
SALUTE

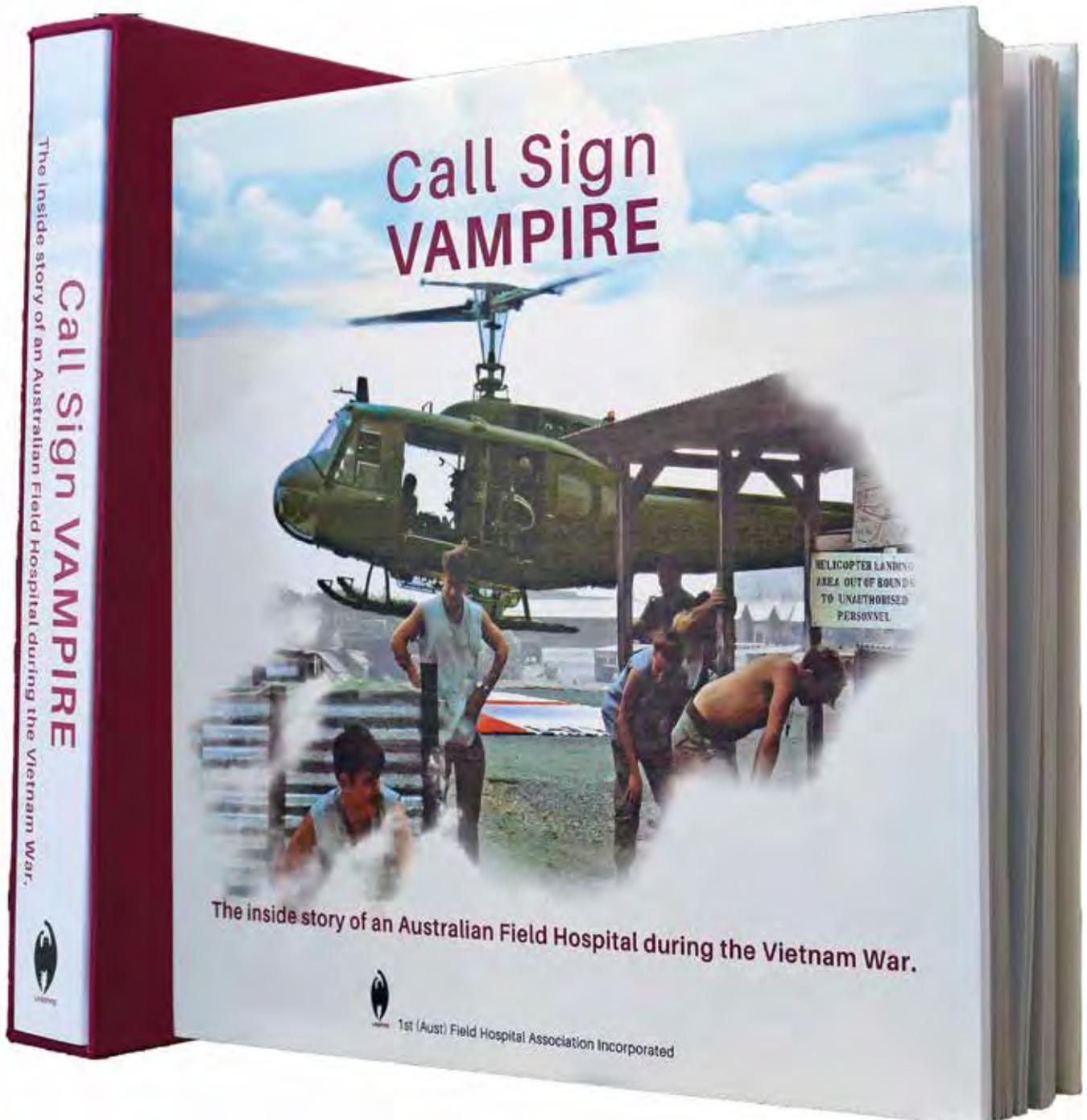
Official Journal of the Totally and Permanently
Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited

Autumn 2022



***One of the most outstanding books on Vietnam units I have ever read.
What a great publication and certainly a collectors must have.***

Graham Edwards, AM, 7RAR



Book – Call Sign VAMPIRE: The Inside Story of an Australian Field Hospital During the Vietnam War

Authors: Rodney Searle, Denise Bell, Paul Danaher, Gregory Anderson

ISBN: 978-0-646-83599-0

Published and distributed by 1st Australian Field Hospital Association Inc.

Enquiries: book@callsignvampire.com.au

To download order form visit: www.callsignvampire.com.au

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SALUTE

**Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited**

Our mission is to ensure the welfare of all members and their recognised carers

Non-sectarian – Non-political

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Our Front and Back Cover

Front cover

Frank Norton, *Mediterranean Sweep*, HMAS Hobart, 1941. This artwork depicts HMAS *Hobart*, 7th Cruiser Squadron, with HMS *Neptune* in the distance, oil on canvas, unframed 40.5 x 45cm AWM, ART23790.

Light cruiser HMAS *Hobart* (*I*) was one of the Royal Australian Navy vessels that participated in the Battle of the Coral Sea, in May 1942. HMAS *Hobart* (*I*) was part of a force protecting US aircraft carriers during the battle. In this role, *Hobart* was subjected to attacks by 27 Japanese bombers. Despite being without fighter cover, *Hobart* managed to shoot down three enemy aircraft and evade damage.

Hobart (*I*) sailed from the UK, where it had been built, to Australia and arrived just before Christmas 1938. Captain RR Stewart of the British Royal Navy commanded *Hobart's* Australian crew during the ship's trip to Australia. When interviewed by the Australian press on arrival Captain Stewart remarked, "*Hobart* has been a really happy ship. I have been greatly impressed by the men. They are better specimens physically than the average English sailor and they are very intelligent".

Back cover

Frank Norton, *Bombing up*, HMAS *Australia*, 1943. This artwork depicts aircraftmen bombing up Walrus aircraft on HMAS *Australia*, with backward

facing Pegasus engine, carbon pencil with pen and ink and wash on paper, overall 33 x 38.1cm, AWM, ART21773.

Artist note

The painting and sketch featured on the front and back covers of *Salute* were produced by Frank Norton (1916 – 1983). Norton was born in New Zealand, but arrived in Sydney in 1917. Starting in 1931, Norton studied painting at East Sydney Technical College. Following graduation, he received a scholarship to document naval ships travelling in Western Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Indonesia. In 1941, Norton joined the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and was appointed as an official war artist. After World War II, Norton was employed at the Australian National Art School to train ex-servicemen in painting.

80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea

These artworks by Frank Norton have been featured on the front and back covers of *Salute* as May 2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea. The battle was a World War II engagement between combined Australian and US forces that took place between 4 and 8 May 1942. An article about the Battle of the Coral Sea can be found on page 21 of this issue of *Salute*.

Disclaimer: Notwithstanding anything contained in any federal or state law or regulation whereby a person may be entitled to set up a claim against the president, vice presidents, board members, and/or Association members any views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor(s) or the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited.

Notice Board

Editor's Note, Autumn 2022

Greetings TPI members

I hope you're well and are (once again) enjoying the easing of Covid restrictions.

In this issue of *Salute*, as well as the usual material, we have some interesting articles written by *Salute* subeditor Alexandra Kaufman. These articles are: "80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea" (p. 21); "Saltwater Healing", about the Veteran Surf Project, a DVA-funded pilot program to help veterans experiencing PTSD (p. 23); and "The Canberra Bomber," (p. 26), which is the second article in our series about aircraft.

In this issue we have also published a second poem, "The Marchers", by Vic Jefferies (p. 33). Vic Jefferies' poem "Unanswered Questions" was published in the Summer issue of *Salute* (p. 45). Thanks for your contributions, Vic.

Membership Renewal Form

A number of members have not yet renewed their membership for 2022. The membership renewal form can be found on page 30. We look forward to receiving your renewal soon.

Monthly eNewsletter

TPI NSW has started publishing a monthly e-newsletter that will be emailed every month to keep TPI NSW Association members updated on matters of interest. Particularly, this e-newsletter will provide information that is more time-critical than can be communicated via our quarterly magazine, *Salute*.

For example, in this issue of *Salute* (p. 6) and in the March e-newsletter, there is information about the 2022 NSW Premier's Gala Concert and Seniors' Festival Expo for which the TPI NSW office has 20

free tickets to give to members. These tickets are for a concert that will be held at the Aware Super Theatre, International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) on Thursday 31 March 2022.

The first issue of the e-newsletter was emailed to members at the end of January 2022, the second issue will be emailed in March 2022 and then monthly from now on.

If you would like to receive the e-newsletter, please contact Membership Services Coordinator Sara Thorne and request to be put on the mailing list. Sara's email address and the TPI office's contact details are on page 1 of *Salute*. It's also possible to receive an electronic copy of *Salute* by email, if you would prefer this to a printed copy. However TPI NSW will continue publishing *Salute* in printed form.

We hope that both *Salute* and the e-newsletter will not be just one-way communication and that you will share your ideas and experiences with other TPI NSW Association members. If you have information or contributions that you would like to share or suggestions for topics that you'd like to read about, please email: editor@tpinsw.org.au. TPI NSW has over 2,700 members and therefore, over 2700 stories. We look forward to hearing from you.

Another change to *Salute* is that we will no longer be publishing the Concessions listings in every issue. We plan to publish the Concessions as a separate booklet once a year and send it to members. Copies will also be available by either contacting the office or downloading it from our website. A new website is currently in development.

Contributions

Please send me contributions including letters, poems, items of interest and information about

Notice Board

Editor's Note, Autumn 2022 continued

reunions and social events. You can submit material to *Salute* in the following ways:

- By mail, either handwritten, typed or on CD to TPI NSW, GPO Box 4429, Sydney, NSW 2001
- By fax on (02) 9279 0156
- By email to editor@tpinsw.org.au.

Photos and pictures are always welcome in *Salute* as the old adage of a "picture tells a thousand words" is very true. We are able to scan and return pictures. If you are submitting any scanned pictures for publication, they work best if they can be scanned at not less than 300 dpi (dots per inch), and are in "tagged image" (TIFF) format. If you are emailing photos JPEG (JPG) format is acceptable.

New topics

As well as continuing to publish the sections that have previously been included in *Salute*, CEO John Szabo and I are planning to widen the range of articles and items published in *Salute*. We have been thinking we could include articles on the following topics:

- Health
 - Environmental issues
 - Youth
 - Book and film reviews
 - Personal stories about TPI members and what they've done either during or after their military service.
 - Any other topics that readers are interested in.
- Please get in touch and let me know if you're interested in reading about any of the topics listed above or any other topics not mentioned here.

Send us your email addresses

We are in the process of upgrading and updating our database and would like members to send in email addresses so we can start communicating electronically with those who want to. There is also an option to receive an electronic copy of *Salute* by email. Please send your email address to Membership Services Co-ordinator Sara Thorne at office@tpinsw.org.au and let us know if you would like to receive *Salute* by email instead of a printed copy.

Publication deadlines

Members wishing to send correspondence, articles, photographs and reports to *Salute* for publication, please have items in before the following dates:

- 25 January** for Autumn issue
- 25 April** for Winter issue
- 25 July** for Spring issue
- 25 October** for Summer issue

I look forward to hearing from you and finding out what you'd like to see in *Salute*.

Victoria Dawson

Salute Editor

Email: editor@tpinsw.org.au

Widows/Widowers

Would you like to receive *Salute* magazine regularly? The subscription cost is \$10.00 per year. Please contact Sara Thorne at the TPI office on (02) 9235 1466 Monday – Wednesday, 9am – 4pm or via email on office@tpinsw.org.au

Notice Board

GENERAL MEMBERS MEETINGS

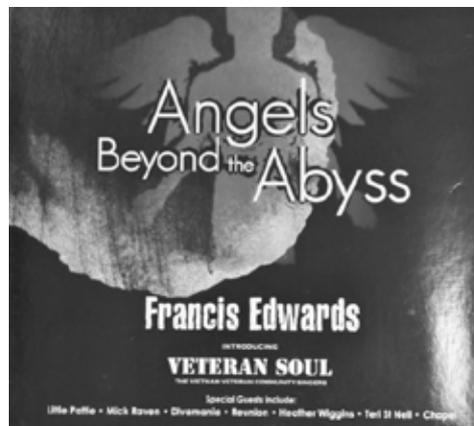
Members meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, commencing at 1pm at Barracks on Barrack, 2nd Floor, 5 – 7 Barrack Street, Sydney. (Some dates may be subject to change due to public holidays or cancelled at a general meeting). If in doubt call Head Office Phone: 9235 1466, Monday - Thursday, 9am – 4pm.

Forthcoming meeting dates are:

Tuesday 22 March 2022
Tuesday 26 April 2022
Tuesday 24 May 2022
Tuesday 28 June 2022
Tuesday 26 July 2022
Tuesday 23 August 2022
Tuesday 27 September 2022
Tuesday 25 October 2022, AGM
Tuesday 22 November 2022

Items for sale at the Association's Office

Tie: dark blue, maroon, gold diagonal stripes with TPI badge design	\$25.00
Mini badge	\$6.00
Car stickers	\$1.00
<i>Angels Beyond the Abyss</i> CD	\$29.99



Notice Board

From Australian Veteran News @AVNHQ: RSL NSW membership is now free

Veterans and serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) can now become members of RSL NSW for free.

“There should be no barrier for any current serving member or veteran of the ADF to join RSL NSW,” the branch explains in a recent statement announcing the free membership.

NSW RSL CEO Jon Black says RSL membership means “so much more than being invited to commemorations and events. It’s not just what you get as a valued member, it’s also about what you can do for other veterans too,” he says.

“The ADF and Armed Forces are a family of committed people who thrive on camaraderie and friendship. When retiring from service, that bond is continued via your local RSL NSW sub-branch. Staying connected to people who understand what you have been through is the most valuable support an ADF member can have.”

Until now the process for joining the RSL has been paper-based and, according to feedback from members, cumbersome. RSL NSW says it is responding to member feedback that it would be more efficient if becoming a member was an online process.

Prospective members can now join RSL NSW online.

RSL NSW believes free membership and the new online facility will make it easier than ever for serving ADF personnel and the veteran community to “come on board, connect with their local sub-branch and participate in the camaraderie,

mateship, recreation and commemoration of service”.

RSL NSW is not just for ADF members and veterans. There are also options for partners, spouses and families to join.

Membership benefits include support for veterans who are on the road to recovery from mental or physical health issues, assistance with Department of Veterans’ Affairs claims and employment support.

“Whether it’s employment, medical or financial, we are here to help,” says NSW RSL President Ray James.

RSL NSW has a network of more than 340 sub-branches and chapters across NSW. Sub-branches are operated by veteran volunteers.

RSL NSW and its sub-branches do not own or operate clubs or benefit from the proceeds of the sale of alcohol or gambling.

Subscribe to [Australian Veteran News](#).



Notice Board

NSW Premier's Gala Concert and Seniors' Festival Expo 2022 – Free Tickets

The NSW Premier's Gala Concerts are held two times a year. There is a Seniors Week Concert in March/April and a Christmas Concert in December. The TPI NSW Association office receives a limited number of tickets, only for the Seniors Week Concert in March/April.

The TPI NSW office has 20 tickets for the 2022 NSW Premier's Gala Concert and Seniors' Festival Expo. These tickets are for a concert that will be held at the Aware Super Theatre, International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) on Thursday 31 March 2022, commencing at 11.00am sharp. The ICC is at 14 Darling Drive, Sydney NSW 2000. The 2022 star-studded lineup includes Phil Burton from Human Nature, Christine Anu, Shannon Noll, Emma Pask and Gary Pinto and The Diamonds.

If you are interested in receiving tickets, please contact the TPI NSW office. You can phone the office on (02) 9235 1466/1800 649 216 to have tickets posted to you, or you can drop in to the office on level 4, 55 York Street Sydney to collect tickets. For inquiries about individual tickets to these concerts please call the Concerts Information Line on 1300 130 613.

Further Information about the NSW Premier's Gala Concert and Seniors' Festival Expo 2022

This concert will be held at the **Aware Super Theatre, ICC Sydney on Thursday 31 March 2022, commencing at 11:00am sharp.** The concert runs for approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes, including a short intermission.

The Seniors' Festival Expo, featuring a variety



Performers appearing at the NSW Premier's Gala Concert

of exhibition stands and entertainment, will be operational from 9:30am until 3:30pm and will be held in the Exhibition Centre, Hall 4 at the ICC. Doors into the Premier's Gala Concert Theatre Auditorium will open at approximately 10:00am. Please note, there will be no pass-outs from the Gala Concerts to the Expo.

Concert patrons are encouraged to use public transport. For the latest public transport information, visit www.transportnsw.info or call the NSW Transport Information Line on 131 500 closer to the concert date. For those concert patrons who have chosen to drive to the concert in a private vehicle, parking will be available at the International Convention Centre and surrounding car parks. Please note that parking fees apply. Please leave plenty of time to arrive as there may be increased traffic in the area on the day.

Please keep your tickets in a secure place. If you lose tickets it may take a while to reprint and get these sent out to you.

Covid-19

The safety of event patrons is of top priority

and whilst we will be taking precautions and measures to help achieve this, we will require the full cooperation of event attendees. Due to the current climate and the ever-changing nature of the pandemic, we ask all event patrons to stay up to date with all restrictions, procedures and advice. Please visit the NSW Government, the event's and the venue's websites to stay up to date with these Covid-19 policies and procedures:

- NSW Government Website:
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>
- NSW Seniors' Festival Website:
https://www.seniorsfestival.nsw.gov.au/events/premiers_gala-concerts
- ICC, Sydney Website:
<https://www.iccsydney.com.au/EventSafe>

Venue Requirements

Please note that any large backpacks, handbags, eskies or umbrellas will not be permitted into the Theatre. Please be mindful that if you do bring any of these items, they will need to be placed into the Cloak Room.

Missing Persons

Patrons can become separated from groups and

can go missing either before, during or after the concerts. We ask that all groups bring enough carers to look after all members of their group and provide them with adequate identification that is to be worn at all times. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) is not responsible for concert patrons who go missing.

Reduce Empty Seats

Each year, the concerts are booked out, with demand for tickets far outweighing the number available. Despite this, sometimes up to 20% of seats can be empty. Empty seats are the most common complaint by seniors attending the concerts. Please note in 2022, the use of tickets will be monitored in an effort to minimise the number of empty seats on the day. DCJ will monitor groups that do not use their allocated tickets or return them too late to be reallocated.

NSW Seniors Week/Financial Freedom Today

NSW Seniors Week is about looking after our senior citizens, getting out of the house, getting active and enjoying our time. Providing a helping hand with retirement finance is a big part of it.
www.nswseniorsweek.com.au



Concert Dates:	Wednesday 30 & Thursday 31 March 2022 (AM Concert 11am, PM Concert 2:45pm)
Transport Options:	Public Transport (Train, Bus, Ferry & Light Rail), Taxis Ride Share & Private Vehicles
Venue:	Aware Super Theatre, ICC Sydney, 14 Darling Drive, Sydney (www.iccsydney.com.au)

Key:

- Light Rail
- Train Station
- Parking
- Taxi Stand
- Walking Routes
- Light Rail Route

Main Parking Area:
ICC Sydney Exhibition Centre Darling Drive

ICC Theatre Light Rail Station:
Exhibition Centre

Taxis (Zollner Circuit)

Alternate Parking:
Market City Wilson Parking (2 Quay St)

Alternate Parking:
Darling Quarter Wilson Parking (Off Harbour St)

Walking Route from Town Hall Station

Walking Route from Central Station

Visit: transport.info to plan your trip or call the transport information line on 131 500.

➔ **TRAIN STATIONS** – Central Station is the preferred station to alight, then either catch the Light Rail to **Exhibition Light Rail Station** or the special event '88' shuttle bus, or Walk to the venue via Hay St.
 Walking from Central Station: walk from Central Station Western Concourse and down ramp to Hay St, then turn left into Hay St and follow the Light Rail to Tumbalong Blvd then turn right to reach the venue.
Walking distance is approx. 1km / Approximately 15-20 minutes.

From Town Hall Station, walk via Bathurst St and across Harbour St that will take you across to Darling Quarter then continue across Tumbalong Park to Aware Super Theatre. *Walking time to venue: Approximately 10-15 minutes.*

➔ **CAR PARK STATIONS** – For those who will be travelling to the concerts in a private car, the best parking is located at the ICC Convention & Exhibition Centre Car Park, with the entrance being left, off Darling Drive as you travel south.

➔ For more information about how to travel to ICC Darling Harbour please visit. <http://www.iccsydney.com.au>

➔ Alternate parking is available at most other parking stations around the city, please see map above for some options.

➔ Please allow plenty of time for Traveling by Private Vehicle to ICC, Sydney and plan your trip ahead of time.

➔ **TAXIS** – Taxis & Ride Share (Uber, etc), must Drop-off and Pick-up passengers at Zollner Circuit on the South side of the Theatre. Taxis and Ride share vehicle will not be permitted to drop-off or pick-up on Darling Drive.

President's Report

February 2022

I hope members and their families had a safe and happy break over Christmas and New Year, despite the uncertainty and disruption caused by Covid-19.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 23 November 2021 in person at Barracks on Barrack, just before the Omicron outbreak of Covid-19. Forty-one members attended the meeting. The financial statements for the year ending 2021 were approved and all sitting directors were re-elected at the meeting. Bill Roberts, who was a director in 2020, has rejoined the Board. The directors are President: Pat Bright, OAM; Senior Vice-President: Les Vincent; Junior Vice President: Kevin Kelly; and Directors: Stephen Emerson, OAM, JP, Philip Hurren, John Hoban, Harold Lowe and Bill Roberts, OAM, JP.

Directly following the AGM in November, a Special General Meeting was held where members voted to reduce the quorum for general meetings from 30 to 25 members. It has become increasingly difficult to get a quorum of 30 members at meetings and this is partly due to the demographic of the membership (age and health) as well as the distances that some members are required to travel from their homes to the TPI NSW head office in Sydney. This change to the quorum was approved by the members at the meeting.

The members meetings in January and February 2022 were not held due to Covid-19 but the March meeting is going ahead in person at 1pm on Tuesday 22 March 2022 at Barracks on Barrack, 2nd floor, 5 – 7 Barrack Street, Sydney. The TPI NSW Christmas in July luncheon that was postponed from July 2021 to December 2021 and was due to take place on 1 February 2022 has been postponed again. We don't yet have a new date but we will let

members know when a date for this event has been set.

The TPI Federation Congress took place via electronic conferencing on 16 February 2022. The Congress normally takes place in March but was held earlier this year due to parliamentary sitting dates and the forthcoming federal election. A report on the TPI Federation Congress will be published in the Winter 2022 issue of *Salute*.

The TPI NSW constitution will be reviewed and rewritten by the board in 2022. The current version is now out of date, as it was written several decades ago under superseded legislation. Please see the CEO's Report in this issue of *Salute* for further information on changes to the constitution.

We hope members are enjoying the revamped *Salute* and the new monthly TPI NSW e-newsletter. The first e-newsletter was published at the end of January. The second issue will be published in March and will appear monthly from now on. If you would like to receive this electronic publication by email please contact Membership Services Coordinator Sara Thorne to have your email address added to the database.

I look forward to catching up with fellow members in the near future when we are able to hold our members' meetings and social events in person once again. Until then stay safe and keep well.



Patrick J Bright, OAM
President
TPI NSW

From the CEO

TPI NSW Constitution

Dear Members,

The Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited is a company limited by guarantee, a legal structure defined in the Corporations Act. It is one of the main ways in which Australian not-for-profit and charitable organisations operate.

During 2022 the directors and I will work on drafting a new constitution for the Association. We believe that the current version is well and truly out of date, having been written many decades ago under superseded legislation. Numerous amendments have been made over the decades, however as the years as have passed the document has become outmoded for modern times. Many of the provisions in the current version are either no longer relevant to our organisation or are not suitable for the operation of a company limited by guarantee in the 21st century.

Therefore, the board will draft a new constitution for the Association using the *model constitution template* provided by the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC). The model ACNC constitution will be modified and adapted to our Association's specific requirements, especially in the areas of membership and governance. *The ACNC sets the framework under which our Association operates and, therefore, we strongly believe that the ACNC model is the best starting point. The ACNC template can be viewed at: <https://www.acnc.gov.au/tools/templates/constitution-for-charitable-company-limited-guarantee>*

Once a draft constitution has been prepared, appropriate legal advice will be sought in order

to ensure that the draft complies with all relevant legislation and that our charitable and tax-exempt status remains unchanged.

The final draft will then be sent to all voting members of the Association for review, together with a notice of a special general meeting, at which we will seek to formally adopt the new constitution.

A dedicated email address will be available for members to send in their comments and views on the document.

John Szabo

CEO TPI NSW

Email: info@tpinsw.org.au



TPI NSW CEO John Szabo (centre), with other representatives of organisations that sponsor AVCAT scholarships at a presentation for AVCAT scholars held at Admiralty House on 20 May 2021.

Federation President's Report

February 2022

The Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen & Women Ltd (Incorporated in the ACT)

TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

"Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause"



Happy New Year to all our Members and fellow TPI/SRs and it is hoped that the New Year is all that you would like it to be for you and your families.

As of 1 January 2022, the PBS and the RPBS Safety Net threshold has been adjusted. From 1 January 2022, you pay up to \$42.50 for most PBS medicines or \$6.80 if you have a concession card. The Safety Net threshold remains equivalent to 48 scripts. The amount of co-payment is adjusted on 1 January each year in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Veterans' Home Care services available

The Veterans' Home Care (VHC) program provides eligible DVA clients and eligible dependants with access to services to help you to remain independent and in your homes. For further information: <https://bit.ly/3FhFjbJ>.

DVA recently added an additional service for VEA clients of Lawn Mowing and Garden Maintenance for a maximum of 15 hours per year. Any TPI who is already receiving 26 hours per year service for this service will retain that entitlement. If you are concerned and would like to discuss your circumstances, you are encouraged to contact DVA

on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) so the matter can be investigated.

Rent Assistance

Again, a reminder and a repeat of a comment in my August and October 2021 Reports –

As part of the October 2020 Federal Budget, the Government finally agreed, after 15 years of campaigning by the TPI Federation, and as from September 2022, to allow TPIs eligibility of the Federal Governments Rent Assistance allowance. The TPI Federation disagreed with the length of time this provision would take to be implemented and, as a result, as part of the May 2021 Federal Budget, this timeline was bought forward so that this initiative could commence on 1 January 2022.

This provision will enable all eligible TPIs to have their TPI Compensation payment not included as income for the purposes of the income and assets test for this allowance. This will enable approximately 2800 TPIs to utilise this allowance.

Further information on this provision can be found at:

- a. TPI Federation Letter – Rent Assistance Information - <https://bit.ly/36bHIUR>

- b. DVA Fact Sheet – Help with your Rent - <https://bit.ly/3wjYlJs>.
- c. DVA 'How-To' Accommodation Information <https://bit.ly/3AfJQZM>.



Ms Pat McCabe, OAM
TPI Federation President

Phone: 0417 291 546

Email: federation@tpifed.org.au

Conclusion

The TPI Federation will continue to assist all TPIs as best they can during the coming year and should you have any questions, please forward them to the email address below.

Important Dates

Royal Commission Started:	8 July 2021
Rent Assistance Eligibility for TPIs begins:	1 January 2022
Royal Commission Submissions Close:	31 March 2022
Royal Commission Interim Report:	11 August 2022
Royal Commission Final Report:	15 June 2023

The following material was sent by TPI Federation President Pat McCabe for the information of TPI Members

Military Superannuation Streamlined Amendment Process Key update messages – February 2022

Good Morning,

We have postponed our mailout to impacted veterans who did not opt-in to the military superannuation streamlined amendment process before 31 May 2021. This is due to the government announcement on 24 November 2021, to introduce legislation to amend the tax treatment of invalidity pensions. Once legislation has been enacted, we will provide further details.

While the mailout has been postponed, until legislation is amended, veterans may still request to have previous assessments amended. We have

made a simplified form available at ato.gov.au/militarysuperform for those who wish to do so.

Veterans who have already had amendments made under our remediation program do not need to do anything, we will contact them on passage of law if there are any changes or impacts. Veterans who have not yet sought remediation per the Douglas decision, may either wait for legislation to pass, or seek these amendments. We encourage those who are interested in receiving updates on the streamlined amendment process to regularly check-in with the military superannuation webpage at ato.gov.au/militarysuper.

To complement the website information, we have also prepared an update with some key messages that you may wish to share with your members. We have prepared this in a format where

you will be able to cut and paste the ATO messages into your relevant publications/newsletters so you can share with your members. Additionally, if there are any other concerns raised, please let us know and we can consider them for the next round of key messages if appropriate.

Military superannuation streamlined amendment process update

In December 2020, the Full Federal Court found that invalidity pensions payable under the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) Scheme and the Military Superannuation and Benefits (MSB) Scheme that started on or after 20 September 2007 should be taxed as superannuation lump sum payments.

The ATO has postponed their mailout to impacted veterans due to the government announcement on 24 November 2021, to introduce legislation to amend the tax treatment of invalidity pensions. Once legislation has been enacted, the ATO will provide further details. While the mailout has been postponed, until legislation is amended, impacted veterans may still seek a review of assessments for previous years by completing a simplified form found at ato.gov.au/militarysuperform and mailing it to the ATO. You can also use this form to seek a review of your assessments if you have recently received a determination for a disability benefit.

Following the change in tax treatment, the ATO has been processing amendments for past tax returns of impacted individuals who have opted-in as part of its remediation program.

If you have already had amendments made under the remediation program, you do not need to do anything, the ATO will contact you on passage of law if there are any changes/impacts for you.

If you have not yet sought remediation per the Douglas Court decision, you may either wait for legislation to pass, or seek these amendments now. Before you lodge your form, make sure you read

the information at ato.gov.au/militarysuper. You need to ensure you have lodged any outstanding income tax returns before you take part. You should also apply to Commonwealth Superannuation Corporate (CSC) for a determination if you believe you qualify for a disability concession. You should also consider seeking financial advice in relation to your personal circumstances as the result will depend on your personal circumstances.

The ATO updates its website regularly at ato.gov.au/militarysuper

Victoria McCormick

Communications Manager

Public Relations

Marketing and Communication

Australian Taxation Office

Counselling, mental health support and crisis accommodation

- The Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling line is available to support members of the current and ex-service community and their families 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Phone 1800 011 046 toll-free.
 - Safe Zone Support is an anonymous counselling line that's available 24/7 to support members of the current and ex-service community and their families. Phone 1800 142 072 toll-free.
 - For further mental health information and support, visit <http://www.openarms.gov.au/>
- For more information about other DVA services please see the DVA website: <https://www.dva.gov.au/>.

For a list of Open Arms online and group programs, see page 57 in this issue of *Salute*.

Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA) Information

DVA has provided the following information in relation to the DFISA.

Email sent 19 January 2022:

From 1 January 2022, the Disability Compensation Payment (formerly known as Disability Pension) became exempt from the income test under the *Social Security Act 1991*. Centrelink payments such as the Age Pension will increase as a result, removing the need for DFISA. In addition, Rent Assistance became available or increased for some veterans.

Those who had previously received DFISA found that on the first payday of 2022, 13 January, part of the DFISA payment was reduced. On payday 27 January, there will be no DFISA paid. However, social security payments from Centrelink will increase accordingly.

The part payment on 13 January is because the effective date of 1 January falls in the middle of a pay period. As Centrelink paydays differ for each person, they do not align with DVA veteran paydays. Veterans can check payday amounts in their Centrelink online account and their DVA MyService account.

Veterans and their partners do not need to do anything, as the payments will be made automatically.

Unfortunately, some of the letters advising of the changes to veterans were delayed, meaning some veterans did not receive a personal explanation as to why their DFISA payment had been reduced prior to 13 January.

We are sorry for any distress this has caused veterans and their families.

Further information can be found under "What's New" at <https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/income-support/allowances/defence-force-income-support-allowance-dfisa>

Warm regards

Vicki Rundle, PSM

Acting Secretary

Department of Veterans' Affairs

DFISA Talking Points

Background

- In December 2021, legislation was passed which results in an increase in social security payments, removing the need for the Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA) and increasing Rent Assistance to some disabled veterans receiving income support.
- These changes took effect on 1 January 2022. The changes implement the recommendations of the review by Mr David Tune into the adequacy of the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) payment. The new legislation:
 - exempts Disability Compensation Payment (formerly known as Disability Pension) as income under the *Social Security Act*. These changes simplify the support system for veterans and their dependants and negate the need for the DFISA.
 - removes a means test imposed on Rent Assistance for certain veterans and dependants. These veterans and dependants are now eligible for Rent Assistance, or an increased rate of Rent Assistance.
 - clarify that the Disability Compensation Payment is a compensation payment, and that it should not be confused with other income support payments such as Centrelink's Disability Support Pension.
- No veteran will receive lower total payments as a result of this measure. Many will receive more due to now being eligible for Rent Assistance, either for the first time or at a higher rate.

Why don't I have my Defence Force Income Support Allowance in my bank account?

- The Defence Force Income Support Allowance is no longer needed because your underlying income support payment has increased by the same amount.
- This is because your Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Disability Compensation Payment

(formerly known as Disability Pension) is no longer taken into account in the income test for your social security payment (Centrelink payment or Age Pension paid by DVA).

- You should have received a letter from DVA explaining this, however, some letters have been delayed.
- Please see the [DVA website DFISA page under "What's New"](#) for further information.
- Please check your payments online with Centrelink, and DVA's MyService.

Are veterans receiving less money because of these changes?

- No, you will receive the same total amount, or perhaps more if you are privately renting.
- Please check your online Centrelink account for information about your payment (or your MyService account if you receive Age Pension from DVA), which should have increased by the same amount as your previous Defence Force Income Support Allowance.
- If your payment has not increased, please consider other circumstances that might have changed such as an increase in your income or assets, a change in relationship e.g. single to couple status, a move in residence.
- If your circumstances have not changed, then please ring on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or email DVA (GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au) with your veteran file number and DVA will investigate.
- You may have never received your social security payment before and only received Disability Compensation Payment (formerly known as Disability Pension) and the Defence Force Income Support Allowance from DVA.

- If this is the case, please access your online Centrelink account and check that you are receiving it now.
- Please note that the change is staggered over two paydays because the change took effect on 1 January 2022, which is in the middle of two pay periods.
- The pay day of 27 January will show no DFISA and the full amount of your social security payment.
- Note also that pay days at Centrelink are different for different customers, unlike DVA which has the same pay day for all veterans and their families. Thus, the Centrelink payday may not align with the DVA payday.

Will veterans need to apply for rent assistance?

- No. DVA has contacted those income support recipients who may be eligible and sought up-to-date rent information from them. This information was used to undertake the assessment of Rent Assistance with payments commencing on the first payday of 13 January 2022.
- If a veteran thinks they have missed out, they may be able to update their rental details on MyService or ring DVA.
- Those eligible would be in receipt of the Disability Compensation Payment *and* Service Pension, Income Support Supplement or Veteran Payment.
- They will also need to provide proof of private rent paid above \$127.60 per fortnight for singles and \$206.40 combined for couples.
- The maximum amount of Rent Assistance paid is \$142.80 per fortnight for singles and \$134.60 per fortnight for couples combined.

Department of Veterans' Affairs Information on Escaping Violence

The Escaping Violence Payment is funded by the Department of Social Services and administered through the UnitingCare Australia's Consortium. The Escaping Violence Payment is available to Australian residents including veterans and veteran family members, aged 18 and over who have left their family home due to a family violence situation and are experiencing financial stress. An eligible person may receive support of up to \$5000 to help address the financial barriers. This support could include help with bills, relocation expenses, counselling and legal services. Further information about the Escaping Violence Payment, including eligibility criteria, Consumer fact sheets, and Agency fact sheets, FAQs and how to apply, can be found at [Escaping Violence Payment | Uniting Vic. Tas \(unitingvictas.org.au\)](https://unitingvictas.org.au).

It is important to note that the service offered through the Escaping Violence Payment is not a crisis service. If a person needs crisis assistance they should call 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732) which is a free, confidential, specialist family and domestic violence service if they require more specialised support or MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978 which provides specialised men's services. Veterans and veteran family members can also access support from Open Arms on 1800 011 046. If a person is in immediate danger they should call 000. All services are free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and are confidential.

The Escaping Violence Payment was announced by the Government in the 2021 – 22 Budget as a key initiative of the Women's Safety Package. The Department of Social Services advised of this payment through their website and social media as part of the 2021 – 22 Budget communications in October 2021 when the payment commenced.

Supporting those in the veteran community who have experienced family and domestic violence is important to DVA, which is why we advised of this payment through our social media.

We want to break the stigma around family and domestic violence, encouraging more survivors to seek help and to work with those who use violence, to help them stop. We are committed to increasing the awareness of family and domestic violence and linking veterans and veteran families with support within the broader Australian community such as the Escaping Violence Payment.

As you are aware, in 2020 DVA released the [DVA Family and Domestic Violence Strategy: 2020-2025](#) (the Strategy) which aligns with the whole of the Australian Government's response to family and domestic violence. Since the Strategy's release the implementation of DVA measures has been guided by DVA Senior Executive Staff and Commissioner Cherne.

In 2020 – 21 DVA:

- delivered family and domestic violence awareness training to over 1,000 DVA front line staff
- raised awareness of the specialised family and domestic violence resources available including, 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732), 1800 ElderHelp (1800 353 374) and the National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline (1800 880 052) as well as Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling (1800 011 046) through DVA publications including eNews, VetAffairs and the advocates newsletter
- had over 67,000 views of DVA's family and domestic violence social media campaigns which coincided with known periods of increased incidents in family and domestic violence in the community
- had over 1,100 visits to the Family and Domestic Violence Strategy webpage
- launched a family and domestic violence e-learning course and strongly encouraged all staff to complete. This course will be a prerequisite for two tailored workshops on family and domestic violence, one for front line staff and one for all managers

- made a commitment to undertaking additional training for all Open Arms staff in the identification of risk, assessment, prompt, appropriate referrals and support of people experiencing family and domestic violence
- commenced a multi-staged program of collaborative research that aims to improve recognition and responses to Intimate Partner Violence in an Australian context
- continued to provide 24-hour free confidential mental health support through Open Arms for current and former serving Australian Defence Force members and their families. This support includes crisis accommodation and trauma support for veterans, partners and dependent children who are impacted by family and domestic violence.

We would welcome feedback from the TPI Federation on how we can work together to support all members in the veteran community affected by family and domestic violence to get the support needed.

Kind regards,

**Office of the Secretary
Department of Veterans' Affairs**

DVA is committed to supporting veterans and their families. We all deserve to be treated with courtesy and respect. We ask that you please treat us the same way.



New payment to help women escape violent relationships

Senator the Hon Anne Ruston

Ministers for the Department of Social Services

Media Release

Sunday 17 October 2021

From Tuesday the Morrison Government will provide women leaving a violent relationship access to a one-off payment of up to \$5,000 to help them establish a life free of violence.

Under the two-year Escaping Violence Payment trial women will receive financial assistance of up to \$1,500 in cash with the remainder available for goods and services or direct payments of bonds, school fees or other support to help establish a safe home.

The UnitingCare Australia Consortium has been selected as the service provider to deliver the payments and will also support women to engage with other relevant services that support women and their children. This includes other Commonwealth or state and territory government funded community services.

Minister for Women's Safety Anne Ruston said the payments would help address the financial barriers that may stop women leaving violent relationships.

"We know that financial hardship as well as economic abuse, which may involve interfering with work or controlling or withholding money, reduces women's ability to acquire and use money and makes it difficult to leave violent relationships," Minister Ruston said.

"The new Escaping Violence Payment aims to help address those issues so women have more security when making that brave decision to leave

any form of intimate partner violence – including physical violence, coercive control and financial abuse.

“The payments will assist people who need financial support to leave. We know the size of the house a woman is fleeing doesn’t matter – often she bundles the kids into the car, maybe the dog too and they leave with nothing more than the clothes on their backs.

“The Morrison Government is absolutely committed to ending domestic, family and sexual violence and this new program offers another tool in the toolkit under our record \$1.1 billion investment in women’s safety.”

UnitingCare Australia National Director Claerwen Little said the Escaping Violence Payment would help women to access some of the essentials needed to create a safe home and life for themselves and their children.

“The UnitingCare Network has extensive experience supporting victim-survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence and staff would leverage that knowledge to provide a wrap-around service for women and their children,” Ms Little said.

“We believe that all people, especially women and their children, have the right to live freely and without fear, and this payment is an important step forward to ending violence against women and their children.

“As part of the individualised support packages, UnitingCare Network agencies will provide tailored assistance and engage with other relevant agencies that support women and their children including other Commonwealth or state and territory government funded community services.”

The Escaping Violence Payment is not considered taxable or reportable income and will not impact on any other social security payments a recipient may be receiving. Eligibility includes financial stress and evidence of domestic violence including, but not limited to, a referral from a family

and domestic violence service provider with a risk assessment and safety plan, an AVO, court order or a police report.

Women or anyone else experiencing violence can apply for the payment through UnitingCare Network from 19 October 2021. More information will be available at unitingvictas.org.au/escaping-violence-payment

The Escaping Violence Payment will build on and complement existing programs offered by state and territories, as well as Australian Government support offered to women experiencing violence, including:

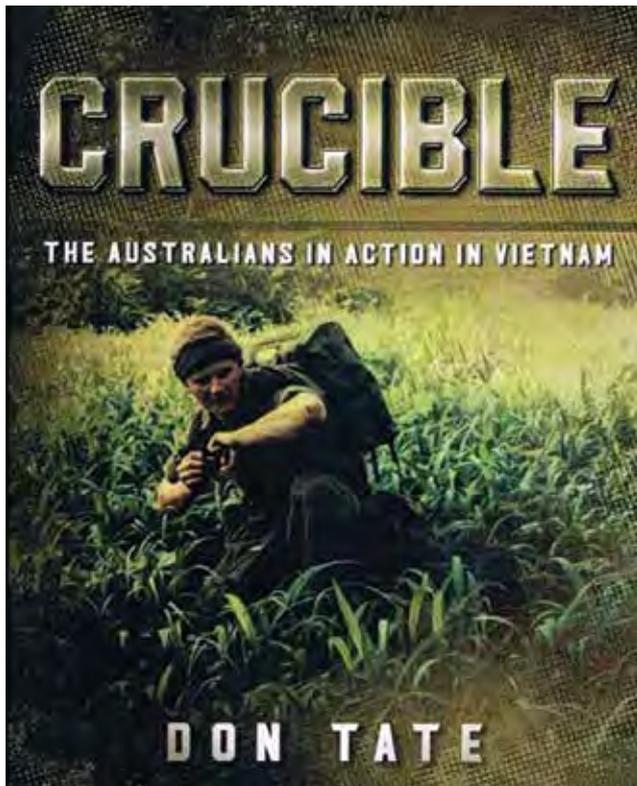
- Services Australia’s [Crisis Payment for Extreme Circumstances of Family and Domestic Violence](#)
- [No Interest Loan Scheme for Women Experiencing Domestic Violence](#)
- [Emergency Relief](#)
- [Keeping Women Safe in Their Homes.](#)

The two-year trial will be independently evaluated to assess the benefit of the payment, including demand, eligibility criteria, needs of specific cohorts, and how it works with related services.

The \$144.8 million Escaping Violence Payment trial is part of the landmark \$1.1 billion women’s safety package contained in the 2021-22 Women’s Budget Statement.

If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732 or visit www.1800RESPECT.org.au

Crucible: The Australians in Action in Vietnam



Cover of *Crucible: The Australians in Action in Vietnam*

Book – *Crucible: The Australians in Action in Vietnam*

Author: Don Tate

Crucible is a new book by Headquarters First Australian Task Force (HQ1ATF) Association member, Don Tate. Don has already published several other books. His previous book, *The War Within*, was described by ABC Radio's Richard Aedy as "an amazing book [and] a remarkable read". *The Sydney Morning Herald* wrote of *The War Within* that this book is "narrated with vivid authority, [it] at once disarms, repels, gives hope, as its narrator summons inner demons beyond anything that the

war in Vietnam had made".

Don's latest book, *Crucible*, presents unique perspectives of 370 matters from the Vietnam War, taken from Narratives and Unit Histories, of large battles, fleeting contacts, tragedies, heroism, misadventure and accidents. More than 900 veterans are named in *Crucible*. While many are well known, many others have not previously been recognised for their efforts. A number of the pieces relate to HQ Company 1ATF, of which Don was a part of in 1969.

Crucible retails for \$30 and veterans can contact Don by email at: warvet_69@yahoo.com to swap bank details and give their postal address.

If members are on Facebook, they can go to Don's page "Crucible" for a PayPal option.



Vietnam veterans, including two in Royal Australian Navy (RAN) uniform, marching at the dedication of the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra on 3 October 1992. It is estimated that 25,000 veterans marched that day. Also in the photograph are members of the watching crowd and a media crew. NAA: A6135, K14/10/92/86

80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea

May 2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea. The battle was a World War II engagement between combined Australian and US forces that took place between 4 and 8 May 1942. The Battle of the Coral Sea stopped the Japanese from invading Port Moresby by sea. It was the largest naval battle fought off the shores of Australia and the first battle ever fought from aircraft carriers. No Australians were killed in the Battle of the Coral Sea, but 550 Americans were killed or wounded and the US aircraft carrier USS Lexington was sunk. More than 1,000 Japanese were killed.

In April 1942, the Imperial Japanese Navy was developing a plan to take control of the then Australian territory of New Guinea, along with



Frank Norton, *Mediterranean Sweep, HMAS Hobart*, 1941. This artwork depicts HMAS Hobart, 7th Cruiser Squadron, with HMS Neptune in the distance. Oil on canvas, unframed 40.5 x 45cm AWM, ART23790.



Frank Norton, *Bombing up, HMAS Australia*, 1943. This artwork depicts aircraftsmen bombing up Walrus aircraft on HMAS Australia, with backward facing Pegasus engine. Carbon pencil with pen and ink and wash on paper, overall 33 x 38.1cm, AWM, ART21773.

other South Pacific locations. This plan was known as the *Port Moresby Operation*, or *Operation Mo*. Its aim was to cut off Australia and New Zealand from US forces. However, the joint US/Australian intelligence unit known as Fleet Radio Unit Melbourne (FRUMEL), had been decoding Japanese messages related to *Operation Mo*. This intelligence enabled the Allied forces to effectively intercept the Japanese.

The Australian Vessels HMAS *Australia (II)* and HMAS *Hobart (I)* formed part of a force, along with



Artwork designed by Brian Clinton (used with permission of Australian Postal Corporation). <https://www.navy.gov.au/history/feature-histories/battle-coral-sea>

US ships, assigned to support a large attack group of US ships. Rear Admiral John Crace initiated a successful deployment of his support vessels to block the Japanese from invading Port Moresby. Although Admiral Crace was commanding these vessels on behalf of the British Royal Navy, he was Australian-born and acted as a member of both the Australian and British navies during his naval career. Under heavy enemy attack from the air, Crace and his commanders' skilful handling of the ships blocking Japanese access to Port Moresby meant there were only a small number of casualties onboard the ships. At the same time, the Japanese lost at least five aircraft. Australia had made a vital contribution to halting Japanese expansion into the South Pacific.

An interesting story has recently emerged about the murder of a crew member on HMAS *Australia (II)* less than two months before the *Australia* took part in the Battle of the Coral Sea. On the night of 12 March 1942 Stoker Jack Riley was stabbed at least 16 times by Leading Stoker Albert "Ron" Gordon and Stoker Edward Elias. Before Riley died from his wounds, he reported to the ship's surgeon and executive officer that he had been stabbed because he had threatened to disclose homosexual

activities onboard the ship. Both Gordon and Elias were court martialled and sentenced, under British law, to death. After complex legal proceedings, these death sentences were commuted and both men ended up being incarcerated in Goulburn Gaol until 1950. Both men reportedly married and undertook "gainful employment" following their release from prison. At the time of writing, it is not known if Gordon and Elias were onboard *Australia (II)* during the Battle of the Coral Sea. This episode is detailed in the book *Dark Secrets: The True Story of Murder in HMAS Australia*, by Robert



Zero fighters preparing for a sortie on the flight deck of a Japanese aircraft carrier (Marshall Cavendish Library). <https://www.navy.gov.au/history/feature-histories/battle-coral-sea>

Hadler, Wilkinson Publishing Melbourne, 2020. See: <https://navalinstitute.com.au/dark-secrets-the-true-story-of-murder-in-hmas-australia>

Also, only about two months before the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Battle of the Java Sea took place. At the Battle of the Java Sea, the Allied American-British-Dutch-Australian naval force experienced a serious defeat. The Australian vessels HMAS *Hobart (I)* and HMAS *Perth* were involved in this battle, during which strike force commander Dutch Rear Admiral Karel Doorman was killed. The Allied defeat in the Battle of the Java Sea allowed the Japanese

to occupy the entire Dutch East Indies (present-day Indonesia). It was fortunate for the Allied forces that the southwards advance of the Japanese in the Pacific was soon after halted through the Battle of the Coral Sea.

The 80th Anniversaries of the Battle of the Coral and Java Seas will be commemorated at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney NSW at 11am on Friday 6 May.

For further information about this commemoration contact: Mr Keith Grimley President, Naval Association of Australian (NSW), nswpresident@navalassoc.org.au, 0428 858 231.

Artist note: The painting and sketch featured in this article were produced by Frank Norton (1916

– 1983). Norton was born in New Zealand, but arrived in Sydney in 1917. Starting in 1931, Norton studied painting at East Sydney Technical College. Following graduation, he received a scholarship to document naval ships travelling in Western Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Indonesia. In 1941, Norton joined the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and was appointed as an official war artist. After World War II, Norton was employed at the Australian National Art School to train ex-servicemen in painting.

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Saltwater Healing: Veteran Surf Project

At the start of 2021, a ten-week trial surfing program for veterans was run at Seven Mile Beach in Gerroa, NSW. This marked the beginning of a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) backed Veteran Surf Project. By November 2021, the Veteran Surf Project (VSP) pilot program had offered over 105 surfing sessions and had reached the milestone of 1,000 program attendances. The project is aimed at helping to heal post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and has been credited with excellent outcomes. Shoalhaven chiropractor, Dr Kate Daniel, has treated some of the veterans involved in the VSP and refers to improvements in the mental health of these patients as "incredible". Dr. Daniel remarks on the "mateship, learning a new skill and sharing that experience with like minded

people" as being particularly valuable parts of the program.

The surf project organisers say that soldiers have already been trained in ways similar to how surfers have to think – "to wait patiently, burst into action and get that big adrenaline hit". Surfing puts the surfer into a flow state, a state where you become fully immersed in what you are doing. Sometimes described as being in the zone, the flow state usually happens during engaging and challenging activities. Feelings that you might have at other times, such as anxiety or depression, can fade away when you have to focus fully on the challenge at hand. Waiting for a wave, then getting on the wave, the surfer has to be fully focused and in the present moment, thinking only of being on the wave.



Gary Tearle rides a wave as part of the Veteran Surf Project.

The Veterans Surf Project has been credited with saving the lives of veterans who have been on “suicide watch”. Saltwater Healing, a mini-documentary on the VSP, expands on the benefits offered to veterans by the VSP. In Saltwater Healing, veteran Greg Williams describes his participation in the project, “When I surfed, I slept.” Greg goes on to say how much fun he finds surfing, how when he wakes up in the morning his first thought is, What’s the ocean doing? Since taking part in the project, Williams says he’s a bit more “like that Energiser bunny I used to be before I was deployed, before my head got in the way of everything”. The Saltwater Healing mini-documentary can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5W0IWaJZKhE>

The Veteran Surf Project is coordinated by Rusty Moran, former professional surfer and

... soldiers have already been trained in ways similar to how surfers have to think – “to wait patiently, burst into action and get that big adrenaline hit”. Surfing puts the surfer into a flow state, a state where you become fully immersed in what you are doing.

owner of Gerringong Surf School. Rusty has direct experience of PTSD, saying that after “a few big hits [he] ended up with PTSD and going through a couple of years of depression myself. Getting back into the surf helped with my healing journey.” Rusty also has “lived experience of depression connected to his late father’s military service”. Rusty partnered with former Gerringong RSL sub-branch president and former army officer Glenn Kolomeitz to start the program. The Keith Payne VC Veterans Benefit Group has also been supporting the project. Former navy member, VSP participant and president of The Keith Payne VC Veterans Benefit Group Fred Campbell says the program has been “kicking some big goals” and that he’s “blown away” by its success. Western Sydney University has been studying the benefits of the program for veterans experiencing PTSD and depression and, so far, the results are extremely encouraging.

The Veteran Surf Project has an ambition

to expand the program to other areas beyond its current location. As *Salute* goes to print, the VSP coordinators are awaiting the outcome of an application for DVA funding to continue and expand this currently free program. If you would like to support further DVA funding for the VSP please let the DVA know by emailing the DVA grants team at: communitysupportnswact@dva.gov.au. You can visit the VSP Facebook site at: <https://www.facebook.com/veteransurfproject/>. To find out more about the VSP you can phone or text Vanessa at Gerringong Surf School on: 0414 555 306.

Read more about the Veteran’s Surfing Project here: <https://www.southcoastregister.com.au/story/7217493/first-veteran-surfers-graduate/>

Alexandra Kaufman

Salute Subeditor

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Veteran surfing group following a session at Seven Mile Beach, Gerroa. Project coordinator Rusty Moran is in the front row wearing a pink top.

The Canberra Bomber

Shortly after World War II, the Australian government embarked on a large-scale reorganisation of its military forces. As part of this, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) sought to acquire an all-weather medium size jet that combined the capability of a bomber with the agility of a fighter. The RAAF became interested in a jet made by the UK English Electric Company. This jet was named Canberra by company director Sir George Nelson, but Australia's Prime Minister the Right Honourable Robert Menzies officially named the aircraft at a 1951 ceremony in London. Menzies remarked on his "pleasure and great pride" that the aircraft had been named Canberra, before breaking a bottle of Australian champagne on the Australian flag-draped nose of the jet.

The Canberra was produced by English Electric as a successor to the de Havilland Mosquito aircraft, which had carried out multiple duties during WWII. Built largely of wood, the Mosquito has been hailed as a "wooden wonder" and "one of the best British fighter planes of World War II". During WWII, speeches by *Luftwaffe* chief [Hermann Göring](#) and Propaganda Minister [Joseph Goebbels](#) were interrupted by Mosquito strikes. Following this, Göring addressed a group of German aircraft manufacturers:

It makes me furious when I see the Mosquito. I turn green and yellow with envy. The British, who can afford aluminium better than we can, knock together a beautiful wooden aircraft that every piano factory over there is building, and they give it a speed which they have now increased yet again. What do you make of that? There is nothing the British do not have. They have the geniuses and

we have the nincompoops. After the war is over I'm going to buy a British radio set – then at least I'll own something that has always worked.

Such accolades notwithstanding, the Mosquito's wooden structure presented several problems. The casein glues used to assemble the Mosquito were derived from milk by-products. Such glues encouraged the growth of microorganisms, causing the glue to become "cheesy", especially in hot and humid environments. This could lead to separation of the wing skin from the internal parts of the wing. The Mosquito was susceptible to structural failure through wood rot and has also been described as a "termite's delight". Clearly, the largely metal structure of English Electric's Canberra jet would circumvent such issues. Confidential negotiations between the RAAF and the English Electric Company to license Australian manufacture of the Canberra jet began in the late 1940s. The estimated cost of £221,000 for Australia to manufacture each of 48 Canberra jets caused "considerable heartburn." This is roughly equivalent to \$11.7 million (AUD) per jet in today's currency. While only a fraction of the cost of modern fighter jets, it represented a major investment at the time.

It was announced that Australia would build its Canberra aircraft at the Government Aircraft Factories in Fishermans Bend, a suburb of Melbourne. The aircraft engines, Rolls Royce Tays, were to be built by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation located at Port Melbourne. During the 1950s RAAF 1, 2 and 6 Squadrons took part in many Canberra flights including flypasts, air displays and air defence exercises. The range and speed of the Canberra led to it also being used to transport VIPS,



Canberra bomber on display at RAAF Base Wagga Wagga. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/shebalso/27624330219/>

such as RAAF officers and cabinet ministers, to a range of locations for inspections and meetings.

In 1953, Canberra-equipped No. 1 Long Range Flight was established at Laverton, Victoria to prepare for RAAF participation in the London-to-Christchurch air race. Intensive training was carried out in advance of the race, and this resulted in the breaking of many Australian and New Zealand air speed records. In September 1953, No. 1 Long Range Flight members Wing Commander Derek Cuming and Squadron Leader Peter Raw piloted two Canberra jets to the UK to take part in the London-to-Christchurch race.

Just before 4am on 9 October 1953 both Cuming and Raw took off for the 19,800 km race from Heathrow to Christchurch. While landing at Cocos Island one of Wing Commander Cuming's jet tyres burst, leading to Cuming having to abandon the race. At the time, Cuming's aircraft was two minutes ahead of Squadron Leader Raw's jet and 15 minutes ahead of all competitors from the UK's Royal Air Force (RAF). Squadron Leader Raw

continued to the RAAF Woomera airfield in South Australia. But, when Raw was landing at Woomera, the nose wheel of his Canberra jet wouldn't lower due to a build-up of ice. Raw's jet screeched to a halt on its nose. Following repairs, Squadron Leader Raw continued to Christchurch despite faulty radio and navigation equipment, no pressurisation and problems with controllability. Nevertheless, Raw placed second in the speed section of the race with a time of 24 hours and 30 minutes. The winner of the speed section was a Canberra jet flown by Flight Lieutenant RAF Roland (Monty) Burton with a flight time of 23 hours and 51 minutes.

In 1958, RAAF 2 Squadron was equipped with Canberra jets and was deployed to the RAAF Butterworth air base in mainland Malaya. From here, 2 Squadron was engaged in a range of deployments with allied forces. These included deployments for the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO). These were largely aimed at keeping communist powers, especially China, in check. On 19 April 1967, 2 Squadron deployed



Flying Officer (FO) Michael Patrick John Herbert,
AWM2019.1142.1.3

from Butterworth to Phan Rang air base in South Vietnam. Initially, the 2 Squadron Canberra jets in Vietnam carried out night-time "Combat Skyspot" missions, guided to their target by ground-based precision radar. But, after about six or seven months, 2 Squadron Canberra bombers started to carry out low level bombing missions, guided to targets marked by forward air controllers with smoke. On many occasions Canberra bombers released their bombs from as low as 245 metres, followed by rapidly pulling up to a greater height.

Two Squadron Canberra bombers in Vietnam were part of the US Air Force (USAF) 35th Tactical Fighter Wing. While flying only around five percent

of the Wing's sorties, 2 Squadron was credited with 16 percent of the bomb damage inflicted on the enemy. In addition to other duties, the Canberra's navigator also released the aircraft's bombs. He did this while lying on an upholstered mat in the nose compartment of the aircraft. From his position in the nose compartment, the navigator would sight the target through a gyro sighthead and direct the pilot to the target by audible commands. When lighted crosshairs in the sighthead were superimposed onto the target aim point, the navigator would release his bomb. Two Squadron came to be regarded "as the most effective bomber squadron in Vietnam". The squadron's aircraft callsign was "Magpie", in honour of the bird depicted on the squadron's crest. Two Squadron's actions abundantly reflected the motto also depicted on the crest, *Consilio et Manu* – To Advise and to Strike.

Two Canberra bombers were shot down in Vietnam in the early 1970s. On 14 March 1971, a 2 Squadron Canberra bomber flying north of Khe Sanh was hit by a surface-to-air-missile (SAM). Wing Commander John Downing remembers the incident, "The sky exploded and my canopy was shattered". Downing instructed his fellow crew member, Flight Lieutenant Allan Pinches, to eject before making a distress call and ejecting himself. The two men landed in separate areas. Both Downing and Pinches had significant injuries and spent a cold, wet night alone. Fortunately for both men, after 27 hours in the jungle they were rescued by helicopter and evacuated to Australia for extended convalescence.

On November 3, 1970, Flying Officer Michael Herbert and Pilot Officer Robert Carver of 2 Squadron headed out in their Canberra bomber, Magpie 91, for a bombing sortie near the South Vietnam/Laos border. The two airmen, both aged 24, were never heard from again. Michael Herbert's mother contacted political leaders in Vietnam and Australia trying, in vain, to gain information about



Pilot Officer (PO) Robert Charles Carver, AWM2019.1142.1.2

her son's disappearance. Robert Carver's father had his son's name engraved on a war memorial in Toowoomba. Almost four decades after Herbert and Carver vanished, the wreckage of Magpie 91 was uncovered by Major John Thurgar and Squadron Leader John Cotterell. This was the result of work by the privately funded Operation Aussies Home team led by Vietnam veteran Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Jim Bourke. In 2009, Flying Officer Michael Herbert's and Pilot Officer Robert Carver's remains were returned to Australia. The reason for Magpie 91's crash remains unclear.

Two Squadron, along with all eight of the squadron's Canberra aircraft, left Phan Rang to return to Australia in June 1971. For their actions

in Vietnam, 2 Squadron was awarded the Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation by the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) and a US Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. After departing from Vietnam, 2 Squadron continued to operate Canberra aircraft in target towing and aerial photographic survey roles. During the 1970s, corrosion meant that wings on Canberra aircraft needed to be changed frequently. This, combined with "economies in the RAAF", led to Canberra aircraft being retired by the RAAF in 1982. However, the British RAF continued to use Canberra aircraft until 2006. The Canberra was a mainstay of the Indian Air Force, with its last Canberra being retired in 2007. The Canberra has also been used by the air forces of several other countries including Sweden, Argentina and New Zealand.

With special thanks to Lance Halvorson – Navigator, 2 Squadron; Webmaster Royal Australian Air Force ACT Division (raafact.org.au)

Alexandra Kaufman

Salute Subeditor

email: subeditor@tpinsw.org.au



*RAAF 2 Squadron Crest – Consilio et Manu
(To Advise and to Strike)*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

To renew your membership for 2022, please complete the details below and return the completed form
with your remittance to: TPI Association, GPO Box 4429, Sydney 2001

Please make cheques and Money Orders payable to: TPI Association of NSW.

Please ensure you enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your remittance.

Please note that subscriptions are from January to December of each year.

NAME					TPI BADGE/MEMBER NUMBER																							
ADDRESS																												
SUBURB					STATE			POSTCODE																				
TELEPHONE (HOME)				TELEPHONE (MOBILE)			EMAIL ADDRESS																					
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New Members

We have great pleasure in welcoming the following new members to the Association:

Lourensz	Mr Dennis James	Flight Sergeant	Royal Australian Airforce, 81 Wing
McDonald	Mr Graham Richard	Lieutenant Commander	Navy, HMAS Sydney
McDonald	Mr Stuart Allan	Leading Seaman	Navy, HMAS Sydney, Cerberus, Platypus, Ovens, Canberra, Brunei, Balikpapan, Albatross
Woolley	Mr Donald Raymond	Lance Corporal	Army, 6 Royal Australian Regiment

Feel free to make use of our facilities and attend meetings that are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 pm, at Barracks on Barrack, 2nd Floor, 5-7 Barrack Street, Sydney. The Association is seeking members interested in becoming Welfare Officers or joining our Social & Welfare Clubs, if interested, please contact our Social & Welfare Clubs, contact details can be found in this issue of *Salute*.

EX-ADF MEMBERS – ACCESSING SERVICE RECORDS

Personal Records: Air Force / Army / Navy, WW1 / WW2 / Korea / Vietnam

Contact National Archives of Australia:

www.naa.gov.au Tel: 6212 3600 Email: archives@naa.gov.au

Personal Records: Air Force – Discharged members that served from 1973

Army – Discharged members that served from 1947

Navy – Discharged members that served after WW2

Health Records: Air Force – Discharged members that served from 1952

Army – Discharged members that served from 1947

Navy – Discharged members that served from 1948

Contact Defence Archives

Complete the request for service records form: <https://www1.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/service-records>

Tel: 1800 333 362 or (03) 5258 0675; Email: ADF.Records@defence.gov.au

Health Records: Air Force – Served and discharged prior to 1952

Army – Served and discharged prior to 1947

Navy – Served and discharged prior to 1948

General enquiries: DVA: www.dva.gov.au Tel: 13 32 54 or 1800 555 254

Marched On

We deeply and sincerely regret to report the deaths
of the following Members since our last issue.

Ode

*They bade no-one a last farewell, or even said goodbye
Their souls had left before we knew, and God alone knows why.
They would not ask for sorrow, they would not ask for tears
But just to be remembered throughout the passing years.*



Bland	Mr Ross Frederick	Major	Army, 12th Field Regiment Light Aid Detachment, RAEME, SVN
Boulding	Mr Hilary Kelvin	Gunner	Army, 1st Field Regiment, RAA, SVN
Doust	Mr Colin Robert	Major	Army, Australian Army Assistance Group Vietnam, RAASC, SVN
Hutton	Mr John Cecil	Sergeant	Army, Royal Australian Engineers
Morris	Mr Anthony Robert	Sapper	Army, 1st Field Squadron, RAE, SVN
Peters	Mr Graham John	Petty Officer	Navy, HMAS Sydney, SVN
Provost	Mr Max	Sergeant	Army, HQ Provost
Reay	Mr Noel Hartley	Sergeant	Army, 16 Army Ordnance Depot, WW2

Vale Colin Robert Doust

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of 217073 Colin Robert Doust.

Colin served in Vietnam with the Royal Australian Army Service Corps between 30 June 1967 and 06 September 1972 for a total of 734 days. Colin was one of the inaugural committee members (Secretary) of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (V V A A) St Marys Outpost "The Train" in December 1995 and was a dedicated Pension Officer/Advocate for over 25 years.

The V V A A St Marys Outpost and TPI NSW Association extend our deepest condolences to his family, veterans and friends.

A Veteran has Passed, We Honour Him for His Service to the Nation.

May he Rest in Peace.

Sam Vecchio JP

Honorary Secretary

V V A A St Marys Outpost

(02) 9833 4700

Mobile: 0418 247 325

The Marchers

Each April I join my mates and we march along the street,
to the skirl of the pipes and tattoo of the drummer's beat,
but last year I couldn't make it, my health wouldn't let me go,
so I joined the throngs of people standing row on row,
but when I saw my old mob coming, marching eight abreast,
I regretted I wasn't with them although I'd tried my best.

It was then a boy beside me whispered to his dad,
"Daddy, why are these men marching? I thought that war was bad.
You have always taught me that war is a terrible crime,
but some of these men are smiling – like they're having a happy time.
How can they be so happy Dad, after all the things they did,
killing all those people, even the women and the kids?"

I felt my face turn ashen, but I stood and held my tongue,
waiting for the answer so often given by the young,
for there are few who care for soldiers once the danger's passed –
their service and their sacrifice – forgotten all too fast.
The boy's father stood and paused and thought for quite a while,
then the answer that he gave his son, gave me cause to smile.

He said, "Son, what I have taught you I believe to be true,
so for me to explain this now is very hard to do,
I think they could be smiling Son, to see their mates again,
or perhaps they might be smiling to hide from us their pain.
They might be smiling, because when they see young boys like you,
it reaffirms in their hearts why they did what they had to do.

As for them looking happy, well perhaps that's just a sign
they are glad they are not marching once again in battle line
and when this day is ended they'll be going home once more,
instead of marching with their mates into the horror that is war.
Perhaps that's why they're smiling son, I really do not know,
I was too young to go to war and I'm grateful it was so."

It was then for just a moment I caught the father's eye
(and I hope he understood, 'twas the sunshine made me cry!)
I thought of the debt I owed him, I owe it still today,
though somehow I realised there was nothing more to say,
for the father's explanation had made it very plain:
sometimes the brightest, broadest smiles – disguise the deepest pain.

Vic Jefferies

**9 Squadron RAAF
Vietnam 1966 – 67**

Reunions & Functions



HEADQUARTERS
1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE
SOUTH VIETNAM 1966 - 1972

HQ1ATF Association Reunion **In Memory of our D&E losses at Long** **Khanh – 12 June 1971**

Canberra: 18 – 21 November 2022

Capital Country Holiday Park

47 Bidges Road, SUTTON NSW 2620

Phone: (02) 6230 3433

Email: bookings@capitalcountryholidaypark.com.au

Web: www.capitalcountryholidaypark.com.au

Regrettably our Association has had to again change the dates of the 2020, read that now 2022, reunion.

The new dates at Canberra are 18 – 21

2022 REUNION PROGRAM

Friday 18 November 2022

1400 onwards: Arrival at Capital Country Holiday Park (CCHP) for welcome and registration

1800 onwards: Evening BBQ at the Mess Tent-CCHP.

Saturday 19 November 2022

Breakfast: Own arrangements

1030 HQ1ATF Association Members meeting at Mess Tent – CCHP

1515 Gentlemen, medals please. Coach transfer to RMC Duntroon for afternoon tea at Duntroon House, to be hosted by the PMC

November 2022. Same location and same inclusions apart from being one day shorter.

[The new itinerary follows.]

Any promotion and/or assistance any of you are able to offer is appreciated. Our Vietnam Vets continue to suffer, some 50 plus years after the end of our Vietnam saga. With Covid continuing to rear its ugly head and not letting go, it is having a serious effect on the health and well-being of us all.

However, we will overcome these situations – feel like a cricket batsman (Australian that is).

Best regards,

John Verhelst - HQ1ATF Ass.

For details contact:

[John Verhelst, MSc MBA JP](mailto:jeverhelst@gmail.com)

Phone: 0437212121

Email: jeverhelst@gmail.com

www.hq1atf.org

1530	Arrive Duntroon
1615	Travel onto Anzac Parade for our Commemorative Service at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Our own Padre, Arthur Fry from Caloundra, will again officiate.
1630	Arrive VV Memorial 9 Bugler at 1645/1700
1715	Continue by coach to Old Parliament House (Museum of Australian Democracy) for our bi-annual Commemorative Dinner.
1730	Arrive Old Parliament House – cocktails and canapes
1830	Move to dining room, Pre-dinner music by RMC Military Band
1910	Main course is served.
1950	Words by Dr Mike Kelly
2005	Dessert
2100	Coaches back to CCHP.

Sunday 20 November 2022

1000	Coach tour of Canberra visiting some of the major sites, including: Australian War Memorial, National Museum of Australia, Parliament House, National Gallery of Australia and the National Portrait Gallery
PM	At Leisure.
1700	Cocktails at Mess Tent CCHP
1800	Informal dinner (no ties, no medals) at Mess Tent CCHP. Kel and Mel will entertain us again.

Monday 21 November 2022

From 0800 Farewell “self-serve” BBQ breakfast at Mess Tent CCHP.

The participant cost will include all meals as indicated above, wine and beer with dinners, touring and transport as indicated. The participant cost is \$200 for members and \$200 for partners, plus an additional \$40 for member’s membership fee for the period, October 2020 to September 2022. For other family members and friends, the reunion cost is \$240 per person. Children’s prices on request.

To obtain our special rates when making reservations at the Capital Country Holiday Park (CCHP), please quote “HQ1ATF Reunion November 2022”.

DIRECTIONS TO CAPITAL COUNTRY HOLIDAY PARK.

47 Bidges Road, Sutton NSW 2620

Capital Country Holiday Park is located just off the Federal Highway, on the ACT border. Canberra Airport is some 8 KM from the Holiday Park. There are taxis and mini buses available to get you to the Holiday Park. If driving to CCHP, take the Federal Highway to the Eaglehawk turnoff and follow the Federal Highway Service Road about two KM until you reach Bidges Road – the Holiday Park is 200 metres up this road on your left side. (NOTE: if you drive to Eaglehawk Holiday Park nearby, you have the WRONG place).

Now if you are a little soft and need a hotel, the IBIS STYLES Eaglehawk is two km from the CCHP.



**HEADQUARTERS
1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE
SOUTH VIETNAM 1966 - 1972**

REGISTRATION FORM: REUNION: 18 – 21 November 2022

Surname:			
First Name:			
Address (please include Postcode):			
Preferred name on badge:			
Wife / Partner Name attending			
Any dietary requirements!			
Home Phone:		Mobile	
Email:			
Reunion Cost Members	\$200 per member		\$200
Reunion Cost Wife / Partner	\$200 per partner		
Reunion Cost Others	\$240 per person		
Membership Fee: November 2020 to October 2022	\$40 per member		\$ 40
Donation (optional)			
TOTAL			
PAYMENT DETAILS: Cheque payable to:- HQ1ATF ASSOCIATION, and mail to PO Box 328, GLADESVILLE NSW 1675 Or EFT: BSB: 082697 HQ1ATF Association Account: 188667746 Please reference your name It would help if all money be paid no later than 15 th October 2022			

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:

John Verhelst, HQ1ATF ASSOCIATION

What do I get for my money? *Welcome BBQ., Commemorative dinner, Final night dinner, Farewell breakfast, Coach travel, tour of Canberra.*

**Post to: PO Box 328, GLADESVILLE, NSW 1675, or
Scan and email to: jeverhelst@gmail.com**

HMAS Sydney Memorial Weekend

19 November – 21 November 2021



Still image from the video of HMAS Sydney Memorial Weekend 19 November – 21 November 2021.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9VTDmb-Ljs>

Sunday, 6 February 2022

HMAS Sydney Memorial Weekend in Denham a huge success

Firstly a big apology for the lateness in sending out this final email to you, I take complete responsibility for that. What I can say, is that it is worth the wait.

Denham was amazing, the weather was kind, the setting was perfect, the community and visitors were blown away (not, fortunately, by the wind) and the events were well attended.

For many of you who were unable to attend, we have included a link at the bottom of this email to a video of the weekend, put together by Denham professional film company FINN Films, who covered

the events and live streamed the Memorial Service on Sunday.

This way you can feel you were there in person and not just in spirit.

With support from the Shire of Shark Bay and community; Adrian Burns aka Radar; Vietnam veteran Geof Irvin, President of Kalamunda RSL, 9th Squadron RAAF rtd; and my Checked Events Team, the three-day event achieved its purpose in spades.

As Adrian said when originally talking about organising a 30-year reunion for the tri-deployment of crews of HMAS Sydney IV, with many starting to reconnect after a 30-year silence, he discovered a high volume of shipmates are struggling in many ways.

He said it was obvious that many past crews of

all Sydney warships or other postings wanted, and needed, to reconnect with each other, and this is how the 80th anniversary commemoration idea came to be. We believe it achieved its objective for those who were able to attend.

On Friday, around 50 people watched the live stream of the Memorial Service in Geraldton, at the Shark Bay Heritage Resort, while others saw it at the Shark Bay Hotel.

Earlier in the day we learnt the identity of the Unknown Sailor, a mystery for the past 80 years. After a DNA breakthrough, a positive match was made for 21-year-old Able Seaman, Thomas Welsby Clark, from New Farm in Brisbane, and two living relatives have been identified. His unmarked grave in the Geraldton War Cemetery can now be replaced with a headstone carrying his name.

Saturday's Memorial Concert entertained more than 500 people on Denham's foreshore, with Geraldton band Red Ochre kicking off the show, followed by the Royal Australian Navy Band WA Reserve, with some lively contemporary songs. The Troupadores refreshed the memory with some classic 60s and 70s music, followed by Johnny Young and the Strangers. Headline act, Normie Rowe AM, himself a Vietnam vet who does a lot to support veterans, closed the concert.

Sunday's Service by the Sea, The Final Chapter, was a poignant reminder of the loss of the 645 sailors who gave their lives for this country on 19 November 1941. This followed the Memorial March along Denham Foreshore with Naval and RAAF personnel leading the procession.

More than 250 people attended the service, where Captain Ross Halsall emceed proceedings and Chaplain Glenn Mercer conducted the Naval Prayer. To end the service, people cast rosemary sprigs into the ocean from the end of the jetty as a symbol of remembrance and respect. A very fitting conclusion to a remarkable weekend.

We received many comments about how much the weekend was enjoyed and appreciated, including a touching email from a family member who wrote:

My wife and I both appreciate all the work that has gone into the weekend to allow Sydney veterans and relatives of the deceased to have such a memorial weekend. The culminating walk along the Denham jetty to throw a sprig in the water was quite an emotional event for me. That in itself is telling because I don't normally get emotional at such events.

Thank you.

So, from HMAS Sydney Memorial Weekend team, thank you for coming on this journey with us, wherever or however you were able, and please stay safe, healthy and connected.

We think we can confidently say to all:

We are HMAS Sydney
Thorough and Ready.

Don't forget to watch the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9VTDmb-Ljs>

Yours Aye

Adrian Burns (Radar)

Lead Contact and Liaison

HMAS SYDNEY II 80th Memorial Weekend

Denham 19-21 Nov2021

Mob: 0406 359 477

email: sydney2021@checkedevents.com.au

Port Kennedy WA, 6172

10 Penzance Way Geraldton, WA,6530

**Do you have a reunion or
function happening?**

Let us know and we can advertise it.

TPI NSW Association 2021 Christmas Luncheon Postponed

Last year, Covid-19 forced TPI NSW to reschedule our Christmas Luncheon to 1 February 2022. Unfortunately, the recent surge of the Omicron Covid-19 variant means we must again postpone this event.

We hope we will soon be able to announce a new date for the luncheon.



Blacktown & Districts TPI Social & Welfare Club Annual Christmas Luncheon at Fox Hills Golf Club.

DVA – NSW & ACT Veterans' Access Network (VAN) Offices

Telephone: 133 254 Regional callers: 1800 555 254

Postal address: GPO Box 9998, Brisbane QLD 4001

- **SYDNEY:** Tower B, Centennial Plaza, 280 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills (Mon-Fri, 8.30-5.00)
- **LISMORE:** Office 6, Level 1, 17 Conway Street, Lismore (Mon-Fri, 8.30-4.30)
- **NEWCASTLE:** Suite 1 & 2, 6-8 Auckland Street, Newcastle (Mon-Fri, 8.30-4.30)
- **TWEED HEADS SOUTH:** DHS Service Centre, 100 Blundell Boulevard, Tweed Heads South (Mon-Fri, 8.30-4.30)

VAN information and services are also available through arrangements with Department of Human Services (DHS) Service Centres:

- **BEGA:** 49-61 Church Street, Bega

- **CANBERRA:** Services Australia, 2-6 Bowes Street, Phillip ACT (Mon-Fri, 8.30-4.30)
- **COFFS HARBOUR:** 21-25 Duke Street, Coffs Harbour
- **DUBBO:** 64 Wingewarra Street (Cnr Macquarie), Dubbo
- **NOWRA:** 4 Lawrence Street, Nowra
- **ORANGE:** 189-191 Anson Street, Orange
- **PORT MACQUARIE:** 5-7 Short Street, Port Macquarie
- **TAMWORTH:** 219-223 Peel Street, Tamworth
- **TAREE:** 184-188 Victoria Street, Taree
- **WAGGA WAGGA:** 63 Thompson Street, Wagga Wagga
- **WYONG:** 25-27 Hely Street, Wyong.

Letters to the Editor



Iroquois Helicopter Photograph, *Salute* Summer 2021

The above photo appeared on page 28 of the Summer 2021 issue of *Salute*. It was obtained from the Australian War Memorial (AWM). The photo was taken in 1966 by Gerald Wallace Westbury. The full AWM caption for the photo is: *Australian Army soldiers having been dropped to the ground from a No 9 Squadron, RAAF, Iroquois helicopter, A2-1025, during an assault on a Viet Cong (VC) installation, take cover in a rice paddy in the Phouc Tuy Province, South Vietnam.*

Thanks to Sam Wilson we have further information about this photo. Sam has identified

himself as the section gunner. Sam writes: "On the ground on my right is Plt Sgt "Skin" Calvert, deceased, next to myself with an M60 (I was the section gunner). On my left is Pte Kean and Pte Gamble. We were members of 5 Battalion R.A.R. 1st tour 1966-67 Support Coy Anti Tank Plt. This photo is of members of Anti-Tank Plt under the watchful eye of Lt Dave Rowe before Anti Tank Plt was disbanded and became Recce Plt under Lt Deak's command about Oct' 66".

If you have any further information about this photograph we'd be keen to hear from you.

Thanks again, Sam!

Sam Wilson's email: fivetigers66@gmail.com

Wednesday 9 February 2022

Salute Editor
TPI Association NSW Inc

The Blacktown & District Social & Welfare Club Committee would like to know if the monthly *eSalute* newsletter will replace the quarterly *Salute* magazine? Is there cut off date to have an article in the *eSalute*?

The Blacktown & District Social & Welfare Club committee is working on a strategy to recruit more TPI members who live in the Western Sydney areas to join our club. The strategy is also to target TPIs who have not joined the TPI Association of NSW.

The plan (Notices in ESO and DVA publications) is to have it up and running by next month. It is hoped that our Club will be able to place this recruitment notice in the *eSalute*, the *Salute* Journal and the TPI Website.

The Club's social outings have started again after Covid-19 restrictions. The first one is at Plough and Harrow Park, Cecil Hills for a BBQ and get together, minimal cost of \$5 per person, includes a chicken and salad lunch with tea and coffee.

Later on in the year, a 3-day Coach Tour is being planned, depending on how the Covid virus restrictions pan out and the accommodation and tourist venues open up.

Mal Botfield

President

**Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club
Committee**

Editor's response:

Hi Mal

Thanks for your letter.

We've decided to not call the monthly email newsletter *eSalute*, as we thought that this could cause confusion for TPI NSW members. Unfortunately, I didn't manage to remove all mentions of the name *eSalute* from the first issue.

The email newsletter will not replace either the printed or the emailed version of *Salute*, which will continue to be published quarterly. Only a relatively small percentage of TPI NSW members have provided email addresses and/or requested to receive *Salute* by email. Therefore, it's not viable to replace *Salute* magazine with our email newsletter.

TPI NSW will continue to publish the the printed version of *Salute* so that we will be able to communicate with all TPI NSW members.

The next email newsletter will be published in early March and the publication deadline for the email newsletter is 28 February 2022. I'll add the publication deadlines for the forthcoming issues of the email newsletter to the March issue.

We're happy to publish your recruitment notice for new members in *Salute*, the email newsletter and on the website. A new website is currently in development and will be launched soon.

To help you promote the Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club, we could interview one of the members of the club and write an article about the club that could be published in either the Winter or Spring 2022 issue of *Salute*. Please let me know if you'd like to do this and, if so, suggest a member who we could interview.

Best wishes

Victoria Dawson

Salute Editor

editor@tpinsw.org.au

DVA Media Releases

February 2022

Bombing of Darwin – 80 Years Since Australia Came Under Attack	19/02/ 2022
80th Anniversary of the Sinking of SS Vyner Brooke and the Bangka Island Massacre	16/02/2022
80th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore	15/02/2022
Paying Tribute to Our 'Nashos'	12/02/2022
\$3.5 Million on Offer to Commemorate Australia's Service Personnel	09/02/2022
Remembering the Fall of Ambon, 80 Years On	03/02/2022
\$27 Million for New Veteran Wellbeing Grants	01/02/2022

January 2022

Backing Local Communities to Honour the Service of Australians	28/01/2022
Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the End of Australian Involvement in the Vietnam War	12/01/2022
Joint Media Release – Construction Begins on Permanent Nowra Wellbeing Centre	11/01/2022

December 2021

Joint Media Release – \$7.5 Million for Veteran Wellbeing in Tasmania	23/12/2021
Support Available over the Christmas Break	23/12/2021
Grants Open for our Veteran Community	20/12/2021
Boost in Support for Ex-Service Organisations	15/12/2021
New appointment to Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission	10/12/2021
80 Years Ago, the War Came to the Pacific	08/12/2021
80th Anniversary of the Siege of Tobruk	06/12/2021

November 2021

Media Statement – Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Hearings Begin	26/11/2021
Townsville Small Business Awarded Outstanding Veterans' Employer of the Year	25/11/2021



An unidentified serviceman (sitting, third from left), C Company, 13th National Service Battalion, receiving tuition from Sergeant Eric Campbell Lawther (front). AMW P04443.001.

Paying Tribute to Our “Nashos”

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Federal Member for Calare

13 February 2022

Monday 14th February marks National Servicemen’s Day, when we honour the hundreds of thousands of young Australian men who served our nation through compulsory military service after the Second World War.

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said it was important to

recognise those who stood up when called upon to defend our country. “Australia’s ‘Nashos’, as they are affectionately nicknamed, made a significant contribution to our nation’s defence forces and rightfully wear the title with pride,” Minister Gee said. I encourage all Australians to take time to reflect on the service and sacrifice of these men and ensure they continue to be appropriately remembered.

“The idea of compulsory military service would seem foreign to many Australians, particularly younger generations, but between 1951 and 1959, and again between 1964 and 1972, it was a reality for many young Aussie men,” Minister Gee said. “Around 227,000 men completed the compulsory six months’ recruit training during 1951-1959, but it

was in the second period from 1964 when 'Nashos' were deployed in significant numbers. More than 804,000 men registered between 1964 and 1972, with more than 63,000 called up to serve. Of these, nearly 19,500 served in Borneo and Vietnam and the remainder in support units in Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Australia. More than 15,000 served in the Vietnam War, where some 200 died and over 1,200 were wounded.

"It is a little-known fact that from 1966 Australian infantry battalions in Vietnam were typically comprised of an equal mix of regular soldiers and National Servicemen. At the time, most 20-year-old Australian men were required to register and were then selected for National Service through the infamous 'birthday ballot', in which they were randomly selected by their date of birth. My uncle Geoff was a Nasho, who served his country at Nui Dat in 1967. My family and I are incredibly proud of his service, as all Australians should be very proud of our 'Nashos' who answered the call to serve their nation. They personify our Australian value of service above self."

Learn more about the National Service scheme of the Vietnam War era by visiting the Department of Veterans' Affairs Anzac Portal: <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/vietnam-war-1962-1975/events/conscription/birthday-ballot>

Media contact

Minister Gee's office: 0459 966 944

DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

\$27 Million for New Veteran Wellbeing Grants

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

Federal Member for Calare

1 February 2022

The Australian Government is investing \$27 million to help fund bigger, better and more innovative programs to support the wellbeing of current and former Australian Defence Force personnel and their families.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the new Veteran Wellbeing Grants program would help find and develop new ways to help the veteran community.

"I want to see ambitious and innovative ideas from right across the community that are going to make a real difference in the lives of our current and former service personnel and their families," Minister Gee said. I have seen firsthand the positive impacts that some of the programs we fund have had on veteran health and wellbeing and we want more of it. We want to see more programs that bring veterans together, improve their mental and physical health, and make the difficult transition from military to civilian life easier.

"There will be scope in the new grants to target larger, longer-term projects with funding of up to \$1.5 million, so groups can back their programs knowing the Australian Government is backing them. Funding will continue to be available for smaller, grassroots projects. If you're a community group or organisation with a good idea for improving veteran wellbeing I encourage you to apply for this program so we can provide even more support for the men and women who have served this nation. Importantly, we want local

projects from local groups that best suit the needs of the defence and veteran communities in those local areas. Experience tells us that those on the ground know what works in their community.

“This Government is committed to improving the lives of our Defence personnel, veterans and their families and we want to give every community group who shares this commitment an opportunity to get involved.” The new Veteran Wellbeing Grants will combine the current Veteran and Community Grants and Supporting Younger Veterans programs as funding streams, with an additional \$20 million in funding.

Applications for the new Veteran Wellbeing Grants program will be available to all community organisations through a competitive grants process run by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs which is due to open in March. More information about the Veteran Wellbeing Grants program will be released on the Community Grants Hub website when applications open: www.communitygrants.gov.au

Media contact

Minister Gee’s office: 0459 966 944

DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

Open Arms – *Veterans & Families Counselling provides 24/7 free confidential crisis support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families on 1800 011 046 or the [Open Arms website](#).*

Safe Zone Support *provides anonymous counselling on 1800 142 072.*

Defence All-Hours Support Line *provides support for ADF personnel on 1800 628 036 or the [Department of Defence website](#).*

Defence Member and Family Helpline *provides support for Defence families on 1800 624 608.*

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the End of Australian Involvement in the Vietnam War

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

Federal Member for Calare

Wednesday 12 January 2022

Planning is underway for a range of significant events around the country to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War in 2023.

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Defence Personnel, Andrew Gee, announced that the Australian Government has committed \$6 million to ensure this important milestone is marked with appropriate respect and appreciation for all those who served and those who gave their lives in Vietnam.

“Australia owes our Vietnam veterans an enormous debt of gratitude,” Minister Gee said.

“Almost 60,000 Australians served in the Vietnam War, 521 lost their lives and more than 3,000 were wounded.

We honour and remember the service and sacrifice of each and every one of them.

“At places like Long Tan, Nui Lei, Binh Ba, Coral and Balmoral, Ap My An and many others, Australians served with distinction, in the finest traditions of our armed forces. Our country should be very proud of all they achieved.

“Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam conflict will be an important opportunity for Australians to express the pride, gratitude and respect of the nation.

“The Vietnam War and its aftermath exacted



A Vietnam war memorial statue in Queenstown, a mining town and former home to Mt Lyell Mining Company, on Tasmania's West Coast, Australia. Leisa Tyler / Alamy Stock Photo

a heavy toll on all those who served and their families. The treatment of our diggers upon their return home by some of their fellow Australians remains a source of hurt and pain for many. The 50 year commemoration is another important step in helping to heal the wounds that were inflicted back in Australia.

"I will be working closely with the Vietnam veteran community to ensure the funding announced today delivers a program of events that honours all Australians who served in the Vietnam conflict.

"The centrepiece will be a national commemorative service at the Australian Vietnam

Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

"We owe the men and women who served in Vietnam nothing less than a commemorative program that reflects their extraordinary service and sacrifice. Our country will always be grateful for it and we will never, ever, forget it," Minister Gee said.

Further announcements on the details of specific commemorations and the consultation process will be made on the [Department of Veterans' Affairs website](#) in due course.

Media contact

Minister Gee's office: 0459 966 944

Construction Begins on Permanent Nowra Wellbeing Centre

Joint Media Release

The Hon Andrew Gee, MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Federal Member for Calare

Senator Jim Molan, AO, DSC

Senator for New South Wales

11 January 2022

Construction has begun on a new purpose built, state-of-the-art facility to permanently house the Nowra Veterans Wellbeing Centre, providing an expanded range of health and wellbeing services for our local veterans, current serving Australian Defence Force members and their families.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee visited the site at 124 Wallace Street today to officially launch the building works.

“This is a momentous day for the Defence and veteran community here in Nowra and the surrounding region,” Minister Gee said.

“RSL LifeCare, with the support of RSL NSW, has been doing a great job running the Nowra Wellbeing Centre out of their temporary premises and has already made a real difference in the lives of current ADF members, ex-service personnel, and their families.

“This new, permanent home will take those services to the next level. It will be a place of healing and connection, and a hub for accessing health, education and employment support.

“The facility has been carefully designed with a mix of communal, recreational and clinical spaces to meet the needs of veterans and their families.

“It is part of the Australian Government’s \$43.2 million investment in a network of Wellbeing Centres across the country and demonstrates our

commitment to providing local services to support veterans, defence personnel and their families wherever they live.”

Senator for New South Wales Jim Molan said the new centre was a much-needed addition to the region.

“The Nowra Wellbeing Centre will provide critical services to more than 7,000 local veterans and their families in the Shoalhaven and neighbouring local government areas, as well as personnel from nearby HMAS Albatross and HMAS Creswell,” Senator Molan said.

“Being in the military is tough, and life after the military can be difficult to navigate. Having local support networks and a place where you can come together with others who are in a similar position is just so important.”

RSL LifeCare Board Member and navy veteran Trevor Robertson said this Centre is the result of



Sunset on Hanging Rock at Nowra Showground

significant planning and consultation with local ex-service organisations and the veteran community to deliver a one-stop shop for service delivery that is veteran-centric and community driven.

“The Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre will provide critical services to over 7,000 veterans and their families in the Shoalhaven and neighbouring local government areas, including education, health and ADF transition support and it will be an essential resource for the community for generations to come”, Mr Robertson said.

“I would like to thank the DVA and the Federal Government for their support of the Veteran Wellbeing Centre model and RSL NSW, our partner charity, for supporting us in the delivery of services to veterans and their families.”

RSL NSW President Ray James said the League has observed an increased need for support services this year and he expects this continue with the pressure of COVID-19 restrictions, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, and the ADF’s withdrawal from the conflict in Afghanistan last year.

“I take this opportunity to reassure veterans

and their families across the Shoalhaven that local support and services are available to them at the Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre.”

Construction on the Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre is expected to be finalised by mid-2022.

For more information on the National network of Veteran Wellbeing Centres visit the [Department of Veterans’ Affairs website](#)

Media contact

Minister Gee’s office: 0459 966 944

DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

Open Arms – *Veterans & Families Counselling provides 24/7 free confidential crisis support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families on 1800 011 046 or the [Open Arms website](#).*

Safe Zone Support *provides anonymous counselling on 1800 142 072.*

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Defence Member and Family Helpline *provides support for Defence families on 1800 624 608.*



The Eternal Flame at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra is a sculptural feature of the Pool of Reflection in the commemorative courtyard.

A Message About Covid-19 Prevention and Treatment

The veteran community is about mates supporting mates, and while I wouldn't expect that you would necessarily think of your GP as your 'mate', I do hope you see them as a trusted guide to your health and our health system.

I have been a practising GP for more than 30 years and am constantly humbled by the trust people place in me, and am grateful for the bonds I form with my patients.

We recognise how central GPs are to the healthcare of veterans and their families, so we're improving how DVA interacts with GPs. As a first step, we have developed a dedicated general practitioner information page on the DVA website to help busy GPs find everything on one page. We are also working closely with GPs to improve their knowledge of veteran health issues and DVA services, through Primary Health Networks.

Nurses, doctors and pharmacists consistently top Australian and international polls on the most trusted of professions. I hope if you have been feeling any nervousness about getting vaccinated against Covid that you have been able to discuss this with your GP. Similarly, if you have seen something about possible cures or preventive strategies in relation to Covid, I would urge you to discuss these with your GP. Many of them don't work and may even be dangerous.

While vaccination remains your best protection against Covid, the development of safe and effective treatments is another element that will help us manage this pandemic.

Recently there have been some exciting developments in potential treatments for Covid. You may have read about one of these, Molnupiravir,

which is currently being evaluated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). This is a new antiviral medication that, unlike other current treatments, comes as a pill taken for five days like a course of antibiotics. A recent study in people with at least one risk factor for poor outcomes from Covid showed that if the pill was started within five days of symptom onset, there was a 50% reduction in hospitalisation and / or death in those people treated. If this pill gets registered in Australia, it is highly likely it will be available via GPs. There are currently three treatments for Covid-19 provisionally registered by the TGA, however they need to be given by injection.

There are some medications that continue to be promoted in the public domain but that should only be used in clinical trials. The most publicised of these is probably the anti-parasite drug Ivermectin. Its recent misuse has resulted in the TGA placing restrictions on prescribing it to ensure it is only used for those infections for which it is proven safe and effective, such as Strongyloides or scabies. While Ivermectin did show an effect on the Coronavirus in the laboratory, this has not been supported in human trials. Importantly, the dose required to mimic the laboratory-based trials is significantly higher than we usually use and there have been hospital admissions resulting from people overdosing on the medication.

Other medications that should only be used in the context of a clinical trial include the anti-malarial Chloroquine, the anti-parasite drug Nitazoxanide, and the combination of Ivermectin and the antibiotic Doxycycline. It is very important that you do not take these drugs to treat Covid.

Medications that should also not be used to treat Covid include aspirin, the antibiotic Azithromycin and the anti-gout drug Colchicine.

The NSW Poisons Hotline has recently raised concern about the increasing number of calls regarding home remedies that supposedly prevent or cure Covid, many of which can be dangerous. These include inhaling hydrogen peroxide, gargling or swallowing antiseptics, bathing in bleach, spraying face masks with disinfectants and taking high-dose vitamins.

The best way to protect yourself against Covid remains vaccination and following the other public health recommendations. Please speak with

your GP if you have any concerns. If you prefer to research yourself there are many great evidence-based resources available including:

- The Australian Academy of Science, [The Science of Immunisation booklet](#)
- The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance: ncirs.org.au
- The Melbourne Vaccine Education Centre: mvec.mcri.edu.au

Until next time, stay well.

Dr Trish Batchelor

Deputy Chief Health Officer

Department of Veterans' Affairs



Welfare Officers

ACT/Queanbeyan and surrounding districts

Kevin 'Colin' Berryman, OAM6258 2463

Albion Park/Dapto/Gerringong/Kiama/ Shellharbour

Dinos Potonides4296 5538

Batemans Bay

Michael Scrase, JP0418 461 066

Bega/Eden

Tony Toussain6495 1693

Kevin Webb6495 6975

Blacktown

Ken Ward0427 278 495

Blaxland

Kevin A Ley, JP4739 4978

Byron Shire

John Hawes, OAM, JP6676 2411

Coffs Harbour and Districts

Brian Orr0419 476 362

Casino/Kyogle

Bruce McKenzie, OAM0427 617 404

Forster/Tuncurry/Taree areas

Kerry Redman0488 785 477

Email..... k.redman8@bigpond.com

Goulburn/Taralga/Crookwell/Gunning

John Kerr4821 0780

Grafton/Maclean/Clarence Valley

Eric Lynn6642 6786

Hornsby

Ray Davis 9456 4220 / 0409 123 525

Inverell and District

Philip Hogan.....0488 423 497

Maitland

Basil D Stemp, JP4932 8008

Milton-Ulladulla (South)

Ross Johnson, JP4455 4882

Nowra (North)

Ernie Payne
0410 415 668

Nowra (South)

Jack Doulis0402 584 041

Howard Van Dervord..... 4443 2840 / 0419 238 024

Port Macquarie

Bob Metcalfe0409 822 272

South Western Sydney (including Campbelltown/Camden/Liverpool/Fairfield)

Rodney Hoult..... 4647 8010 / 0419 168 074

St George District

John A Graham, JP 9718 2583 / 0411 809 936

Taree

Robert Hicks0418 979 102

Wagga Wagga

John Curtis.....6924 1924

Wollongong Area

John Kiley4228 4068

Social & Welfare Clubs

Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club

President: Malcolm Botfield 9872 2594
Snr Vice-President: Ron Blakely..... 0411 131 849
Jnr Vice-President: Ian Brady..... 9626 8823
Honorary Secretary: Kerrie Cooper..... 4739 3074
Asst Secretary: Kaye Shannon 0408 714 667
Treasurer: Alan Jones..... 8678 3321
Asst Treasurer: Lynne Northey..... 9872 1751
Welfare Officer: Ken Ward 0427 278 495
Asst Welfare Officer: Phil Hincks..... 0414 761 032
Social Secretary: Lance Northey 9872 1751
Committee: John Davison..... 9636 7279
Committee: Ted Cooper..... 4739 3074
The Club meets on the first Thursday of each month at 1.00pm at Blacktown RSL Club, 2nd Avenue, Blacktown. New members are welcome.

Hornsby & District TPI Social & Welfare Club

President: Ray Davis 9456 4220 / 0409 123 525
Hon. Secretary: Rod White AM RFD .0419 477 179
Hon. Treasurer: Dave Coleman 9499 9976
Welfare Officer:
Ray Davis 9456 4220 / 0409 123 525
Hon. Welfare Officer:
Roslyn Hutchinson..... 9489 3204
The Club meets the first Tuesday of each month (except November and January) at 1.00pm at the Hornsby Memorial Hall, 2 High Street, Hornsby.

Illawarra TPI Social & Welfare Club

President: John Kiley..... 4228 4068
Vice-President: Bruce Writer..... 4285 0829
Secretary: Geoff Hicks..... 4423 2979
Treasurer: Robin Kiley 4228 4068
Committee: Ian Pascoe
Welfare Officer: John Kiley 4228 4068
Welfare Officer: Dinos Potonides..... 4296 5538
The Club meets on the third Monday of each month

at 11.00 am at Wollongong City Diggers, Cnr Church and Burelli Streets, Wollongong.

Nowra & District TPI Social & Welfare Club

President: Jack Doulis 0402 584 041
Senior Vice-President: Ernie Payne 0410 415 668
Jnr Vice-President:
Howard Van Dervord 4443 2840/0419 238 024
Secretary: Leanne Wehmeier 4443 4038
Treasurer: Mick Carden 0402 444 315
Welfare Officer: (North)
Ernie Payne 0410 415 668
Welfare Officer: (South)
Jack Doulis 0402 584 041
Howard Van Dervord 4443 2840/0419 238 024
Publicity Officer: Simon Carr 4443 4038
Social Secretary: Di Falconer 0422 298 211
The Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 11.00am at Nowra Veterans Wellbeing Centre, 1/19 Nowra Lane, Nowra.

South Western Sydney TPI Social & Welfare Club

President: Keith Gorsuch JP 9825 2298
Vice-President: Norman Crane 9825 2321
Secretary: Maria Scragg 0417 442 830
Treasurer: Alan Graham 0435 084 246
Social Secretary: Terry Westerway 0422 581 946
Welfare Officer:
Rodney Hoult 4647 8010 / 0419 168 074
The Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month, except January, at different locations. Please contact one of the above for details of location.

Would office bearers kindly check details recorded for their club and advise Sara Thorne of any changes or corrections at the TPI office on (02) 9235 1466 Monday - Wednesday, 9am - 4pm or via email on office@tpinsw.org.au

Social & Welfare Club Reports



Nowra & District TPI Social & Welfare Club Annual Christmas party at Leanne and Simon's place.

Nowra & District TPI Social & Welfare Club

Hello everyone.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that this month sees everyone well and coping with the social distancing that is still going on. Not much has been happening at the club lately due to the latest Covid restrictions. Our meetings are going ahead, and we are looking forward to being able to get a bit more social, all be it, in line with the current existing restrictions.

Late last year we were happy to welcome a new member to the club, John Carney. John has been a resident of the area for some time and came across an advertisement for our group in the DVA Newspaper. Welcome John, glad to have you on board.

Last month we went ahead with our annual Christmas Party that was held, once again, at Leanne and Simon's place. This took the worry out of having to book somewhere and allowed much more leeway on attendance. This offered a nice friendly venue and ample space for people to spread out. The attendance was down a bit from usual with a few people unable to come because of restrictions. The food was a wonderful spit roasted pork and lamb with roasted veggies, and the usual good company made for some varied and pleasant conversations.

Last month we had to say farewell to one of our members, Beatrice Farmer, who passed away at the age of 89. Beatrice was a long-time associate member of our group. She was a very loved member and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family at this time.

Well, that is all I have for this issue. I hope everyone stays safe during this time, and also keep an eye on our fellow members to ensure that they are all coping well. Remember to get vaccinated and to stay within the prescribed medical guidelines and hopefully we'll be able to get back into the full swing of things before too long.

Simon Carr
Publicity Officer

Blacktown & Districts TPI Social & Welfare Club

Happy New Year everyone. We hope Christmas was a very happy affair for you and you managed to spend some time with your loved ones.

Our 2021 Christmas Luncheon at Fox Hills Golf Club was a great success and everyone there was glad to have a day out. The food was good and most people took home a raffle prize or two.

We were hoping for a miracle to start 2022 with Covid etc gone, but it is still masks and hand

wash for everyone, so we are choosing our annual barbecue at Plough & Harrow Park to start the year on Tuesday 15 February and the colour for the day is RED. As usual the only thing people need to bring is their cold drink and happy smiling face, and hopefully we can inhale some fresh air to start the year.

Our March outing on the 7th is to The Fiddler Hotel for lunch, it is on Windsor Road at Vineyard. We are meeting there about 10.30 to 11 for lunch and a good catchup with our mates. Hopefully by the end of March this virus will have calmed down but just now it is difficult to make too many plans as owners of various venues aren't keen to plan too far ahead, but we will let you know in the next magazine what arrangements we have made for the rest of the year.

Don't forget we are always looking for new members so if you have any TPI friends who would like to join us please let them know. We are a very happy group of people always wanting to have some fun and spend time with our many friends.



Blacktown & Districts TPI Social & Welfare Club Annual Christmas Luncheon at Fox Hills Golf Club.

Our numbers are in the back of the magazine so please don't hesitate to ring or pass the numbers on to other TPIs.

Lance and Lynne Northey

Phone: 0411221921

Illawarra TPI Social and Welfare Club

ABN 26 063 065 721

Patron

Major-General B.W. Howard (Retired)
AO, MC

President

J. Kiley

The club meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Diggers Club, Church Street, Wollongong at 11:00am, unless otherwise notified. No meeting is held in January.

If you are a TPI in the Illawarra and a financial member of state branch you are welcome to come and join us.

We hold a Xmas in July and December at different locations.

If you need further information you can contact me.

John Kiley

President

Phone: 0450 588 257

P.O. Box 85

Wollongong East

NSW 2520

Blacktown and Districts TPI Social and Welfare Club

Registration No: C.C.2781

ABN: 26159 824 822

The Club meets Monthly on the first Thursday of each month (except January) at Blacktown RSL Club 40 Second Ave Blacktown at 1:00pm.

Our Club membership is open to all TPI Veterans (including Veterans under the MRC receiving the Special Rate of Disability Pension), and welcomes their Carers/Wives/ Partners and Friends.

To join the Club a Veteran must be a subscribing member of the TPI Association of NSW Ltd.

In addition to Monthly Meetings the Club arranges subsidised functions generally each month. These could be a Coach Trip, Luncheon, BBQ, or a meet up at a point of interest.

The Club's Welfare Officers also keep in contact through Hospital and Home visits to those who cannot make the Meetings or Functions.

A Newsletter is also distributed quarterly to all members, either by email or "snail mail"

For further Information, please contact

John Davison

Committeeman

Mobile: 0411 737 446 or

Email: davoddg38@gmail.com



*More photos from Blacktown & Districts
TPI Social & Welfare Club Annual
Christmas Luncheon at Fox Hills Golf
Club.*



**Nowra & District Totally & Permanently
Incapacitated (TPI) Social & Welfare
Club**

Are you a Military TPI looking for social
interaction? Come and join us.

We are seeking new members. We hold our
meetings at the Nowra Veterans Wellbeing
Centre, 1/19 Nowra Lane, Nowra, on the 3rd
Tuesday of each month at 11am as well as
having social outings and lunches.

For more information contact the

Leanne Wehmeier

Secretary

Mobile: 0419 464 313.

Open Arms Group Program Schedule January – July 2022

ONLINE PROGRAMS

MANAGING PAIN

2 x 90 minutes sessions - Instructor Led

TIME: 1230hrs – 1400hrs AEST

Tuesday & Thursday | 1st & 3rd February
Wednesday & Friday | 23rd & 25th February
Tuesday & Thursday | 15th & 17th March
Wednesday & Friday | 6th & 8th April
Tuesday & Thursday | 26th & 28th April
Wednesday & Friday | 18th & 20th May
Wednesday & Friday | 8th & 10th June
Tuesday & Thursday | 28th & 30th June

UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY

2 x 90 minutes sessions - Instructor Led

TIME: 1230hrs – 1400hrs AEST

Tuesday & Thursday | 18th & 20th January
Wednesday & Friday | 23rd & 25th February
Tuesday & Thursday | 15th & 17th March
Tuesday & Thursday | 12th & 14th April
Tuesday & Thursday | 10th & 12th May
Tuesday & Thursday | 31st May & 2nd June
Tuesday & Thursday | 21st & 23rd June

RECOVERY FROM TRAUMA

2 x 90 minutes sessions - Instructor Led

TIME: 1300hrs – 1430hrs AEST

Wednesday & Friday | 23rd & 25th February
Tuesday & Thursday | 15th & 17th March
Wednesday & Friday | 6th & 8th April
Monday & Wednesday | 27th & 29th April
Tuesday & Thursday | 17th & 19th May

Tuesday & Thursday | 7th & 9th June

Monday & Wednesday | 20th & 22nd June

Tuesday & Thursday | 1th & 14th July

DOING ANGER DIFFERENTLY

2 x 90 minutes sessions - Instructor Led

TIME: 1300hrs – 1430hrs AEST

Tuesday & Thursday | 8th & 10th February
Tuesday & Thursday | 1st & 3rd March
Tuesday & Thursday | 22nd & 24th March
Tuesday & Thursday | 12th & 14th April
Tuesday & Thursday | 3rd & 5th May
Tuesday & Thursday | 24th & 26th May
Tuesday & Thursday | 14th & 16th June

SLEEPING BETTER

2 x 90 minutes sessions - Instructor Led

TIME: 1230hrs – 1400hrs AEST

Wednesday & Friday | 16th & 18th February
Wednesday & Friday | 9th & 11th March
Wednesday & Friday | 30th March & 1st April
Wednesday & Friday | 27th & 29th April
Wednesday & Friday | 18th & 20th May
Wednesday & Friday | 8th & 10th June
Wednesday & Friday | 29th June & 1st July

BLENDED MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Self-paced eLearning plus 2 x 2.5hr Instructor led sessions

TIME: 1300hrs – 1530hrs AEST

Wednesday & Friday | 16th & 18th February
Tuesday & Thursday | 29th & 31st March
Wednesday & Friday | 16th & 18th May
Tuesday & Thursday | 26th & 28th July



1800 011 046
OpenArms.gov.au



OPERATION LIFE – ASIST Tune-Up (ASIST Refresher Workshop)

**1 x 3 hour workshop – Instructor Led TIME:
1230hrs – 1530hrs AEST**
Wednesday |25th May Thursday |25th August

**Please note all times are Australian Eastern
Time. Refer to your state or territory time zones
for the time in your area**

GROUP PROGRAMS

BEATING THE BLUES

A skills-based group program to help understand the situations and thinking patterns that contribute to depression, and identify strategies to help manage symptoms.

BUILDING BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

Building better relationships can help you rediscover what's important in your relationship, and rebuild a relationship with your partner.

DOING ANGER DIFFERENTLY

Doing anger differently will help you to understand anger and manage it more effectively, so that it doesn't have a negative impact on your own, or others' lives.

MANAGING PAIN

This program will help you learn about pain and teaches you strategies and skills for effective pain management.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Mental Health First Aid is a two day workshop that teaches practical skills for helping a family member or friend who is experiencing mental health problems.

OPERATION LIFE: ASIST

The two day workshop aims to help you see, hear and respond to suicide signals. Preparing you to work with people at risk, increase their immediate safety and to get further help.

OPERATION LIFE: SAFETALK

In the safeTALK half day workshop you will learn how to become more alert to suicide prevention opportunities, and how to offer help.

PARENTING PROGRAMS

Parenting programs are tailored to the needs of attending veteran families, to help build strong and positive relationships between parents and their children.

RECOVERY FROM TRAUMA

This program will help you to understand the possible impact of trauma, and teaches you strategies and skills to help you to manage its impact on you and your family.

RELAXATION AND STRESS MANAGEMENT

Relaxation and stress management provides practical skills that can be used in everyday life to de stress via mindfulness techniques.

RESIDENTIAL LIFESTYLE PROGRAM

The Residential lifestyle management program is designed for veterans and their partners who want to enhance their wellbeing and relationships.

SLEEPING BETTER

Sleeping better is an educational and skills-based group program to help you manage disturbed sleep.

STEPPING OUT

A two day program for ADF members and their partners who are about to, or have recently separated from the military.

UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY

This program will help you to understand anxiety and teaches you strategies and skills to reduce anxiety and associated stress.

To register your interest and for the most up to date information visit:

<https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops>

Open Arms – *Veterans and Families Counselling provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families.*

Free and confidential help is available 24/7.

Phone: 1800 011 046

A service founded by Vietnam Veterans, now for all veterans and families

Attention Members

If anyone is getting good service or a discount from a business then share it with the rest of the members, or if you want a discount, approach the owner/manager of the business and simply say "Would you consider giving a discount to Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans, there are over 3,000 in the state and I'll get your business mentioned in *Salute*, the TPI members magazine, and maybe get some more business."

Get the following particulars from the owner/manager:

- Name of business
- Address of business
- Phone number/Email
- Type of business
- Discount offered

If you don't feel like asking and think a discount will benefit the members, one of the TPI volunteers can give them a call. Supply the above information and send it to Sara Thorne, Membership Services Coordinator.

Need Help Buying A Car?

Below is a list of those members who have volunteered their services for those wanting assistance in the purchase of a new car. If you are in the market to buy a car, and feel you would like someone else to handle the negotiations on your behalf, give one of the members listed a call.

Our indications are that this has proven to be a great service to many of our members.

Joe Kaplun, OAM (all areas)

Phone: 0407 741 473

Email: joekaplun@optusnet.com.au

Kerry Redman (all areas)

Phone: 0488 785 477

Email: k.redman8@bigpond.com

Interstate TPI Offices

Federation

The Australian Federation of TPI Ex Servicemen & Women Ltd.

Mail: PO Box 450, Erindale, ACT 2903

Tel: 0417 291 546 Email: federation@tpifed.org.au

Web: www.tpifed.org.au

Australian Capital Territory

ACT TPI Ex Servicemen's & Women's Association Inc.

Mail: PO Box 450, Erindale ACT 2903

Tel: 0417 291 546 Email: secretary@acttppi.org

Web: www.acttppi.org

New South Wales

TPI Veterans' Association of NSW Ltd.

Level 4, 55 York St, Sydney NSW 2000

Mail: GPO Box 4429, Sydney NSW 2001

Tel: (02) 9235 1466 Country Tel: 1800 649 216

Fax: (02) 9279 0156

Email: office@tpinsw.org.au

Web: <https://www.tpinsw.net>

Queensland

The Australian Federation of TPI Ex Servicemen & Women QLD Branch Inc.

Cnr Enoggera Road & Ashgrove Avenue,

Newmarket QLD 4051 Mail: PO Box 3161,

Newmarket QLD 4051

Tel: (07) 3040 3330 Email: secretary@tpiqld.org.au

Web: www.qldtppi.org.au

South Australia (includes Northern Territory)

The Association of TPI Ex-Servicemen & Women (SA Branch) Inc.

171 Richmond Rd, Richmond SA 5033

Tel: (08) 8351 8140 Fax: (08) 8351 7781

Email: office@tpi-sa.com.au

Web: www.tpi-sa.com.au

Tasmania

The Australian Federation of TPI Ex Servicemen & Women (Tasmania Branch) Inc.

Horrie Gorrings Stand, North Hobart Football Oval, Argyle St, North Hobart TAS 7000

Tel: (03) 6231 3900 Fax: (03) 6278 2648

Email: tpitas@bigpond.com.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tpi.tasmania>

Western Australia

The Australian Federation of TPI Ex-Servicemen & Women WA Branch Inc.

Royal Aust. Air Force Association Estate, 2 Bullcreek Dr, Bullcreek.

Mail: PO Box 2035, Rossmoyne WA 6148 Tel: (08)

9332 4999 Fax: (08) 9332 6633

Email: tpiwa@tpiwa.org.au

Web: www.tpiwa.org.au

Victoria

Totally & Permanently Disabled Soldiers Association of Victoria Inc.

23-47 Villiers St, North Melbourne VIC 3051 Mail: PO Box 216, North Melbourne VIC 3051 Tel: (03) 9329

8844 Email: tpioffice@tpivic.com

Web: www.tpivic.com

Free 12 Month Health and Fitness Program

for Returned Veterans & Peacekeepers

Did you know the DVA provides a free 12-month health and fitness program that can be delivered to returned veterans and peacekeepers with overseas operational service? This program is available throughout Australia, and can accommodate participants living in metropolitan, rural or remote areas. The program is also flexible, and people who are retired or still working, studying, or with other time constraints can take part. Run on behalf of the DVA by Corporate Health Management, the program aims to help increase your physical health and wellbeing through practical exercise support and 12 months of health coaching and advice on healthy lifestyle choices provided by one of our team of highly qualified allied health professionals.

Am I eligible?

Started 20 years ago for those returned from Vietnam, the Heart Health Program is free and now open to all *returned veterans and peacekeepers with overseas operational service* who have not previously done the Heart Health Program. To check your eligibility visit: <http://www.veteranshearthealth.com.au/eligibility/>.

Individual Heart Health Program—How it works

Each participant receives 12 months of healthy lifestyle coaching from a highly qualified and dedicated allied health professional via *fortnightly health coaching calls* with information and advice tailored to your specific health and fitness goals. The health coach will use their extensive knowledge, along with health surveys and food diaries, to guide you through the program. The

program covers a range of topics including:

- setting healthy goals
- nutrition and diet advice
- advice on lowering alcohol consumption
- developing better sleep patterns
- stress management
- managing diabetes
- taking care of your body
- managing your weight
- maintaining a healthy heart

Program Exercise Resource—Exercise how You Like to

The program can provide an exercise resource to help participants exercise the way they like to or provide an opportunity to try something that's different from the usual.

Resources can take the form of:

- assistance with the cost of a gym or pool membership
- providing a piece of exercise equipment for use at home
- providing assistance with accessing new exercise or training gear

Registering Your Interest

Registering your interest or checking eligibility is easy. Simply visit: <http://www.veteranshearthealth.com.au/eligibility/>, and follow the steps. Or please call the program phone number, **1300 246 262**, at any time to speak to one of our team.

Kind regards,

Heart Health Team, DVA Heart Health Program

