic options capable of repairing his ship: Cape Town or Melbourne. He chose Melbourne as probably being less likely to have any of US Navy ships hunting him in port. Fortuitously, on its journey to Melbourne, the Shenandoah sank two more Union whalers off Tristan da Cunha and St. Paul Islands, bringing the raiders tally to nine since it began its raiding operations less than three months earlier.

## **Welcome to Country ...**

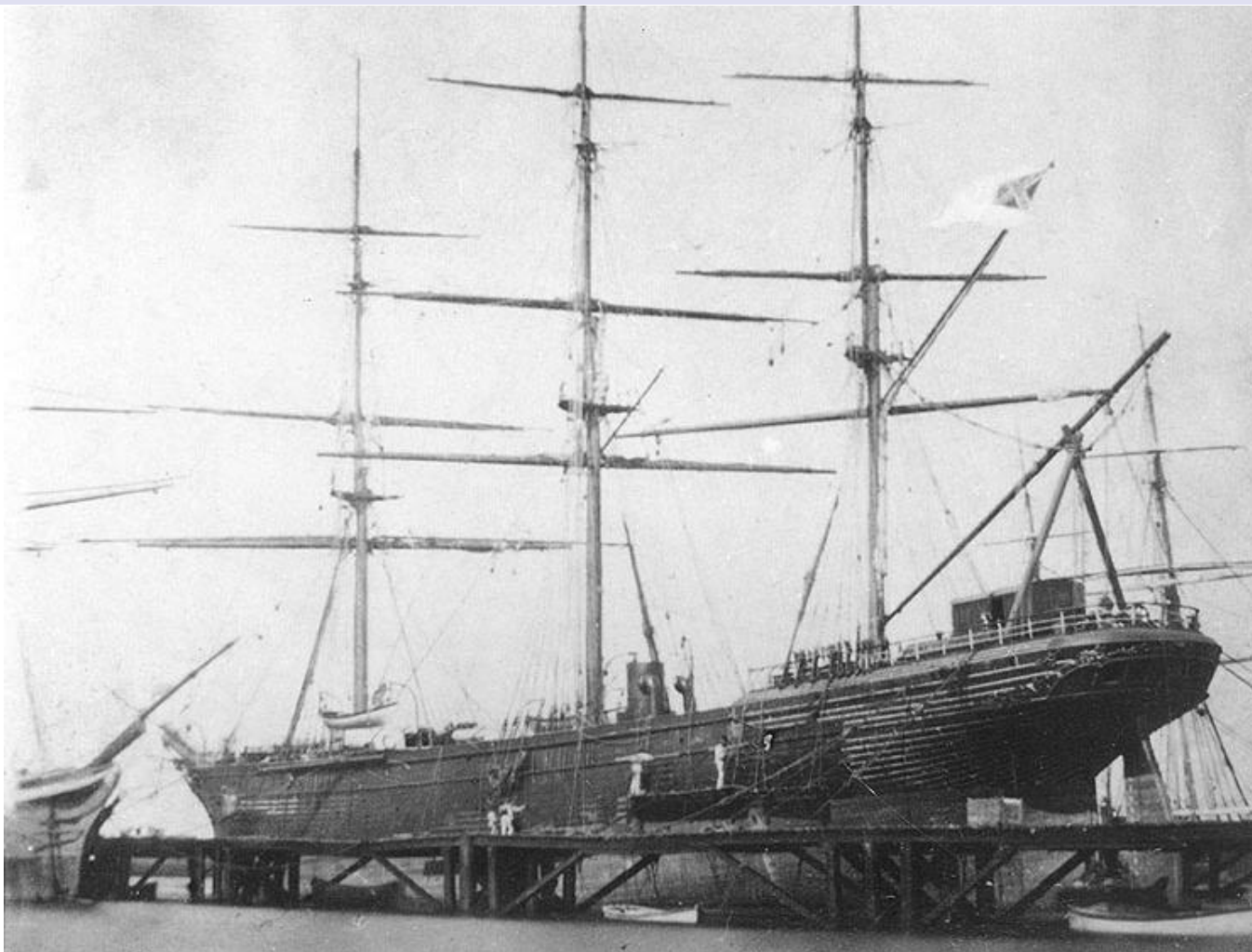
On 25th January 1865 there was great excitement from Geelong to Melbourne as the CSS Shenandoah gracefully sailed through the Port Phillip Bay Heads on her way to her destination of Williamstown. The Shenandoah was badly in need of both supplies and repairs – and she was also short of crew members.

The crew of the Shenandoah could not know in advance what sort of reception they might receive, but what happened was probably unexpected. It is highly unlikely that many, if any Australians sympathised with their support of slavery, yet they were an unexpected and exotic arrival that thrilled all levels of the populace.

Some news of the Shenandoah's exploits preceded it and on its arrival in Port Phillip Bay, she was met by a flotilla of well-wishers. Boats of every size and description jostled in the water surrounding the Confederate ship. On shore, thousands lined the dock to see the 'rebel pirate ship'. It would be hard to exaggerate the enthusiasm Melburnians had for the Shenandoah when she sailed into Williamstown, with the officers in their grey uniforms standing on the deck, they were instant celebrities.

## **Tourist Attraction...**

On the second day, Captain Waddell opened the ship to visitors, a decision that confirmed the Shenandoah's status as a bona fide tourist attraction. Thousands of sightseers crowded aboard. The decks were filled to capacity with curious tourists and supporters, eager to meet the crew and to explore the warship. On the second day more than 7,000 people jammed the railway line from Melbourne, trying to get to the ship. Local entrepreneurs transported passengers from the pier to the ship, advertising their services with signs that read 'Shilling to the Steamer'.



*Above: The Shenandoah undergoing repairs in the Government Dry Dock, Williamstown*

“I have been harassed almost to death,” Lieutenant William Wittle would later complain in his journal, “The ship has been a perfect mass of human beings, the rails, rigging and masts have been crowded and filled. Oh, how I wish we were once more at sea.”

Ashore, the officers and crew were treated as celebrities. At least five celebrations were held in their honour, including a ‘Confederate Ball’ at the Craig’s Hotel in Ballarat and a formal dinner at the Melbourne Club. The city issued open passes on the train lines for the crew and the ship’s officers were elected honorary members of Melbourne’s most exclusive clubs. Even a special performance of Othello was staged, featuring, probably for the first and last time ever, a performance of ‘Dixie’ during the intermission.

Clearly, the reception that the southerners enjoyed had more to do with the famous Australian love of the underdog and local attitudes towards Britain than any antipathy towards the United States. Even though Australians opposed slavery and though there were free American blacks working in the gold mines in Ballarat and Bendigo the Australian love of the underdog was stronger than any desire for moral consistency. Curiously, the play ‘Uncle Tom’s Cabin’ was ranked as the most popular play in Australia at the time.

As the days wore on, venomous debates about the Shenandoah began to appear in the editorial pages of the daily papers. Many were convinced that the town had lost its mind in its wanton devotion to the Confederates. In Melbourne, US Consul William Blanchard, tried to convince Governor Charles Darling to have the ship seized and the crew arrested.

Over the sustained protests of the US Consul, Governor Darling granted Captain Waddell permission to dock and make repairs, provided it was done quickly. On 4th February 1865, the Shenandoah was towed to the government dry dock in Williamstown.

The US Consul believed (correctly, as it turned out) that Captain Waddell was intentionally extending his stay in Williamstown to draw recruits from the local citizenry. When the Shenandoah arrived in Australia, Melbourne was teeming with exactly the sort of person that Waddell hoped to recruit – young, single men with a lust for adventure.

When the US Consul learned that at least 20 new recruits had signed on since the ship docked in Williamstown – in a clear violation of the Queen’s neutrality proclamation, a warrant for



the arrest of the recruits was issued. On 14th February 1865, 200 policemen and 50 soldiers were dispatched to search the ship. Captain Waddell refused to allow the search and, in response, Governor Darling called for an end to all further repairs and demanded that the ship leave port immediately.

Having outstayed their welcome, the Shenandoah departed Melbourne on 18th February 1865. All in all, Williamstown proved to be quite a hospitable port of call as by the time of the ship's inauspicious departure, all the needed repairs had been completed. After reaching international waters, 42 'stowaways' miraculously emerged from the lower decks.

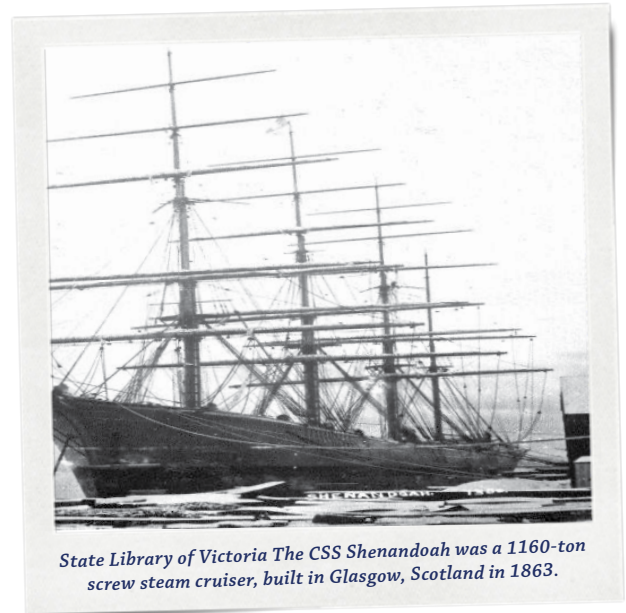
The ship went on to capture 29 more Union ships (most of them after the Civil War had ended). In the end, the CSS Shenandoah outlasted its government by four months, becoming a de facto pirate ship. Finally, on 2nd August 1865, Captain Waddell received irrefutable proof from a passing British merchant ship that the war was over and the Confederacy had surrendered. On receiving the news, Captain Waddell immediately set a course for Australia. Probably he was thinking of retiring and living among the people who had proven so friendly. However, after consultations with his officers, the decision was made to return the ship to England and formally surrender there.

In its relatively short 13-month career, the Shenandoah captured 38 ships and took a total of 1,053 prisoners. On a single day – 18th June 1865 (two months after the Civil War had ended) – the Shenandoah captured 10 Union whaling ships, burning nine of them.

Finally, on a cold morning of 6th November 1865, the Shenandoah completed its 58,000 mile (92,800km) circumnavigation of the globe. The exhausted crew steamed the battered raider up the Mersey River in Liverpool, England, and surrendered to British authorities. When asked if any of his crew were British subjects, Captain Waddell said he supposed most were American. Since no sailor admitted to British (or Australian) nationality, they were all paroled.



*Above: Map of the CSS Shenandoah's 12½ month voyage around the world. By Doug Coldwell*



*State Library of Victoria The CSS Shenandoah was a 1160-ton screw steam cruiser, built in Glasgow, Scotland in 1863.*

In a speech made to the United Confederate Veterans in 1907, Lieutenant William Wittle offered this tribute to the story of the Confederate raider on which he served: "Thus ended our memorable cruise: grand in its conception, grand in its execution, and unprecedentedly awfully grand in its sad finale! To the four winds the gallant crew scattered, most of them never to meet again until called to the bar of that highest of all tribunals."

## EPILOGUE

In a final twist, the CSS Shenandoah fired the last shot of the US Civil War – 22nd June 1865 (two months after the war ended).

In 1872 the ship and crew, including the Australians, were involved in a court case brought by the United States against England, accusing them of assisting the Confederates. In the end Britain paid US\$15.5 million in gold coin in compensation for the ships destroyed by the Shenandoah.

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6. File: Personal; All Writing, All Military Articles, Camaraderie #38, The Australian Pirates of the CSS Shenandoah 230205.docx.



# THE PADRE'S *Corner*

## Serenity, Courage and Wisdom

### DEAR FRIENDS,

It is a real pleasure and honour to be associated with Defence Force Welfare Association. Anyone reading Camaraderie would be impressed with the depth of scholarship in the articles written, and the genuine sense of service, professionalism and accountability that so many in our organisation have shown.

I certainly want to honour Kel Ryan's contribution as President these last 5 years, welcome Del Gaudry into that role, and thank Alf Jaugietis for his ongoing service. Living in Qld I regularly see John Lewis at various meetings and marvel at his wisdom, insights and research into so many anomalies in our Veterans affairs space, as is evidenced by his articles in our most recent Camaraderie.

What really impresses me is the integrity and poise that the advocacy role is discharged by DFWA members. Issues are presented dispassionately and with respect for all concerned. Moreover, difficult issues are not avoided but addressed practically. This is not the case in other areas of our Veteran community, especially with some veterans on social media who can be quite disrespectful, shoot from the hip, and spray their bullets wildly, without the facts or investigation. Equally there are veteran organisations that are silent on issue that demand attention. No doubt there are those in our community that get extremely frustrated, others that are fearful of rocking the boat, and others that give up in despair. How do we healthily deal with the many conundrums that we face?

Most readers would be aware that the focus of my life and ministry these days is helping Veterans get healthier. One of the precepts that we share with Veterans to come to us with complex Health issues is to remind them that whatever they focus upon will get larger. If we focus upon what's not going well, our problems will increase. If we focus on what could be better, things can get better. When life presents us problems, we do best to promote solutions. We must be concerned about how veterans are treated, and we should acknowledge the problems, but we should not be overly

consumed by them.

This is not a new conundrum. There is a wonderful prayer, initially attributed to St Francis of Assisi and more recently promoted by Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr and the Alcoholics Anonymous movement, call the "Serenity prayer" which goes like this,

*"God give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, to courage to change the things that I can, and wisdom to know the difference."*

This was the approach that Jesus of Nazareth offered to humanity. Love your neighbour as yourself - do what you can to make the world a better place.

The programs that we have been running for Veterans over the last seven years, have been most successful because we are helping Veterans have the courage to change the things that they can - the way they look at life, the things they can do to improve their own health, but most importantly, helping them find new purpose in helping others in need. We serenely acknowledge things that we cannot change now, and choose to park them for the time being, mindful that others may be working on them, or their "time" for change may later emerge.

This also is the inspiration of DFWA. Don't give up, don't despair, have the courage to speak up on matters that we can influence. May we have the wisdom to focus our attention on the battles we can win, and not waste energy on matters we cannot change at this time. May all of us, not only seek to improve our own lives, but do something special to improve the life of someone else as this year rolls on.

May you be blessed with love and hope and peace,

Your Padre,  
Gary

**Gary Stone OAM**  
*The Veterans Padre*

President Veterans Care Association Inc  
Holistic Care for of Body Mind & Soul for Veterans, Families & Carers  
P: 0403 270 515 | [www.VeteransCare.com.au](http://www.VeteransCare.com.au)



## 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):	Ralph Derbidge MBE
Vice President (RAAF):	Alan Hind
Vice President (Army):	Rod Halliday
Treasurer:	Ralph Hannaford
Secretary:	Alan Hind
Assistant Secretary:	Meg Green AM
ACT Chapter:	Les Bienkiewicz
Location:	Victoria Barracks Building 96 Locked Bag 7005, LIVERPOOL NSW 1871
Telephone:	(02) 8335 5447 + Voice Mail
Email:	nswbranch@dfwa.org.au

#### CONTACT GROUPS

<b>CENTRAL WEST</b> Anthony (Tony) Horsington 45 Dalton Street PARKES NSW 2870 Mobile: 0412 299 331	<b>SHOALHAVEN</b> Mr Christopher Clifford 6 Platypus Avenue, SANCTUARY POINT NSW 2540 Ph: (02) 4443 7725
<b>HUNTER VALLEY</b> David Winkelmann AFC PO Box 467, MAYFIELD NSW 2304 Ph: (02) 4968 3811	<b>Mr Kevin C Buchanan</b> 12 The Triangle, CULBURRA BEACH NSW 2540 Ph: (02) 4447 2461
<b>ACT CHAPTER</b> Les Bienkiewicz actchapter@dfwa.org.au (02) 6152 9166	

A more detailed report is provided to NSW and ACT members in the NSW Branch newsletter NATTER which is included as an insert for those members.

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The President and Committee offer a warm welcome to the DFWA Family to the following new members who have joined the NSW Branch since the last Camaraderie issue:

COL R E Hagerty AM and Mrs J A Hagerty AM, Mrs B J Parkinson, Mr P R Stapylton..

#### VALE

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

CMDR R E Bourke, MRS D Foley, MRS M Julian, CMDR J Smith, MR D B Studdert, CAPT H E Tooth RAN, MR L S Tucker.

#### SINGLETON MILITARY AREA FAMILY DAY

Alan Hind and Liz Hind attended the Family Day at SMA and set up a stall to showcase the DFWA message and speak with soldiers and their family members about a range of issues that they have encountered, or will encounter after Service. Contact with the other stall holders was also an interesting component of the day's activities. All in all, I think it was a successful day for DFWA. WO2 Mary-Anne Holland is to be congratulated for putting together an informative and entertaining day for the Army families in the area.



**Help DFWA Help Veterans**  
**CONSIDER DONATING!**  
Online at : [dfwa.org.au/donate](http://dfwa.org.au/donate)



## QUEENSLAND BRANCH

President:	John Lewis
Vice-President:	Rod Murray
Vice-President NQ:	John Wilson
Secretary:	Walter Buldo OAM
Treasurer:	Walter Buldo OAM
Membership Officer:	Neville Madden
Communications Officer:	Deb Keir
Administration Officer:	Sharyn Hughes
IT/Project Officer:	Chris Lowis
Advocates:	Wally Buldo, Clem Russell
Welfare/Funerals:	Harry Mee, Pearl Mee
Hon Solicitors:	Cleary Hoare
Office Address:	RUSI Building, Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace, BRISBANE.
Postal Address:	RUSI Bldg, Victoria Barracks Brisbane, c/o Enoggera Mail Centre, ENOGGERA, QLD 4051
Telephone:	(07) 2102 9879
E-mail:	qldbranch@dfwa.org.au
Office Hours:	Tue – Wed: 1000 to 1400 hrs

*A more detailed report is provided to Qld branch members in the Qld Branch newsletter "Hotline"*

Every now and again, it is right to consider the purpose of DFVA. To recalibrate and sanity check that our efforts are focussed on what are supposed to be doing and not being side-tracked by other issues, a favourite hobby-horse – no matter how interesting they are and how important they might be generally.

The purpose of DFVA is to foster the best interests and wellbeing of members of the ADF and their families in any matter likely to affect them during or after their period of service. This is the reason for the Association and is what we need to focus on. This means we look to the interests and wellbeing of those serving and those who have left the service and that is where our efforts and scarce resources must be applied.

DFVAQ has a slow trickle of new members, some sizeable donations and helpful grants making us financially sound. We are quite active in fulfilling our purpose, in influencing some changes for good and drawing the appropriate authorities' attention to veteran and family issues that need fixing.

- **New Committee Member.** We welcome new Committee Member, Neville Madden, Ex Royal Australian Engineers who joining us by taking on the Membership Officer role which has previously been covered by the many-hatted, Wally Buldo.
- **Direct Wellbeing support.** DFVAQ continues to provide Advocacy Support with DVA issues including

appeals to the Veteran Review Board. Wellbeing support with visits, bereavement/funerals and, more recently, advocacy and direct assistance with housing and accommodation has been provided.

- **Local Matters.** Recently, Win Fowles, our VP Sunshine Coast noticed that the electricity rebate he had been receiving on his Alinta bill was no longer there. He had previously qualified using his DVA issued Pensioner Concession Card. There had been a change in Alinta systems. After a rigmarole, he eventually had his rebate restored and backdated appropriately. As other veterans are likely to be similarly affected, DFVAQ has contacted appropriate organisations, the State government and other ex-service organisations to make the problem known and for Alinta to institute system changes to restore the rebate for all.
- **National Matters.** As previously reported, we are continuing to pursue:
- **The Boys' Case.** DVA are not following their own rules concerning the date of clinical onset of various spinal conditions, resulting in veterans missing out on having their injury attributed to ADF service and claims rejected. While the Boys' case is partly resolved, it is suspected that many other veterans have had their legitimate claims rejected and lacked the resources – funds and mental health – to continue the fight. Noting that the Federal Court decided against Boys (Cost so far about \$17k), and was considering an appeal, but thanks to the intervention of DFVAQ and RSLQ in getting their National Offices to raise it with the Secretary.
- **NLHC White Card for Reservists.** The Minister rejected the argument put forward by DFVA, RSL and the Defence Reserves Association. We have been working on another submission addressing the reasons put forward for the Minister's rejection.
- **Taxation of Invalidation Benefits.** DFVAQ made a submission to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee concerning the proposed legislation (reported elsewhere in this edition of Camaraderie). The DFVAQ submission has been supported by DFVA National and the RSL.
- **Harmonisation of Funeral Benefits.** Funeral Benefits from VEA are about \$2000 and from MRCA about \$13,000, and subject to different eligibility criteria. Acting With RSL Qld, we have put together a joint submission to address this inequity which is to be signed off at National Level.
- **Meetings/Representation.** DFVAQ was represented at the RSL National ESO Forum, an initiative of RSL National to bring together all those providing support

to the veteran community, with the aim of better co-ordination of effort, largely in response to Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide findings. Wally Buldo represented DFVAQ at the Remembrance Day Service in ANZAC Square Brisbane.

- **Closure.** As indicated previously, it was planned that Qld Branch would close and become a Qld Chapter of National on rewrite of the National Constitution. That was supposed to happen two years ago, but progress on the constitution was slow and badly managed. All work ceased in September. Qld Branch cannot continue with current workload and insufficient officer bearers for the Committee. The Committee, in consultation with National, will decide about mid-year, with the aim of implementing the change decided at the planned AGM on 26 September 2023.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Patron	Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC
President	Brigadier Mick Burgess
Past President	Lee Bowes
VP Navy	Aaron Hannam
VP Army	Mark Freer
VP Air Force	Taylor Harcourt-Heron
VP Wellness	David Everitt
Secretary	David Helman OAM
Treasurer	Mark Evens
Membership Secretary	Gavan Phillips
Convener Women Veterans Committee Member	Charmaine McClouman
Committee Member	Lee Bowes
Committee Member	Jodie Clark
Committee Member	Ben Wadham
Contact:	0419 858 774 or Email: sa.admin@dfwa.org

As the team in South Australia move into 2023, we are pleased to see more veterans and partners interested in joining us and helping to deliver quality services for members of the ADF and their families; past, present and future.

Our new website (dfwasa.au) has broadened our connection with our community and enables us greater exposure than previously achieved. Through our site, ADF members and their families are able to keep up to date with the work being undertaken at both the National and State level. We have been able to promote issues important to all veterans as well as provide links to effective allies in the State's veteran and family support network.

The website and social media sites were built by our own committee member Dion Cowdray through a grant gained from Veteran' SA. The site reflects Dion's commitment to the organisation and improving our effort to support veterans

and their families.

Although it is early in the year we have already met with the Federal Member for Boothby, Louise Miller-Frost, to discuss several veteran and social related issues. Veterans' employment, skills and training were of particular interest due to her involvement in both the House of Representatives Select Committee on Workforce Australia Employment Services and the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs. Our briefing on the transition process and skills that veterans bring to the workplace provided valuable background information and reinforced our key message of 'The Veteran as a Sovereign Asset'.

Ben Wadham, our Vice-President has been appointed to the Research Committee for Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. Ben was formerly an Infantry soldier and a Corporal in the Military Police but is now a Professor of Sociology at the Flinders institute for Mental health and Wellbeing College of Education, Psychology and Social Work. He is also the Director of Open Door: Understanding and Supporting Service Personnel and their Families, as well as the Co-Deputy Director of Wellbeing and Resilience. Ben is now globally recognised for his work and is currently in the US and Canada on a lecture and study tour related to Defence and Veteran Suicide.

Ben and fellow DFVA-SA Committee Member David Everitt have been asked to develop and overview paper on veteran homelessness in Australia as a contribution to work being conducted by Veterans Aid, London. CEO of Veterans Aid is Wing Commander (Rtd) Dr Hugh Milroy, a veteran of the Gulf War and Vice President (Europe) of the World Veterans Federation. Ben and David are drawing on a broad range of published and unpublished work as well as original research conducted by our effective allies within South Australia.

As discussed in previous reports, we are continuing our planning for a 2023 program focusing on support for Women in the Defence Community. We plan to conduct a number of preliminary workshops based on the social health, physical health and mental health needs of female ADF members (past and present) and female partners. This will inform the program for a sponsored event later in the year tailored to the needs of attendees and setting for future activities.

DFVA-SA, in conjunction with Flinders University, will be conducting an archeological dig for veterans as part of the "War Horse Project - Recovery through Discovery". The dig site at Glenthorne National Park, O'Hallorans Hill, is where the horses were held on adjustment prior to being shipped to the Middle East during WWI. DFVA-SA is assisting Flinders University with administrative and recruitment services. The program will assist veterans, both serving and non-serving, with personal challenges and experience, as well as vocational



*Above: Volunteers conduct the first stage of an archaeological dig at the site of the holding paddocks for horses prior to being sent to the Middle East.*

*Right: An Australian Army Button circa World War 1 found at the site.*

and education opportunities.

To round out our busy start to the year, DFWA-SA President, (Brigadier) Mick Burgess has been appointed to the Board of the Public Safety Skills Australia Ltd. The Company is established as a charitable institution with the object of providing strategic leadership on skills and workforce challenges, and providing an increased level of autonomy to industry to drive strong outcomes across the Vocational and Education Training (VET) system. Mick will represent the interests of veterans in the areas of recognition of prior learning, credits for prior learning and maximizing military training and skills through transition to improve employment opportunities in the civilian community. This appointment will help ensure that DFWA is connected to represent the needs of veterans across as many areas as possible.

We look forward to the year ahead and will be working hard to be heard as the independent voice advocating for Australian Defence Force members, veterans, and their families.

## VICTORIA BRANCH

Patron:	The Honourable Linda Dessau, AC, Governor of Victoria.
President:	Daryll Topp
Vice President Navy:	Shaun Rodenburg
Vice President Army:	John James
Vice President Air Force:	Mike Gahan
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

Victoria has resumed business for 2023. A reminder, if members want to visit our office in Victoria Barracks they need to contact the Branch Secretary at least one business day prior so that Base Security can be notified and a visitor pass arranged.

The Vice President Air Force attended the National ESO Forum in Canberra held on 14 November 2022. This forum was arranged by the RSL National President and it is planned to hold another National ESO forum in March 2023. Below is an extract of the report which summarises some of the discussions had at the forum. The Royal Commission in Defence and Veteran Suicide will increasingly focus on the Veteran sector over the next 12 months. The Commission will be conducting interviews in Victoria in the latter half of 2023.

**KEY FOCUS AREAS OF THE NATIONAL ESO FORUM**  
Participants were arranged into two working groups, each

group with a representative selection of the different sizes, service types and geographical coverage of ESOs. Working group discussions were facilitated by RSL State CEOs. Exploring the emerging challenges and opportunities for the ESO sector, as revealed by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. Participants expressed that the Royal Commission's Interim Report placed significant attention on the responsibility of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to take urgent action to implement the Commission's recommendations. It was agreed that the ESOs were also responsible for implementing change and that the sector should work to proactively address some of the challenges and opportunities that have been examined by the Royal Commission, including:

**Transition support.** ADF support for individuals transitioning is often inadequate and not proportionate to individual needs. Participants shared experiences of discharge processes completed in a matter of minutes or hours, which had failed to meet the needs of the individual leaving service. Partners and family (and where appropriate, friends) have a key role to play in enabling ADF members to experience personal stability during service and a positive transition from service. They are currently unlikely to be involved or invited to participate in that process until the serving member has left the ADF. Where partners, families and friends are supported to be part of a member's service and transition experience, they are better able to act as an informal wellbeing network and can identify if or when an individual may need additional support. Some participants shared experiences of partners who had not been involved in the process and gave examples of how this had compounded their inability to provide support, causing stress in relationships and relationship and family breakdowns. Participants agreed that ESOs can assist Defence in providing

positive transition experiences to serving members, their partners, and families. For this to happen, ADF can invite ESOs to engage with serving members and their families early; ideally as early as during ADF recruitment activities.

#### **Continuity of funding and political attention.**

The recommendations of the Royal Commission cannot help veterans and their families if they are not implemented. Implementation will require sustained political attention, adequate funding, appropriate oversight, and sufficient accountability. It was noted by several participants that a key concern was how the Australian Government would oversee the implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations. Specifically, attention was called to the frequency of changes to Ministers representing portfolios that included the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Over the past three governments (2015 – Present), seven Ministers had been appointed, with the Ministry portfolio moved to the outer ministry under the current government. Additionally, each State and Territory prioritises veterans' needs and issues differently through the structure of its Ministerial portfolios. Participants also shared their experience of the challenges of navigating the split between federal and state/territory government responsibilities for veteran housing, and social and welfare support. In turn, this has led to systems in which ESOs struggle to provide long-term certainty to veterans and their families because government funding cycles are short-term. Participants shared examples of how funding uncertainty at an individual level can compound trauma, while at an organisational level, it inhibits the recruitment and retention of skilled staff, and inhibits service improvement, innovation and research. Participants extensively discussed the need to coordinate and collaborate across the ESO sector to continue driving advocacy, progress, and service delivery that sits outside political change.

**Unified voice.** Participants shared their experiences of engaging with governments and others who have expressed a desire for the ESO sector to provide a single unified voice to government. While this would make advocacy activities simpler for governments and departments to understand, it would not necessarily reflect the diversity of veterans, their families or the organisations which support them. Participants focused on how they can better work together to speak to governments about the issues affecting veterans and their families. The working groups identified alignment across many of the issues identified in this paper, and a willingness to take collective action. This includes:

- The establishment of a peak body
- The creation of sector-wide Codes of Practice for service delivery
- The ongoing facilitation of broad-ranging, frequent ESO forums
- The need for guidelines for news media reporting on the experiences of ADF personnel, to encourage balanced and trauma-informed reporting

#### **Addressing the 'broken veteran' narrative.**

Reporting about the ADF and the experiences of veterans has followed a global pattern of negative portrayals of

broken individuals. Participants raised concerns that the Royal Commission is compounding that narrative. The Commissioners' agreed and called for ESOs to elevate positive experiences and examples. For example, many veterans bring unique skills to the civilian workforce, with a report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare finding that many veterans outperform their civilian counterparts following transition. Participants expressed eagerness to help the Royal Commission uncover the protective and preventative factors that are present for individuals who have positive experiences in the hope that these will inform the Commission's final recommendations. Participants acknowledged that ESOs have an important role to play in communicating the positive lived experiences of veterans, in addition to the work of the Royal Commission.

**Implementation body.** An implementation framework, co-designed with veterans, their families and the organisations that support them, is critical to addressing the issues that surfaced through the Royal Commission. The Royal Commission, through its Stakeholder Reference Group, has called for feedback on the potential creation of an entity with comprehensive oversight, responsibilities, and powers to drive lasting reform to contribute to a reduction in the incidence of suicide and suicidality in serving and ex-serving ADF members. Participants agreed wholeheartedly on the need for a framework to be considered further as part of the Royal Commission's ongoing inquiries. Participants shared that a co-designed framework was fundamental to building confidence and trust across all stakeholders that the recommendations from the final report would be actioned. Participants agreed on the importance of ensuring that this implementation body was appropriately accountable to government, veterans, and their families, the ESO sector and public more broadly. It was suggested that the Royal Commission might usefully look at implementation bodies established following other enquiries if this was not already being done. RSL Australia has previously developed and proposed an implementation body model that combines the roles of the previous Interim National Commissioner for Defence and Suicide Prevention, with a body that could work with external agencies to investigate and report on the implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission. Identifying synergies within the ESO sector to enable efficient and effective service delivery.

The President and Secretary has received an invitation from the Deputy Commissioner DVA Victoria to attend the ESO consultative forum on 14 February 2023.

Financial Management. The Branch's finances continue to be well managed by the Treasurer/Secretary.

#### **VALE**

AVM Alan Reed AO, Mrs Joyce Blaine and Mr John Smee.

*Daryll Topp*

*President DFWA (VIC)*

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH

<b>Patron</b>	<b>His Excellency, the Honourable Chris Dawson AC</b>
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:	wabranch@dfwa.org.au
Location:	Karrakatta Community House Matapau Road Irwin Barracks KARRAKATTA WA 6010

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

### VALE

With deep sadness we note the passing of Mr Jack Deperouzel, Mrs Beryl Black and Mrs Cecile Hinton BEM.

### MRS CECILE HINTON BEM.

The Branch was particularly saddened just before Christmas by the passing of Cecile Hinton BEM at the age of nearly 99. Cecile was awarded her BEM at the age of just 19 for her work in cyber security with the Indian Army. Cecile worked tirelessly for both the RSL and DFWA and served on the WA Committee for a number of years. Her late husband, Dick Hinton was Treasurer of the WA Branch for a number of years.

### 2022 CHRISTMAS LUNCH



*Some of the many WA members enjoying the annual Christmas lunch at the RAAFA Bull Creek premises.*

### DFWA AWARD TO RAAF/RAN GRADUATING PILOTS

For over 40 years the WA Branch has presented an award to the pilot displaying the highest navigational skill in the RAAF Advanced Pilots' Course. Pending the closure of the Branch later this year, our final award was made at the Graduation Ceremony in December 2022 to Pilot Officer Blake Poole. Blake will continue his flying training with a posting to 79 Squadron to fly the Hawk aircraft



*Reviewing Officer Air Vice-Marshal Robert Denney, AM and WA President Richard Usher OAM.*

### DIARY DATES

- Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of alternate months (April June etc). If you wish to attend, please contact the Secretary prior to the meeting in order that he can arrange entry into the Barracks.
- The final AGM will be held at 1400 on Wednesday 6th September at RAAFA Bull Creek
- The 2023 Christmas party (which will also mark the closure of the Branch) will be held on Thursday 14th December 2023.





# DFWA SHOP

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



### Men's Bisley Shirt

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

**\$45.00** including postage



### Women's Bisley Shirt

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

**\$55.00** including postage



### DFWA Polo Shirt (JB's Wear)

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

**\$36.00** including postage



### Zip Front Jacket

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

**\$40.00** including postage



### Zip Front Vest

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

**\$35.00** including postage



### DFWA Metal Lapel Badge

Attractive enamel finish with single pin attachment.

**\$5.00** including postage



### DFWA Cloth Pocket Badge

with three attachment pins.

**\$10.00** including postage



### DFWA Embroidered Cloth Patch

On a navy blue background.

**\$10.00** including postage



### DFWA Cap

Navy blue with DFWA embroidered badge.

**\$15.00** including postage

## DFWA Shop Order Form

ITEM	SIZE	QTY/SIZE	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1. Bisley Shirt - Men's	XL, L, M, S		\$45.00	
2. Bisley Shirt —Women's	XL, L, M, S		\$55.00	
3. DFWA Cap	xxxxx		\$15.00	
4. DFWA Lapel Badge	xxxxx		\$5.00	
5. DFWA Polo Shirt	XXL, XL, L, M, S		\$36.00	
6. DFWA Cloth Badge	xxxxx		\$10.00	
7. Embroidered Patch	xxxxx		\$10.00	
8. DFWA Zip Front Jacket	XXL, XL, L, M, S		\$40.00	
9. DFWA Zip Front Vest	XXL, XL, L, M, S		\$35.00	

**TOTAL DUE \$**

#### Notes:

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

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

DFWA QLD INC,  
Victoria Barracks Brisbane, Enoggera QLD 4051

**Or email your order and payment details to:**

qldbranch@dfwa.org.au

### YOUR DETAILS:

Title ..... Initial ..... Surname .....

Address .....

..... State .....

Postcode ..... Phone .....

Email .....

### PAYMENT DETAILS:

Internet Banking/Direct Debit:

Bank of QLD BSB 124 185 Account No: 10 480 398

Or enclose Cheque/Money Order: \$ .....

Signature: .....

Date: ...../...../.....

# THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE WHERE PASSION MEETS ART

2023 will see The Bradford Exchange reach an important milestone: our fiftieth anniversary. Since 1973, we have been the world's largest and most trusted authority in the dynamic field of fine art collectables.

In over a dozen countries around the world, we serve millions of collectors with editions which are consistently the best in the world. As we continue to evolve and grow with the changing times, our enduring heritage is based on an appreciation of the passion that drives people. We are particularly proud to connect with those who have an interest in Australia's military heritage. Through the decades, we have seen that the ANZAC spirit runs deep in Australian families. Our military-themed editions are consistently amongst our most popular. From minted coins, to gallery-quality prints, fine jewellery and more, each edition resonates profoundly with Australians seeking to strengthen their connection to a family member who served our nation with honour.

As its major sponsor, we respect and support the sterling work done by Defence Force Welfare Association of Australia in providing its own voice for our military personnel. The sacrifices they make for Australia in war and in peace is truly

deserving of recognition.

In 2022, The Bradford Exchange joined with its clients in commemorating significant military anniversaries throughout the year. The Battles of El Alamein, Tobruk, Ypres, Bullecourt have been represented in editions which have become best sellers. Of particular note was our Vietnam Gratitude of a Nation Gold Coin launched in August in tandem with Vietnam Veterans Day. The response from veterans and their families was heartening as we recognised the special place our Vietnam veterans hold in the ANZAC legend.

Now, as we begin 2023 and The Bradford Exchange's fiftieth anniversary, we can proudly say that the best is yet to come. We will continue to support the men and women of our defence force whose duty and service to our nation represents the best of what it means to be Australian.

To see our diverse range of military-themed editions, go to [www.bradford.com.au/lwf](http://www.bradford.com.au/lwf) or call 02 9841 3311



## 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 you can make a donation at [dfwa.org.au/donate](http://dfwa.org.au/donate). Alternatively 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.

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

You can also make a credit card donation:

Go to [dfwa.org.au/donate](http://dfwa.org.au/donate) and follow the link.





# Lest We Forget

A delicately hand-crafted brooch honouring those who served our nation courageously

HAND-APPLIED 18-CARAT GOLD PLATE



GENUINE SPARKLING CRYSTALS



Arrives in a handsome presentation case with a Certificate of Authenticity

An elegant symbol of life's fragility, the poppy makes a fitting tribute to those who laid down their lives in service of our great nation. Now you can honour a loved one who served with the "Flanders Fields Poppy Brooch", a tasteful fine jewellery exclusive from The Bradford Exchange.

### A moving first-of-a-kind design

Inspired by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's epic poem *In Flanders Fields*, this stunning treasure brings its poppies to life again to honour our diggers in a truly meaningful way. Hand-applied 18-carat gold-plate accents the finely-crafted brooch to create a truly opulent look. Six radiant crystals rest in the centre of the bloom which is hand-enamelled in red to capture the lifelike vibrancy of the poppy. Wear this elegant brooch next to your heart and know that our diggers will be remembered always. The brooch is accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity reproducing McCrae's *In Flanders Fields* poem as a beautiful finishing touch.

### Superb Value. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

This exclusive brooch is exceptional value at just \$149.97, payable in three easy, interest-free instalments of \$49.99, plus \$14.99 postage and handling and backed by our 120-day guarantee. This touching Anzac tribute is only available from The Bradford Exchange for a limited time, so don't miss out. To reserve your brooch, send no money now. Just return the Reply Paid coupon or go online today at [www.bradford.com.au/lwf](http://www.bradford.com.au/lwf)



Shown larger than actual size of 7cm in length

**PAY NOTHING NOW**



Please Respond Promptly

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Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

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Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**3. PHONE:** (02) 9841 3311 8am-5pm AEDT Mon – Fri

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p.a.  
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- Up to 55 days interest free on purchases.
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