



PRINT POST APPROVED PPI00008161

COST: \$5.00. FREE TO MEMBERS

CAMARADERIE

SECOND Edition 2023

VOL. 54 NO. 2



UPDATES ON
ADF CONDITIONS
OF SERVICE

ARMISTICE
CENTENARY WAR
MEMORIAL

CHANGES TO DVA
SUPPORT PACKAGES

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

www.dfwa.org.au

Spirit of Anzac

2023 Poetry Competition Winner
Lourdes Hill College

The ANZACs' Flame

The day they marched began it all,
Those who answered the call to war.
Young men, still boys, picking up arms,
To protect a country from those that may harm.

Leaving their wives, leaving their mothers
Forming new bonds, finding new brothers
Bound together by the blood they shed,
The screams in the night, the tears and the dead.


From the weight of a nation they did not shy,
Nor from the gunfire lighting up the sky.
When cold wind roared and rain barrelled down,
They sung songs of home and cheered to the sound.

The days were dark, the nights were long,
Water was short and the food was all gone.
The battle seemed lost, a rising tide of sorrow,
Yet still they fought on, 'one more day until tomorrow'.

For buried in their souls, burning away,
The ANZACs' flame led the way.
No fire, no flood, no storm, or thunder,
Would stop these men or drag them under.

Haunted by a ghost gun's shout,
From here to Gallipoli and there about,
A soul of fire, a courageous creator,
The ANZAC spirit, it's the heart of Australia.

By India Poots, Year 12



QRA
Armistice Centenary
War Memorial
Commemorations Committee

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



Vol. 54. No. 2 Second Edition 2023

PROUDLY SERVING MEMBERS OF THE ADF AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1959

EDITOR

Mr Les Bienkiewicz
PO Box 4166
KINGSTON ACT 2604
P: 0411 444 248
E: editor@dfwa.org.au

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 2 November 2023.

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

Copyright: All articles and illustrations are copyright unless otherwise stated. Reproduction for non-profit newsletters or publications or for study purposes in proper context is allowable but acknowledgement of the author and the source must be made. Contact the Editor if further information or assistance is required

Liability: Although material used in *Camaraderie* is checked for accuracy no liability can be assumed for any losses due to the use of any material in this magazine.

Advertising: All enquiries to the Editor.

This edition published by:
Defence Force Welfare Association in association with Rotary Down Under Incorporated.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

I was recently humbled to be briefed about the hard work done by volunteers in developing the Armistice Centenary War Memorial in Brisbane, as reported in this the edition. I was also shown an example of the success that advocates can have (also hard working volunteers) in helping those in need - I commend the short note on the bottom of page 27 to you. Finally, another call for articles... drop me a line at any time at editor@dfwa.org.au

Les Bienkiewicz

Contents

Second Edition 2023

Contact Details	4
National Office Roundup	5
From the President's Pen	6
The Centaur Atrocity	8
Corporal Cosmo	10
Letter to the Editor	11
Your DFRDB and MSBS indexed pensions to increase by at least 3.3% in July	12
Increase in DVA fees to GPs	12
Attention ADF Members - it's tax time again	13
Proposed ADF Retention Bonus	13
Recent Changes to the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act	14
OOPs says the Editor	14
Recent Changes to Support Packages for Defence, Veterans and their Families	15
Due Process must be followed for Justice!!	16
Duty and Consequences	17
Letter to the Editor	17
Warhorse Project: "recovery through discovery"	18
The tragic sinking of the MV Montevideo Maru	20
Focus on the Flinders University / DFWA (SA) Open Door initiative	22
The Armistice Centenary War Memorial (ACWM)	24
Padre's Corner – Compassion Fatigue	25
DFWA - Membership Application	26
Branch Reports	27
DFWA shop	33

FRONT COVER

Veterans, members of the ADF and their families march on Anzac Day 2023 at the Armistice Centenary War Memorial at the Belmont Shooting Complex. See related article on page 24 and also page 2.

Photo courtesy of Lyn Cramp

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1959



NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Patron-in-Chief:	His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd).
National President:	Del Gaudry CSC
Executive Director:	Alf Jaugietis
National Treasurer:	Kate Bowden
Past President:	Kel Ryan
Vice President, Reserves	Ian Flawith
Vice President, Conditions of Service:	Gerard Gough
Vice President, Advocacy & Compensation:	Kerry Mellor
Vice President, Defence Widows:	Vacant
Webmaster:	Chris Lewis
Editor Camaraderie:	Les Bienkiewicz
Honorary Families Advisor:	Vacant
Honorary Legal Advisor:	Don Malcolmson
Honorary Medical Advisor:	Mike Dowsett
Honorary Communications Advisor:	Vacant
Honorary Industrial Relations Advisor:	Marcus Peake
Honorary ADF Vocational Training Advisor:	David Everett
National Membership Manager:	Chris Lewis

DFWA CONTACT DETAILS

NATIONAL OFFICE

Postal address: PO Box 4166 KINGSTON ACT 2604
Telephone: (02) 6152 9162 (+Answering machine)
E-mail: national@dfwa.org.au

Website: www.dfwa.org.au
Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 0900 to 1630 hrs

BRANCH / CHAPTERS

QUEENSLAND (07 2102 9879) - qldbranch@dfwa.org.au NEW SOUTH WALES (02 83355447) - nswbranch@dfwa.org.au
ACT (02 6152 9166) - actchapter@dfwa.org.au VICTORIA (03 92824959) - vicbranch@dfwa.org.au
SOUTH AUSTRALIA (0419 858 774) - sabranch@dfwa.org.au WESTERN AUSTRALIA (08 93834055) - wabranch@dfwa.org.au

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

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

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

NATIONAL OFFICE ROUNDUP (February 2023 – June 2023)



AS THE CHILL OF WINTER continues unabated through large parts of the Australian landscape the realities of Government for Labor have taken strong hold. The Covid-19 days with its lockdowns may be over but the consequences of the affliction and even the virus itself unfortunately remains a firm presence in the community.

Gripping the Australian community generally, including the Defence family, is the now greater presence of unremitting inflationary pressures, ever rising power bills and never-ending price increases on almost everything else. 'Where does it stop?' is a refrain oft asked by many families.

Yes, there was notional relief for families in the Government's May 2023 Budget. It was mainly aimed at helping lower the cost of living or improving welfare for those in 'difficult' circumstances. While that Budget foreshadowed a small increase in Defence spending, the main feature of it seemed to be a reshuffling of monies directed toward areas assessed as higher priority. Little provision appeared evident to implement any part of the recent Defence Strategic Review, including funds to kick-start last years announced nuclear powered submarine program.

As for any budgetary outcomes for veterans, there were few surprises. The Government's focus was on its election promises to cut waiting times and the backlog of compensation claims by funding 500 extra staff at DVA. And to simplify the all-too complex compensation and rehabilitation legislation to make it easier for veterans and families to access support. Other measures in the Budget for which monies were provided included:

- Upgrade and modernize DVA's aging IT system to improve more timely payments and easier access to its services.
- Provide additional mental health awareness and suicide intervention training for volunteers supporting veterans
- Expand eligibility for the Acute Support Package to include grandparents who are full-time carers for children of veterans experiencing challenging life circumstances. Childcare, counselling, household assistance and education support services are part of the Package.

While these Budget measures are worthy and provide practical support that will improve the welfare of veterans and their families, an election promise after all, there was nothing to redress the continuing raft of grievances almost all ESOs have had for years.

Not a glimmer that redress will ever see the light of day for such issues as the inadequacies in veterans' disability compensation payments for the TPI/Special Rate. Nor that fair

indexation will be applied to all DFRDB and MSBS recipients, including reversionary benefits for widows and/or widowers. And despite years of debate that DVA should logically also administer hearing services to gold and white card veterans with accepted hearing condition, progress towards that goal appears to be zero.

Hope nonetheless springs eternal that these important issues will one day be addressed by one side of politics or the other. The veterans' community will remain resolute in its efforts to attract a positive outcome on each. One issue that does engender optimism for its resolution in a forthcoming budgetary cycle is providing Reservists with a Veteran White Card. The issue is before the Government and could be considered as part of its plans to re-raise the Ready Reserve scheme brigade of 3000 to 5000 young Australians, an initiative adopted by the then Labor Prime Minister Bob Hawke in 1991.

In that context and as a reminder, the next ADF Workplace Remuneration Arrangement is due towards the end of this current year. It will be a critically important one to all ADF members battling the scourge of inflationary pressures. No hearing dates have yet been set for sittings of the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal. DFWA will be involved as an approved intervenor and members can be assured that their interests, as always in the past, will be protected. The first principle being that no pay offer should be at the expense of offset reductions of any conditions of service. And any WRA should at least have a chance of maintaining the real purchasing power of ADF salaries.

One more reminder before closing, membership subscriptions coupled with your generous donations are the only sources of income to keep our Association functioning as a strong voice aimed at decision makers. As in the past, my plea to all member is 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 Serving Members, please consider joining as a full-time member soon. You will be helping in a meaningful way to continue unabated the work of the Association into the future.

And a continued big thanks to the Bradford Exchange whose generous and welcome sponsorship helps immeasurably to ease the financial pressures on DFWA to operate. Their advertisement is in the pages of this Camaraderie. Please support them if in need of collectable high-quality memorabilia for personal use or as a gift that marks a commemorative occasion.

Finally, I wish to announce with some sadness that, having now served over 10 years in my role with DFWA, I have tendered my resignation to our National President, effective on 31 July 2023. My longevity, continued enthusiasm and commitment to serve for so long is due in large part to two outstanding leaders our Association has enjoyed in that time, namely David Jamison who served as National President until

continue page 7

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE WE ARE, already, a bit more than halfway through the year. For those of us southerners, it has been a very cool winter so far.

Another ANZAC Day is behind us. As I write this, I reflect on how it was such an honour for me to march with the WRAAFs in Sydney, just in front of us was a 100-year-old WAAAF in a wheelchair being pushed by her grandchildren. Once again, female veterans were 'told'

that their medals were on the wrong side; I'm not sure what it takes to educate the public about women veterans wearing their own well-earned medals. With women representing around 20% of the ADF it should now have become the norm for women to be seen wearing their medals proudly, without being questioned about whose medals they are.

Talking of women, how fantastic for the newly promoted three-star LTGEN Natasha Fox AM CSC, to head up the new ADF Personnel Group. The position was recommended by the recent report of the 2023 Defence Strategic Review that found that the ADF's current personnel management system was fragmented and inefficient. To increase its effectiveness, efficiency and cohesiveness, the report's finding was that the overall system should be integrated and centralised. LTGEN Fox is a highly experienced, capable and respected leader within the ADF, who is well-positioned to lead this important change to centralise the personnel management system. LTGEN Fox is the first female three-star for the ADF. We wish her every success in the role and look forward to having many conversations with her in the future.

DFWA have been given the opportunity to submit comments to DVA on the Veterans' Legislation Reform, the 'rolling 3 acts into 1' (MRCA, DRCA and VEA), and we have submitted our concerns and raised possible issues. While there are many benefits to be gained through the harmonization, it does need to be thoughtful and equitable. We are hoping that through simplification there will be a reduction in assessment times and a decrease of administrative burdens. We will also be strongly advocating that with the simplification, there will be no reduction in existing veteran benefits.

I find the language around veterans so confusing. My understanding is that the original term given to a veteran was someone who had been in war or war like service, then it was

defined as any person who had served one day. DVA defines it as anyone who has served 'one day of full-time service'. Many Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) now assist serving and Ex-Serving personnel, so the term should really be Veteran Organisations not Ex-Service. I still hear the terms current serving and veterans – we are all veterans. I hope we can just use the term Veterans to cover all the bases. I know there are still some who deem the term 'veteran' as having had war or war like service. I will use the term veteran to cover anyone who has served one day regardless of it being full time or reserve.

As the National President of DFWA, I, along with MAJGEN Greg Melick, President of RSL Australia, and BRIG Mike Annett CSC, National President of Defence Reserves Association (DRA), have signed a joint letter to the Minister for Veteran Affairs, the Hon Mat Keogh, requesting a review of Non-Liability Health Care for Reservists. To date, we have not had a response, but we will continue to follow up on the issue. Full-time ADF (SERCAT 7 & 6) have been given an extra five days annual leave, and effective pay rise, while reserves still work on a divisor of 365 days for their rate of pay. The inequities gap of full time and reserves seems to be getting wider; we intend to work with Defence Reserves Association (DRA) to address these issues. The Reserves are called the 'part time' military but are not remunerated as such (eg Long Service Leave). Reserves have played and continue to play major roles with all natural disasters in Australia as well as deployments and international disasters.

With all that is going on in the media at the moment, concerning Australian involvement in Afghanistan, it is really important we look out for one another from a mental health aspect. Prior to leaving the military earlier this year, I worked in the Mental Health space for about five years. Mental Health is an area that we can all learn a bit more about to help ourselves and those around us. If we as a society, an organisation or as individuals, can detect early signs of mental illness it can be treated, and early intervention can aid an earlier recovery. If you have not already completed a two-day Mental Health First Aid course, I urge you to do so. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Australia is the lead organisation, and you can complete free courses via Open Arms. There are quite a few veteran organisations who offer free places to veterans and their families. Many more people have completed physical first aid courses (and rarely use the skills taught) while many of us have had a mental health conversation with someone, without the skills and knowledge of what to do or say. Social isolation and loneliness are issues that are recognized as significant health concerns in Australia, so we should all think about what we might be able to do to reach out to someone; a phone call, a text or an old-fashioned card (via snail mail).

DFWA is no different to any volunteer organisation, we volunteer for many and varied reasons but mainly in the hope that we can make a difference to veterans and their families. We have many volunteers across the country who do an incredible job across the DFWA spectrum. I would like to thank all of those who help to make a difference in DFWA. Many of our volunteers have been with DFWA for many years and they are passionate about what they do. If DFWA is going to have a future we really need younger members to volunteer to sustain the organisation, and to raise more current issues that affect veterans and their families. We still have many legacy issues that we will continue to advocate for, but we need to make sure that areas such as childcare, erosion of pay and conditions of service, transition to civilian life and other contemporary issues are also high on our agenda.

If you have any suggestions or would like to become involved with DFWA please let us know – there is always room for more to help out.

Best wishes to you all

Del
National President,
DFWA

NATIONAL OFFICE ROUNDUP *continued page 5*

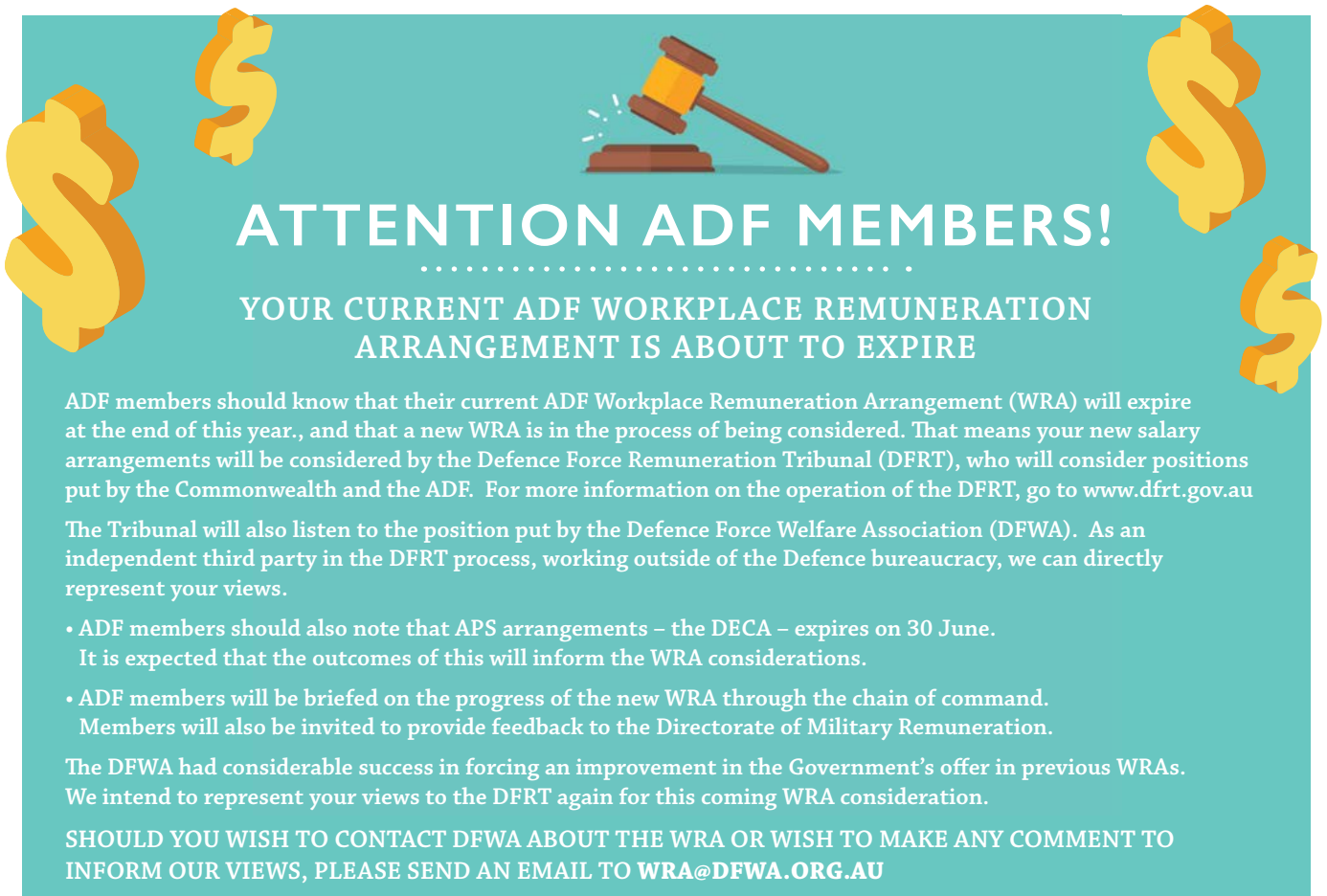
14 August 2017 and thereafter Kel Ryan who served in that role until 2 November 2022.

I for one am in little doubt that their leadership and vision moved DFWA from being merely one ESO among many to become a standout one today. Their tenures strengthened our Association's role not only as a promotor of wellbeing to those still serving and their families but gave it a respected position within the veterans' community. That respect extends into the corridors of Parliament and the Departments of Defence and Veterans Affairs.

Today, that leadership Baton has passed to Ms Del Gaudry CSC. While Del may have big shoes to fill, her record of positive achievement at top leadership levels and her lengthy voluntary involvement with numerous veterans' organisations is a strong portend to her ability to successfully guide DFWA into the future.

As an aside, Del Gaudry still invites applications to fill the soon-to-be-vacant position of Executive Director within the Canberra National Office. Express your interest to help by email to national@dfwa.org.au

Alf Jaugietis



ATTENTION ADF MEMBERS!

YOUR CURRENT ADF WORKPLACE REMUNERATION ARRANGEMENT IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE

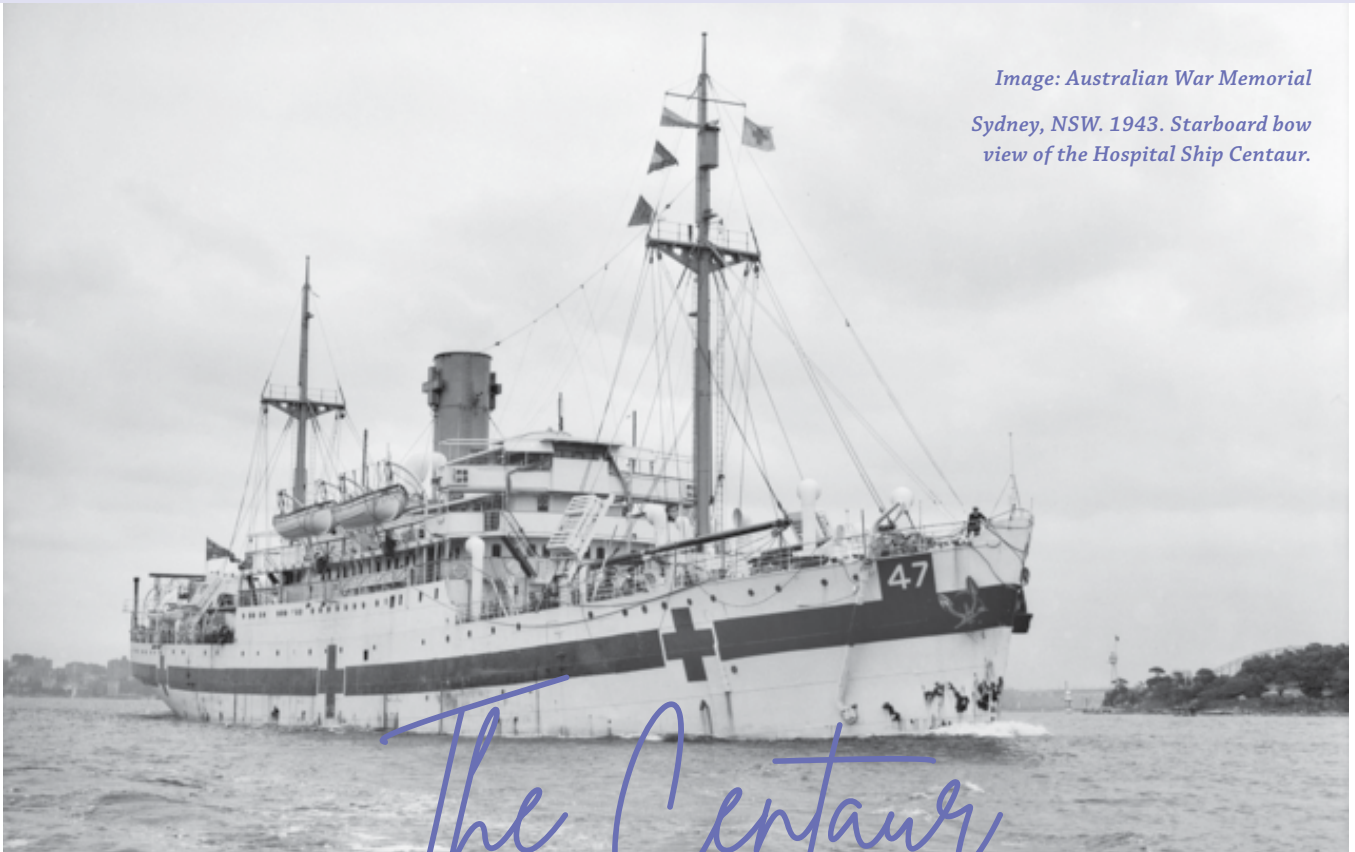
ADF members should know that their current ADF Workplace Remuneration Arrangement (WRA) will expire at the end of this year., and that a new WRA is in the process of being considered. That means your new salary arrangements will be considered by the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT), who will consider positions put by the Commonwealth and the ADF. For more information on the operation of the DFRT, go to www.dfrt.gov.au

The Tribunal will also listen to the position put by the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA). As an independent third party in the DFRT process, working outside of the Defence bureaucracy, we can directly represent your views.

- ADF members should also note that APS arrangements – the DECA – expires on 30 June. It is expected that the outcomes of this will inform the WRA considerations.
- ADF members will be briefed on the progress of the new WRA through the chain of command. Members will also be invited to provide feedback to the Directorate of Military Remuneration.

The DFWA had considerable success in forcing an improvement in the Government's offer in previous WRAs. We intend to represent your views to the DFRT again for this coming WRA consideration.

SHOULD YOU WISH TO CONTACT DFWA ABOUT THE WRA OR WISH TO MAKE ANY COMMENT TO INFORM OUR VIEWS, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO WRA@DFWA.ORG.AU



*Image: Australian War Memorial
Sydney, NSW. 1943. Starboard bow
view of the Hospital Ship Centaur.*

The Centaur ATROCITY

by
WIN FOWLES

THE AUSTRALIAN HOSPITAL SHIP CENTAUR WAS TORPEDOED and sunk by the Japanese submarine I-177 on 14 May 1943, eighty years ago, off Queensland's Moreton Island in an act of inexcusable wartime bastardry.

With its white hull properly lit and marked in accordance with Article 5 of the Geneva Convention dealing with maritime warfare, Centaur was considered immune from attack. But its immunity was a myth that cost the lives of 268 of the 332 souls on board. Only 64 survived, and that was after some 35 hours in waters that all Australians know are treacherous in every sense of the word.

Just one of Centaur's twelve nursing sisters survived. Sister Ellen Savage's life story is well known but her qualities may be summed up by her award of the George Medal – only the second Australian woman so honoured – for her heroic work helping other survivors despite her own significant injuries. Ellen Savage died aged 72 on ANZAC Day 1985, almost 42 years to the day after the Centaur tragedy.

The ship's merchant crew was 75 strong. Just 30 survived. So did 20 of the 64 members of the ship's medical staff. Those losses are horrifying enough.

But the 2/12 Australian Field Ambulance lost 138 of its 149 members, and of the 44 Australian Army Service Corps members (mainly drivers) attached to the 2/12th just three survived. The lost 41 AASC members are remembered on a bronze plaque at Caloundra's Centaur memorial alongside plaques to other victims. The memorial is located on a peaceful headland looking across the waters to Moreton Island.

The Centaur atrocity sparked a wave of revulsion and outrage across Australia and internationally. Posters urged citizens to "Avenge the Nurses", a campaign remembered to this day. Less well known is that a number of nurses on the hospital ship Manunda – itself bombed in Darwin Harbour on 19 February 1942 – knew Centaur nurses and felt their loss deeply. So did many from the large Dutch hospital ship Oranje; 27 of their colleagues had moved to Centaur. The effects on the family members of all those lost are unimaginable.



Left: Australian War Memoria

“Work, save, fight and so avenge the nurses!”

Centaur was a small ship, just 96m long. That's shorter than a rugby field. Built in 1924, the 3,200t Blue Funnel vessel carried passengers and freight before its conversion to a hospital ship in March 1943. Notably, Centaur had rescued survivors of Germany's Kormoran off Western Australia in November 1941 after Kormoran's battle with HMAS Sydney.

Memorials to those lost on Centaur are located across Australia. Services are held annually on 14 May at many of these memorials including at Caloundra, a close mainland location to Centaur's final resting place some 2,000 metres beneath the sea.

One now-elderly man who regularly attends each year's Caloundra service is the son of one of those lost. He was born a few months after his father was gone forever.

Centaur is gone but not forgotten. Lest we forget.

SOURCES:

- Christopher S. Milligan and John C.H. Foley, Centaur, the Myth of Immunity, Nairana Publications, Hendra, Queensland 1993
- Major-General (Rtd) John H. Pearn, The 2/12 Australian Field Ambulance, article in ADF Health Vol 3, April 2002
- Neville Lindsay, Equal to the Task – The Royal Australian Army Service Corps, Historia Productions, Kenmore, Queensland 1992
- adb.anu.edu.au/biography/savage-ellen-15752
- awm.gov.au/articles/blog/the-sinking-of-the-centaur
- Author's personal knowledge

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 Comission, ADF and DVA.

You can contact us by calling:

1800 33 1800 (FREE CALL)

www.defenceveteranslegalservice.org.au



**DEFENCE & VETERANS
LEGAL SERVICE**

Free | Independent | Confidential

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



Corporal Cosmo

AS MENTIONED IN THE FEBRUARY 2023 EDITION OF THIS COLUMN, changes to the structure and management of the Australian Defence Force as a direct result of recommendations from the Defence Strategic Review are now in full swing. Since the public release of the DSR a string of senior leadership appointments in Defence have been created, including an additional three three-star military appointments in the last few weeks. One of the new appointments is Chief of Personnel whom will 'ensure ADF personnel are supported through the career lifecycle'.

If you're not across the detail of the changes, you can glean the finer details from Joint Directive 10-2023 Reorganisation of the Defence People System and Establishment of the Chief of Personnel.

Check your ADF Pay Slips

However, this column primarily concerns itself with Conditions of Service for ADF members and I begin with highlighting the importance of each and every ADF member's responsibility to regularly check their fortnightly pay slips. Recently, a member contacted me to advise that an ADF allowance amount was being incorrectly paid. The allowance was Part Day Travelling Allowance (PDTA) and back in October 2022, the allowance was increased by \$1.50 to \$54.95. The diligent member noticed an anomaly between the amount published in the Pay and Conditions Manual (\$54.95) and the amount listed on their pay slip (\$53.45). A review of s58B Defence Determinations, published on the Pay & Conditions website identified Defence Determination 11/2022 as the (legislative) document that authorised the increase to PDTA. Unfortunately, the folks in charge of the ADF's Global Payroll never updated the amount in the system – resulting in any member whom has claimed this allowance since 13 October 2022, not receiving the authorised, increased amount. Whilst \$1.50 seems a trivial amount and most people probably wouldn't bother providing feedback to Your Customer Service to have the error rectified, this failure to update an amended allowance highlights the fact that ADF Pay Services are not infallible and that it is the member's responsibility to check and ensure they are claiming and being paid the correct amount of allowances. Yes, this is laborious and somewhat difficult when trying to interpret the PACMAN, but considering the sometimes large amounts of allowances, (think postings, travel and accommodation, etc.), paid to ADF members, it is worth

it to ensure that you are receiving the correct amount and, importantly, not being overpaid – which you will be required to pay back to Defence.

ADF Recruiting and Retention Initiatives

Since the beginning of 2023, in addition to initiatives previously mention in this column, a number of new Recruiting and Retention initiatives have been announced, including:

ADF Continuation Bonus – from 1 July 2023

A (taxed) \$50,000 continuation bonus targeted towards new members of the ADF whom agree to remain in the ADF for a further three years of service following the completion of their initial minimum period of service. See the ADF Continuation Bonus Fact Sheet for eligibility criteria.

Defence Assisted Study Scheme (DASS) increased reimbursement rates from 1 July 2023

- Removal of the \$5,100 annual cap on DASS reimbursements
- Certificate I up to Advanced Diploma: increase from \$775 to \$1,500 per subject
- Bachelor Degree: increase from \$1,275 to \$2,000 per subject
- Honours, Grad. Cert, Grad. Dip & Masters: from \$1,275 to \$4,500 per subject
- Secondary school studies Year 10-12: Reimbursement up to \$5,000 per annum
- Student Amenities Fees: up to \$326 per year
- There will be additional improvements to DASS announced in the coming months.

ADF Family Health – from 1 July 2023

- The annual ADF Family Health program benefit will double from the current rate of \$400 to \$800 per dependent.
- Additional eligible services that support:
 - Healthy diets
 - Increasing Physical Activity
 - Cancer screening and prevention
- Visit the *ADF Family Health* website for details of services covered by the program

ADF Workplace Remuneration Arrangement 2023-2026

The Workplace Remuneration ARRANGEMENT (not 'Agreement') is the framework that details salary and allowances for ADF members. The CDF – whom, along with a small number of senior military appointments that are not subject to the WRA – agrees to a proposed 'agreed offer' placed before the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT). ADF members (subject to the WRA) are not consulted, do not have any input into the proposal, are not invited to vote on the 'agreed offer' and are not required to agree to the offer. In fact, the meaning of the word, 'offer' implies acceptance or rejection of a proposal!

Directorate of Military Remuneration (DMR) within Defence People Group is responsible for the development of ADF remuneration and providing information about the progress of WRA 2023-2026 to ADF members. DMR have indicated, from information available on the ADF Pay and Conditions website, that the time permitted for workforce engagement about WRA 2023-2026 is likely to be 'quite short' and conducted virtually.

Due chiefly to the current rate of inflation (7+%) but also increased cost-of-living expenses, any salary increase below 7% is effectively a pay cut and will impact ADF members' ability to keep pace with the rising costs of household, rent, transportation and education expenses, to name a few.

Looking at similar Australian workforces, such as aircraft mechanics/engineers, nurses and firefighters, we know that annual salary increases of around 5% are being awarded by the Fair Work Commission. Considering that the ADF is a stretched workforce, evidenced by admissions from our senior leaders that we will never have the amount

of personnel required to deliver the capability demanded by Government, a WRA that assures salary increases commensurate with comparable Australian workforces, is not at all unreasonable.

Considering that ADF members have been granted and additional five days' annual leave – which is equivalent to about 1% to 1.3% salary increase, the absolute minimum annual increase under WRA 2023-2026 should be 4% per annum. But, like many of my colleagues remind me, what's the benefit of five more days' leave, if you're not able to take the leave you already have because of work commitments?!

Finally...

- DFWA will act on your behalf when the WRA is considered later this year. Your advice and comments are sought – drop DFWA a line at wra@dfwa.org.au
- If you've not Emailed a suggestion for improvement to the Recruiting and Retention Team at adfemploymentoffer@defence.gov.au you are not yet part of the solution
- If you have served for at least one day in the ADF and you don't yet have a DVA Veterans White Card, apply for one now
- Get you DVA claims in now – legislation changes are on their way (more about this in the next issue of Camaraderie)
- Check your ADF Pay Slips!

Cheers for now,

- **Corporal Cosmo.**

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

I recently came across your excellent article in a recent edition of Camaraderie regarding advocates and their training. I don't know how old the article was but it certainly is still very current. I was recently asked to take over an RSL Welfare group as its coordinator. At the same time I began a level one Wellbeing Advocates course via ATDP. As someone who has three tertiary qualifications I am truly amazed at what a bureaucratic shambles this course and its administration are. There is little sign of pedagogical theory in the knowledge acquisition process and seems more like a government contract based on volume rather than quality. I can certainly understand why many aspiring advocates drop out of the process, which in turn makes me wonder what the KPIs are for ATDP.

As I was complaining to one of my colleagues about it I mentioned what I felt should be the training process. Apparently I described TRIP (which I had not heard about before). The sooner we go back to it the better.

Thank you for a great article

Name withheld on request

YOUR DFRDB AND MSBS INDEXED PENSIONS TO INCREASE BY AT LEAST 3.3% IN JULY



THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS has released the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the March 2023 quarter showing that the index has increased to 132.6 from 128.4 for the September 2022 quarter.

This will result in an increase of 3.3% for indexed pensions from the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) and Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS or MilitarySuper) from the first pension payday in July 2023.

The indexed portion of pensions from the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) and the Defence Force Retirement Benefits (DFRB) schemes involves different rates of indexation depending on the recipient's age at the adjustment date.

DFRDB recipients aged less than 55 years receive the CPI-linked adjustments (i.e. 3.3% in this case) on the indexed portions of their pensions.

The indexed portions of DFRDB pensions for recipients aged over 55 years of age is the greater of the CPI increase, the change in the Living Cost Index for pensioners and beneficiaries, or the increase needed to maintain the value of an indicative pension with 27.7% of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE). For the July adjustment, the higher Living Cost Index result means there will be an increase of 4.0%.

This increase of 0.7% is a direct result of the DFWA's Fair Indexation campaign which in 2014 resulted in changes to legislation to allow for fair indexation of military superannuants. DFWA continues to lobby for fair indexation for all military superannuants.

When added to the 3.6% increase in January, that means an annual increase of 6.9% (or for DFRDB over 55, 7.6%).

INCREASE TO DVA FEES PAID TO GENERAL PRACTITIONERS FROM 1 NOVEMBER

A HIDDEN GEM OF THE BUDGET.

Over many years we have reported of the challenges many veterans face when trying to access medical care using their DVA Gold and White cards. These challenges have been particularly problematic for veterans accessing GPs.

In what is very good news for the veteran community, the federal budget goes some way to addressing this issue.

The budget allocates \$33.3 million over four years to increase the Veterans' Access Payment. The Veterans' Access Payment is an incentive paid to GPs to see veterans, which is paid in addition to the standard consultation fee.

The increased Veterans' Access Payment will apply from 1 November 2023 to general face-to-face and telehealth GP consultations, including home visits for people who are homebound, and consultations in residential aged care facilities.

On today's rates, this would see the total payment for a consultation of up to 20 minutes (Level B) plus the Veterans' Access Payment go from \$53.50 to \$69.00 in metro areas and from \$60.65 to \$90.45 in the most remote areas of Australia.

Actual rates will be higher due to indexation of benefits due to occur before the commencement of the measure.

"This is a welcome development for veterans," said Del Gaudry, National President of DFWA. "It is a step towards making it easier for veterans to access the healthcare they are entitled to."

This budget measure is part of the Government's tripling of the Medicare bulk-billing incentives. Because this is a cross portfolio budget measure with the Department of Health, there has been little to no detail included in the DVA budget statements.

DFWA has had an active interest in veteran card access to healthcare and DVA fees. Through the consultative forums, we queried whether there would be an increase to the Veteran Access Payments inline with bulk-billing incentive increases. DVA has now confirmed the information in this article.

This is a relatively modest budget measure, but it will have a significantly positive impact on every veteran.

This is the hidden gem of the budget.



ATTENTION ADF MEMBERS!

It's Tax Time Again

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE what deductions you can and can't claim this year, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has developed a tailored guide with information specifically for those in the Australian Defence Force.

Find it at ato.gov.au/defence

The ATO has also provide DFVA with the following general information.

So what can I claim?

From car expenses to laundry expenses, and self-education – the ATO's tailored occupation guide gives great insight to common deductions for employees of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). It also contains information on the income you need to declare, and any records you'll need to keep.

What about fitness expenses?

You can't claim fitness expenses, such as gym fees, to maintain your fitness. In very limited circumstances, you can claim fitness expenses if your role requires you to maintain a fitness level well above the normal ADF general standard and strenuous physical activity is an essential and regular part of your work. For example, if you are a physical training instructor with the Australian Special Forces.

Claiming a working from home deduction?

If you've worked from home this financial year, there are two ways to calculate your deduction this tax time – the revised fixed rate method, or the actual cost method. From 1 July 2022, the revised fixed rate method has increased from 52 cents to 67 cents per hour worked from home, and no longer requires you to have a dedicated home office space. The expenses covered in the rate, and the records you'll need to keep, have changed too.

And the best time to lodge?

The best time to lodge is from late July, when most of your information from employers, banks and health funds has been automatically included in your tax return. All you'll need to do is check the pre-filled information is correct, add any income that's missing, and claim your deductions!

THE PROPOSED ADF RETENTION BONUS A GOOD BAND AID, BUT...

THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION to provide substantial retention bonuses for ADF members is an acknowledgement that ADF retention is fundamental to ensure that the ADF remains operationally robust to meet the challenges facing the nation.

Many of the reasons people join the ADF – and then continue to serve when faced with a 'shall I stay' decision – are no different to what many civilians face in their employment. Financial reward, job satisfaction and the impact on family life are some of the common denominators.

However, ADF members also face unique conditions of service that civilians do not face – the requirement to put themselves in the face of lethal danger without question and placing their life, liberty, and security in the hands of the state being the most obvious. Significant family disruption by frequent postings and time away from home are significant aspects of ADF service.

The impact of all these demands weighs on the minds of ADF members often at a time when their training and usefulness to the ADF are at their peak. The prospect of a retention bonuses will impact on their decision making, and some will take the carrot and stay.

But focusing on financial rewards alone is not a long-term solution to improving retention rates. Government must also focus on the other determinants – in particular the impact such as the effect of service life on family life which impact on individuals more in middle career, coincidentally at the very time when the 'shall I stay' decision is being faced and when their service to the ADF is at its most valuable.

The DFVA supports the concept of retention bonuses, but notes it is a band aid, not a panacea to improving retention rates. It therefore behoves the ADF and Government to examine all the reasons members leave the ADF. It's not just money!



RECENT CHANGES TO THE MILITARY REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION ACT

CHANGES TO THE ACT will enable grants to be made to assist dependants of members, former members and deceased members who would otherwise miss out on compensation or benefits due to mental illness or injury.

The Act provides a range of compensation and other benefits for certain dependants of members, former members and deceased members. This includes but is not limited to medical treatment or compensation for medical treatment.

The Act defines the term 'dependant' to include an 'eligible young person'. This covers dependants under 16 years of age and dependants between 16 and 24 years of age who are receiving fulltime education at a school, college, university or other education institution and who are not working full time.

A small number of dependants aged 16 to 24 may be unable to receive fulltime education because they have a diagnosed mental health condition. This inability may be for a period of time, or on a continuing basis. This prevents them from meeting the definition of an eligible young person, meaning that there is no entitlement to compensation and benefits

that would otherwise be payable under the Act.

The changes will ensure dependants in these circumstances are not disadvantaged.

This enables the Commission to exercise its discretion in section 424 to grant assistance or benefits of the kind, and the amount or value, that it considers reasonable to a member, former member, or to a dependant of a member, former member or a deceased member.

The Commission may grant compensation payments and provide medical treatment for all conditions at Departmental expense, for dependants who would have been entitled to treatment and compensation as an 'eligible young person' but for their inability to study due to a diagnosed mental health condition.

In effect this means that 'eligible young persons' who have a Gold Card for the provision of health care and are between the age of 16 to 24 and are unable to undertake education or study due to a diagnosed mental health condition will not loss access to that Gold Card.

...OOPS SAYS THE EDITOR!

Being the editor of any publication is invariably fraught with danger... gremlins can easily slip into editorials unnoticed either by the author or the editor.

Alas the last edition had more than it's fair share. As editor, even though its often difficult to check each line and each word, the buck stops with me and I apologize for the last edition's faux pas. The ones I have been alerted to (I hope there were no others!) are:

- PAGE 5: National Office Roundup – last line of third paragraph should read "Anything less represents a pay cut, a cut ADF members should not accept."
- PAGE 12: The WRA notice had a number of typos eg "wras" instead of WRAs, etc.,
- PAGE 16: REPECHAGE instead of REPOCHARGE !
- PAGE 24-25: Photos of the CSS Shenandoah. See letter to the Editor in this edition.
- PAGE 32: The WA Branch Report. Unfortunately, the photograph of Pilot Officer Blake Poole receiving the DFWA Award for navigation was omitted. Special apologies to PO Poole and the WA Branch.



RECENT CHANGES TO SUPPORT PACKAGES FOR DEFENCE, VETERANS' AND THEIR FAMILIES

THE DVA HAS ADVISED that the Defence, Veterans' and Families' Acute Support Package commenced on 14 October, 2022 and replaces the existing Family Support Package.

The Bill will amend the Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986, Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 to extend eligibility to veterans and their family members covered by the three Acts, who are at risk or in crisis, whether the veterans is participating in a rehabilitation program or has rendered warlike service.

The Bill extends and consolidates the initial response to recommendation in the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report 'The Constant Battle: Suicide by Veterans' and to the Productivity Commission's report 'A Better Way to Support Veterans'.

The Bill provides more vulnerable veterans and their families with more flexible support through the Defence, Veterans' and Families Acute Support Package, extending to a wider eligible group the levels of financial support available through the current Family Support Package. The Bill will increase access to support when it is needed most. It will ensure support is provided on the basis of need rather than service type and will support vulnerable veterans and their families to adjust to challenging life circumstances.

The intention of the Defence, Veterans and Families Acute Support Package is to provide short-term, targeted support to manage challenging situation at the time the support is provided and into the future.

The Bill provides for the Repatriation Commission and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission to delegate decision making powers for the purposes of this package. The delegations will be limited to the DVA team directly administering the program and may comprise Australian Public Service (APS) employees and non-APS contracted staff.

Amendments proposed to the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) amends the Act to create a new part in the Act to provide support for working age veterans and their families, including working age widowed partners of deceased veterans and former partners covered by DRCA under certain circumstances. This mirrors support to veterans covered by MRCA.

Amendments proposed to the Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986 (VEA) amends the Act to create a new part to provide support for veterans covered by the VEA and their families, including working age widowed partners of deceased veterans and

former partners under certain circumstances. Support available will be consistent with support provided under the DRCA and MRCA.

ELIGIBILITY

Widowed partners:

- Under 65 years of age at the time eligibility is determined
- A War Widow under VEA 1986
- A wholly Dependent Partner under MRCA 2004
- A partner under DRCA 1988 whose veteran partner's death was related to service, including suicide
- The veteran's death was less than two years ago

Veteran families:

- The family is experiencing new and challenging life circumstances that necessitate the need to support the family unit
- The veteran is under 65 years of age at the time eligibility is determined
- The veteran is eligible for Incapacity Payments under the DRCA or MRCA, SRDP under the MRCA, or a Special or Intermediate rate of Disability Compensation Payment or Veteran Payment under the VEA

SERVICES AVAILABLE

A DVA Case manager will work with individuals to develop a support plan based on assessed needs. Services can include:

- Child care (in home based, centre based, family day care, outside school hours care)
- Counselling for adults and children (clinical, financial and other life skill)
- Household assistance (meal delivery and preparation, cleaning, household and garden maintenance)
- Build capacity (financial literacy, relationship skills, cooking lessons and mental health first aid)
- Wellbeing, academic and extra-curricular support for children (tutoring, music lessons and sporting activities)
- Transport for children to attend school and services provided through the program if required

FUNDING LIMITS

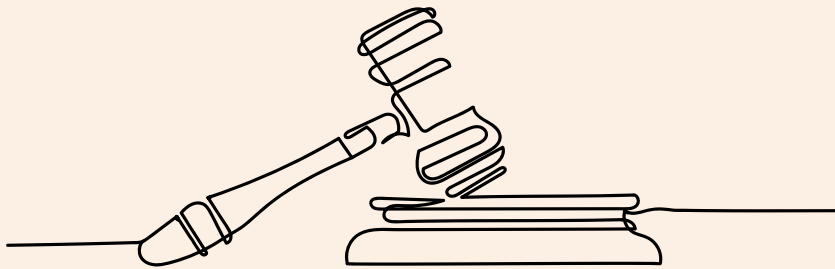
Funding limits vary for eligible veteran families and for eligible widowed partners.

Information can be obtained by calling **1 800 VETERAN** (1 800 838 372) or go to www.dva.gov.au/general-enquiries to send a message.

DUE PROCESS MUST BE FOLLOWED FOR JUSTICE!!

by
ROSS EASTGATE

EDITORS NOTE: 'This article was published by Ross Eastgate in his blog targetsturn.blogspost.com on 27 May 2023. More recent events may have dated the article.



THE CAREERS OF former Queensland police commissioner Terence Murray Lewis and entertainer Rolf Harris were ended by their own moral failures.

Lewis was without doubt a corrupt copper, from whom justice could be denied or bought if the price was right. He brought down a premier and a government which had some principled men prepared to bear the political pain to excise Lewis and his handpicked, equally corrupt cronies.

After a royal commission and trial, he was jailed and stripped of all honours, except the George Medal for gallantry awarded as a senior constable. Multi-talented Harris, jailed in the UK on multiple paedophilia convictions was shunned by the influential people he had cultivated from Queen Elizabeth to Perth schoolmate Bob Hawke.

Behind the affable Colonel Sanders goatee lurked pure evil. The late Queen stripped him of multiple awards in both the orders of Australia and British Empire.

Both men died recently, Lewis at 95, Harris 93.

Their individual, deliberate offences stripped them of friendship, respect and the prospect of long, honourable retirement.

If CDF-for-life Angus Campbell has his way, seven senior special forces members, some of whom served operationally under his command, will be stripped of their distinguished service awards.

None has been tried or convicted of any offence, save perhaps by the ABC.

Campbell won't have the courage to do it himself, he will hide behind process by recommending Defence Minister Marles advise Governor General Hurley, himself a former CDF to cancel the awards.

As events in another adjudication demonstrated, Canberra justice can struggle differentiating between due process and political expediency.

If Campbell has his way, if Marles fails to do as he should by insisting due process and natural justice should be observed, if the GG accepts the advice, seven men's careers and lives will be permanently destroyed, their reputations ruined.

Men on the cusp of their seventh decade will be official pariahs until death claims them, in whatever form it might come.

The sisterhood, of course, would never let such injustice be inflicted on their own and the Fort Zinderneuf political bed wetters, to borrow Noel Pearson's delightful description, would capitulate and run away.

If veteran reaction this week is any indication Campbell, himself a former SF officer, has a fight on his hands.

He and Marles cannot be blind to the wider ADF anger, for only justice is blind, though impartially so.

Even the mighty can fall.

DUTY AND CONSEQUENCES

GEORGE MANSFORD © MARCH 2023

What strange rules for combat wrapped in white flags we use
To placate political masters far distant from arenas of win or lose
Blind to cruel reality and reluctance to raise clenched fists of war
Constant “ifs, buts, ums” and gentle nudges to signal what for?

Suits seeking victory with timidity, naivety and swollen empty heads
Armed with appetites for self-praise and prepared tears to mourn the dead
Safe In an opulent Special Place far distant from fields of death and despair
Where war weary Space Age ANZACS standing tall, still go forward to dare

A soldier accused of war crimes in headlines, bold, black and white
A bloody arena with a thin invisible line between wrong and right
Photographs galore of enemy dead on the same page, readily seen
Frozen images falsely hinting what gentle citizens such foe had been

The accused, already a hero before this split second survival need
Had been presented proud ANZAC laurels for previous brave deeds
For grit In combat against ruthless foe who never, ever showed mercy
Thugs and murderers now converted to martyrs with sly pen for all to see

So much easier to bury heads in the sand in which injustice thrives
Yet where is presumption of innocence until proved otherwise?
Such irony in assumptions of guilt of a soldier pre-trial to determine sin
Echoing from ages past, I can hear “Sar-Major, march the guilty basxxxxds in”

George Manford further adds
“March the guilty b---s in” was once
said with much humour. It referred to
a weekly phase of administration in
barracks when soldiers charged with
a military offence were paraded with
armed escort before their Commanding
Officer to determine guilt or otherwise.
The beginning of such procedure was
always referred to by soldiers with
tongue in cheek as “march the guilty
bastards in”
As once uninvited Political Correctness
and WOKE slowly take their place in
our increasingly troubled society, the
saying with tongue in cheek no longer
has the humour intended.
Presumption of innocence, the very
base of our legal system has been tossed
aside, particularly in the fog of war,
where the media has already made its
judgement of alleged crimes yet to be
proven.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



REGARDING THE CSS SHENANDOAH

Sir,

I read with great interest the article in the latest edition of Camaraderie dealing with the visit to Australia by CSS SHENDANOAH. Not only is the story interesting in itself, it gives a valuable insight into the history of colonial Victoria (and Australia) during a time of vigorous growth and, at times, turbulent social change. Thank you for publishing it.

There are two photographs in the article that purport to be of SHENANDOAH. The one on page 24 shows her in dry dock at Williamstown, and the other, on page 25, though giving no indication of where it was taken, is attributed to the State Library of Victoria (and on close examination bears the caption “CSS SHENANDOAH” and a date that is difficult to read) and so might reasonably be taken to represent her at least in an Australian port.

Scrutiny of both pictures reveals that they are not of the same ship. SHENANDOAH was a three-masted full-rigged ship with auxiliary steam power. The photo on page 24 is of just such a ship, and is a fairly well known and much-published photograph of the ship taken while she was in Melbourne.

The photograph on page 25, however, despite the caption, shows significant differences from that on the previous page, the most

obvious one being that it shows a four-masted ship that also appears to be full-rigged. There is also a marked difference in the rigging of this ship from the one shown in the previous page. It (SHENANDOAH) has a fairly straightforward suite of sails (main, topsail and topgallants on the fore, main and mizzen masts). This ship appears to have a much more complicated, and of a probably later period, suite of sails. It seems to have on each mast, main, upper and lower topsails, upper and lower topgallants and possible upper and lower royals.

Though it is not impossible that SHENANDOAH could have had a major re-building in its later years, these two photographs cannot be of the same ship, or, if they are, they cannot have been taken at the time the ship was in Melbourne.

Puzzled.....
Kerry Mellor

Alistair Pope, author of the article, replies ...

Kerry,

You are quite right. I make no excuse as I accepted that as the photo was from a reliable source I failed to notice they are different ships. I have enclosed some of my research material as it shows the photo was from the State Library of Victoria.

Alistair



Stock Image

Warhorse Project: "Recovery through Discovery"

IN APRIL THIS YEAR DFWA-SA partnered with Open-Door Veterans and Families Wellbeing Research at Flinders University SA to conduct the first phase of a pilot project known as War Horse: Recovery through Discovery.

The aim of the project is to encourage Veterans who are wounded, injured or recovering, to participate in an archaeological dig, applying skills learned during their service as well as learning new skills. Through this experience they may re-establish a positive pathway in their lives.

Warhorse: Recovery through Discovery is the Australian-foundation version of successful Operation Nightingale in the UK to assist veterans to maximise their personal potential and to help develop a sustainable pathways transition program.

This pilot project was co-designed with input from veterans and family members and led by veterans from Flinders University Dr Daryl Wesley (archaeologist) Professor Ben Wadham (Director of Open Door and Vice President of DFWA-SA) and Professor Sharon Lawn (Chair of Lived Experience Australia).

Dr Wesley said "the team understands that veterans often face challenges in overcoming health issues due to their service, especially in transition from military to civilian life. These challenges can be social, physical, mental in nature, or be education challenges. The Warhorse: Recovery through Discovery project is based on overseas research and we believe will be helpful in building skills and confidence to assist in the recovery and transition process."

The project supported Heritage and Military History Restoration program in South Australia at the archaeologically important site of O'Halloran Hill. At the beginning of World War I, this property was purchased by the Australian Army to be used as a horse stud and army remount depot; preparing horses to be sent to the Middle East.

DFWA-SA supported this program by assisting in the sourcing of participants, who included veterans and family members and several members of the ADF's Soldier Recovery Centre in South Australia. The veteran group were joined by undergraduate and postgraduate students from Flinders University.



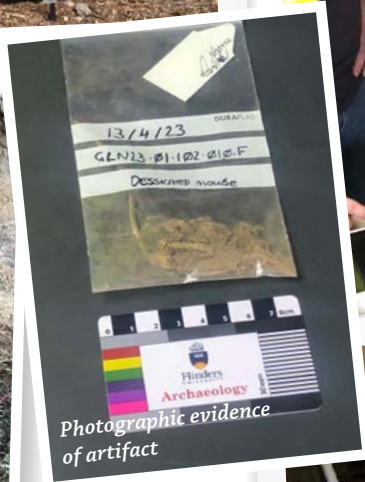
Participant pack for the 5-day program



Warhorse HQ. Considerable sharing of mateship and lived experiences.



The beginning of the excavation site



Photographic evidence of artifact



Preparing for photographing artifact



The artifacts investigation team

The 5-day Pilot for the project consisted of both classroom education and field work. The veterans and students learned a range of archaeological practises including cultural recognition, the use of a process driven approach, application of methodology, the use of advanced technology, excavation techniques, the collection of artefacts, cataloguing, photographing and logging of findings.

Adelaide veteran Leif Brown attended the Pilot Program and said "For starters it was fun! I got to meet people I would never have met before and learned new skills. I found that the group was welcoming and helpful and it was good to be able to swap stories with other veterans. We were able to talk with people about their own challenges adapting to civilian life and what worked and what did not."

For Leif, it also re-sparked an interest in history and archaeology that had been smouldering for a long time, and has now spent an increasing time assisting at the University. He has since been offered a part-time role with Flinders University working as research assistant on the Warhorse Project.

David Everitt (DFWA-SA), who attended as a senior mentor to all participants, reflected that "all participants enjoyed the integration, communication, and collective participation."

"This is a new and exciting program from both a military history and archaeological perspective. Veteran's and family members were able to share their lived experience with other students, while also learning new skills and pathways to education and employment" Mr Everitt said.

DFWA-SA sees this program as assisting veterans in their transition journey, building on the skills and training received whilst in the ADF to enjoy successful lives and careers post service.

The next stage of the project will be held late September 2023 where it is expected a larger cohort of veterans and family members will participate. Based on the success and learnings from the pilot course, additional courses for transitioning veterans and family members at O'Halloran Hill are being considered, as well as new archaeological excavations at World War 2 sites in the Northern Territory.



THE TRAGIC SINKING OF THE MV Montevideo Maru

by
PHIL AINSWORTH & LTCOL ALISTAIR POPE,
PSC, CM, (RETIRED)

EDITORS NOTE:

Although this article was written for Camaraderie magazine, an edited version was published by Quadrant-on-Line on Anzac Day at: <https://quadrant.org.au/opinion/anzac-2/2023/04/the-sinking-of-the-montevideo-maru/>

THE SINKING AND FINDING OF THE MV MONTEVIDEO MARU'

If you were to survey Australians with a simple question: 'What is Australia's greatest maritime disaster'. My guess is that most could not answer at all, a few might hazard that the loss of 645 sailors on HMAS Sydney on 19th November 1941 off Carnarvon, WA would qualify. The only other candidate some may mention is the sinking of the hospital ship, AHS Centaur, torpedoed off the Queensland coast on 14th May, 1943 with a loss of 268 medical staff and civilian crew members from the 332 people on board.

It is unlikely that anyone would nominate the sinking of the MV Montevideo Maru despite its far greater loss of 1,053 soldiers and civilians.

Some six months into Australia's participation in the Pacific War, the Japanese ship, the MV Montevideo Maru was transporting more than 1,000 PoW's and civilians from Rabaul to Hainan Island in China. She was alone when she

was spotted by the submarine USN Sturgeon which slammed two torpedoes into her. She sank in just 11-minutes on 1st July 1942, and took every passenger and 20 Japanese sailors into the depths 4,000m below. Now the wreck has been discovered 81 years after the sinking, just a fortnight before Anzac Day 2023.

How did a tragic event of such magnitude occur, and why has it taken so long for it to be recognised?

THE FALL OF RABAU AND THE MONTEVIDEO MARU TRAGEDY

Capitalising on Australia's flawed 'tripwire' defensive plan Japanese forces swept through the South Pacific like an unstoppable Tsunami, overrunning Malaysia, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies and the three Australian battalions deployed to Timor, Ambon and Rabaul.

At that time, Rabaul was the capital of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea administered by Australia. The Australian



government had been scrupulous in observing the demands of the League of Nations by refraining from making any defence preparations whatever. Finally, on 4th September 1939, on the outbreak of war in Europe, the Australian Army issued an authority to form the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) as an unpaid militia force of about 500 expatriate residents from the provincial towns, but principally from Rabaul and the 'mainland' goldfield towns of Lae, Salamaua, Wau and Bulolo. About 100 residents formed a Company of NGVR in Rabaul.

The first Japanese bombs fell on Rabaul on 4th January 1942 killing 12 local people. On 8th January the last evacuation took place when MV Malaita left Rabaul after embarking all Japanese internees from the territory and a few remaining European women and children who had arrived too late for previous departures.

On the 20th the obsolete Australian Wirraway aircraft were shot from the sky by Japanese Zeroes and a day later carrier-based dive-bombers destroyed the only two coastal defence guns. Fortunately, several strategically positioned 'Coastwatchers' provided early warning of their approach, thus saving the gunners. The stage was now ripe for the invasion.

The Japanese carrier planes and landing forces allocated to capture Rabaul were the same experienced forces that had attacked Pearl Harbour and taken Guam. The invasion forces, designated as the South-Seas Detachment (Nankai-Shitai) assembled and sailed from Guam bound for Rabaul on 16th January 1942.

The Australian garrison in Rabaul, Lark Force, numbered about 1,400 men centred on the 2/22nd Battalion, plus supporting units and a company of NGVR. 1 Independent Company of about 225 men with headquarters in Kavieng was a screening force spread throughout the Islands from Manus to New Caledonia.

When the invasion began on 23rd January, the Lark Force men held their positions, fought, and then withdrew to the jungle and mountains as the Japanese outflanked and pursued them. Lark Force had prepared no withdrawal plan, so many stragglers were caught and massacred, but about 400 managed to elude the Japanese and, after a harrowing march that tested their endurance, reached the south and north coasts of New Britain. Australians from the New Guinea mainland formed a small fleet of boats, reached the scene, searched for them and then took them to safety in an Australian mini-Dunkirk.

A disgusted Japanese Commander Mitsuo Fuchida of the Japanese attacking force said after the invasion: "If ever a sledgehammer has been used to crack an egg, this was the time."

Many captured Australian military and civilian internees were summarily murdered. On 3rd and 4th February 1942, 160 Australians were massacred at Tol and Waitavalo Plantations after surrendering. Other Australian civilians and soldiers surrendered in the mistaken belief that their families would be informed where they were. Over 1,100 spent five months in a prisoner camp in Rabaul working as forced labour on the wharves. On 22nd June the officers were separated from the soldiers and civilians, with the latter being embarked on the MV Montevideo Maru in Rabaul, bound for Hainan Island, off the coast of China.

THE LAST FATEFUL VOYAGE OF THE MONTEVIDEO MARU

Early in the morning of 1st July 1942, after rounding the northern tip of Luzon Island, Philippines, the unmarked MV Montevideo Maru was torpedoed by the American submarine USS Sturgeon. The ship sank swiftly, and all 1,053 Australian soldiers and civilians drowned, resulting in Australia's greatest ever maritime disaster. Although most of the Japanese seamen and marines reached Luzon Island, only a handful made it to Manila, the others having been killed enroute by Filipino guerrilla fighters.

Two weeks later, the remaining 80 officers and nurses boarded the Naruto Maru bound for Japan, where they arrived safely, remaining there until the War's end.

The first Australians who arrived in Rabaul after the cease fire early September 1945, discovered over 93,000 occupying Japanese but only 26 European prisoners, four of the original civilians, one Australian soldier, 16 British soldiers transported from Singapore, four US airman and one NZ airman.

The Japanese forces in Rabaul, under General Hitoshi Imamura, Commander in Chief of the Japanese Imperial South Eastern Army, formally surrendered to the Australian 1st Army under the command of Lieutenant General Sturdee on 6th September 1945. In 1946, Imamura was found guilty of committing war crimes in violation of the Geneva and Hague Convention.

THE LEGACY OF THE MV MONTEVIDEO MARU

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru tragedies have never received the public awareness and recognition they warrant. Over 17 percent of all Australians who died as prisoners and internees of the Japanese died on the MV Montevideo Maru. Without knowing the fate of the Rabaul families and servicemen their relatives were left to wonder what had become of their them as the last letters from Rabaul had been received in early January 1942. Months later, in a bizarre act the Japanese dropped on Port Moresby, hundreds of letters written just before the MV Montevideo Maru set sail on her last voyage. It was not until October 1945, over three years after the sinking that the families discovered their fate.

continue page 23



Focus On The

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY / DFWA (SA) OPEN DOOR INITIATIVE

by
BEN WARDHAM

THERE IS CURRENTLY SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY in veteran reform in Australia. A Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide is underway after much veteran community agitation over the last decade. Reform of the Acts that oversee veteran entitlements are being overhauled with significant contest over how that should look across the sector and government. The Australian War Memorial is undergoing a 5-billion-dollar overhaul raising questions about Australian colonial history and the representation of conflict and what it means to be a veteran.

Along with this activity there are significant challenges in changing the paradigm from veteran welfare to wellbeing which includes addressing veteran homelessness, improving veteran transition to education and employment while improving the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) claims and support processes.

The Australian Defence Force is around 60,000 strong. Around 6000 veterans come and go each year. There are about 600 000 veterans living in Australia. For the first time in Australian history the National Census has asked the question “did you serve? , did you deploy? Evidence is so important in making decisions about veteran wellbeing.

Our sector is full of pride and good will but there is a dearth of evaluation. There is also a historical and largely unproductive focus on the ‘broken soldier’.

Open Door is a research entity at Flinders University that takes veteran’s and their families lived experience very seriously. In the veteran sector we want to know if what we are doing is working for veterans and their families. To do this we partner with the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA), an influential national policy focused ex service organisation that has a seat at the ex-service organisations round table (ESoRT) and the ear of the minister for Veterans Affairs. DFWA has formal agreement with ADF to negotiate on Pay and Conditions of Service for serving personnel. It represents Veterans on the Public Safety Skills Council and is recognised its quality of submissions on several Productivity Reports, Health, Mental Health, and Wellbeing supporting veterans and families.

At DFWA-SA and Open Door we recognise the veteran as a sovereign asset. There is considerable national investment in the skills and training of service members that provide a (social) return on investment for the wider community and give ongoing meaning to military service. Our aim is to

recognise the skills, capacities, and experiences that veterans acquire over their service. We must also recognise the investment of the nation in building their capacity and invest in their post service success and wellbeing. The military covenant says succinctly: "For what they have done we will do".

To achieve a holistic and veteran centric perspective Open Door and DFWA appraise the mental, physical and social health of veterans and their families. We understand that a supported transition (from leaving to the death) will permit the veteran and their family to take their skills and experiences and go on to make significant contributions to society over the rest of their lives. This means improving Defence policy and service on transition, renovating Veterans Affairs legislation, policy and serving of veterans, and building bridges to industry and the wider community to create a mutual recognition of the value of veterans and the needs of industry. This promises wellbeing to the veteran and their family after service and a return of investment to the nation as explained.

DFWA and Open Door are engaged in some significant national research to contribute to this ideal including. Three examples include:

Mapping Service and Transition to Self-Harm and Suicidality

Open Door is funded by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide to "Map Service and Transition to Self-Harm and Suicidality". The research draws on 113 life history interviews with veterans (and/or families) to understand the veteran life journey through childhood, service, transition, and post service to poor outcomes. The research also demonstrates how veterans possess great resilience with many rebuilding successful lives after their service challenges.

Research into experiences of ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel in corrective services systems in Australia

This DVA funded study of veterans in corrections in Australia provides a baseline understanding of the challenges service members experience leading to engagement with criminal justice system and incarceration. Better transition services, and ongoing support for veterans in corrections are possible policy directions.

Veteran Suicide: Investigating the social and historical dimensions.

Veteran suicide rates are concerning and there has been little progress in reducing these rates in the last two decades. Suicidality can be the outcome of deployment trauma, but it is also heavily affected by the institutional factors such as institutional betrayal and military institutional abuse. This research investigates veteran suicide from 194 until the present looking at individual trauma, family disruption and support and national responses to repatriation and support.

Our work is nationally and internationally significant partnering with key organisations and universities across the five eye nations. We are involved in key decision making around Defence and Veteran's Affairs reform. Our work on veterans and higher education has opened university study as a transition pathway for veterans through the Military Academic Pathway Program (MAPP). These important initiatives are bolstered by the research and practice relationship between Open Door and DFWA which seeks to shift the paradigm from veteran welfare to wellbeing creating resilient and productive members contributing their unique and invaluable set of skills and experiences to the wider community on separation.

THE TRAGIC SINKING OF THE MV MONTEVIDEO MARU *continued page 21*

Two reasons for the official silence are possible, and neither reflects credit on those involved:

1. There is some minimal (but credible) evidence that USN Intelligence knew the details of the journey of the MV Montevideo Maru, but withheld it from the Captain of the Sturgeon as they did not want the Japanese to suspect that their naval codes had been broken, and
2. The shame that the greatest loss in Australian maritime history was caused by 'friendly fire'.

No formal investigation was ever made about this huge single loss. In 2010 both houses of the Australian Parliament belatedly expressed regret for the loss. On 1st July 2012, on the 70th Anniversary of the sinking, a national Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial was dedicated in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

60 years after the sinking, the sole surviving Japanese sailor described the "death cries" of trapped Australians going down with the ship while others sang Auld Lang Syne. It seems that the indomitable Australian spirit of yesteryear sustained some of them to the end in the face of certain death.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Internet websites: various, including:

1. Montevideo Maru Sinking WW2 DVD History Channel 2 hours Extended Edition | eBay \$31.50
2. SS Montevideo Maru shipwreck found 81 years after Australia's worst maritime disaster (msn.com)
3. 'Montevideo Maru' – Australia's biggest maritime tragedy - Keith Jackson & Friends: PNG ATTITUDE



The Armistice Centenary War Memorial (ACWM) THE ANZAC SPIRIT LIVES ON

WITH THE DEMOLITION of the Queensland Rifle Association (QRA) indoor shooting range at Spring Hill in the 1970s, a valuable part of the history of the QRA was threatened to be lost forever. Sadly, during the building demolition, the wall mounted Honour Boards bearing the names of over 560 Riflemen, who were QRA members and who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Great War, disappeared. These honour boards were a significant record of the many young men who came from cities, towns and country communities from all over Queensland to enlist.

In recent years a small group QRA members saw the need to perpetuate their memory, and thus the idea of the war memorial was conceived. In 2017, Mr John Johnstone OAM, a former President of the QRA, suggested that a new War Memorial should be constructed at the Belmont Shooting Complex, by November 2018 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice ending The Great War of 1914-1918.

With funding from a DVA Saluting Their Service grants and community donations, plus the tireless hard work of many volunteers (involving producing major grant submissions, project planning and management, site preparation, and ongoing maintenance of the Memorial) a patch of rough scrubland has been transformed into a Memorial honouring the more than 500 Riflemen of the QRA who lost their lives during World War I and to the many men and women of all shooting disciplines who have served in defence of the nation in all of Australia's wars and campaigns since the Boer War, including peace-keeping operations post 1946.

The Memorial was officially opened on 11th November 2018 and since then has been the focus of community involvement in ANZAC Day and other commemorations. Each year the Memorial's Commemorations Committee extends a warm welcome to all site users, people living in the suburbs surrounding the Belmont Shooting Complex, and to schools in the local area, to attend the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day commemorative services.

The Commemorations Committee has been working closely with local school communities to involve students in the commemorative observances and to encourage students to reflect on the sacrifices and honour the contributions of those who have served in the defence of Australia. This includes sponsoring educational competitions within the participating schools. A result of this is the wonderful poem *The ANZAC's Flame*, reproduced on the inside cover of this edition. The front cover of this edition shows the 2023 ANZAC Day march held at the Memorial.

THE QRA ROLL OF HONOUR

A significant part of the Memorial project has been to research and record those QRA members who have paid the supreme sacrifice. With the loss of the Honour Roll Boards and fading memories, the time was ripe for records to be investigated and digitised. Countless hours of work by volunteers has resulted in a web based record available to all, so their sacrifices will never to be forgotten.

Go to <https://qldrifle.com/qra-wwi-roll-of-honour/>

*The QRA Roll of Honour and the Armistice Centenary War Memorial putting into action the words
Lest We Forget*



THE PADRE'S *Corner*

Compassion Fatigue

I WONDER HOW MANY OF OUR READERS ARE FAMILIAR WITH COMPASSION FATIGUE?

Compassion fatigue is a term that describes a physical, emotional, and psychological impact of helping others. Compassion fatigue is often mistaken for burnout, which is a separate issue, and it really is a cumulative, sense of fatigue or satisfaction.

On our most recent health and well-being programs, we have shared insights and had discussions on compassion fatigue, and not surprisingly the majority of participants indicated that this was very insightful for them and was naming a condition in situation that they had been facing for some time, which they thought was just another manifestation of their post-traumatic stress.

Obviously, we all care for those in our veteran community that are in need, but there comes a point when our caring for others starts to have an impact upon our own health. There comes a time when the tank of compassion and empathy runs dry of emotional energy, this condition can be exacerbated by people that we are trying to help being disrespectful to us, or getting angry at us, or making unreasonable demands upon us.

It may be that we have feelings of powerlessness in the face of our friends suffering. We might be feeling overwhelmed and exhausted by the many demands placed upon us. We might start feeling detached and numb and lose interest in activities that were used to enjoy..... it's important to recognise that we are not inadequate, not a failure, not burnt out, but it might mean that we need to take a step back and refill our tank of compassion and empathy.

Dealing with Veterans in crisis can be really challenging, especially when they won't cooperate in their own healing. But in one sense, we need to realise that we can only be companions on the journey with others, and that every individual is responsible for their own lives. Ultimately we can guide and mentor them, but they must come a time when they need to take full responsibility for their own lives.

So what can we do to regain the vitality that we need not only for our lives, but we able to adequately help others.

Firstly, we need to ensure that we have a solid plan for self-care in place as part of our daily and weekly routines. We need to have time for exercise, or meditation and reflection for having some fun things in our life, like hobbies of playing golf for cards or being with some sort of social group. As with so many things, we must have a balance in our life. If we are regularly, giving out our energy to others, we need to be regularly refilling our tank of positive energy.

On a longer term basis, we need to be proactively, carving out time for deep rest, reflection, and relaxation. An annual retreat of at least one week needs to be on the schedule of anyone in the caring space.

But also, even in the short-term, we need to make space between appointments to give ourselves time to breeze reflect, and we certainly need to set daily boundaries that limit our caring activity between certain hours, and embargo after hours time, without being drawn into other peoples' relentless demands.

As a chaplain, I need to keep reminding myself that Jesus said that we should love our neighbour as ourself. Indeed it's hard to love our neighbour if we haven't loved ourself, it's hard to help anyone if we haven't got the emotional surplus to be able to share with them

Veterans do care, but we also need to care for each other and care for ourselves.

God bless you all,

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

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN JOIN ONLINE? SIMPLY GO TO dfwa.org.au/join AND FOLLOW THE PROMPTS.

ALTERNATIVELY, PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION BELOW AND FORWARD IT TO YOUR NEAREST DFWA BRANCH:

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Rank Family Name

Given Names Post Nominals

Address

..... State Postcode

Contact Telephone Year of Birth

Email

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

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

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

DFWA NSW BRANCH and ACT CHAPTER, Bldg 96, Victoria Barracks Paddington. Locked Bag 7005, Liverpool, NSW 1871
(T) 02 8335 5447 (E) nswbranch@dfwa.org.au BANK DEPOSIT TO: BSB 062-220 Acct 10266228

DFWA QUEENSLAND BRANCH, RUSI Bldg, Victoria Barracks Brisbane c/- Enoggera Mail Centre Qld 4051
(T) 07 2102 9879 (E) qldbranch@dfwa.org.au BANK DEPOSIT TO: BSB 124-185 Acct 10480398
(Queensland Branch also administers NT membership)

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

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

DFWA SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH, PO Box 573, Stirling SA 5152
(T) 0419 858 774 (E) sabranch@dfwa.org.au BANK DEPOSIT TO: BSB 833-205 Acct 20374231

In addition to individual membership, **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS** and **CORPORATE** Subscriptions are available by contacting DFWA NATIONAL at national@dfwa.org.au Phone 02 6152 9162



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

CENTRAL WEST
Anthony (Tony) Horsington
45 Dalton Street
PARKES NSW 2870
Mobile: 0412 299 331

SHOALHAVEN
Mr Christopher Clifford
6 Platypus Avenue,
SANCTUARY POINT NSW
2540
Ph: (02) 4443 7725

HUNTER VALLEY
David Winkelmann AFC
PO Box 467,
MAYFIELD NSW 2304
Ph: (02) 4968 3811

Mr Kevin C Buchanan
12 The Triangle,
CULBURRA BEACH NSW 2540
Ph: (02) 4447 2461

ACT CHAPTER
Les Bienkiewicz
actchapter@dfwa.org.au
(02) 6152 9166

*** Please note that for this edition there is no NATTER insert for Branch members. Instead, a more detailed report below follows ***

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends, as the FY draws to a close and we madly race around looking for receipts etc., spare a thought for your hard-working Raffle Committee (Ralph Derbidge, Alan Hind and Ralph Hannaford), who are working to administer and respond to raffle requests. As Raffle and Donor respondents, your generosity and kind words show there is ongoing benefit in conducting this annual activity...but how long that can be sustained is anyone's guess! The matter will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the National Executive in July.

Behind the scenes we have been busy preparing papers for the National Executive meeting in Canberra (or should that be Canbrrrrrrrra) and listening to the Government's proposed Harmonization of Compensation Scheme Initiative. Both the National President and I will meet with the lead Asst. Commissioner in Sydney at DVA's Offices for a one-on-one discussion and no doubt some of you have already been involved in various kindred-ESO/DVA Focus Groups. This program of national visits is of course your opportunity to lay out any concerns you may have on this vexed issue and one that is extremely complex, considering the number of Acts (MRCA, DRCA and VEA) that are trying to be "harmonised". The intention is to 'grandfather the VEA and earlier parts of the DRCA into a single Act, thereby hastening the DVA Claims process and removing Scheme anomalies. Time will tell if this honourable intent is reflected in reality.

Carry on as they say!

Michael Stuart-Watt, President NSW Branch

A SIGNIFICANT WIN FOR OUR ADVOCATES

Behind the scenes our DFVA (and other ESOs) volunteer advocates work hard to look after the interests of serving and retired members of the ADF and their families.

In July last year we received a request for financial help from a very distressed ex-service mum who was in deep trouble with rent, food and schooling for herself and her daughter. The NSW Branch Executive made a decision to grant a

Help DFVA Do Its Work For You
CONSIDER DONATING!
Online at : dfwa.org.au/donate



monthly stipend to see her through. We investigated the case and placed a claim for compensation with DVA. The claimant had been the victim of sexual assault for a number of years while serving in the RAAF. This month she received compensation of over \$270,000 from DVA. She can now complete her mature-age degree and fund her daughter through university. The assaults occurred over 20 years ago.

The lessons here? It is never too late lodge a claim, and the assistance of a volunteer advocate can be crucial..

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/ACT Branch since the previous Camaraderie issue:

MS J CHRISTISON, MR S HABLETHWAITE and LCDR S B S PRINGLE.

VALE

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

MRS D R ALLEN, MR D B ANSTEY, MRS M A GEEVES, COL R E HAGERTY AM, MRS N KELDIE, MR R S ROBINSON, WGC DR J A TREADWELL AFC OAM AND CMDR B H WILSON RAN.

MEMBER DONATIONS

In addition to your normal membership support, the following members are thanked for your generous donations since the previous Camaraderie issue:

SQNLDR K W BALDWIN, DEAKIN; LTCOL PJ BASHFORD, BANORA POINT; CMDR C F BOLTON, ARTARMON; WGC DR M J BURKE, KAMBAH; MRS B BURNETT, BARTON; MR R R BURNS, MANLY VALE; COL O M CARROLL, BLACK HEAD; CAPT N McM CARSON, HALLIDAYS POINT; LTCOL M J CASTLE, KIPPAX; MR G N CLARKE, MAYFIELD; CAPT D COLLINGRIDGE, BURRADOO; CDRE J S COMPTON, ROSE BAY; MR C F CONNOR, EMU PLAINS; SQNLDR B G COWDELL, TWEED HEADS SOUTH; MRS M J CREED, LYNEHAM; AVM P J CRISS, MALUA BAY; MR N D DENDLE, BOWENFELS; AIRCDRE P F DEVINE, LEMON TREE PASSAGE; FLTLT B W DOUGHTON, NELSON BAY; CAPT T R DUCHESNE, NORTH TURRAMURRA; BRIG P J A EVANS, RED HILL; MR M J FARA, CESSNOCK; COL L I FOLEY, WALLAROO; MR W L GARRAD, GLENBROOK; MR G R GILES, WESTON; CMDR PJ GREGORY, ST IVES; MRS M G HAY, LEONAY; MRS S HAY, LONG BEACH; MRS P A HENDY, MORUYA; LTCOL H P HOEBEE, WARAMANGA; LTCOL P C JARRATT, STUART TOWN; MR S J JELICH, INGLEBURN; WO M J JOHANSEN, HOBARTVILLE; MR J JOHNSTON, MERIMBULA; MR P F JONES, KAMBAH; PRINCIPAL CHAPLAIN J E JONES, CROMER; COL W E KAIN, ULVERSTONE; CHAP (AIRCDRE) C C KING, TURRAMURRA; MAJ J H KIRKHAM, KIRRAWEE; CMDR M R KOOST, JERRABOMBERRA; MR R J LAING, KAMBAH; MS D LAING, BELCONNEN; WGC DR D R MARKS, KINCUMBER; MR S MCKINNON, BATEHAVEN; MRS G McNEILL, FARRER; MR J K MORRISON, KOORINGAL; MR I A NOBLE, PEARCE; MAJ GEN P R PHILLIPS, ISAACS; RADM P PURCELL, GARRAN; SQNLDR C W REIF, MACGREGOR; LTCOL P M ROGERS, CARINGBAH; WGC DR W J SANDERS, KAMBAH; MRS J H SHERWOOD, MOLLYMOOK; WGC DR E R SMITH, BLI BLI; BRIG G R SMITH, BROULEE; MRS J THOMSON, BATEMANS BAY; LTCOL R D R TRACEY, PYMBLE; MRS C TUCKWELL, DEAKIN; AIRCDRE E J WHITEHEAD, MAWSON; MRS N L WHITELAW, DEAKIN; and GPCAPT P S WILKINS, MAWSON.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

President:	John Lowis
Vice-President:	Rod Murray
Vice-President	
Sunshine Coast:	Win Fowles
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, ENOGERA, QLD 4051
Telephone:	(07) 2102 9879
E-mail:	qldbranch@dfwa.org.au
Office Hours:	Tue – Wed: 1000 to 1400 hrs

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Qld Branch has been very active supporting a number of DFWA National activities. I would like to express my appreciation to VPs Rod Murray, Win Fowles and John Wilson for their input and support. I also thank Chris Lowis, IT/Project Officer and his modern contribution to our input into National activities and keeping our IT systems going. I also thank Secretary/Treasurer/Advocate Wally Buldo for the huge work contribution in keeping DFWAQ going and providing direct support to homeless veteran. There is constant work for our Welfare Officers, Harry and Pearl Mee, conductors of Poppy Services and welfare visitors extraordinaire.

The work by Sharyn Hughes our Admin Officer, keeping the office open and functioning, and the DFWA shop stocked and going; Deb, our Hotline compiler and newcomer Neville Madden who will be looking after membership. The efforts of all in the Envelope stuffing and mailing of Camaraderie and Hotline - keep the communications going. The support from Rod Murray and Michael Hughes "personing" the DFWAQ stall at ADF Transition Seminars in Brisbane and Ipswich respectively, helped raise DFWA profile with serving members, many who had never heard of DFWA.

MEETINGS

DFWAQ has had numerous specific face to face and MS Teams/Zoom meetings with Ministers, shadow ministers, senators, and MPs (state and federal), Senate Committee, DVA, ATO, Defence/ADF, Qld Office for Veterans, Pre-ESORT, RSLQ, other ESOs.

We participated in the DVA Qld Consultative Forum meetings and the May ESO Information Forum run by RSL Qld and Brisbane Legacy, again giving a presentation on



Qld President, John Lewis, alongside DFWA National Treasurer, Kate Bowden, who is making a point with Minister Keogh, accompanied by Tara Hatzismalis, DVA Assistant Commissioner for Processing and DHOAS and Deputy Commissioner for Qld.

working together.). Of particular note for Qld was the invitation to meet with the Minister for Veteran Affairs one Saturday morning in February along with other ESOs. The purpose was to address issues concerning the Veteran Legislation Reform Programme, resulting from the Royal Commission Interim Report on Veteran and Defence suicide. We arranged for the National Treasurer, Kate Bowden, who lives in Brisbane to attend as well.

Submissions. DFWAQ has made substantial submissions to federal parliamentary government inquiries, contributed to DFWA National submissions, collaborated with RSLQ and other ESO in production of submissions to government signed off at National Level by RSL, DFWA and other ESO. DFWAQ has also provided draft letters for National signature.

Main Areas of Involvement. Main matters relating to veteran and family interests included the following:

- Taxation of military superannuation Invalidity Benefits.
- Boys' Case Affects on DVA and RMA Practices.
- NLHCC and Reservists submission.
- Administrative Law Review.
- DVA Legislation Reform.
- DFRDB Commutation.

DFWA IN QLD - FUTURE

Previous plans for DFWAQ move membership and financial management to National and become Qld Chapter of National were ditched as result of decision on the National Constitution at the SGM Aug 2022. At DFWAQ Committee Meeting 4 Apr, the meeting noted that:

- the current and future direction of the DFWA nationally is unclear,
- there is no agreed vision for the future, no strategic plan,
- there is no effective National constitution to address the future challenges; and
- new options had to be considered.

The new options are being considered:

- **Option 1. Renewal** – Recruiting new committee members to meet incorporation association requirements. There are many barriers to recruiting new members. Without successful recruiting, this

is a temporary measure merely postponing closure. This is not a long-term solution.

- **Option 2 a.** Transfer most Admin functions to DFWA National Office and operate incorporated DFWAQ as a sub-element of DFWA National. National has no capability or willingness to administer sub-elements. DFWA SGM Aug 2022 rejected National administrative support for sub-elements (Branches) and decided only Branches administer Chapters. Reject – nothing achieved in three years.
- **Option 2 b.** NSW establish a Qld Chapter similar to the ACT Chapter arrangements. To be examined further.
- **Option 2 c.** Combine (partner) with NSW Branch or another Queensland ESO to share (and fund) administration and retain DFWAQ registration as a Queensland body. To be examined further
- **Option 3.** Dissolve DFWAQ and facilitate transfer of membership to the Branch of their choice. (WA approach.) This is the easiest and simplest option but is an indication of the decline of DFWA as an organisation.

TIMEFRAME

AGM 26 September 2023. The previous AGM vote on dissolution (Sep 2019) was based on the assumption that the National Constitution would be re-written to provide for state Chapters and centralised administration of membership and other common functions. A new resolution concerning the future of will need to be voted on at the DFWAQ AGM 2023.

By 12 September 2023 - Notice of AGM and Motions to be voted on

25 July 2023 - DFWAQ Committee Meeting. After July NATEX Meeting. Decision on options to be explored.

No Dissolution (un-incorporation) of the Branch can occur until Expenditure and Acquittal or return of unspent grant funds. DFWAQ Members to be consulted on preferences before Committee decision.

GENERAL FACTORS GUIDING CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS

Failure of DFWA National Constitution

Re-Write. The much-needed DFWAQ re-organisation approved by the DFWAQ AGM 2019 was put on hold until the re-write of the National constitution - commenced in Jun 2020 - due for completion Dec 2020. Key elements, which were incorporated in draft versions of the revised constitution circulated over 18 months to all NATEX members, were, without prior discussion, rejected at the SGM Aug 2022. For DFWAQ, three years of planning and hundreds of manhours contributing to the process were wasted.

The main cause of this was lack of formal agreement of the future National strategy before the Constitution re-write and poor management of the process.

The absence of a clear strategy for DFWA going into the future means there is no guidance from National for the DFWAQ to consider in looking at our future options.

Factors being considered are:

Financial. Current finances healthy and improving. See last FY Report at <https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities/b250e0a2-38af-e811-a962-000d3ad24a0d/profile>). In summary:

- Liquid Assets: Approx \$150k
- FY 21/22 Surplus: approx. \$33k.
- Fees and Donations: Est approx. \$10k pa.
- FY 22/23 Expected Grants: Approx \$30-43K, an increase of approx. \$7k.
- Comment:
 - **Grants.** Grants are for specific Qld based purposes and most require Qld incorporation and charitable status. Require expenditure and acquittal within timeframe. Cannot close until acquitted or returned.
 - **Dissolution.** Un-incorporation of DFVAQ requires disbursement of surplus assets to organisations with similar objects, including DFVA National if eligible. Disbursement would address:
 - **Qld Members Transferring to Other Branches.** Noting that membership is normally transferable between Branches without cost. DFVAQ would transfer funds to cover transferring members future costs as agreed.
 - **Qld Chapter of National or Another Branch or Another Qld ESO.** If Qld retained a Chapter/Branch like function, with administrative support by another organisation, funding would be provided to establish this, together with a mechanism to retain financial control over DFVAQ surplus assets, consistent with objects and grant conditions if applicable.
 - **Surplus Assets.** Surplus assets, if any, would be transferred to an organisation with similar objects. The Constitution indicates that DFVA National should be considered in the first instance, "if eligible." For the avoidance of doubt, DFVA National would be considered ineligible at present.

DFVA Shop. DFVAQ currently operates the DFVA Shop. Postage costs are borne by DFVAQ. It runs at a loss. There is potential for additional line items to sell and for the shop to operate as at a profit and be more aligned with DFVA purpose and campaigns.

- **Comment.** If DFVAQ ceased operating:
 - Shop would close with a closing down sale (not a good PR look); or
 - Shop assets and stock would be transferred without charge to National or any Branch undertaking any continuance of the DFVA Shop service.

DFVAQ Victoria Barracks Office. DFVAQ has "licence" renewed annually with current office in RUSI Hall which presentation hall and other office space and meeting rooms. Apart from Office space it provides storage space for the DFVA Shop, office equipment, computers, and Transition Seminar stall kit. In the past, RUSI hall has been used frequently for annual DFVA member and ESO Briefing presentations, but this has been curtailed by increased

security requirements.

- **Comment.** The future of VB is uncertain with mooted moves for VB to be sold off and resident organisations to be relocated to Enoggera. A move to Enoggera would be beneficial as it would allow greater access to and by serving members. Office provides storage area and meeting place free of charge. It would be difficult to reclaim if lost due to closure.

John Lewis
President

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	Charmaine McClouman
Committee Member	Lee Bowes
Committee Member	Jodie Clark
Committee Member	Ben Wadham
Contact: 0419 858 774 or Email: sa.admin@dfva.org	

The last quarter has, again, been busy for the South Australian team as we continue our engagement strategy so that we can better connect with ADF members, veterans and their families. These connections are essential in ensuring that we are recognised as a trusted brand that is able to advocate on behalf of veterans. Brand awareness and trust is an important element in the sometimes crowded space of ex-service/veteran organisations. Working with others and building connections has helped us raise the flag for DFVA here in South Australia.

We have already established a collaboration with two organisations, Open-Door and the Families Wellbeing Research program at Flinders University in SA. Both areas are undertaking research into the wellbeing of veterans This which is linked our own intent to change the narrative around veterans to one of positive messaging; that ADF members and veterans are a 'sovereign asset' whose skills and resilience are unique and valuable in any organisation.

Working to this common goal with these two programs resulted in DFVA-SA involvement in early April with a pilot project known as War Horse: Recovery through Discovery. The aim of the project is to encourage veterans who are wounded, injured or recovering, to participate in an archaeological dig with a military history focus. They are able to applying skills learned during their service as well as learning new skills. Through this experience they may re-establish a positive pathway in their lives.

VICTORIA BRANCH

A detailed description of the War Horse project, which was regarded as a very successful pilot, is included in a separate article in this magazine. The next stage of the project will be held late September 2023 where it is expected a larger cohort of veterans and family members will participate.

In early May were invited to the opening of the Adelaide Workers Homes' new 'Bill Johnson' Estate. Adelaide Workers Homes have been providing affordable rental accommodation for workers for over 125 years. The new estate, comprising 219 dwellings, is being built in 6 stages close to the CBD.



The new "Bill Johnson" Estate

Adelaide Workers Homes has been forging relationships with veteran organisations that they see as being aligned with their own values and aims. Their aim is to be able to offer a number of opportunities for affordable housing to veterans or families who may require some assistance in transition and adjustment to their post-service life. Mr Rick Harley, Chair of the Board at Adelaide Workers Homes has said several times that "Our ADF people are the hardest working people in the country. If we can provide support to any veteran who needs a bit of hand after they transition out of the Defence Force, then we would like to be able to provide it."

Our members were also invited to attend the launch of the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay in South Australia on 11 March. We congratulate Legacy on their Centenary of supporting the partners and children of those Australian servicemen and servicewomen who have given their lives or their health in the service of our country.

The launch was particularly meaningful as our President, Mick Burgess, works closely with Ms Michelle Coleman (see photo at left) in the Defence Science and Technology Group. Michelle and her mother were assisted by Legacy when she lost her veteran father at the age of four. Michelle was selected to carry the Legacy torch during the Adelaide leg of the Centenary Relay and attended the relay launch with Mick at RAAF Base Edinburgh.



Patron:	To Be Advised.
President:	Daryll Topp
Vice President Navy:	Shaun Rodenburg
Vice President Army:	Stephen Grainger
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
Facsimile:	(03) 9282 7089
Email:	vicbranch@dfwa.org.au
Office Hours:	Tue and Thur 0900 to 1500 hrs

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On 2 May 2023 the Secretary and I attended the Deputy Commissioner Victoria DVA ESO consultative forum. The following organisations delivered presentations at the forum:

- Melbourne Legacy
- Australian Student Veterans Association
- ACU Student Veteran Services
- Bravery Trust: Veteran Financial Capability and Financial Counselling Programs
- DVA Education Schemes.

On 10 May 2023 I attended the DCV DVA Budget presentation via GOVTEAMS. It would be interesting to see a comparison from the budget in 2022.

On 29 May 2023 my wife and I attended a Coronation Reception at Government House Victoria, hosted by the Governor of Victoria. This was the Governors last official Regal reception before her tenure expires on 30 June 2023. The Monash University vice-chancellor, Margaret Gardner has been selected to be Victoria's next Governor.

The Vice President Air Force, Mike Gahan, represented DFVA Victoria at the National RSL ESO forum held in Canberra on 30 May 2023.

The Branch held its AGM on 30 May 2023 and the following members were re-elected or elected:

President:	Daryll Topp
Vice President Navy:	Shaun Rodenburg
Vice President Army:	Steve Grainger
Vice President Air Force:	Mike Gahan
Secretary / Treasurer:	Greg Powell

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the committee for their support over the last 12 months. In particular, Greg Powell who has provided outstanding support and maintains the office. Greg continues to maintain the administration for the Branch and continues to meet the governance obligations required. I would also like to thank Mike Gahan for volunteering to represent the Branch at the National RSL ESO forums in Sydney and Canberra, also John Scully for representing the Branch at the Victorian ESO summit in July 2022.

On 6 June 2023 I had the opportunity to participate in a Stakeholder survey conducted by RSL Victoria, and from my observations I believe that RSL Victoria provides the following:

- Crisis support
- Providing housing
- Counselling or psychologists
- Trauma recovery programs
- Financial assistance
- Lifestyle education
- Scholarships and bursaries
- Programs for children of veterans
- Employment advice and seeking
- Transition seminars
- Facilitated groups (like coffee catchups)

- Helping people submit a claim to DVA
- Helping people find the services they need
- Running social events
- Helping veterans in jail

The Branch's finances a continue to remain sound despite the slow decline in membership. The Branch has sufficient funds to continue to operate for the next few years.

Daryll Topp
President DFWA VIC

PASSING PARADE

The following Branch members have become known to have passed away since my last report:

MAJ William Chalmers LTCOL Kevin Coote LCDR Ronald Cunningham, Mrs Irene Foulkes COL David Lawrence AM Mr Gunther Loob, Mr Richard Orr Mrs Brenda Parker

WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Patron	His Excellency, the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson
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:	wabbranch@dfwa.org.au
Location:	Karrakatta Community House Matapau Road Irwin Barracks KARRAKATTA WA 6010

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

LOST CONTACT

The Branch office has lost contact with Mr Kim Burkett who was last known living in Greenwood, WA. If you can help us trace him, please contact the Branch office.

AGM

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 6th September at 1100 at RAAFA Bull Creek. Lunch will be provided free of charge for all attendees, but you must inform the Branch office of your attendance by Monday 4th September.

CHANGE TO PATRONSHIP

The Governor has requested that the role of patron be also extended to Mrs Darrilyn Dawson who has a wealth of experience as an educational leader. Mrs Dawson has been working closely with the Governor since he took up office, so we welcome her as a joint patron.

SUBS ARE DUE ON 1ST JULY

Subscription invoices were emailed (or mailed) to members who pay annually in June, and are payable now. Because

administration of WA members will be taken over by Victoria Branch from the end of this year, subs must be paid before 30th October. The Committee has decided that members who have not paid by that date will be removed from the membership register.

CLOSURE OF BRANCH OFFICE

Due to the lack of volunteers to take over the running of our Branch, the Branch office will close on 31st December 2023 and the administration of our members will be transferred to Victoria Branch. Adequate financial resources will be transferred to allow the Victoria Branch to continue to provide services to our life membership, and to our annual paying members for the remainder of the financial year. Members will continue to receive the same level of service they enjoy now with the exception that 'The Western Front' will not be produced.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dr Mike Galvin AM RFD. Mike received an AM in the Kings Birthday Honours for significant service to military history, to governance in sport, and to emergency medicine.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT VISIT TO WA

During Del Gaudry's visit to Perth in May, she took time out to meet with several members of the WA Committee.



This photo was taken outside the WA Branch office and shows (L-R) Robert Potts, Mark Wainwright, Steve Lucks, Del Gaudry, Allan Austin, Lou Halvorson and Richard Usher.

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 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. 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 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



Shown larger than actual size of 7cm in length

PAY NOTHING NOW



Please Respond Promptly

YES! Please reserve the "Flanders Fields Poppy Brooch" for me as described in this advertisement. I understand I need pay nothing now.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____ First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

1. ONLINE at www.bradford.com.au/lwf quoting promotion code: 129456

2. MAIL no stamp required, to: **The Bradford Exchange, Reply Paid 86369 Parramatta NSW 2224**

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

Please allow between 2-10 business days for delivery. All sales subject to product availability and reservation acceptance. Credit criteria may apply. Our privacy policy is available online at www.bradford.com.au. You must be over 18 years old to apply. From time to time, we may allow carefully screened companies to contact you. If you would prefer not to receive such offers, please tick this box.

Shop Online with Ease
✔ Quote **129456** for fast ordering
✔ 120-day money-back guarantee
✔ Interest-free instalments
Call (02) 9841 3311
www.bradford.com.au/lwf



The credit card that has tails wagging.

Introducing Australia's Defence Bank Foundation VISA Credit card. It's a win for members, a win for veterans and a win for specially-trained dogs like Bruce, whose handsome face appears on the card.

3.99%
p.a.
6 month
introductory rate.*

8.99%
p.a.
Ongoing
rate.*

- Up to 55 days interest free on purchases.
- Same low rate for purchases and cash advances.
- Additional cardholder at no extra cost.

Australia's Defence Bank Foundation supports the Defence Community Dogs' Program. It provides specially-trained assistance dogs to veterans living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Thanks to you, we'll donate half of the annual card fee every year to do what we can to serve those who protect us.



**Defence
Bank**

defencebank.com.au
1800 033 139



Scan the QR code or visit our website to find out why this credit card is getting tongues and tails wagging.

*Rates are current as 1 October 2020 and subject to change. Introductory rate is applicable for the first six months and then reverts to the variable credit card rate, currently 8.99% p.a. Credit eligibility criteria, terms and conditions, fees and charges apply. Defence Bank recommends you read the Defence Bank Products and Services - Conditions of Use and Target Market Determination for any product you choose to take. Card is issued by Defence Bank Limited ABN 57 087 651 385 AFSL / Australian Credit Licence 234582.

