

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

E-Newsletter April 2022



Autumn Garden, Blue Mountains, NSW

Welcome to the second issue of the TPI NSW E-Newsletter

We had planned for the e-newsletter to be mailed out every month to TPI NSW Association members but, unfortunately, I had an accident in early March and this delayed the production of the second issue. Fingers crossed that there will be no more delays and that the third issue will be emailed to members by early May 2022.

We hope this 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 that you would like to share please email: editor@tpinsw.org.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

Victoria Dawson

Editor, TPI NSW Association

Email: editor@tpinsw.org.au



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 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



Performers appearing at the NSW Premier's Gala Concert

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

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.



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

Invitation: Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPIs) & Special Rate (SR) Veterans

The Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club's members invite TPIs/Special Rate (SR) to come and experience our club.

The club meets at 1:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month at Club Blacktown (formally the RSL club).

This invitation stands for our general meetings.

Prior to the monthly general meetings, members and wives/carers meet in the Villaggio restaurant to socialise (about 11:45am). Meetings are held in a room set aside on the day. Post-meeting members are treated to cold or hot drinks and more socialising in the Villaggio restaurant.

If attending a meeting contact Ian Brady

ibrady@bigpond.net.au to arrange a member to meet & greet you or just walk in.

The club is the most active TPI Social & Welfare Club in the state, with a different activity each month which could be a meet at a point of interest/ event or a day coach trip.

- Social events are subsidised.
- Longer 3-day country tours are also conducted once per year.
- The purpose of this invitation is to encourage TPIs to join our club and participate and socialize.
- You are encouraged to join the TPI Association of NSW to give it strength in numbers when dealing with government.

The 80th Anniversaries of the Battle of the Coral and Java Seas

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.

The Battle of the Coral Sea was a World War II engagement between combined Australian and US forces that took place between 4 and 8 May 1942. This battle 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.

For further information about this commemoration contact:

Mr Keith Grimley

President

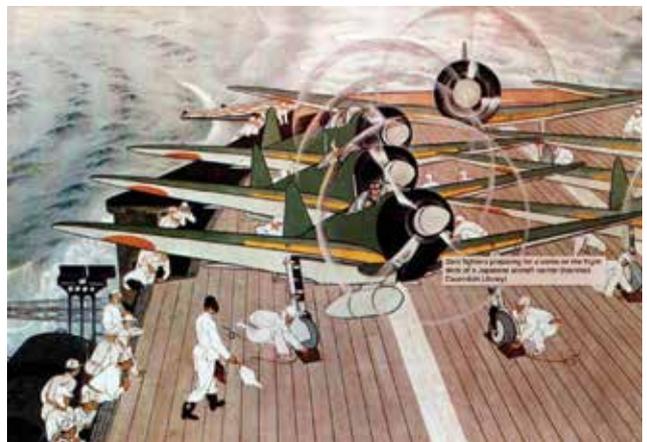
Naval Association of Australian (NSW)

Email: nswpresident@navalassoc.org.au,

Phone: 0428 858 231.



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



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>

DVA Media Releases

DVA Services During East Coast Flooding

10 March 2022

To all of those affected by the terrible flooding in south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales, please know that DVA and other Government agencies are here to support you in any way we can.

DVA offices

Due to the floods there have been some temporary office closures. Online and telephone services remain operational.

Open Arms – Veterans & Families

Counselling offices in Aspley, Brisbane, Ipswich were closed to the public. These sites are now open. Unfortunately, Lismore remains closed.

VAN offices in Maroochydore and Broadbeach are now open. The only VAN office still closed is Lismore. We are working to open a temporary site as soon as possible.

VAN sites co-located with Services Australia in Robina and Tweed Heads are currently open.

Anyone who requires assistance can call **DVA on 1800 VETERAN** (1800 838 372) or lodge enquiries through [MyService](#).

Counselling

Counselling support is available through [Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling](#) (1800 011 046) and [SafeZone](#) (1800 142 072) – both of which are available 24/7 for the veteran community.

Emergency accommodation

In many flood-affected areas, there is a severe shortage of rooms, which is unfortunately making it hard for Open Arms to find crisis accommodation. If you need somewhere safe to stay, please head to your closest evacuation centre.

Payments

Services Australia is the main Australian Government agency responsible for providing immediate financial assistance to people affected by the floods in New South Wales and south-east Queensland. This includes members of the veteran community.

There are two payments available:

The **Disaster Recovery Payment** is a lump-sum payment for anyone who has been significantly affected by the disaster.

The **Disaster Recovery Allowance** is a short-term payment to help those who have lost income as a direct result of the disaster.

Claims can be made through [MyGov](#).

Visit the Services Australia website for more information on financial support available in your area:

[South-East Queensland local government areas](#)

[Northern NSW local government areas](#)

Please delay applying for a payment if the need is not urgent.

Services Australia Mobile Service Centres are moving to flood-affected areas. The [Services Australia website](#) shows where you can find them.

Further information is available on the [Services Australia website](#).



Windsor, NSW, Australia - March 22, 2021. The new bridge over the Hawkesbury river at Windsor submerged after days of heavy rain caused severe and major flooding in the areas.

DVA enquiries

DVA is playing its part with some financial support, assistance with health treatment, home care, counselling and replacement of lost cards and rehabilitation appliances.

Veterans who require assistance with DVA services and support can call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or log in to [MyService](#).

The department has sent SMS messages to veterans in the affected areas and we will continue to reach out to those affected by the floods.

Please remember that DVA's number-one priority is, and has always been, the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families. DVA is here to support the veteran community during this challenging time, and the months of clean-up to follow.

Defence Service Homes Insurance

DSH Insurance has confirmed that flood cover is an automatic inclusion in their home building insurance policy.

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RSL Lifecare's Disaster Relief Payment

10 March 2022

A message from RSL Lifecare

The recent weeks have seen unprecedented levels of flooding in a wide range of communities. Within these communities, many veterans need a helping hand to get through this crisis.

Veterans in a flood-affected area may be entitled to a RSL Lifecare disaster relief payment of up to the \$3000. This is **in addition** to any government payments you may be eligible for.

The payment can take the form of paying bills associated with the disaster or provide an electronic funds transfer (EFT) to provide immediate respite.

To get this payment, please contact RSL Lifecare DefenceCare on [\(02\) 8088 0388](tel:0280880388) or go to [our website](#) to complete the online form.

Once we have assessed your claim, it may become apparent to us that we can provide you with support in a range of other areas such as DVA claims, employment opportunities and wellbeing-related programs. In which case, we'll let you know.

Joint Media Release – 80th Anniversary of the Sinking of SS *Vyner Brooke* and the Bangka Island Massacre

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister

The Hon Andrew Gee MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Federal Member for Calare

16 February 2022

Today we honour the service and sacrifice of the women of the Australian Army Nursing Service who served in Singapore, 80 years on from the sinking of the SS *Vyner Brooke* and the tragedy of the Bangka Island massacre. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the massacre represented one of the darkest chapters of World War II, but the tenacity and compassion of the victims and survivors lived on today. "The memory and legacy of the victims and the survivors will never be forgotten," the Prime Minister said.

"On this day," Scott Morrison said, "We remember the one who survived, the 21 who fell, the 5,000 nurses who served in the Pacific, the Mediterranean, the Middle East and other theatres of the Second World War, as well as the many thousands of Australian nurses who have served in wartime over a century and more. We remember their devotion to their patients, to their country and to their duty."

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the attack on those evacuating Singapore and the brutal killings at Bangka Island stood out as one of the worst wartime atrocities against Australians. "It is difficult to imagine the horrors faced by those who were attacked while trying to escape the conflict, including those Army nurses killed in the massacre on Bangka Island," Minister Gee said. "Of the 65 nurses who embarked upon the SS *Vyner Brooke*, only 24 survived the war, all of whom spent years as prisoners of war, living through deprivation and disease."

In the days before the Fall of Singapore, the women of the Australian Army Nursing Service were evacuated on several ships, including the SS *Vyner Brooke*. There were 65 Australian nurses among the 181, mostly women and children, who boarded the ship, unaware of the fate that lay ahead. Two days out of Singapore, the *Vyner Brooke* was bombed and sunk by Japanese aircraft, and 12 of the Australian nurses on board were killed. After spending between eight and 65 hours in the water, about 150 survivors made it ashore to Bangka Island, including one group that met up with survivors from other sunken ships at Radji Beach. On 16 February 1942, Japanese troops arrived at the beach and separated the male survivors who were then shot and bayoneted. The 22 Australian nurses and one British female civilian who remained were forced to wade into the ocean, where they were machine-gunned from behind.

Only one nurse, Sister Vivian Bullwinkel, and one British soldier, Private Cecil Kinsley, survived the Bangka Island massacre. Sister Bullwinkel was wounded and pretended to be dead until the Japanese left. "Despite their wounds, Sister Bullwinkel and Private Kinsley bravely survived in the harsh jungle for 12 days, before finally giving themselves up," Minister Gee said. "Private Kinsley died days later, but Sister Bullwinkel survived the war and, despite spending three and a half years



Studio portrait of Staff Nurse Vivian Bullwinkel, Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS), in service dress uniform.

in captivity, was able to return home to Australia. After leaving the Army in 1947, Sister Bullwinkel continued in a few senior nursing roles and was awarded many honours, including the Florence Nightingale Medal. She was also made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) and a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE).

“On this 80th anniversary of the Bangka Island massacre,” Minister Gee said, “We remember the tragic story of the *Vyner Brooke* and pay our respects to all those who lost their lives. We remember all the courageous women of the Australian Army Nursing Service who served in Singapore, and all those who served in the Second World War.”

To learn more about the sinking of the *Vyner Brooke*, the Bangka Island massacre and Sister Vivian Bullwinkel, visit the [Department of Veterans' Affairs Anzac Portal](#).

\$3.5 Million on Offer to Commemorate Australia's Service Personnel

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

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

9 February 2022

Ex-service and community organisations across the country can now apply for a share in \$3.5 million for commemorative projects through the latest round of the *Saluting Their Service* grants program, which is now open.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the Australian Government had committed an extra \$10 million to the ongoing program, offering more support for more organisations. “The *Saluting Their Service* program has seen hundreds of worthy projects across Australia funded in recent years, to help local communities pay tribute to Australians who have served during wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations,” Minister Gee said.

“Almost every city or town I travel to has some form of memorial, shrine or commemorative project, and many have received funding through our different grants programs. The *Saluting Their Service* program ensures Australia's wartime history is preserved and the sacrifice of those who have served is remembered. I strongly encourage all those passionate community groups right around the country to check the guidelines and see if they have a local project eligible for a *Saluting*

Their Service grant. Funding is available to support a wide range of projects, from new memorials and refurbishment costs, to exhibitions, digital resources and publications."

Saluting Their Service is a national grants program. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for community-based commemorative projects and activities, while Major Grants up to \$150,000 are for initiatives that are significant from a national, state, territory or regional perspective.

The 2022-23 *Saluting Their Service* Program opens on 9 February. Assessment of applications is divided into three batches: applications submitted between 9 February and 9 June 2022; between 10 June and 11 October 2022; and between 12 October 2022 and 7 February 2023. This allows organisations to submit multiple applications

throughout the year. To apply for a grant, or to learn more about the *Saluting Their Service* Program, please visit the Community Grants Hub website: <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants>; or the Department of Veterans' Affairs: <https://www.dva.gov.au/about-us/overview/consultations-and-grants/grants-and-bursaries/saluting-their-service>. You can contact the Community Grants Hub for further information or assistance by phoning 1800 020 283 or emailing support@communitygrants.gov.au

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Minister Gee office: 0459 966 944

DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

Office of the Hon. Andrew Gee, Canberra ACT.

Contact and Feedback

We value your feedback!

If you have any feedback on what we are doing, please contact us through the following channels:

By Post:

**TPI Association of NSW
Level 4, 55 York Street,
Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 4429, Sydney, NSW 2001**

Email: editor@tpinsw.org.au

Phone: (02) 9235 1466

Free Call: 1800 649 216

**Website: www.tpinsw.org.au
(A new website is currently under construction and will be available soon.)**

Affiliated with The Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women Limited.

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