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CAMARADERIE

FIRST Edition 2024

VOL. 55 NO. 1

DVA MATES
PROGRAM

TAX TREATMENT
OF VETERANS

TOP HEAVY ADF

LEADERSHIP
AND COMMAND

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

www.dfwa.org.au

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6. DFWA Cloth Badge	xxxxx		\$10.00	
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Signature:

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



Vol. 55. No. 1 First Edition 2024

PROUDLY SERVING MEMBERS OF THE ADF AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1959

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

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

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

Readers are particularly encouraged to submit brief articles for consideration for publication in *Camaraderie*.

Articles by members about their own views or experiences often stimulate wide discussions and alert other readers to particular points not previously highlighted or appreciated.

Readers are also invited to send letters for publication as "Letters to the Editor".

Material for inclusion in the next edition should reach the Editor at the above address, ideally as a MSWord document attached to an email, no later than 6 June 2024.

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

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Advertising: All enquiries to the Editor.

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Changes to the way the Association manages its subscriptions and this magazine are currently being considered - please see the related article in this edition. I am always on the lookout for articles and would be pleased to hear from you with any suggestions - drop me a line at any time (see details to the left).

Les Bienkiewicz

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FRONT COVER

An Australian Army Zodiac watercraft operated by soldiers from the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, with an Australian Border Force Liaison Officer onboard, conducts a clearance patrol in the Kimberley Marine Park, as part of Operation Resolute. Operation Resolute is the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) contribution to the whole-of-government effort to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests through surveillance and response in the maritime approaches to Australia.

Photo courtesy of Defence Media

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1959



NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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

Members from Tasmania and Western Australia are normally managed by the 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 following who donated online: Andrew Beggs and Mark Lax

Donations can also be made direct to your Branch, who will record your donation with their thanks.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

It is hard to believe how fast this year is going, so it will be Christmas again before I blink.

Since our last edition in 2023 there continues to be so much going on globally and locally. The wars raging in Gaza and Ukraine, fires and floods in Australia. Our ADF is called upon in various ways whether it is assisting in training Ukraine soldiers,

or disaster relief, or recovery in Australia and abroad. The ADF is also working with the UN in various parts of the world performing a range of roles. As the ADF is more and more stretched, with people leaving and difficulty with recruitment, we at DFWA are genuinely concerned about the erosion of conditions of service for our veterans, who continually put their lives on the line, and the issues of stable family life in the military. Whether it is about remuneration, superannuation, health care, housing, schools, childcare, aged care, or taxation (the tips of the iceberg), DFWA is there to advocate for veterans and their families.

It is 60 years since HMAS Voyager was struck by HMAS Melbourne during a training exercise in Jervis Bay. Over 50 per cent of the sailors on board were teenagers on their first voyage when 82 lives were lost. It is very sad how the survivors were treated back then, being told after a week's leave to 'move on' and were not given any counselling or support for the emotional damage that the disaster caused. It is shameful that it took until 2007 for successive governments to finalise compensation and support issues for all Voyager veterans and families. Let us hope we never see another disaster like this and that any survivors (and their families) of accidents or incidents are looked after both emotionally and financially. Having witnessed a training accident early in my military career which resulted in the death of one of the trainers, I remember that after 24 hours the incident was never mentioned again.

On a positive note, huge congratulations to Major General Cheryl Pearce who has been appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General as the incoming Deputy Advisor for Peacekeeping Operations. MAJGEN Pearce has 35 years

of military experience, including Force Commander of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus from 2019 -2021.

Congratulations also to those volunteers who picked up Australia Day Awards. There are so many unsung heroes out there doing various tasks across the country, and I want to recognize you and thank you for all that you do in the Veteran and family space.

John Lewis our Queensland President has written several articles for Camaraderie in the past about the Douglas case and the unfairness of taxing ADF Cover Class A and B Invalidity Benefits differently to the same MSBS or DFRDB Invalidity Benefits when a military member is medically discharged.

Last year I spoke at the Defence Reserves Association National Conference and advised reservists whom may have completed previous full-time service, and was under MSBS superannuation fund to be mindful of changing super funds if they were to ever undertake any further full time service. If a military member wanted to roll all their superannuation into one account, this is prohibited under MSBS. ADF Cover does allow a member to roll all accounts into one account or select your own fund. There is a warning before changing funds that the member should always get financial advice. The big concern for DFWA is that a financial advisor may not be particularly well informed about service issues. Particularly, that if the member is injured or ill and must transition out of the military for medical reasons – if they have selected to go with ADF Cover, they will be taxed at a higher rate than if they were to leave under MSBS.

DFWA has been in the Veteran superannuation space for decades, and is trying to ensure that any current serving member is aware, well in advance of the tax implications, if they choose to change from MSBS to ADF Cover and are then medically discharged. With around one in five ADF members transitioning due to medical reasons, it is not enough to simply recommend ADF personnel to seek financial advice. It should be stated as an important financial requirement. I don't believe that many will follow through on this 'recommendation' as 'it will never happen to me'. We need to ensure Defence has fully disclosed this financial tax penalty, on ADF Cover when an ADF member makes the decision to go with ADF Super from MSBS. In our Letters to the Editor in this edition you will find a veteran who took the information provided by the DFWA and is in a better financial position as a result.

To follow on from this DFWA has assisted ATO with the wording and style of letters being sent to veterans regarding Invalidity Benefit taxation to ensure the letters being sent out to veterans is more easily understood and do not worsen any individual's mental health conditions. In the past, ATO letters have sometimes caused a lot of distress and this has been raised in a submission to the Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide. The good news is that the ATO is putting more of human touch to the letters being sent to veterans, with input from the QLD team. We hope that other Government departments can adopt the same approach, rather than computer generated, unemotional, hard-line communications focused on the bureaucratic process and neglecting the recipient.

Our Editor Mr Les Bienkiewicz, our Secretary Mr Chris Lewis and I met with executives from Bradford Exchange recently. We thank Bradford for their ongoing support to the Association. We are also pursuing some other sponsorship opportunities which will hopefully come to fruition.

Our Western Australian Branch has now officially wound up – but do not worry if you are a member, as the Victorian Branch is taking over all the administration. Thanks again to

Richard Usher OAM and his team for all their tireless work over the years. Thanks also to Daryl Topp, Victorian President, and his team for taking on the WA members.

Finally, we have a very busy year ahead, working at both a state and national level, and with other veteran organisations. Our 'not so new' Secretary of DVA, Alison Frame has been very responsive to our questions and concerns, and we hope to continue to get better results. Alison has a particularly good team around her, who have been very easy to deal with, for both very large and small issues. While we wait for the revised draft Legislation to replace the three current Acts from the Federal Government, we will ensure that we get as much input into the consultation phase from the states and territories, veterans and their families, women and men, old and young.

We have some great reading in this edition, hope you enjoy it. Have a great year.

Del Gaudry CSC
National President,
DFWA

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



WHAT'S THE POINT OF SUPPORTING THE DFWA? THIS LETTER TO THE EDITOR MAY PROVIDE JUST ONE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION...

Dear Editor,

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to DFWA for shedding light on the taxation of my Military Super Invalidity Benefits under "Douglas." I was googling to find out how to contact ComSuper and your page came up about Military Super Invalidity Benefits taxation. I'd never heard of DFWA or of "Douglas!"

Despite having a reasonable understanding of such matters, my conversation with DFWA revealed that there was much more to consider. Armed with the newfound knowledge, I approached my accountant, who, like me, was not initially aware of the intricacies involved. Thanks to the information from DFWA I was able to point him in the right directions and got a great outcome. Less tax means I'm now getting a few hundred extra dollars in my fortnightly income.

Having dedicated 27 years of my life to the Navy, it was not my choice to leave. Unfortunately, due to an injury, I find myself unable to work again. The additional pension (or less tax) I now receive because of "Douglas" makes that bitter pill a bit easier to swallow.

Once again, I express my gratitude to DFWA for their invaluable assistance.

Ben G.

NATIONAL SECRETARY Chris Lewis



WELCOME BACK, EVERYONE, after the Christmas and New Year period!

Unfortunately, not everyone was able to enjoy the summer. Our thoughts are with those who have been affected by natural disasters. If you have been affected, please do visit disasterassist.gov.au - the website provides valuable information about disaster recovery payments that may be available for individuals impacted by declared natural disasters.

At the end of last year, Kate Bowden resigned as the Treasurer of DFWA National. We extend our gratitude to Kate for her significant contributions to the Treasurer role throughout the previous year. Balancing the demands of full-time employment, family commitments, and volunteering can be challenging, and Kate's dedication is truly commendable. In the interim, Chris Lewis has assumed the role of Treasurer in addition to his responsibilities as Secretary. Thankfully, Kate has laid a strong foundation for us to build upon!

You may not be aware, that the National Office of DFWA operates solely with volunteers and does not have any paid staff. If you are interested in volunteering or participating in any capacity, please reach out to us. Your involvement is invaluable as we work together to support our community effectively.

We have observed a steady increase in calls to National Office regarding invalidity benefits and taxation. This year, we have experienced a significant rise in queries related to ADF Cover invalidity benefits.

DFWA has been a leader amongst ex-service organisations in advocating and addressing issues related to invalidity benefits and taxation. Despite the eye-glazing complexity of this area, it is essential to recognise its significance, especially considering that approximately one in five veterans leave the ADF due to medical separation. A substantial portion of these veterans will receive invalidity benefits through various schemes, including DFRDB, MSBS, or ADF Cover.

There is an anomaly in the way ADF Cover invalidity benefits are taxed – it is not taxed the same way as DRFDB or MSBS (post 2007) invalidity benefits – and this is fundamentally unfair.

Addressing this inconsistency will be a top priority for DFWA, and we would encourage everyone to review the article on ADF Cover in this edition for further insights.

Our overarching goal is to enhance support systems for current members, veterans, and their families.

This edition also includes an article about the Veterans' Medicines Advice and Therapeutics Education Services – or "Veterans' MATES" program. This program has—controversially—been sharing some health data of DVA white, orange, and gold card holders with the University of South Australia, without the informed consent of the veteran (or widow, or dependent minor-child of a deceased veteran). If you are reading this magazine your data has probably been shared without you knowing.

Ethics approval for the Veterans' MATES program has now been withdrawn, and the Minister has directed DVA to close the program down.

Many veterans have complex and deeply personal medical needs and histories, and this revelation may be shocking to some. Other veterans may not be too concerned about their health information being shared. Either way, we should all be concerned with how DVA manages our personal information; how DVA respects veterans its clients.

We do not yet have all the information. It is likely that the program will come under significant scrutiny over the coming months and perhaps years. We will keep you informed.

Our overarching goal is to enhance support systems for current members, veterans, and their families. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping our advocacy efforts and ensuring that we effectively represent the interests of our community. Whether you've had a positive or negative experience accessing services, please share your feedback with us at feedback@dfwa.org.au. Your input enables us to advocate more effectively and address pertinent issues within our community.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in our shared mission at DFWA.

Chris Lewis



THE INEQUITY OF TAX TREATMENT FOR ADF VETERANS: A CALL FOR CHANGE

IN A NATION THAT PRIDES ITSELF ON FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY, the stark reality of inequitable tax treatment for Australian Defence Force (ADF) veterans and their families is nothing short of a national disgrace. The disparity in tax treatment of Invalidity Benefits between members of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS) and those serving beside them under the ADF Cover scheme highlights a glaring injustice that demands immediate attention.

For ADF members facing medical discharge and likely never to work again, access to Invalidity Benefits is crucial for their financial security and that of their families. However, the current tax regime these veterans, places an unfair burden on ADF Cover veterans and their families, penalizing them for circumstances beyond their control.

Consider this: two ADF members of the same age, with the same length of service, same pay, and same medical condition, would receive approximately the same Invalidity Benefit regardless of whether they are covered by MSBS or ADF Cover. However, the tax treatment differs significantly. While the tax on a \$2000 fortnightly Invalidity Benefit under MSBS is a mere \$10, the same benefit under ADF Cover incurs a staggering tax of about \$250 - a difference of approximately \$6300 more tax per year.

This discrepancy not only exacerbates the financial strain on medically discharged veterans but also perpetuates a cycle of inequality that disproportionately affects their families. In the tragic event of a veteran's death, the same unjust tax treatment extends to reversionary pensions and allowances for their children and surviving parent, further compounding their hardship.

Furthermore, the legislative intent behind Invalidity Benefits - to provide financial support to veterans incapacitated by physical or mental conditions - is undermined by the uncertainty surrounding periodic reviews by the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) up to retirement age. This uncertainty adds an additional layer of stress and instability to the lives of already vulnerable veterans and their families.

The intent of successive governments to ensure equitable treatment for medically discharged veterans, regardless of the superannuation scheme they were covered by, has been overshadowed by the complexity of military superannuation and tax legislation. The result is a system that fails to uphold the principles of fairness and justice upon which our society is built.

The inequitable taxation of Invalidity Benefits not only perpetuates financial hardship for younger ADF veterans and their families but also acts as a deterrent for recruiting new members, undermining efforts to increase the size of the ADF and address critical undermanning issues.

As a nation, we cannot turn a blind eye to the injustices faced by those who have sacrificed their health and wellbeing in service to our country. It is time for meaningful reform to ensure that all ADF veterans are treated equitably and with the dignity and respect they deserve. The time for change is now.

The only way a change can be affected is by Parliament passing the necessary legislation. DFWA is running a campaign to gain all party support. We need your support to achieve this.

For more information go to www.dfwa.org.au/adfcovertax



THE FUTURE OF THE DFWA RAFFLE, CAMARADERIE, AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR SAY!

AS WITH MANY VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS, the DFWA is grappling with the difficulties in increasing its membership, reducing operating costs and dragging itself into the 21st Century. The impact of social media, an ageing population, and a more savvy youth demands that we look at better ways of operating.

At the last meeting of the DFWA Executive, it was suggested that the Association may be better served by offering free membership; making Camaraderie available to all online; and providing a subscription arrangement to those that wish to receive a hard copy of Camaraderie.

These matters are currently under consideration and some changes can be expected as the year progresses and decisions made.

In the meantime, the DFWA Executive has agreed to discontinue the annual raffle – basically it was becoming expensive in the time and effort required to operate it, for relatively limited return. It will be replaced by an annual “donation drive”... remembering that donations to the Association are tax deductible.

WANT TO HAVE YOUR SAY? drop us a line at feedback@dfwa.org.au and your views will be communicated to the DFWA Executive.

WITH THE ABOVE IN MIND, HEREIN THE RESULTS OF THE LAST DFWA RAFFLE

The DFWA raffle draw was conducted Tuesday 18th July 2023 at Victoria Barracks Sydney with Les Bienkiewicz drawing the tickets under the supervision of Ralph Derbidge (Raffle Co-ordinator) and witnessed by Ralph Hannaford (Treasurer). Results as follows,



G CLARKE, NSW
TICKET NO 38435



E GIMM, QLD
TICKET NO 22176



S SZAJNER, VIC
TICKET NO 5506

CONSOLATION PRIZES: 1. PAT RICHARDS, NSW TICKET NO 29121 2. K KINGHORNE, SA TICKET NO 890
3. A TUCKER, SA TICKET NO 1490 4. R LUXFORD, NSW TICKET NO 3183



THE TOP HEAVY ADF

Source: ABC News 1 December 2023

NEW RESEARCH REVEALS the ranks of senior officers in the Australian military has almost doubled over the past twenty years, despite a steady decline in overall numbers of enlisted defence personnel.

Analysis prepared by the Parliamentary Library confirms the number of “star-ranked” officers in the Australian Defence Force now totals 219, up from 119 in 2003.

The figures, commissioned by the Greens Party, confirm that for every senior Australian Defence Force (ADF) officer, there is just 260 other lower ranked officers or regular personnel serving below them.

Star-ranked officers, or ‘flag officers’ are those who serve at the Commodore, Brigadier or Air Commodore level and higher in the Navy, Army, and Air Force respectively.

In the United States there are 863 star-ranked officers, with the ratio of one senior officer for every 1526 personnel, while in the United Kingdom the proportion is one star-ranked officer for every 1252 other enlisted members.

Greens Senator and Defence spokesperson David Shoebridge says the “top-heavy” nature of the ADF is laughable given the declining numbers of overall military personnel.

“When you have so much gold braid and so few troops it feels like a satire, not a military,” Senator Shoebridge tells the ABC.

“Every time there’s a national security announcement, we get a new general or we get a new admiral, or we get a new Air Marshal, but often it’s not connected to a new boat, a new plane, or a new tank.”

“If stars kept Australia safe, we would have one of the most secure, most advanced militaries in the world — but I don’t think that’s the case.”

According to the research, there are now 68 senior officers in the Royal Australian Navy, consisting of 50 Commodores,

15 Rear Admirals, and 3 Vice-Admirals which include the Chief of Navy, the Vice-Chief of Defence, and head of the Australian Submarine Agency.

The Australian Army, which boasts more than 27,000 personnel, has a total of 58 Brigadiers, 22 Major-Generals, 5 Lieutenant-Generals (including the ADF’s Chief of Joint Operations) and one General, Angus Campbell, who serves as Chief of Defence.

In the Royal Australian Air Force, there are currently 50 Air Commodores, 14 Air Vice-Marsals, and two Air Marshals — one who serves as RAAF chief, while the other was recently stood aside as the government’s National Cyber Security Coordinator.

The data compiled by the Parliamentary Library also records total enlisted numbers for the ADF falling backwards from 62,429 in 1983 to just 57,218 full time members in 2023.

“Senior Defence leadership have failed to meet a single recruiting target for the last decade while they have quietly doubled their own senior ranks — this is literally rewarding failure,” Senator Shoebridge argues.

“The ADF has a whole lot of people with gold braid bossing around a shrinking group of enlisted members in khaki, blues and whites.”

This year Australia’s Chief of Defence will collect a salary of over \$1 million, far higher than the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the United States who earns \$329,304 and the UK Chief of the Defence Staff who is paid \$534,509

Key points:

- New figures show for every one of the 219 senior ADF officers, there is just 260 personnel serving below them
- The proportion in the US and UK is significantly larger
- Greens Senator David Shoebridge slammed what he called the “top-heavy” nature of the ADF

- Understanding A Military Veteran -

To understand a Military Veteran you must understand that:

- We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.
- We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.
- We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.
- We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.
- We found new friends and new family.
- We became brothers and sisters regardless of colour, race or creed.
- We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.
- We didn't get enough sleep.
- We picked up both good and bad habits.
- We worked hard and played harder.
- We didn't earn a great wage.
- We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.
- We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.
- We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.
- We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.
- Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.
- Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.
- Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.
- We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.
- We participated in time honoured ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.
- We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.
- We have dealt with victory and tragedy.
- We have celebrated and mourned.
- We lost a few along the way.
- When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.
- We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.
- We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.
- We speak highly of our own Service and Corps, and poke fun at the other Services.
- We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.
- Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.
- It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.



INVICTUS: STOIC MORAL PHILOSOPHY AND THE PROFESSION OF ARMS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

by
MICHAEL EVAN

Editor's Note: The following presentation was made to the DFWA Conference on 22 October 2009. Passage of time has not diminished its message.

IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM the ADF spends a great deal of its time training and arming its military professionals for the instrumental rigours of operational service. We equip our military with the latest body armour, protected mobility, counter-IED electronics and provide service personnel with sophisticated medical and casualty services. In contrast, we spend much less time on providing our soldiers with existential or inner armaments – with the mental armour and philosophical protection that is necessary to confront an asymmetric enemy who abides by different a different set of cultural rules. We also talk a great deal about winning ‘hearts and minds’ but we do not provide our military professionals with sufficient moral philosophy to protect their own hearts and minds against the rigours of contemporary warfare waged among populations.

It is true that Western militaries such as the ADF all possess codes governing the ethical conduct of their members. These codes tend to cover a variety of social ethics, the law of armed conflict, just-war theory and humanitarian values but they tend to be rooted in law and psychology and social science rather than in moral philosophy which is grounded in the great humanities. Moreover, while modern ethical codes emphasise correct rules of behaviour, moral philosophy emphasises the development of personal character, the reconciliation of the individual with the social environment in which he operates. Codes of ethics need therefore to be complemented by a strong focus on moral philosophy which will, to quote Tom Frame, permit the ADF to be ‘a self conscious moral community committed to maintaining traditions that are essential to the integrity of its people and the discharge of its core responsibilities’.

This morning, my presentation outlines the case for moral philosophy in the armed forces. I examine three areas. First, I look at the challenge to the military ethos from a Western society increasingly based on a post-modernist relativism, the self-esteem movement and the cult of celebrity. Second, I examine the case for a moral philosophy in the professional military that is based on adapting what Bertrand Russell once called the virtues of ‘Stoic self-command’. Finally, I illustrate how philosophical values based on Stoicism might serve as a guide to today’s military professionals in general and to our own ADF in particular.

Challenge to the Military Ethos from Post-Modernism and Moral Relativism

The greatest challenge to the Western profession of arms comes not from our external enemies, formidable though some of them are, but from within our own society. The rise of post-modernism and anti-rationalism since the 1960s combined with the celebrity culture of the mass media and the social revolutions in youth pacifism, feminism and psychotherapy have created a self-esteem society based on moral relativism. One of the casualties of the rise of such a society has been what the American cultural analyst, Susan Jacoby, calls the disappearance of Western middlebrow culture – the culture which was traditionally largely responsible for supplying the armed forces with many of its best recruits. Middlebrow culture was a culture of aspiration located halfway between lowbrow or common culture and highbrow intellectual culture of the *literati* and the professions. Middlebrow culture lasted from about the 1880s until the 1970s and embraced the best of the working-class and of the lower middle-class. It was a culture of effort and self-improvement that valued schools, the church and community

and it aspired to higher education and appreciation of the arts. Middlebrows included liberal Protestants, Jewish families and Roman Catholics all of whom were proud of their family values, community roots and religious faith. In Australia, middlebrow culture was often found in the Australian Labor Party. Its rise and fall is well captured by Kim Beazley Snr's famous and poignant remark that when he joined the ALP in the 1930s it was composed of the cream of the working class; when he left it in the 1970s it was made up of the dregs of the middle class.

What gradually destroyed literate middlebrow culture as a bulwark of community knowledge and moral standards were the social revolutions of the 1960s and 1970s, the mass media technology revolution of the 1980s and 1990s and the insidious rise of post-modernism and moral relativism inside the universities. Middlebrow public values based on family, church and school have been eroded a tsunami of secularism and moral relativism that has left us with corporate media empires run by billionaires without civic virtue and an underclass of single-parent families, of mothers alone, of fatherless dysfunctional sons, and with dangerous varieties of street culture in which masculinity is equated with social alienation, drug abuse and gang membership.

In the midst of all of this, is the belief that popular culture transmitted by the Internet can replace middlebrow books as a serious medium for education. In educational circles today one can find any number of defenders of the virtues of electronic learning from behind screens. But such people remind me of the guys I knew at university who said they bought *Playboy* only for its articles.

Two aspects of the collapse of middlebrow culture that have disturbed me most in my work at the Australian Defence College are the disappearance of essential cultural knowledge and the apparent end of the West's distinctive honour culture – both of which have occurred at the hands of post-modernism and relativism. Let me give two examples. Earlier this year, in a syndicate discussion that included a discussion of moral philosophy, a Staff College Directing Staff member began to discuss the Old Testament Book of Job and its teachings on the unfair moral economy of the universe. He was met by secular bewilderment and it rapidly became evident that no Australian officer in the room had ever heard of Job. Indeed, the only officer who could discuss the sufferings of Job proved to be a foreign Pakistani Army course member who, because he had attended a British-modelled private school in Lahore, had been exposed to a course in Western Civilisation and so had studied the universal parable of Job. It is a sobering thought that at a time when we are preaching the need to understand foreign cultures, many in our society barely understand our own.

Related to ignorance about the parable of Job has been my concern that in Iraq and Afghanistan we are confronting pre-modern Islamic honour cultures with post-modern approach to warfare. I am not alone in this concern. The Islamic scholar, Akbar S. Ahmed argues that the biggest weakness the West has in fighting against Islamic fundamentalism is that it is a 'post-

honour society'. He goes on to argue that the West's honour culture has been destroyed by a combination of industrialised warfare, by psychotherapy and by the rise of feminism. It is certainly true that since the 1960s an anti-honour culture has been prevalent in the West. As the American writer, Tom Wolfe has written, the cult of anti-honour became prevalent during the anti-Vietnam War movement when draft dodgers were upheld by the New Left as heroes so transforming 'the shame of the fearful into the guilt of the courageous'.

From the 1960s onwards, the Chevalier de Bayard, that 15th century exemplar of the knight sans peur et sans reproche was replaced by sensitive New Age men who wore Che Guevara T shirts and who read Germaine Greer. Rudyard Kipling's immortal poem about manhood, *If*, became the title for an anarchic film in which an English public school's cadet company shoots its own teachers. Feelings, narcissism, therapy, dysfunction and victimology have largely replaced honour. Even the criminal honour code of gangsters has not immune. As the television gangster Tony Soprano, puts it in one of his many visits to his shrink, 'whatever happened to Gary Cooper? The strong, silent type. That was an American'. Today what passes for military honour is safely confined to the world of Hollywood fantasy in the movies of male and female superheroes such as Rambo, The Rock, Angelina Jolie as Lara Croft and Uma Thurman in *Kill Bill*.

Today, what Aristotle called *honourable fame* has given way to celebrity – that is fame without genuine distinction, fame that is linked to self-esteem without virtue, courage, prowess or merit. A powerful example of this anti-honour culture occurred in Britain in September 2005 when a new heroic statue was unveiled in Trafalgar Square next to Admiral Lord Nelson and Generals Napier and Havelock. The marble statue was a representation of Miss Alison Lapper, an artist born with a rare disease that has left her with no arms and only rudimentary legs. Ms Lapper is portrayed in the nude as a tribute to disability and victimhood.

Opening the plinth, the Lord Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone said: 'this square celebrates the courage of men in battle. Alison's life is a struggle to overcome much greater difficulties than many of the men we celebrate and commemorate here'. In her response, Ms Lapper stated 'at least I didn't get here by slaying people'. The unveiling of the Lapper statue compressed into a single moment the three forces that have most undermined Western honour: radical feminism, reflexive pacifism and the rise of psychotherapy. Ms Lapper's disabilities were regarded as morally superior to those of Lord Nelson because they were conferred by nature and did not involve killing in defence of the nation.

With the Lapper Statue we have sympathy for the disabled replacing the honouring of noble sacrifice above self. It is a metaphor for how deference to virtue has all but disappeared in an age of celebrity – bravery in men, chastity in women; loyalty and courtesy are now mainly associated with prudishness and self-righteousness. The French Nobel Laureate, Albert Camus, anticipated this when he predicted

that the modern era would be remembered by its capacity for fornication and sensational news.

We are, of course, light years away from the virtues of selfless service in the Western code of honour – virtues so memorably captured in Sir Henry Newbolt's 1892 poem, *Vitae Lampada*:

The sand of the desert is sodden red –

Red with the wreck of the square that broke

The gatling's jammed and the colonel dead

And the regiment blind with dust and smoke

The river of death has brimmed its banks

And England's far and Honour a name,

But the voice of a schoolboy rallies the ranks –

'Play up! Play up! And Play the game!'

Moral Philosophy for Military Professionals: The Case for Reviving Stoicism

How does one, then, counter what the US scholar, James Bowman, memorably calls 'the gravitational pull of the celebrity-culture death star'. Given the spirit of our age, we clearly need to arm the inner selves of our men and women in the armed forces. In order to accomplish this effectively, I believe we must re-embrace and rediscover the moral philosophy of the ancient Greek and Roman Stoics as taught by such great thinkers as Epictetus, Seneca, Cicero and Marcus Aurelius. Yet Stoicism runs against nearly all current philosophical trends that emphasise materialism, celebrity, self-esteem and victimology and is profoundly unpopular. As Tad Brennan comments in his 2007 book, *The Stoic Life* that a Stoic philosophy is jumbled-up 'mixture of tough-guy bravado, hypocrisy and heartlessness, neither personally compelling nor philosophically interesting'.

Central to the Stoic school of moral philosophy is the notion that 'character is fate'. Stoicism, in some form, underpins much of Christian theology not least in the famous Serenity Prayer: *God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference*'. Prominent advocates of Stoicism have included the great Prussian general, Frederick the Great, the Holocaust philosopher, Viktor Frankl, the great Russian dissident, Alexander Solzhenitsyn and the South African statesman, Nelson Mandela.

It is often argued that the military is naturally Stoic but the spread of moral relativism, the epidemic of PTSD and associated psychological trauma since 2001 suggest that this is a highly misleading belief. There is no such thing as a 'bulletproof mind' and as the New York Times noted in January 2005, 'emotional, mental and psychological problems will be the Agent Orange of this [Iraq] war'. (NYT, 30 Jan 2005) Many military notions of Stoicism are often based on platitudes and common stereotypes about 'stiff upper lips'

and 'can do' attitudes. Popular Stoic stereotypes range from the emotionless Mr Spock from Star Trek to Russell Crowe's Roman character, Maximus, from the 1999 movie *Gladiator* with his Stoic doctrine of 'strength and honour' and deadly skill in the arena.

In reality, however, there is much more to Stoic philosophy than popular culture suggests. It is a powerful method of reasoning involving the rigorous cultivation of self-command, self-reliance and autonomy in which one seeks to develop inner character based on the four cardinal virtues: **courage, justice, temperance and wisdom**. Properly studied and applied, Stoic philosophy offers profound insight into military life and offers in the words of former US Navy SEAL, Richard Marcinko, 'a *spiritual and moral gyroscope*' for members of the profession of arms. As Marcinko puts it in his 1997 memoir, *Rogue Warrior*, 'It is my unshakeable belief that when... two intrinsic values – the total acceptance of death as a natural condition of life, and the total acceptance of an absolute moral code – are combined, the Warrior becomes invincible'.

In recent years, the most prominent and systematic advocate of military Stoicism was the late and distinguished US naval officer and Medal of Honor recipient, Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale, whose 1995 book, *Thoughts of a Philosophical Fighter Pilot* continues to be widely read. More than any other senior officer, Stockdale – whose embrace of Stoicism helped him to survive seven and half years of torture and solitary confinement as a prisoner of the North Vietnamese in the dreaded 'Hanoi Hilton' – disseminated the value of Stoic philosophy within US and Western military establishments. In particular, Stockdale argues that Epictetus's Stoic teachings in a volume entitled *The Enchiridion* represent 'a manual for combat officers'. Stockdale notes that in the pages of the *Enchiridion*, 'I had found the proper philosophy for the military arts as I practiced them. The Roman Stoics coined the formula *Vivere militare* – 'Life is being a soldier'.

What are the central tenets of Stoicism and how do they fit into the cosmology of the 21st century military? As a philosophy it teaches that there is no moral economy in the world that confers fairness. Martyrs and honest men may die poor; swindlers and dishonest men may die rich. In this respect, the fate of both Job, God's good servant and of Shakespeare's King Lear the exemplary father, are reminders of what we must endure from a life that fits the Stoic creed. The spirit of Stoicism as an unrelenting struggle for character in a world devoid of fairness is hauntingly captured by the poet Aeschylus when he writes: 'In our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop on the heart until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God'

In the Stoic catechism one can ever be a 'victim' because there is no moral economy outside of the workings of our inner selves. Stoicism is thus about empowerment by perception – a cultivation of an invincibility of the will through minimising vulnerability by a mixture of Socratic self-examination and an emphasis on control of the emotions. Stoicism teaches

concentration on what individuals can control, what Marcus Aurelius called the 'inner citadel' of the soul. Stoicism's four great teachings are:

- The quest for virtue is the sole human good
- External goods do not amount to human happiness
- A good life strives to control emotions to enhance reason
- Virtue is knowing what is in one's control and what is not

1. The Quest for Virtue: To the Stoic character is fate and character is formed from within not from without and is thus concerned with personal choice. Therefore, Stoicism is a formula for maintaining self-respect and dignity through the pursuit of virtue and the avoidance of vice in times of both adversity and prosperity. Since both poverty and wealth are external to our inner selves, it is our task to treat both of them as transients and impostors, to behold them only in terms of how they might be used to shape the essential goodness of our character.

As Epictetus puts it true wealth comes within and stems from righteousness, honour and decency viewed as absolute virtue. Virtue is wholly a matter of indifference to all things that are a matter of fortune including health and illness, wealth and poverty, and even life and death. The Stoics also reject the notion of collective guilt as shaping virtue. Because guilt is about individual wrongdoing, no one can ever be guilty for the act of another.

2. Externals do not amount to happiness: in his Discourses, Epictetus teaches us that every individual has a fundamental choice about living for inner or outer values. This is summed up by Epictetus's famous doctrine: *'There are things which are within our power, and there are things which are beyond our power. Within our power are opinion, aim, desire, and in a word, whatever affairs are our own. Beyond our power are body, property, reputation, office and, in one word, whatever are not properly our own affairs'*.

As Epictetus warns, *'as long as you occupy yourself with externals' you will neglect the inner self. Since one cannot control external issues, they become 'indifferents' – that is they are outside our will. As Epictetus puts it: 'he who craves... things not under his control can neither be faithful nor free, but must himself be changed and tossed to and fro and must end by subordinating himself to others'*.

This is, of course, a harsh doctrine of human conduct but the Stoics never suggest that one should not partake of 'the game of life' for worldly goods, only that one should not become caught up in the game to the extent that it reduces freedom of choice and the pursuit of virtue. A true Stoic will never be dismayed by any happening that is outside his span of control for as Cicero puts it, real freedom is the power to live as one wills free from external compulsion. One of the most fundamental of Stoic attitudes then is *'the delimitation of our own sphere of liberty as an impregnable islet of autonomy, in the midst of the vast river of events and of Destiny'*.

3. Striving to control emotions for the purposes of rational activity: The Stoics believed that all moral purpose must be grounded in reason not emotion. Consequently, emotions such as desire, pleasure, fear and dejection must be transformed into acts of free will. For example, one only suffers fear if one decides to fear. As Epictetus puts it everything is connected to *decisions of the will*.

For the Stoic, unhappy people are unhappy because they have the *desires of immortals combined with the fears of mortals*. They allow emotional fears concerning their bodies, poverty, worldly possessions and relationships to assail them. In contrast, Seneca writes, *'the only safe harbour from the seething storms of this life is scorn of the future, a firm stand in the present, and readiness to receive Fortune's arrows, full in the breast, without skulking or turning one's back'*. The central ideal of the Stoic will is to master all conflicting emotions in favour of the power of reason and so create an inner self that is in Cicero's words 'safe, impregnable, fenced and fortified'; a mind and soul that are capable of functioning both in isolation and yet in comradeship with other virtuous minds.

4. Virtue comes from knowing what is in one's control and what is not in one's control: In the Inner Citadel of the Stoic soul it is important to delimit the things that depend on us and the things that do not. At all costs we must avoid making external material things our lodestones for happiness. Thus, a central Stoic view is *'Whoever then would be free, let him wish nothing, let him decline nothing, which depends on others; else he must necessarily be a slave'*. A Stoic only competes in the realm of moral choice in a quest for virtue and self-knowledge. As Epictetus puts it, *'you can be invincible if you never enter a contest where victory is not up to you'*.

Ultimately, Stoicism is not an impossible creed. It is not about creating iron men of invulnerability who are immune to the ways of the world. Rather it is about fostering a spirit of invincibility when confronting adversity, setback and deep suffering. Stoic invincibility is not a form of perfectionism, but rather a type of moral progressivism, a journey never a destination; not an ideal to be achieved, but an archetype to be approximated. The Stoic overcomes by enduring and overcoming their using a reason and will-power that is born out of good character.

A Stoic Guide for Military Professionals

Having outlined the basic tenets of Stoicism how can such a stark philosophy work within the military profession. I can only illustrate this by reference to the Stoic Guide to Military Professionalism that for the past two years I have issued to my students at the ACSC. This guide seeks to provide moral lessons and choices that assist in arming the inner selves of officers as they embark upon rising careers as the ADF's best and brightest. The guide contains eight lessons and eight choices.

The first lesson in the Guide and concerns **how a military professional should face his day** and draws upon Marcus

Aurelius's Meditations. The relevant passage states: *When you wake up in the morning tell yourself: The people I deal with today will be meddling, ungrateful, arrogant, dishonest, jealous and surly. They are like this because they cannot tell good from evil. But I have seen the beauty of good, and the ugliness of evil, and have recognised that the wrongdoer has a nature related to my own. . . And so, none of them can hurt me; no one can implicate me in ugliness.*

The second lesson imparts the central tenet of Stoicism namely **Knowing What One can Control and What One Cannot Control**. This lesson is drawn from Epictetus's *Enchiridion* and points out: *We always have a choice about the contents and character of our inner lives . . . Trying to control or to change what we cannot only results in torment. Remember: The things within our power are naturally at our disposal, free from any restraint or hindrance; but those things outside our power are weak, dependent, or determined by the whims and actions of others.*

The third lesson deals with how **Happiness Can Only Be Found Within** and again makes use of Epictetus's teaching that Freedom is the only worthy goal in life and that 'happiness depends on three things, all of which are within your power: *your will, your ideas* concerning the events in which you are involved, and *the use you make of your ideas*. Remember: The essence of good is found only within things under your own control'.

The fourth lesson argues that **Events Don't Hurt Us but Our Views of Them Can** and quotes Epictetus that: *'Things themselves don't hurt or hinder us. Nor do other people. How we view these things is another matter. It is our attitudes and reactions that give us trouble . . . Don't dread death or pain; dread the fear of death or pain. We cannot always choose our external circumstances, but we can always choose how we respond to them.*

The fifth lesson upholds the truth that **Character Matters More than Reputation** and teaches: *'You can only be one person – either a good person or a bad person. You have two essential choices. Either you can set yourself to developing your reason, cleaving to truth, or you can hanker after externals. The choice is yours. You can either put your skills toward internal work or lose yourself to externals'.*

The sixth lesson points out that in the Stoic world, effective leadership and good conduct are dependent on a conscious decision to **Renounce Self-Conceit and Arrogance**. Living wisely requires the relinquishment of self-conceit and of arrogance because they both inhibit clear thinking. As Epictetus conceit is *'an iron gate that admits no new knowledge, no expansive possibilities, nor constructive ideas'* and leads only to a dishonourable life of self-interest.

The seventh lesson emphasises **The Line of Good** and draws on Alexander Solzhenitsyn's, *The Gulag Archipelago* in which the author reaches a true consciousness about the nature of good and evil and the power of revelation. As Solzhenitsyn

writes, *'it was only when I lay there on the rotting prison straw that I sensed within myself the first stirrings of good. Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes not between states nor between classes nor between political parties but right through every human heart, through all human hearts. And that is why I turn back to the years of my imprisonment and say. . . 'Bless you prison, for having been in my life'.*

Finally, the eighth lesson concerns **Epictetus's urging that the virtuous life holds as treasures: Your own right action, Your fidelity, honour and decency**. Virtue is not a matter of degree, but an absolute.

The Guide then goes on to deal with eight moral choices that face military professionals using examples from literature and history. The first of these choices is about choosing the **kind of officer you want to be** and is drawn from Anton Myrer's great 1968 novel about the American profession of arms, *Once An Eagle* in which two officer archetypes are contrasted a dutiful Sam Damon (a warrior dedicated to the profession of arms) and ruthless Courtenay Massengale (a careerist seeking honours). Here, an officer must choose either **'to be (like Massengale) or to do (like Damon)'** he cannot be both.

The second moral choice concerns the substance of officership as a choice between status and achievement as outlined by the great air strategist, US Air Force Colonel John Boyd:

'There are two career paths in front of you, and you have to choose which path you will follow. One path leads to promotions, titles and positions of distinctions. To achieve success down that path, you have to conduct yourself a certain way. You must go along with the system . . . The other path leads to doing things that are truly significant for the Air Force, but you may have to cross swords with the party line on occasion. You can't go down both paths, you have to choose. Do you want to be a man of distinction or do you want to do things that really influence the shape of the Air Force? To be or to do, that is the question'

The third moral choice is about resisting the influence of bureaucratisation on the warrior spirit and is taken from Emmanuel Wald's 1992 book, *The Decline of Israeli National Security since 1967*. Here General Israel Tal describes how bureaucratisation and conformity destroys the creative imagination that is fundamental to future generals:

Officers at the rank of captain or major, naïve and full of youthful enthusiasm, believe they will be judged by their achievements. If these officers do not grasp that it is forbidden to damage bureaucratic harmony they will quickly be dropped from the IDF system . . . If they are able to last in an organisation which, by its very nature, enslaves and constrains the thinker, then they will eventually reach the rank of general. By then, of course, not much can be expected from them in terms of creative thinking.

The fourth choice is about why one cannot be neutral in a moral crisis. It takes its lesson from Winston Churchill's book, *The Gathering Storm* in which Churchill writes: *'It is my purpose as one who lived and acted in those days . . . to show how the malice of the wicked was reinforced by the weakness of the virtuous, how the councils of prudence and restraint may become the prime agents of mortal danger . . . and how the middle course, adopted from desires for safety and a quiet life may be found to lead direct to the bull's-eye of disaster.'*

The fifth choice revolves around the necessity to make the best of adversity and recites the Soldier's Prayer from the American Civil War, a prayer that was found scraped on the walls of the dreaded Confederate prison, Andersonville in 1865:

We asked for strength that we might achieve

God made us weak that we might obey

We asked for health that we might do great things

He gave us infirmity that we might do better things

We asked for riches that we might be happy;

We were given poverty that we might be wise.

We asked for power that we might have the praise of men;

We were given weakness that we might feel the need of God

We asked for all things that we might enjoy life;

We were given life that we might enjoy all things

We received nothing that we asked for

But all that we hoped for

And our prayers were answered. We were most blessed

The sixth moral choice is related to the matter of religious belief and urges those who are Christians to affirm the faith of the **Christian Soldier's Creed from Ephesians** in which it is written:

Stand firm then with the Belt of Truth buckled around your waist

With the Breastplate of Righteousness in place

And with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of Truth

In addition to all this, take up the Shield of Faith

Take the Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God

And pray in the spirit on all occasions

The seventh choice is about the terrible price that may be required from conscience and conviction. It deals with the fate of Major General Henning von Tresckow, a devout German Christian soldier who was one of the July 20 1944 conspirators against Hitler. Confronting his own death following the failure of the plot, von Tresckow told his staff officers: *'When in a few hours I go before God to account for what I have done and left*

undone, I know I will be able to justify in good conscience what I did in the struggle against Hitler. God promised Abraham that He would not destroy Sodom if just ten righteous men could be found and I hope God will not destroy Germany. None of us can bewail his own death; those who consented to join our circle put on the robe of Nessus. A human being's moral integrity begins when he is prepared to sacrifice his life for his convictions.'

The final moral choice is drawn from the work of the great Holocaust survivor and humanist reminder, Viktor Frankl and takes the form of a reminder that at the end of every day, a soldier must remember his most precious gift from Stoic philosophy and that is: *'The last of human freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.'*

Conclusion

For military professionals, Stoicism teaches that courage is endurance of the soul based on inner strength and steadfastness but embedded within a larger community of comradeship that upholds public duty and private excellence. It recalls Tennyson's famous injunction, 'to strive, to seek, and not to yield'. Contrary to popular belief, Stoicism does not aim not at making human beings invulnerable to adversity, but seeks to create invincible inner citadel of the soul in which an individual can pursue moral values. In a post-honour culture of moral relativism, A Stoic philosophy has much to offer those in uniform despite its rigorous demands.

The most eloquent tribute to the essence of Stoic spirit is found in the poem, *Invictus* written in 1875 by William Ernest Henley, a man who had endured a lifetime of illness and infirmity but who remained unconquerable and who penned the immortal lines:

Out of the night that covers me,

Black as the Pit from pole to pole,

I thank whatever gods may be

For my unconquerable soul

In the fell clutches of circumstance

I have not winced or cried aloud

Under the bludgeonings of chance

My head is bloody, but unbowed

Beyond this place of wrath and tears

Looms but the horror of the shade

And yet the menace of the years

Finds, and shall find, me unafraid

It matters not how strait the gate,

How charged with punishment the scroll,

I am the master of my fate;

I am the captain of my soul

The Life and Career of General, SIR THOMAS WILLIAM GLASGOW

by
ALISTAIR POPE

Major General Sir Thomas William Glasgow KCB, CMG, DSO, VD.

QUIET ACHIEVER

This has not proved to be an easy article to write as General Glasgow has not left an extensively documented trail to follow. Like so many Australian children, who later in life became high achievers, Thomas William Glasgow was a country boy born on a central Queensland farm near Maryborough on 6th June 1876. This was towards the end of the century long, Australian nation-building 'pioneering era'. His father, Samuel Glasgow, was an Ulster Scotsman and farmer. 'Bill', as Thomas preferred to be known excelled in the School Cadets at Maryborough Grammar School, where he boarded until completing of his education. Soon after graduating, he became a Clerk at the Queensland National Bank.

Bill retained this initial interest in military matters and, in 1893, at just 17 years old, he joined the Wide Bay Regiment of the Queensland Mounted Infantry. Service in these volunteer militias and membership of the government sponsored Rifle Clubs was considered both a patriotic national service obligation as well as providing an entrée into a great social club! In 1897 he was chosen as one of 20 soldiers from Queensland to attend the London military parade celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria.

FIRST BLOOD: THE BOER WAR

In 1899, when the Boer War broke out in South Africa, Great Britain called for assistance from the colonies of its vast Empire. Queensland contributed the third largest force of all the colonies, consisting of more than 2,000 troops serving in the 1st Queensland Mounted Infantry ('IQMI') and the Queensland Imperial Bushmen ('QIB').

Glasgow volunteered and was selected for service in IQMI. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant and with his unit took part in the relief of Kimberley, the battle of the Modder River and the occupation of Bloemfontein. His qualities of exceptional leadership and physical courage under fire were first noted in these engagements. For his services, he was Mentioned in Despatches (MiD) and was also awarded the



prestigious Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in 1901. Despite an extensive search, the citations for these awards could not be found, but it was clear that he was an exemplary officer and leader.

PRELUDE TO WWI

Unlike many other veterans, Glasgow returned to civilian life with ease, probably helped by his retaining a keen interest in local military matters, where he mixed with fellow veterans. He had made good friends and contacts in the militia and also among the social elite of Central Queensland. In 1904 he married Annie Isabel Stumm, the daughter of the local Federal Member of Parliament. In 1903, he had organized

the 13th Light Horse Regiment at Gympie, which led to his promotion to Captain in the militia in 1906 and Major in 1912.

GALLIPOLI

With the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Glasgow immediately enlisted in 2nd Light Horse Regiment of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). After staging in Egypt his dismounted regiment landed at Gallipoli on 12th May 1915. As acting commandant of the Pope's Hill outpost, he and his staff remained in the front line supervising the troops being regularly rotated through on trench duty.

On 29th May he received a shrapnel wound to his thigh that hospitalised him for 5-days before he returned to operational duties.

Glasgow led a disastrous feint attack on Dead Man's Ridge as part of the infamous 7th August 1915 debacle. Major Glasgow charged the Turkish trenches with 200 NSW Light-horsemen, of whom 154 were either killed or wounded. Recognising that their position was untenable, Glasgow withdrew the remnants of his unit under fire, while carrying one of his wounded troopers with him. The next day he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and given command of the 2nd Light Horse Regiment, an appointment he held until after the successful evacuation from the peninsula in December 1915.



Major Glasgow standing in a trench at Pope's Hill, Gallipoli, 1915.

THE WESTERN FRONT

The AIF returned to Egypt where it was expanded by raising the 4th and 5th Divisions. In March 1916, Glasgow was promoted to the rank of temporary brigadier and given the task of raising and commanding the 13th Infantry Brigade. The 13th Brigade ranks were filled with recruits coming directly from Australia, stiffened by a cadre of experienced officers and NCO's from other Brigades. As soon as they were retrained, refitted, reformed and when the replacements filling depleted ranks were ready, the upgraded AIF was transported to the Western Front. Their first action was at Mouquet Farm in August - September 1916 was a typical WWI bloodbath (more reminiscent of the Rowan Atkinson 'Black Comedy' TV Series, 'Blackadder' than a professional military operation!). Courage is no substitute for effective planning and sound tactics as the 1st, 2nd & newly formed 4th Division attacked nine times in three weeks without ever succeeding in capturing and holding the farm. The three Divisions incurred over 11,000 casualties.

After the battles of Messines in June 1917, Polygon Wood, etc, the divisions repeated the cycle of rebuilding their strength. As part of their final great 'Kaiser's Battle' offensive in March 1918, the Germans captured the strategically important village of Villers-Bretonneux. In mid-April 1918, Glasgow's 13th Brigade was assigned to launch a counterattack to retake the village, on the right flank of the attacking force. Glasgow demonstrated his strength of character when he refused to attack at the designated time, saying to British General Heneker "Tell us what you want us to do Sir, but you must let us do it our own way". Instead, he delayed and struck the enemy trenches by moonlight. It was a close-run battle in which the 13th Brigade was almost surrounded and cut-off. The Germans demanded their surrender, only to receive the unequivocal reply that they should 'Go to Hell!'. Assisted by Brigadier Harold 'Pompey' Elliott's 15th Brigade the brigades recaptured Villers-Bretonneux on 25th April 1918.

Glasgow was appointed as a CMG and promoted to Major General in command of the 1st Division in June 1916. It should be noted that his promotion incurred the wrath and enmity

of his friend 'Pompey' Elliott, who felt he was not only a better choice to command a division, but the only choice. Glasgow received a further accolade by receiving a CB in December 1917.

Glasgow's 1st Division rejoined the Australian Corps on the Somme and participated in the massive offensive in August and September 1918, during the major successful engagements at Lihons, Chuignes and Hargicourt. They were withdrawn in October and saw no further action.

In recognition of his outstanding war service, he also collected from the French government the Légion d'honneur and the Croix de Guerre, with the Belgians adding their own Croix de Guerre. His CB was upgraded to KCB in 1919 (see endnote ix), nor should his being Mentioned in Dispatches (MiD) nine times (plus one from the Boer War) be omitted. Glasgow was demobilized on 19th August 1919, but continued on the reserve of officers of the 1st Military District with command (from 1921) of the 4th Division.

POST WAR CAREER

Glasgow's post-WWI career is almost as long, complex and even more extensive than his military one. He was a successful high-achiever in everything he did. And the downside? He was conscious of his level of education and ability to communicate compared to some of his contemporaries. This was tempered by is personal confidence and sure sense of character. With a fiery temper, he would defend his views and could not be bullied into supporting poor plans doomed to failure. Monash assessed that Glasgow succeeded by his personal driving force and determination. However, in my opinion, there is one 'Black Spot' that seems out of character for one so personally courageous. In 1917 he supported a request that appears to be out of character by advocating an amendment to the Defence Act so that it would be possible to inflict the death penalty in a few flagrant cases of desertion.

Glasgow was elected to Federal Parliament in 1919, served in the Cabinet of Stanley Bruce as the Minister for Home & Territories, and as Minister of Defence from 1927-1929. In 1931 he lost his Seat. In 1939 he was appointed High Commissioner to Canada, with a particular brief to maximise the involvement of Australia in the 'Empire Air Training Scheme'.

He had lived a full life of courage and achievement for which he was well-rewarded by those who recognised his abilities. When he died in Brisbane in 1955, the final acknowledgement of his contribution to Australian affairs was that he received a State funeral.

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THE PADRE'S *Corner*

Conflict resolution through non dual thinking

I'M WRITING THIS ON 4 FEBRUARY which is the United Nations International Day of Human Fraternity. Earlier today Nobel peace laureate, Timor's President, Jose Ramos Horta, presented a speech in Abu Dhabi, praising the efforts of various political and religious leaders in promoting peace through dialogue and respectful listening and understanding, in the Middle East and elsewhere. We certainly could do with improved relations in our wider world.

It's caused me to reflect upon some recent situations in our veteran community in Australia where veteran groups that have started out to be well-meaning have stalled, collapsed or broken apart, due to polarised adversarial disagreement over certain matters.

We veterans can be a wonderful force for good in our society, but we are easily triggered into defensive or aggressive responses over particular issues. Social media seems to have heightened the conflict we have in society as people quickly react to a statement by others, with an opposite view that escalates quickly into combat - with neither party perhaps having thought the issue through or clarified the facts. Aside from individual personal relationship issues, there are also a range of "hot topics" like DVA claims, War Crimes, or Israel /Palestine, where any comment by anyone on even a minor aspect, will unleash a storm of vitriol. If you are not wholly supportive of "one side or the other" you can be excommunicated from belonging to the "real" veterans camp.

Much of my time as a chaplain has been spent mediating between warring individuals or factions, in an effort to find harmonious solutions to problems, and where possible, achieve reconciliation and forgiveness between individuals, so that they can get back together and achieve what they need. But it's not easy once people lock themselves into defensive adversarial postures.

I got new insight into this space, in reading some reflections by Franciscan Father Richard Rohr, who promotes a concept called "non-dual thinking". (Google that term and find a

plethora of wisdom). Richard describes non dual thinking as our ability to interpret situations in a way that is not judgemental and not polarised. It is fascinating that we veterans seem to be predisposed to "dual thinking" - meaning that any issue has only two positions - to be either good or bad, right or wrong, black or white. We can observe reality from the perspective of polar opposites.

Perhaps it was something in our military conditioning, in being constantly on alert to danger, but I too can easily slip into this dualism, when I see issues as "either this or that". We can miss all the shades of grey in between, be blinded to goodness and badness in every group, and our relationships can suffer because we become stuck in a defending of a particular position. If our relations are based on this polarised thinking, it's no wonder that we can feel separated and isolated, even from the persons that we otherwise seek to love and work together with.

The frequent reality is that things are not always exactly as they initially seem to be, or may have been reported to us in the media or by other parties. A non-dual approach to dealing with issues would see us withhold judgement and action on an issue, until we were able to establish more thoroughly the facts and consider a range of alternative positions.

Human dynamics are fascinating and yet fraught with potential for conflict and even destruction of the good intentions that people have started out with. It is important to always keep coming back to the purpose or objectives which we are seeking to achieve with our group, before we fall into the trap of dogmatically wanting to do things "my way" as opposed to "other's ways", or other ways.

Invariably a dialogued solution - a third way - may be better than our initial considerations.

I was recently confronted by a veteran when I raised concerns about the thousands of children dying and wounded in Gaza from massive bombing and artillery strikes. He considered that all Palestinians deserved whatever happened to them, following the Hamas attack. He was a stalwart Israeli military supporter, and I had now

also become his enemy. I tried to tell him I neither supported the Hamas nor Israeli prosecution of the conflict. I supported justice, civility, human decency, international law and had a deep desire for peace. Adversarial polarised attitudes were actually making the situation worse for everyone. Every event, every case, every issue, needs to be examined on the facts, humane values, and reasonable behaviours.

Whilst the mortal conflict was half a world away, a bizarre replication of it was now occurring between two veterans in Australia. I will still seek reconciliation with this person, but communication and resolution is difficult when a dualistic mindset prevails.

I have learned much from Jose Ramos Horta and the Timorese people, from the way they have chosen to forgive and reconcile with their neighbours, despite a history of suffering and oppression. For them the non dual path is a spiritual imperative, as much as a practical one. They simply follow Jesus edict - Love your neighbour!

My hope and prayer is that we in the veteran community can guard against lapsing into dualistic polarised positions and that we too can love our neighbours, and make positive contributions to improving humanity through fraternity.

Kind regards

Your Padre
Gary Stone OAM

ESSENCE OF COMMAND REMAINS LEADERSHIP

by
ROSS EASTGATE

THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY has rarely been proactive to technological developments, preferring historical adjustment over radical change.

A classic example occurred in the early 1980s after its Signal Corps performed abysmally in a major international exercise held at Queensland's Shoalwater Bay.

The ADF then relied on World War II era electromagnetic teleprinters to prepare formal messages, similar to the ubiquitous Telex machines used in private enterprise.

Except they were old and well used, requiring painstaking regular disassembly, cleaning, servicing and reassembly to keep operating.

They weren't up to the task, so that Army signallers were often incapable of transferring messages within specified time priorities.

A senior former signaller directed the Army to acquire a portable, computerised message switching system capable of handling multiple messages and, most importantly, field deployable.

He directed it was to be in service within two years.

Material Branch's troglodytes were horrified, imagining a project which they could easily prolong for five or more years being unnecessarily shortened, in their view.

The digital age was in its early stages, so almost everything had to be developed from scratch, including software.

The outcome wasn't completely satisfactory, but the lesson was the many obstacles placed on acquisition projects by Mat Branch to make them "state-of-the-art", serviceable,

survivable and soldier proof were not necessarily appropriate in the digital age when off the shelf alternatives were far cheaper, equally robust and could be replaced cheaply as technology developed.

Modern smart phones have exponentially more capability and capacity than that system which filled a shipping container and required four semi-trailer loads of supporting equipment.

Plans announced this week to shorten basic officer training courses at Duntroon to 12 months have similarly met cries of derision and suspicion from "traditionalists".

The Australian naively reported the new course duration would "ease recruiting and retention problems".

Chief of Army Simon Stuart, a former signaller, said the course would make greater use of digital technology, which is already ubiquitous in 21st century education.

He said the course would be delivered in modules, allowing cadets to pace their training in a more efficient and effective environment.

Providing of course there is still a major emphasis on cadet/instructor interface, ensuring both role model experience to cadets and instructor assessment opportunities.

The essence of command is leadership and example.

Contemporary training methods may produce better informed junior officers, but they must understand leadership is fundamentally about inspiring those they lead.

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ETHICS COMMITTEE CALLS A HALT TO THE DVA VETERANS' MATES PROGRAM

by
JOHN LOWIS

ON 5 FEBRUARY 2024, the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs Human Research Ethics Committee [the Ethics Committee] withdrew the ethics approval of the DVA's Veterans' MATES Program. This was due to deficiencies in the privacy management by DVA and the University of South Australia (UniSA) of Veterans personal billing information related to Gold and White Card use.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE MATES PROGRAM?

Well, if you have ever used a White, Gold or Orange Card to get medical treatment leading to prescriptions, then some of your identifiable data has been transferred to the DVA Veterans' MATES Program run by UniSA for DVA.

The Medicines Advice and Therapeutics Education Services (MATES) Program has been going for about 18 years. It uses Veterans' claims administrative and medical data to identify medicine related problems and the health providers who treat the Veterans.

MATES uses this information to provide educational material that is tailored to DVA client's specific health care needs. Each year approximately 77,000 DVA clients receive brochures related to some conditions specific to their needs, giving advice about the particular condition, what to look out for and questions they should ask their GP or pharmacist.

MATES also provides direct patient-based feedback to Veterans' doctors regarding medicines and health services that have been provided to their DVA clients reaching about 33,000 general practitioners and 8,500 pharmacists.

DVA claim that 930 hospitalisations and at least 140 premature deaths have been avoided as a result of MATES.

DECISION OF THE AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION COMMISSIONER (Oaic)

February 2016. A Veteran (ADJ) complained to DVA about:

- the collection and unauthorised use of his personal data for reasons other than for processing the claims initiated by use of his DVA Card. (Have a look at the back of your DVA Card for the information that is used); and
- requested that his personal data not be used for secondary purposes (MATES).

There were several exchanges with DVA stating consent was not required. ADJ challenged this offering to drop the matter if DVA opted him out and apologise. ADJ received no response from DVA.

March 2018. ADJ requested DVA reconsider.

April 2018. DVA respond to ADJ stating the matter is closed and will not be revisited.

October 2018. ADJ made a privacy complaint under the Privacy Act to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (Oaic) and an investigation was initiated.

23 April 2023. In the case of Veteran ADJ against the Secretary to DVA, the Commissioner determined that:

The respondent (DVA) has interfered with the complainant's privacy by:

- failing to obtain Veteran's consent,
- using the Veteran's personal information for secondary purposes and must not repeat or continue with such conduct.

And required that:

- DVA provide a written apology to the complainant, specifically acknowledging that the DVA interfered with the complainant's privacy; and
- DVA must pay the \$5,000 to the Veteran for non-economic loss.

Full Details of the Commissioner's decision and reasons can be found at www.dfwa.org.au/matesprogram

PERSONAL INFORMATION AND CONSENT

DVA pays for medical services and for prescription medicines obtained using Gold/White Card. Medicines are recorded by the Prescription Benefits Scheme (PBS) system when scripts are filled. DVA requires billing information of medicine etc, in order to pay the PBS. Consent for those purposes – DVA prime purposes - is implied by use of the Gold or White Card and accepted. Note that:

- Billing and other information, where Veterans get treatment for a condition not covered by the DVA White Card, and for which the Veteran pays, is also automatically provided to DVA due to agreements with the Department of Human Services even though there is no billing involved. It is also provided to the MATES Project.
- In spite of some early DVA statements implying otherwise, billing information associated is not de-identified/ anonymised before being passed to UniSA. Identified

data is provided to UniSA as it is required should the Project need to contact the GP, Pharmacist or the Veteran about particular treatment or medicine use as part of the interventionist model for MATES.

- UniSA, on receipt, de-identifies data for use in research in the project. It can restore identity data required for project work, e.g., contacting GPs or Veterans.
- UniSA provides de-identified data for medical research by third parties, e.g., other universities and private companies, here and overseas.

The OAIC decision prompted some media attention and interest in the Veteran Community. As a result, there has been a steady trickle of new information being revealed as a result of FOI requests and from stakeholders. There is evidence of misleading statements made by DVA during the OAIC Hearing and since then, including Senate Estimates.

DVA PROVIDED INCORRECT INFORMATION TO OAIC

The OAIC decision included conclusions clearly based on DVA information provided, as reflected in this extract “the complaint by the Complainant is not contemporaneous to current practices, having been made more than four years ago. The Department now has robust processes in place for ensuring that:

- participants in the MATES Program are aware that they can, at any time, revoke their consent to the use and disclosure of their personal information as part of the MATES Program;”

Robust Processes Now In Place (as at April 2023)?

Consent means all 300,000 participants have been informed about the Program. Not true.

Consent means:

- They have been given the option to “opt-in”.
Not true. No Veteran participating has ever been given this option to sign up.

or

- They have been given an approved option to “opt -out”.
Not true.

This claim that these processes were in place is incorrect

In template letters being sent by the Minister in August 2023 regarding the case: “DVA has suspended the provision of further data to UniSA while we continue to work in good faith with OAIC to ensure program processes and frameworks are in place to ensure the circumstances addressed by the OAIC in its determination do not reoccur. I.e. DVA are still working on it. The robust process are not yet in place contrary to the determination – which was based on incorrect evidence provided by DVA.

Also:

August 2023. UniSA requested assurance from DVA that necessary consents were in place. No response.

August 2023. In a Quick Issues Brief provided to the Minister for Question Time, the following statement is made: “Veterans are made aware of the collection, use and disclosure of information generated from using their DVA Veteran Gold, White or Orange Card for these types of purposes [MATES Program], at the time they receive their card.”

This is total spin and half- truth. The statement may possibly be true for recent issues of cards but:

- It is not true for the 300,000 cards previously issued and in use.
- The claimed awareness does mean “consent” for the reasons stated in the AOIC Decision.

October 2023. Having not received the requested assurances regarding consent from DVA, UniSA suspended involvement in the Program.

Later in October. DVA finally included a notice in the DVA website about MATES, but not mentioning the involvement of UniSA or transfer of personal information. However, the notice did include a link that eventually led to advice regarding opting out. **Half-hearted process does not meet Privacy Act requirements.**

December 23. UniSA again wrote seeking assurances that DVA had the necessary consents in place in order to use veteran data, “As indicated in the previous letter, until those assurances are provided, the provision of services for the Veterans’ MATES Program will continue to be suspended by the University. This was not a pause, determined by DVA, as suggested in Senate Estimates [DVA answer] on 15 November 2023.

December 23. Minister Keogh’s letter to David Littleproud MP for Maranoa also states “.. DVA has temporarily paused the sharing of personal data for Veterans’ MATES, while it reviews the program to ensure the circumstances addressed by the determination do not reoccur.” Therefore Processes still not in place.

05 February 2024. The Ethics Committee advised :

- After the article published by the Saturday Paper in July 2024, the Chair of the Ethics Committee wrote to the UniSA and DVA and “advised that no further data transfer was to occur until the matters were resolved.” Well, now we have DVA, UniSA and the Ethics Committee claiming each suspended the MATES Program. Wow. Now everyone is claiming responsibility for doing something!
- After looking at the matter for 6 months, The Ethics Committee advises that “ethics approval has been withdrawn.”

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

DVA website and the Minister in his December 2023 letter stated that the OAIC determination in the ADJ case “is related to a single case and does not relate to other individuals or the

conduct of the entire program”. Elsewhere it is stated there are no systemic issues, implying that the issues of ADJ case were isolated. This is untrue. It is doubtful that any Veteran has given informed consent.

The entire \$70 million MATES project has been suspended for 8 months now. It is beyond belief that DVA should claim that the suspension had nothing to do with the OAIC case at all or the conduct of the suspended Project, or that it had nothing to do with the Ethics Committee's withdrawing ethics approval for the project.

If the MATES Project is so valuable and has achieved all the good things claimed, why hasn't urgent action been taken to restore it. Where is the urgency? They have had over four years to fix it.

There is something very wrong, if after 4 years of knowing about the problem, DVA has not been able to contact each and every DVA Card Holder (300,000 claimed) to:

- explain the purpose of the MATES Project and use of their personal information;
- seek informed consent by the appropriate means; and
- start the letter or email with “I'm sorry.”

There is something very wrong with the governance and the standard of the legal service used by DVA if a simple letter cannot be produced to at least start the rectification process.

It begs questions. Are there other issues not yet revealed that are causing delays? Does the transfer of personal billing information by PBS Department of Human Services to DVA and then to UniSA for non-DVA medical treatments breach the Privacy Act?

It also begs the question about the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) and whether the AOIC determination in the ADJ case was ever raised at ESORT by either DVA or the ESO representatives. Were ESO aware of the Saturday Paper articles? My understanding is that ESORT has no part in governance, but it is a consultative forum where DVA keeps ESO informed of important issues and ESO can raise issues for discussion. When was this issue, deemed important enough for ESORT briefing?

If the management of these straightforward Privacy Act issues and the half-truth stories are a measure of those running the MATES Program in DVA, then the veracity of the claims made by DVA about the value of the Project become suspect.

The entire Project, and its governance, should be reviewed by an independent assessor not picked by DVA, and definitely not including DVA staff who have had responsibility for its governance and were part of the deny, delay and coverup culture in giving answers to the Information Commissioner and in Senate Estimates

DVA CULTURE

The case was not about the worthiness or value of the MATES program to veterans' health and welfare itself. That is a separate subject altogether.

The case was about DVA's maladministration and non-compliance with the law regarding interference of privacy provisions of the Privacy Act 1988 only. Those deficiencies need to be addressed. That is proving difficult.

Importantly, the ADJ case was about what happened and what did not happen, it did not address the why.:

- What led DVA to not address ADJ's request to cease passing his information to the MATES Program when he contacted them in 2016 .
- Why did various bits of spin and untruths surface, almost as an IA (immediate action) drill after the case was decided and in response to further questioning by stakeholders? The actions seemed more -bout minimising, covering-up, and denying there was an issue.
- Why did that approach continue long after the initial contact with ADJ and even after the Project was suspended.

The culture that nurtured this was definitely not “Veteran Centric” and needs to be addressed.

MATES IS ABOUT 20 YEARS OLD. WHY IS THIS NOW BECOMING AN ISSUE?

Rights and the Unique Nature of Military Service.

The Privacy Act 1988, as outlined in its Explanatory Memorandum, gives force to the obligations accepted by Australia under Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Act expands on the privacy provision in Article 12 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. It is well recognised that the unique nature of military service means the giving up of certain Human Rights by serving members of the ADF.

The Team. ADF service has meant giving up individual rights for “the team” which has priority. Something is of value to the team, the common good has priority - service people are used to this and it becomes second nature, part of the culture, and can be automatic, even by those who say “Never volunteer.” This pre-disposition frequently carries over into civilian life when ADF Members transition, and find they have some rights that they never considered before. That is probably why many Veterans, if convinced of the value of MATES would choose to participate, if given those opt in or out choices.

Right Not to Participate. Veterans are more aware of their rights in recent years than they have been in the past. In this case, most Veterans were unaware of MATES at all and probably still are. They have not even been given a choice; they have not had MATES explained to them sufficiently to make an informed decision. They definitely have not been informed about some aspects regarding the handling of their personal information that were revealed in the ADJ case and since then, as more worms escaped the can. They would rightly be less trusting of DVA as a result. Many would not appreciate a stranger from the Project Team contacting them to discuss personal medication and health treatment– which is clearly part of the remit of the Project. Some GPs would

also not appreciate someone who had never seen the Veteran patient, but has observed statistics on unusual usage from afar, contacting them and giving advice about use of certain medications.

CLASS ACTION

Gordon Legal, who were involved in the Robodebt case, have commenced an investigation into the Veterans MATES program. They have lodged a representative complaint with Information Commissioner and are actively considering alternative pathways to seek redress for all affected. Veterans can register their interest in joining this action via the Gordon Legal website. Class actions are normally on a “no win no fee” but participants have no say in the running of the representative case. If you are not in the class action, the outcome of the class action will not affect you. “This means you won’t be affected by the outcome of a class action at all and will remain free to pursue your own individual claim for the same issues separately if you wish to.” [Slater and Gordon]. This information from two legal firms was gleaned from the web. No recommendations on options are made, except to get legal advice if you are considering getting involved in a legal challenge.

CONSIDER THE VETERAN

The OAIC case started January 2020 with a decision April 2023 – over three years. Similar to the Douglas Tax Case. ADJ’s initial complaint was in 2016. During that time, the stress on ADJ would have been considerable as demonstrated in medical evidence presented during the consideration of the case. Many Veterans may take the opportunity to join in legal action using the ADJ decision as a precedent. It is doubtful that the Class Action being investigated by Gordon Legal would every have arisen, if it was not for ADJ. Full praise to ADJ for dogged determination, personal courage to persevere going through the process and overcoming that feeling you get from banging your head against a brick wall. And of course the service given to the other 299,999 veterans out of the estimated 300,000 veterans who also had not given their consent to the use of their personal information. Recognition also needs to be given to the administrators of and other contributors to the Facebook Group “DVA Privacy Breach” who have brought together lots of information and provided advice to many concerned and troubled Veterans.

ETHICS AND RESPECT

Para 5 (5) of the *Veterans’ Recognition (Putting Veterans 15 and Their Families First) Act 2019*, starts with “The Commonwealth acknowledges that support for veterans should be provided in a way that **respects their dignity as individuals**, enhances their self-esteem ...” The words of the Covenant in same Bill states in part “We... promise to... support all military veterans as **respected and valued members on our community.**” There is no way that the failure of DVA to gain “informed consent” from veteran according to ethical

guidelines applicable to all Australians, respects the dignity of veterans as individuals. There is no way that the spin, half-truths and denial by DVA during this period shows any respect for Veterans. It is no wonder DVA strongly opposed the Veterans’ Covenant when first proposed. There is no wonder when the Covenant started to get political support, Sec DVA opposed the inclusion of the “no disadvantage compared with other Australians clause” in the Covenant Legislation.

It has taken action under the Privacy Act by the Information Commissioner to reveal the lack of consideration of privacy rights of Veterans by DVA and in one case so far, to award damages. This, from an organisation claiming they are “Veteran Centric”. I have no doubt that an apology will be forthcoming but will that be backed up by the award of damages to veterans, similar to that already awarded in one case.

It remains to be seen whether the government will do the “right thing” and extend to Veterans the same treatment regarding damages as that would be afforded to other Australians without the need for legal action.

- Will a Class action be necessary?
- Will the government change legislation aimed at reducing veterans chance of success with the AOIC, as was done during the Douglas Case Tax Hearings?
- Will the weasel words be used once again and an apology issued by the Departmental Secretary - with no recompense provided for admitted maladministration - as occurred with the admitted maladministration and lack of transparency regarding DFRDB Commutation?
- Damages to Veterans could be funded by the savings made by the current suspension of the Project.

The saga continues with Senate Estimates scheduled for mid February about the time this edition was being printed.

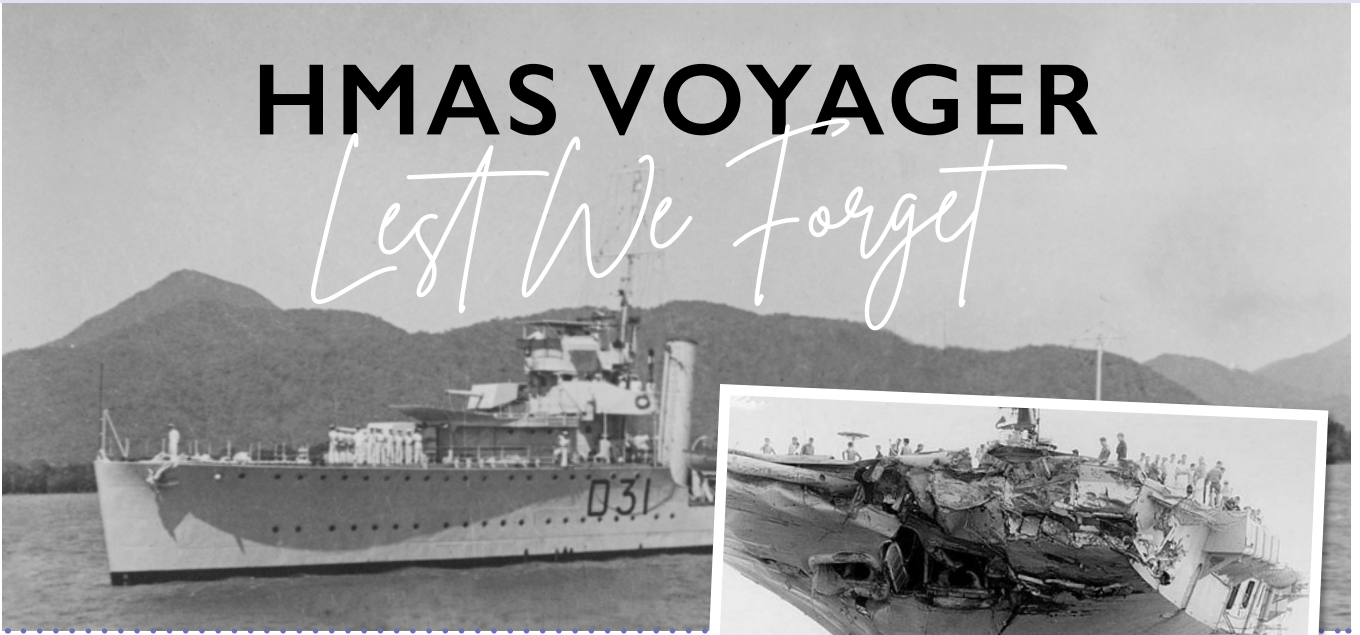
Watch this space !!

EDITOR’S NOTES.

1. The views expressed in this article are those of the author.
2. Earlier this month, the DFVA National President wrote to the Secretary DVA regarding the MATES Project requesting a briefing at the next meeting of the ESO Round Table (ESORT). The Secretary DVA immediately responded and agreed and offered pre-ESORT discussion and for DFVA to submit specific questions to be addressed.
3. WRT the Gordon Legal potential Class Action claim against DVA, DFVA recommends getting professional advice on the merits or otherwise in becoming part of a Class action before making a decision.
4. Since submission of this article to Camaraderie, on 12 February 2024 Secretary DVA issued a statement advising that “On 9 February, the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs asked the Department to close down the MATES program and examine options for possible future programs that provide health benefits to the veteran community while meeting community and stakeholder expectations around ethical and data use requirements. Any future program would be subject to a new Ethics Committee approval.”
5. DFVA understands that this matter may affect all DVA Card holders, including widows, widowers and family.

HMAS VOYAGER

Lest We Forget



HMAS VOYAGER SANK on Monday 10 February 1964, splitting in two after being struck by the bow of aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne. 232 members of the ship's complement survived but 82, including one civilian, did not.

The ship's motto was "Quo Fata Vocant" (Where Fate Calls). The disaster off Jervis Bay was a fate neither forecast nor anticipated.

Voyager was a Daring-class destroyer constructed between 1949 and 1957. She was the first ship of her class to enter Australian service, and the first all-welded ship to be built in Australia. Voyager was technologically advanced but was in trouble from inception, with costs reportedly blowing out to triple the original estimate. Did that set the scene for so many future cost blowouts for Defence projects?

Two Royal Commissions, one in 1964 and the second in 1967, sought to assign blame for the collision. Meanwhile, compensation claims from survivors and widows of those lost, and from some of Melbourne's crew, mounted up. Many were vigorously opposed by governments and bureaucrats.

Records indicate that the last claim, for the widow of a Melbourne crew member who died in 2003 at the age of just 61, was settled in July 2009 – 45 years after the disaster. That

period encompasses the Menzies, Holt, McEwen, Gorton, McMahon, Whitlam, Fraser, Hawke, Keating, Howard and, finally and commendably, Rudd governments.

While many claims were made years after the disaster, readers of *Camaraderie* can draw their own conclusions regarding the near half-century of obfuscation. Even the last award of \$120,000 in 2009 was reportedly eaten up significantly by legal fees and related costs. The follow-up, or lack of one, by Defence and by successive governments is a stain that should never be repeated.

Of course there's much more to this story. "*The Cruel Legacy*" by naval historian Dr Tom Frame is recommended reading.

So why is an ex-Army member writing about *Voyager*? Because this writer was part of a Duntroon sporting visit to Jervis Bay over the weekend 8-9 February 1964. Our generous Navy hosts took half of us to *Voyager* and half to *Melbourne* on the Sunday before we departed for Canberra later that afternoon. The accompanying photo, taken from *Melbourne*'s flight deck some 30 hours before the collision, is probably the last of *Voyager* before the disaster. It is in the National Library.

If one obscure Army cadet can be affected by an event 60 years ago, how much more is the effect on Navy widows and survivors and families and friends by the terrible disaster that took 45 years to formally – but for them not finally – come to an end?

Lest we forget.

Win Fowles





THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE - OUR PURPOSE

Where Passion Meets Art

Editor's Note: The Bradford Exchange has been a long term sponsor of the Association for which we remain very grateful and hope can continue into the future. Your support to Bradford is vital to allowing this continuing support, and the following provides a good summary of the Bradford philosophy.

SINCE 1973 THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE has remained the world's largest and most trusted authority in the dynamic field of military and fine art collectables. With a presence in over 15 countries worldwide, The Bradford Exchange serves ten million collectors with rare and exquisite first editions which are consistently rate the best in the world. Our numerous awards and accolades over the years speak to the incredibly high quality of our portfolio.

Our enduring success is based on our deep understanding and respect for the passions and hobbies of our clients – the joy that collecting brings to them and adds a rich dimension to their lives and the communities to which they belong.

As we proudly say, 'The Bradford Exchange is the place where passion becomes art' and one of the most significant areas of interest in our diverse portfolio is military-themed editions, remembrance and commemorative pieces.

As former Prime Minister William Hughes once said, "Australia was born on the shores of Gallipoli." And the spirit of the ANZAC legend runs deeply through generations of our customers – a spirit we revere and honour in a myriad of ways. Each person connected to the ANZAC Spirit has a story to tell of a loved who served our nation and sacrificed for our freedom – and our exclusive editions reflect that pride.

One such collection graces the pages of this magazine today. For your exclusive preview.

From the First and Second World Wars to Korea, Vietnam and the peacekeepers we send all over the world today, our editions offer a tangible 'Thank you' to all our service personnel, so their voices will remain forever heard and their dedication never forgotten or recognised.

From military coins, to figurines, fine art prints, to commemorative plates, jewellery, apparel and so much more, The Bradford Exchange recognises Australia's service personnel as our true nation's heroes.

Here's why millions of customers have enjoyed shopping with The Bradford Exchange for almost half a century:

Innovation: The Bradford Exchange is continually at the cutting edge of technology, while never losing sight of traditional crafts which have stood the test of time. Uniting the old with the new lets us bring you exceptional designs, unique in all the world.

Artistry: The world's most accomplished artists turn to The Bradford Exchange first to present their art and designs to the rest of the world. Their awards are many and their followers, legion.

Enduring Value: We never think of our editions as merely products. Once they enter your home, they become heirlooms which are passed from generation to generation as a remembrance of a special time, place or person.

Exclusivity: It's rare to find a single edition in any retail shop. Each one is an exclusive design, offered only by The Bradford Exchange, for a limited time only.

Money-Back Guarantee: If you're not completely satisfied with your fine art acquisition, neither are we. So you have the opportunity to return your choice and receive a refund of the issue price. No questions asked. Little wonder then that our guarantee is considered the best in the business!

Interest-Free Instalments: Our interest-free instalments make shopping with us so affordable.

To see our diverse range of military-themed editions, go to bradford.com.au/lwf

As a major sponsor, we respect and support the sterling work done by Defence Force Welfare Association in providing help assistance, advice and counsel to all levels our military personnel and believe the sacrifices those people make for Australia - in war and in peace - is truly deserving of recognition and pride.

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



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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:

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Given Names Post Nominals

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I AM: Serving Retired Navy Army Air Force Allied
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DFWA QUEENSLAND BRANCH, RUSI Bldg, Victoria Barracks Brisbane c/- Enoggera Mail Centre Qld 4051
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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



First DWG Birthday lunch in June at the Weston Raiders' Club. Birthday cup cakes were on the menu. In order to restrict traveling distance for members, the venue alternates between South and North Canberra.

THE ACT DEFENCE WIDOWS GROUP – SURVIVING INTO THE FUTURE

NOW THAT THE WORLD HAS SETTLED INTO A NEW NORMAL, we thought it timely to update members of the DFWA on the position of the Defence Widows Group within the Australian Capital Territory. We continue to exist under the umbrella of the New South Wales Branch with the support of the ACT Chapter.

Like so many Veteran Organisations, the number of members in the Defence Widows Group has diminished and covid restrictions forced us to reconsider our activities. It quickly became apparent that our members weren't interested in formal lunches or meetings but they really appreciated casual lunches and coffee mornings. Instead of our traditional five

casual lunches and one formal lunch a year, we now have 12 casual lunches and 12 coffee mornings! They are held on the same day each month and we use the same venues with ease of access and plentiful parking. We still sponsor a Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, and accept any invitations which come our way.

We no longer have a formal Committee or a Convenor. Two volunteers share the maintenance of a contact list of active members and they are supported by a small Planning Committee. We are fortunate to still have volunteers who contact members to remind them about upcoming activities and this communication is supplemented by Newsletters which are mailed out twice a year.

We now describe ourselves as a social group of widows who share a military connection. We will be able to continue into the future so long as there are ladies who like to lunch and there are volunteers who can do the minimal organisation and maintain the communication networks. Our experience with this new model is that firm friendships have formed within the group and informal welfare between members happens naturally.

First DWG Birthday lunch in June at the Weston Raiders' Club. Birthday cup cakes were on the menu. In order to restrict traveling distance for members, the venue alternates between South and North Canberra.

Second DWG Birthday Lunch in July at the Ainslie Football Club with Robin Mahood cutting a birthday cake. Robin attended the very first meeting of the then Defence Widows Support Group in 1981 and has been an active member ever since.



First DWG Birthday lunch in June at the Weston Raiders' Club. Birthday cup cakes were on the menu. In order to restrict traveling distance for members, the venue alternates between South and North Canberra.



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

Office Manager: Ally Lipman

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
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Email: nswbranch@dfwa.org.au

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Ph: (02) 4968 3811 Ph: (02) 4447 2461

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

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: MR P.D. COHEN; MRS M. CONNOR; MR T.J. GRAHAM; MAJ J.L. KASENKOW; MRS S. WALLS

VALE

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

COL O.M. CARROLL; MR C.F. CONNOR; MR A.W. CRIDDLE; CMDR D.G. DEBUS RAN (RTD); MR C.J. FREEMANTLE; and VADM R.A. WALLS AO RAN (RTD).

The NSW Branch editor apologises unreservedly to Mrs Marie McAleer, family and friends, for including Marie in this Section in the last edition. Suffice to say Marie is alive and well and enjoying life as much as ever.

NSW OFFICE MANAGER

Mrs Ally Lipman has joined us to manage the day-to-day activities of the NSW Office at Victoria Barracks. Ally has experience in advertising and marketing and is looking forward to assisting DFWA in its work with veterans and serving ADF members. She will normally be in the office between 10 am and 2 pm three days a week, Tue, Wed and Thu. We welcome Ally and look forward to her input.

AVCAT SCHOLARSHIPS

NSW/ACT Branch has budgeted to award two Scholarships in the 2024 academic year. The Scholarships will be awarded in the names of Mrs Joy Jobbins and COL John Haines, both long-time supporters of DFWA and the rights of veterans.

ACT CHAPTER

The Defence Widows Group of the ACT Chapter remain active and a separate article is in this edition of Camaraderie.

SINGLETON MILITARY AREA FAMILY DAY

Alan and Liz Hind attended the recent family day at the School of Infantry. WO2 Mary-Anne Holland, the Unit Welfare Office, positioned us inside the theatre with a number of other like-

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mindful organisations. A large crowd of families and young infantry recruits circulated among the stall holders. A very successful day for spreading the DFWA message (see above photo).

As a follow-up to the family day, NSW/ACT Branch has provided comment to the review of the Defence & Veterans Legal Service (DVLS). The DVLS was established by Government to give legal advice and assistance to people wishing to provide submissions to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide (RCDVS). With the RCDVS finalising its task later this year, thoughts are turning toward the future of the DVLS. In a Zoom interview, the advantages of retaining a service that is free, independent of Government and able to provide legal advice focused on veterans was discussed and supported.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

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

Direct Support over Christmas and New Year.

Before closing the office over the break, our Secretary Michael Hughes sent out a reminder that, even though the office was unmanned, we were still “operational” over the break. We got some positive feedback on this. The new system where a voice message may be left on our phone number and gets converted to an email text message sent to the Committee, ensure that we can acknowledge and address any issue. Over the Christmas period, we had over 60 emails requiring a response, including many voice message generated by the phone system. There was quite a bit of activity required by the Secretary and other members to resolve some issues with co-operation from other DFWA Branches and other ESO. We need to record this support we provide. There were several new membership applications. Thanks to Committee members.

Support to National. There has been considerable effort in finalising the workload related to some DFWA National issues that have involved an extensive workload on Qld Branch:

- Higher Taxation on Invalidation Benefits DFRDB and MSBS Pre 20 Sep 2007. Resolving way ahead for some hangover issues related to the taxation of Invalidation Benefits DFRDB and MSBS Inequities – Legal issues (The Douglas Case) and Impacts of the Tax legislation passed earlier last year.
- Higher Taxation ADF Cover Invalidation Benefits (From 1 July 2016. Way ahead for pursuing the same tax treatment of ADF Cover Invalidation Benefits recipients as given to MSBS recipients receiving the same amount of Invalidation Benefit. This also involved meetings with Qld based Federal MPs and Senators.
- Assistance to ATO. Assistance to the ATO Military Veterans Experience Project which examined the experience of Veterans in receipt of military superannuation and other benefits as they deal with the ATO. This involve assisting with arranging interviews with Veterans having a broad range of experiences. Interviews were also undertaken with stakeholders from DVA, CSC, Defence, Child Support, Family Court and Centrelink as well as tax professionals and others. There was a focus on understanding the Veteran issues. Any information provided by veterans was confidential and anonymous and not identifiable to any individual veteran or tax record. And was to be used only for this project. Veterans interviewed were paid \$90 for their time and could be accompanied by a support person of their choosing for the interview if they wished. It was a “client centric” approach and followed on from other consultation efforts the ATO made early last year. This was after the Inspector General of Taxation and Ombudsman made an

extensive report of the ATO's handling on the Douglas Decision implementation following a large number of complaints from the Veteran community.

Capitation. Capitation is a percentage of fees and donations received by a Branch paid to fund National Office administration. In 2020 DFVAQ ceased paying capitation due to unresolved issues with National administration. Instead, DFVAQ offered to fund specific National expenses by way of a grant, the most recent, the most recent being legal advice regarding the new National Constitution. National has now requested advice regarding DFVAQ resumption of capitation payments. The DFVAQ Committee will be reviewing the original decision to cease paying capitation in light of recent changes in National and reduced risk of insolvency of National.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Patron	Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC
President	Brigadier Mick Burgess
Senior Vice President	Tom Brodie
Vice President	Ben Wadham
Navy Member	Aaron Hannam
Army Member	Jodie Clark
Air Force Member	Lee Bowes
Secretary	David Helman OAM
Treasurer	vacant
Membership Secretary	Gavan Phillips
Convener Women Veterans	Charmaine McClouman
Northern Area Member	Daneil White
Committee Member	David Everitt

Contact: 0419 858 774 or Email: sa.admin@dfwa.org.au

The South Australian Branch enters the new year with energy and a clear vision for what we need to achieve for our members. Having established our goals last year; increased brand awareness and the support for the transition of veterans, our committee is working hard to progress these through action.

INCREASING BRAND AWARENESS FOR DFVA-SA.

In December 2023 we attended the DVA Forum convened by the Deputy Commissioner for South Australia, Janice Silby. While DFVA-SA has attended these forums previously, it is important that we attend regularly to consistently advertise our work and reinforce the brand in the minds of the ESO community and DVA.

The forum hosted The Repatriation Commissioner, Brigadier Kahlil Fegan DSC, AM, who spoke on his service, his role and

goals as Commissioner, and his own testimony to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

DFVA-SA's approach and goals were briefed to the Forum; the feedback indicates that the support for the transition of veterans is an area deserving of further effort. Support from representatives from other ESOs attending indicate that DFVA-SA has identified a key concern across the support spectrum.

We also reinforced our desire to change the narrative regarding veterans from being 'broken' to seeing the veteran as a sovereign asset – highly trained, responsible, disciplined, and willing to work for the country. This message was strongly endorsed by the Forum and by Brigadier Fegan, who intends to use the term in his own messaging.

We closed the year with a small group attending a cocktail party held by our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia. The annual event, also attended by representatives from the political parties, provides another opportunity to advertise the work of DFVA within the SA ESO community.

The year has now opened with two main activities. Firstly, the Defence Member and Family Support Branch 'Welcome to Adelaide' event held at the Adelaide Zoo to welcome new Defence families to the State (see photo), and the Second being a meeting with the SA Government's Minister for Education, Training and Education to discuss our initiatives for supporting for the transition of veterans.



David Everitt (Strategic Planning – DFVA-SA) and Leif Brown (DVA-SA, Flinders University 'War Horse' archaeology project and veteran) at the Welcome to Adelaide for Defence families, event held on 9 February 2024

SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSITION OF VETERANS.

On 30 January, our President Brigadier Mick Burgess, Vice President Professor Ben Wadham and Strategic Directions Manager David Everitt, met with The Honourable Blair Boyer, MP; SA's Minister for Education, Training and Education. This meeting was co-hosted by Ms Rebecca Pickering, CEO of the Civil Construction Federation (SA) and Mr Matt

Blackborough; RAAF veteran, skills trainer for Civil Train and member of DFWA-SA.

The meeting introduced our initiative, supported by the Civil Construction Federation (SA) and Flinders University's 'Open Door' program, to develop a clear pathway for veterans transitioning from defence into new careers in civil construction or study at university.

Known as '3 to 1' (three organisations with one goal – supporting veterans transitions) seeks to maximise the value of Veterans and families (Sovereign Assets), utilising their skills and experience as they transition to Community Assets by retraining, education and employment in SA.

CCF-SA has translating experience for RPL, CPL, VEC, re-training education and employment and, with support from DFWA-SA, see the development of a "Certificate of Construction Industry Competency" as a way of recognising the skills and value of Veterans to become

'workforce ready' in the civil construction industry.

Complementing this approach is the work of 'Open Door', with its mix of academic and "lived experience" to support the transition process and ADF Total Workforce Model.

The meeting sought the support of the Minister and an introduction to the new SA Skills Commissioner. The hosts proposed consideration for future financial support for this initiative for the re-training, education and employment of Veterans (and Families) in SA, once the parameters and needs were fully articulated. We also proposed that the Minister consider appointing suitably experienced and qualified Veteran representatives onto relevant Industry Boards.

The committee will keep all members informed of our progress across these keys areas throughout the year, and look forward to receiving feedback from all areas as to how these practical actions may be further enhanced.

VICTORIA BRANCH

Patron:	Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner, AC
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

Happy New Year to all our readers and the Victoria Branch hopes that you had a nice festive season with your families. This year has started off as busy as 2023 ended.

On 28 November 2023 Victoria Branch held its last committee meeting for the year. It was good to see most of the committee members in attendance and the past Vice President Army, John James.

Unfortunately, I had COVID and was not able to attend the Deputy Commissioner DVA Victoria's Christmas drinks in December, however, the Secretary Greg Powell represented the Branch.

In January the Victorian Branch accepted the responsibility to manage the Western Australian Branch members and appropriate funds were transferred to assist with the extra work and the delivery of Camaraderie magazines into

the future. I would like to welcome all Western Australian members to the Victorian Branch. It is our pleasure to look after you.

I submitted an expression of interest to the ADF Transition Centre to hold a stall at the two seminars to be held in Melbourne in 2024.

On 30 January 2024 I attended an Australia Day commemoration at Government House Victoria. This was a pleasant evening which was also a good opportunity to do some networking with other ESOs.

Vice President Air Force has been busy with liaising with Semken Landscaping. This landscaping company is based in Ringwood Victoria and they are keen to introduce a show garden at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show in March 2024. In conjunction with Peter Donegan, an Irish garden designer and sponsored by Daisy's Garden Supplies, a local garden supplies in Metro Melbourne and Regional Victoria. They will be building a show garden at the 2024 show. Their intention is for the show garden to draw attention to the public attending the show to the sacrifices of those who serve and have served in the Australian Defence Force protecting our Country and highlight the struggles those who have returned or retired from Service may have when attempting to acclimatise back to their civilian lives. As the design comes to life the garden will be named 'A Moment in Time'.

PASSING PARADE

MR FREDRICK BAUM; MS PAULA COLLETT;
MRS THELMA REGAN; GPCAPT LEO BRITT;
AND DFCMRS PHYLLIS NIXON

Daryll Topp
President DFWA VIC

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.

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