
SALUTE

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

Summer 2021





"I've got some dental work, like a lot of people. And I thought I'd have to give up chewing gum. Then my mate here told me about Freedent Gum. He said Freedent doesn't stick to your dental work. So I tried it. And it's true.

Freedent doesn't stick to your dental work. (And it's got a good spearmint taste.)

Now I don't have to give up chewing gum after all!"



Freedent Gum from Wrigley's. Now everybody's happy.

WG 448/77

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

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

Our Front and Back Cover

Front Cover Photo



Remembrance Day 2021

Bugler Lance Corporal Justin Williams plays "The Last Post" as poppies are projected on to the Sydney Opera House sails during a Remembrance Day 2021 Dawn Service at Campbells Cove, Sydney, Thursday, November 11, 2021.

Mick Tsikas

Photographer

Credit: AAP Image

Source: AAP

Back Cover Photos

Remembrance Day Service 2021 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Ettalong Beach waterfront with the National Service 1951 – 71 Reenactment Unit representing World War 1 diggers and nurses.

Photo 1:



Left to Right: TPI NSW President Patrick Bright, OAM, Debra Baxter, TPI NSW Director Stephen Emerson, OAM, JP

Photo 2:



Members of the National Service 1951 – 71 Reenactment Unit, left to right: Bill Clifton, John Baxter, Mathew Baxter (with unit flag), Bruce Wilkinson, Stephen Clarke (Town Cryer), Don Frohmuller (medic), Carolin Frohmuller, Debra Baxter (with Flag), Maureen Lyons, David Myers, Marina Myers, Jan Clifton, David Wells (drummer), Nick Brierer (Aust Flag).

Jean Bright

Photographer

Notice Board

Editor's Note, Summer 2021

Greetings TPI members

I hope you're well and have been enjoying the easing of the Covid-19 restrictions we have been experiencing this year.

We have received some positive comments from members about the new look of *Salute*. In this issue we have the first of a series of articles about TPI NSW members and what they've done either during or after their military service. "Portrait of Bushranger Gunner Kevin Kelly" (p. 22), details the experiences of TPI NSW Junior Vice President Kevin Kelly as a gunner and crewman on Bushranger helicopters in Vietnam, and Kevin's life afterwards. The issue also includes related articles about the Bushranger helicopter (p. 27) and "A Short History of RAAF 9 Squadron" (p. 30).

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.

I'm looking forward to receiving contributions from members and finding out what other topics you'd like to read about in *Salute*. TPI NSW has over 2,700 members and therefore, over 2700 stories. Please tell us your story.

Contributions

Please send me contributions including letters, items of interest and information about reunions and social events. You can submit material to *Salute* in the following ways:

- By mail, either handwritten, typed or on CD to GPO Box 4429, Sydney, NSW 2001

- By fax on (02) 9223 3820
- 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 will also be an option to receive an electronic copy of *Salute* by email. Please send your email address to Membership Services Co-ordinator Sara Thorne at

Notice Board

Editor's Note, Summer 2021 continued

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

Corrections to the Financial Report for the Year 30 June 2021

We advise of corrections to the Directors section on page 1 of the report as follows:

- Kevin Kelly was appointed to the TPI NSW Association Board on 24 November 2020, NOT 24 November 2021.
- Where it says Garry Cairncross, Richard Roe and William Roberts retired from the board it should read resigned.
- William Roberts' date of resignation was 21 September 2020, NOT 24 October 2021.
- William Roberts' post nominals were omitted. His name should have read William Roberts, OAM, JP.

We apologise for these errors.



Find us on Facebook –
www.facebook.com/TPINSW

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

GENERAL MEMBERS MEETINGS

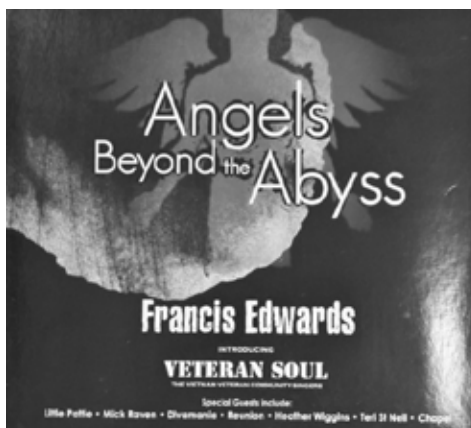
Members meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, commencing at 1pm at Barracks on Barrack, 2nd Floor, 5 – 7 Barrack Street, Sydney. (Some dates may be subject to change due to public holidays or cancelled at a general meeting). If in doubt call Head Office Phone: 9235 1466, Monday - Thursday,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

Forthcoming meeting dates are:

Tuesday 25 January 2022
Tuesday 22 February 2022
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



President's Report

November 2021

Following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions in early October, the TPI NSW office is open again. We were able to hold our first board meeting in person at the office on 26 October 2021. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 23 November 2021 and will have taken place by the time members receive this issue of Salute.

Members meetings have recommenced and will be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, starting at 1pm at Barracks on Barrack, 2nd Floor, 5 – 7 Barrack Street, Sydney. Finger food and drinks will be provided following the meeting. Bring along a mate who is a financial member to the next meeting.

Our Christmas luncheon, which was due to take place in early December, has been rescheduled to Tuesday 1 February 2022 at Barracks on Barrack. Members who have already paid can attend or ask for a refund. We encourage others to book.

The renovations of the TPI NSW units at Balmain have been completed and brought up to code and the holiday unit in Coffs Harbour is available for bookings again.

Junior Vice President Kevin Kelly attended the Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony at the Martin Place Cenotaph on 11 November 2021 representing the Association. I laid a wreath at the Remembrance Day service at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Ettalong Beach waterfront. Director Stephen Emerson also attended this event. The National Service 1951 – 71 Reenactment Unit also

took part in this ceremony, representing World War I diggers and nurses.

As you can read in the Federation President's report in this issue of Salute, the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee report on the TPI payment (Special Rate of Disability Pension) recommended that the Australian Government consider an increase in the TPI Payment. Unfortunately, the Government has deferred a decision on increasing the TPI payment and this is very disappointing. Federation President Pat McCabe encourages members to write and talk to their Federal Members about this issue.

The board and I would like to thank CEO John Szabo and Membership Services Co-ordinator Sara Thorne for their patience and persistence in keeping the work of TPI NSW going during the Covid-19 lockdown. We would also like to take the opportunity to wish all our members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you, hopefully early in the New Year at our members meetings at Barracks on Barrack, 5 – 7 Barrack Street, Sydney.



Patrick J Bright, OAM
President
TPI NSW

Federation President's Report

October 2021

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"



Senate Inquiry into TPI Compensation Payment – Update

The TPI Federation appreciates the in-depth and well-considered Government Response Inquiry. The full report can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3BwBf51> where the Government in the last paragraph of their 4-paragraph response stated –

"The Government notes the Committee's recommendation that the Australian Government consider an increase in the TPI payment, and will take this recommendation together with the views of the ex-service community as presented to the Committee into account when considering future policy options for support to TPI veterans."

The TPI Federation is extremely disappointed in this response and will be, as the Government is, considering future options. All TPIs should consider contacting their local Federal Members on this 8-year campaign that has been stifled, without criticism or conjecture of the TPI Federation's contention, to the point of it being effectively shelved. When this campaign began the TPI Economic Loss Compensation was 65% of the minimum wage and today it is 61%.

How long do TPIs have to be ignored following 7-decades of decline in their compensation?

Senate Inquiry into Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) - Update

Regrettably, there has not yet been a Government response to this Senate Inquiry.

Hearing Services Program Review – Update

Department of Health has conducted a review into the Hearing Services Program. Information on the review can be found at <https://bit.ly/2GKwMES>. The TPI Federation and DVA both produced submissions for this Review. The final report from the Review does not provide any changes for the Veteran community. The TPI Federation had asked the Review panel to consider including Veterans into the Community Service Obligation Program (CSO), which sits within the Hearing Services Program, so as to address Veteran's complex hearing needs. The Review final report states that consideration will be made to review the CSO program and which may be reviewed at a later time. The Review's final report is available at <https://bit.ly/3DgFQZN>. The TPI Federation is most disappointed that, again, the Government has reneged on their pledge to care for the Veterans' compensable health needs.

Veterans Home Care Review

The Department has announced The Review of Veterans' care and support programs which will be conducted over the 2021-22 period. The Review was announced by Government as part of the 2021-22 Budget and has now commenced. The Review will consider DVA's Veterans Home Care (VHC) and Community Nursing (CN) Programs and related arrangements. Further details can be found at <https://bit.ly/3jaelnw>.

Changes to exercise physiology arrangements from 1 September 2021

DVA has advised that clinical experts routinely provide advice to the department about various musculoskeletal services. Under DVA arrangements, musculoskeletal professions include physiotherapy, osteopathy, chiropractic and exercise physiology. From 1 September 2021, exercise physiology – as a musculoskeletal treatment service – will be considered in a similar way. This means that DVA will not pay for the second service where a person has exercise physiology and another musculoskeletal service on the same day, for treatment of the same condition. DVA will continue to pay for an exercise physiology service on the same day as another musculoskeletal treatment, where the treatment is for **different** health conditions. For more information – <https://bit.ly/3a7NN6Q>.

Carer's Allowance – Update

DVA advised on the 9th October 2021 that as of 20th September 2018 the Carer's Allowance is no longer automatic for TPIs and is now income tested using the Centrelink Income test facilities. The Department advised –

"An applicant for Carer Payment and/or Carer Allowance under the Act is required to complete the claimant questionnaire of the ADAT, and the care receiver's Treating Health Professional (THP) must complete the Health Professional Assessment (HPA)

component (Schedule 1 Part 2). A minimum qualifying score must be achieved on the THP component as well as a minimum qualifying total ADAT score.

Department of Social Services Policy has confirmed there is no discretion to vary the requirements of the Act when assessing applicants for Carer Allowance and there is no ability to determine a Carer Allowance assessment without a current THP report completed in the format specified within the ADAT.

Carer Allowance has been subject to an income test since 20 September 2018 (see section 957A Carer allowance income test of the Act). The income test requires the carer's and their partner's combined Adjusted Taxable Income (ATI) must be under \$250,000 a year. The same income limit applies if the carer does not have a partner.

Services Australia is not aware of any previous decisions or agreements made in regard to TPI veterans and their partners for assessment purposes regarding Carer Allowance."

For further information on the income test see <https://bit.ly/2YIXAyf>.

Two reports provide valuable insights into veteran suicide

On 29 September, two reports were published that will help the Government tackle the tragedy of suicide in the Defence and veteran community. For further information on the AIHW fourth annual update and the Interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention's report - <https://bit.ly/3la22hN>.

ADF Firefighter Scheme

A new scheme commencing 20 September 2021, will provide better health and wellbeing support for Australian Defence Force (ADF) firefighters who participated in fire training at Royal Australian Air Force Base Point Cook between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1986. For more information – <https://bit.ly/3BcZ3ee>.

Veterans' Home Care services available

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

Rent Assistance

This is a timely reminder and a repeat of a comment in my August Report –

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 the 1st 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/3wjYIJs>.
- c. DVA 'How-To' Accommodation Information - <https://bit.ly/3AfJQZM>.

Conclusion

The TPI Federation is disturbed by a number of the above-named issues and will continue to prosecute them, to the fullest, on behalf of all TPIs. But we need your help. We ask that you support us in our quest for Government to recognise the needs of all TPIs by writing and talking to your Federal Members. How long are we going to sit back while our compensable benefits and income are being surreptitiously downgraded and/or removed?

I invite all TPIs, and your families, to bring my report to the attention of any, and all, Federal Members.



Ms Pat McCabe, OAM
TPI Federation President

Phone: 0417 291 546

Email: federation@tpifed.org.au

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

New Branch and Changes to Open Arms Leadership

The past 12 months have seen an increasing number of presentations from veterans and families seeking mental health and wellbeing support from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

This has been particularly evident in one Division within DVA, the Mental Health & Wellbeing Services Division, which encompasses the Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling service, Coordinated Client Support providing case management and on-base services, and the Department's Communications capability.

To adapt and be better positioned to meet the changing needs of our veteran community, I have decided to establish a new Branch in this Division.

This Branch will initially be called Mental & Social Health Programs, and will consolidate all of the Division's mental and social health programs as well as practice improvement, clinical governance, innovative research and pilots.

The overall focus of the Division on Mental Health and Wellbeing means Open Arms can work closely with the Triage and Connect team, which is the gateway to all supports under DVA's Client Support Program, providing a single access point for advice, assessments and response to urgent, high risk, complex, or escalated client matters identified by internal DVA staff and external stakeholders.

Open Arms remains a separate Branch, proudly maintaining the legacy of its founding organisation, Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service (VVCS). It will always be a counselling service focused on meeting the needs of the veteran community, which is different, but complementary, to the range of services offered by the broader Department.

Coordinated Client Support Branch will focus on on-base services and case management support, including Triage & Connect.

The consolidation of mental health and social programs, practice improvement, innovation and clinical governance into the new branch will strengthen these functions, and also enable Open Arms and the Client Coordinated Services branches to focus solely on working together to ensure that the Department can respond quickly and effectively to veterans and families at risk.

I am also very pleased to advise that Dr Stephanie Hodson, the National Manager of Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling has been asked to undertake an important role in the Department of Health, supporting the Covid vaccination drive. The role focuses on the messaging and media around the vaccination roll-out, which will allow Steph to combine her considerable skills and experience in mental health and communications. This is a temporary transfer, for up to six months. I congratulate Steph and wish her well in supporting Australia returning to a post-Covid state as soon as possible, and look forward to her return to the Department in due course.

When she returns, Steph has chosen to return to the new Mental Health & Social Health Programs branch. Steph has been the National Manager of Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling for almost five years. During Steph's tenure as National Manager Open Arms, she has led the service through a period of significant growth and transformation and I would like to thank her for this significant contribution. In her new role she will continue the program of practice change and innovation in the Division and across DVA.

An Expression of Interest for the position of

National Manager of Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling has been conducted, as well as one to temporarily backfill Steph's new position as Assistant Secretary Mental & Social Health Programs.

Helen Braun will act as National Manager Open Arms, and Rachael Farrell will act as Assistant Secretary Mental & Social Health Programs.



Liz Cosson, AM, CS
Secretary

Department of Veterans' Affairs
Email: Secretary@dva.gov.au

Extension/Cessation of the Defence Reparation Scheme

As you may be aware, the Australian Government extended the Defence Reparation Scheme by a further 12 months to **30 June 2022**.

Applicants must contact the Commonwealth Ombudsman on or before **30 June 2022**, and either submit a report of abuse, or provide written notification of their intention to submit a report, with completed reports to be lodged by **30 June 2023**.

Defence Reparation Payments – Factsheet

The deadline to apply for a payment under the Defence Reparation Scheme (the Scheme) has been extended to **30 June 2022**.

Why was the Scheme extended?

The Scheme has had a positive impact for individuals who experienced serious abuse while serving in the Australian Defence Force. Extending

the Scheme gives members who may not have been aware about the Scheme previously, the opportunity to report their experience of serious abuse in Defence and apply for a reparation payment.

What do I need to do to apply for a reparation payment?

To apply for a reparation payment under the Scheme, you must contact the Ombudsman's Office (the Office) by **30 June 2022** and either:

- submit a report of the abuse you experienced in Defence, or
- provide a written notification that you intend to submit a report of abuse. If you notify us you intend to submit a report, you must submit the full report by 30 June 2023.

People who do not submit their report or intention to report to the Ombudsman's Office by 30 June 2022, will not be eligible to receive a reparation payment under the Scheme.

How do I lodge my report or notice of intention to lodge a report?

Reports of abuse can be made directly to the Ombudsman's Office by calling 1300 395 776 or by completing the Abuse Reporting form found [here](#) and sending it by:

- Email to defenceforce.ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au or
- Post to GPO Box 442 Canberra ACT 2601

To provide a written notification that you intend to submit a report of abuse, please:

- send an email to defenceforce.ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au by 30 June 2022, if you have not submitted a report of abuse by that deadline and say in your email: "I intend to submit a report of abuse in Defence by 30 June 2023."

After sending us your intention to report, you must submit your full report by 30 June 2023. If we do not receive the full report by that date, we cannot recommend a reparation payment.

Do I need a representative?

The Ombudsman is independent of Defence. You do not need legal or any other professional representation to report abuse to the Ombudsman or receive a reparation payment under the Scheme.

If you need help completing the form or if it causes you distress, please contact our Liaison Team for support on **1300 395 776**.

What is a reparation payment?

The Ombudsman can recommend that Defence make a reparation payment in response to a report of serious abuse, if:

- **the abuse occurred on or before 30 June 2014**
- the Ombudsman receives the report of abuse by 30 June 2022, or a person provides a notice of intention to report abuse by 30 June 2022, and then submits their report in full by 30 June 2023
- the Ombudsman is satisfied the report involves the most serious forms of abuse and/or sexual assault.

The purpose of a reparation payment is to:

- acknowledge that abuse can have a lasting and serious impact
- recognise that, in the past, Defence did not respond appropriately in many cases, and
- acknowledge that mismanagement by Defence of verbal/written reports or complaints about abuse is unacceptable.

A reparation payment is not paid as compensation for any physical, psychological, emotional or financial injury, or loss or damage suffered by a person as a result of abuse.

How much can be paid?

The Ombudsman's Office may recommend Defence make:

- a payment of up to \$45,000 to acknowledge the most serious forms of abuse, or
- a payment of up to \$20,000 to acknowledge other abuse involving unlawful interference

accompanied by some element of indecency. We may also recommend an additional payment of \$5,000 if satisfied that Defence did not respond appropriately to the incident of abuse. The maximum total payment we can recommend is \$50,000.

What happens after 30 June 2022?

The Office may still receive reports of abuse, but we will not be able to recommend a reparation payment under the Scheme for any reports received after 30 June 2022, unless a person has provided written notice of their intention to report abuse by the deadline and subsequently submits their report in full by 30 June 2023.

For this reason, the Office encourages people who have experienced abuse in Defence to contact us as soon as possible, or by 30 June 2022 at the latest.

Where can I find out more?

For more information about reparation payments see our website on the following link: [Reporting abuse in Defence - Commonwealth Ombudsman](#).

Please note: This document is intended as a guide only. For this reason, the information should not be relied on as legal advice or regarded as a substitute for legal advice in individual cases. To the maximum extent permitted by the law, the Commonwealth Ombudsman is not liable to you for any loss or damage suffered as a result of reliance on this document. For the most up-to-date versions of cited Acts, please refer to the [Federal Register of Legislation](#). (<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Browse/ByTitle/Acts/InForce/0/0/Principal>)

Commonwealth Ombudsman Defence Force

Email:

defenceforce.ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Phone: 1300 395 776

GPO Box 442

Canberra ACT 2601



Australian Defence Force Retirees Association Inc.

No. A0108026R

We represent the interests of Defence Force retirees regarding their superannuation

www: <https://www.adfra.org/> Email: admin@adfra.org

Hi All,

Following is our September 2021 Update. It can also be viewed at: https://www.adfra.org/docPDF/DFRDB_UPDATE_09-2021.pdf.

We still need more people to register with our association. We gained over 150 after the last Update – that was good but the larger our numbers the more the politicians will listen to us.

Feel free to forward the email following the DFRDB Update to our PM and to your local member. You can leave my signature block on it if you wish.

Regards,

Jim Hislop, OAM

President

DFRDB UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2021

The Senate FADT Committee's Inquiry

We had hoped for a Government response to the Senate FADT Committee's report before this Update, but to date there has been none.

The Effect of the DFRDB Commutation Campaign

Over the past two years, the *DFRDB Commutation Campaign* has focused on Commutation and the Department of Defence's misleading of members over its effect.

But that is not our main concern.

To recap:

In 1972, then Prime Minister Whitlam and Defence Minister Barnard overruled the objections of Treasury and the Department of Defence and committed to implementing the Jess Committee recommendations, which included the transfer of control and budget responsibility for Defence

Force Superannuation from Treasury to Defence. From that point on, Defence initiated an insidious and sustained reduction of the defined benefits set down in the Jess Committee recommendations.

The wording of the Commutation provision in the DFRDB Act and the reference to outdated Life Expectancy Factors, which transformed the Commutation recommendation from a proportionate to a disproportionate exchange, was only the beginning.

In 1974 and 1976, two-sevenths (29%) of all DFRDB benefits were **excluded** from the interim cost-of-living adjustments.

In 1977, the automatic cost-of-living adjustments introduced were linked directly to the unrepresentative Consumer Price Index (CPI), and between 10% and 32% of retirement pay, Class C invalidity pay, and pensions for spouses and children were **excluded** from those adjustments.

Defence could have continued with the 1974/1976 partial indexation formula to reduce the defined benefits. But, while it was not apparent to those serving at the time, it would soon have become evident. So, the cost-of-living adjustments were related to the Commutation entitlement, where the outdated Life Expectancy Factors determine the part excluded from adjustment.

It didn't matter if we commuted or not. The effect was the same.

In 1984, the part of the defined benefits excluded from the cost-of-living adjustments was progressively increased to between 11% and 40%. That was done under the guise of increasing the amount which could be commuted to compensate for the method of taxing lump sum payments. That increase affects only those who commuted their

maximum entitlement from 1 July 1983 onwards.

Before the effect of Commutation is considered, the cumulative impact of CPI linked and partial cost-of-living adjustments is a reduction of up to more than 40% of our benefits, over our average lifespan, discriminating by age, gender, and date of separation from the Defence Force.

In 1991, the amendment that closed the DFRDB scheme to new members also substantially penalized members who re-enlisted after commuting and served at least one more year if they did not transfer to the MSBS scheme. This amendment to the Act was not publicized, so the members who re-enlisted and remained in the DFRDB scheme have suffered an additional lifetime penalty.

While not solely responsible, the *DFRDB Commutation Campaign*, which seeks a “reconsideration of the DFRDB Commutation issue”, has been the catalyst for the superficial inquiries by the Commonwealth Ombudsman in 2019 and the recent Senate FADT Committee, the findings of which are now cited by Defence in response to **all** DFRDB issues raised.

Those inquiries established that we were misled over the effect of Commutation. However, the focus in their Terms of Reference, on what we were told about Commutation, ensured that the extent of the deception and the far more detrimental effect of CPI-linked and partial cost-of-living adjustments would not see the light of day.

If all the expected outcomes of the *DFRDB Commutation Campaign* are met, the benefit to members will vary. Older members of more senior rank, who served for more extended periods and retired during the later years of the DFRDB scheme, will benefit to the greatest extent. However, the many lower ranks who retired earlier, at a younger age and with minimal qualifying service and, who have suffered the most from the CPI-linked cost-of-living adjustments, will benefit the least.

The *DFRDB Commutation Campaign* has

succeeded in giving prominence to the Commutation issue. But, given the outcome of the Ombudsman and Senate inquiries, it has been counter-productive to reversing the insidious and ongoing reduction of our benefits.

ADFRA’s objectives have always included the outcomes sought by the *DFRDB Commutation Campaign*, but ADFRA aims to restore **all** DFRDB benefits to the level members were told they would be entitled to if they served for 20 or more years.

The Interpretation of the Commutation Provision

The interpretation of the Commutation provision in the DFRDB Act has long been a point of contention and was tested in *Reynolds and Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Authority* [2001] AATA 599 (28 June 2001).

The AAT found against Reynolds, but we believe that decision was flawed. Accordingly, we have been working with one of our members, Clinton McKenzie, a retired lawyer, who has taken the matter to the Federal Court. A summary of proceedings can be viewed in [Federal Court Application Progress](https://www.adfra.org/docPDF/Federal_Court_Application_Progress_-_23_September_2021.pdf) (https://www.adfra.org/docPDF/Federal_Court_Application_Progress_-_23_September_2021.pdf).

The Approach to the Prime Minister

From his failure to reply to ADFRA’s correspondence, it is doubtful that the new Minister, the Hon Andrew Gee MP, intends to address the DFRDB issues, which has prompted the following [Email to the Prime Minister](#), copied to the Deputy Prime Minister, Defence Minister and Minister for Defence Personnel.

The Need for more Pressure on Politicians

An Act of Parliament is required to stop the ongoing reduction of our DFRDB benefits. Hence, we must keep up the pressure on our local Members of Parliament and State Senators and impress on them that we will do our utmost to

ensure there will not be a majority Government after the next Federal Election.

Senators and Members of Parliament individually decide their preferred contact method. To contact your local Member and State Senators, first find their home page in [List of Senators](#) or [List of Members](#) containing their contact details and best method of contacting them.

Jim Hislop, OAM

President

Email to the Prime Minister

(This email can be accessed online at: https://www.adfra.org/docPDF/Email_to_the_Prime_Minister_Wednesday_22_September_2021_1.pdf)

From: admin@adfra.org admin@adfra.org

Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021 5:37 PM

To: 'scott.morrison.mp@aph.gov.au' scott.morrison.mp@aph.gov.au

Cc: 'barnaby.joyce.mp@aph.gov.au' barnaby.joyce.mp@aph.gov.au;

'peter.dutton.mp@aph.gov.au' peter.dutton.mp@aph.gov.au;

'andrew.gee.mp@aph.gov.au' andrew.gee.mp@aph.gov.au

Subject: Deception of ex-servicemen and women

Dear Prime Minister,

From 1973 to 1991, members of the Australian Defence Force were told by the Department of Defence that if they served for 20 or more years they would receive a defined superannuation benefit determined by their length of service.

However, Defence manipulated the governing legislation and its subsequent amendments by:

1. Incorporating ambiguous and obscure wording;
2. Referring to outdated life expectancy tables;
3. Linking cost of living adjustments to the unrepresentative Consumer Price Index; and Excluding from the cost of living adjustments a substantial part of members' benefits.

The result of this sustained attack by Defence is the erosion of the defined benefits by up to more than 40% over a member's average lifespan, discriminating by gender, age, and date of separation from the Defence Force.

Affected members have for years sought redress, but their pleas have largely fallen on deaf ears because, regardless of the Government in power, Defence always produced the response.

Separate inquiries by the Commonwealth Ombudsman in 2019 and the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee in 2021 found that Defence misled serving members regarding their entitlements. However, the terms of reference of those inquiries ensured that the full extent of the deception and the reduction of members' benefits would not be addressed.

This pretence of addressing members' concerns has strengthened the belief of ex-service personnel that they will never receive a fair go while a majority Government is in power.

The Australian Defence Force Retirees Association Inc. (ADFRA) was formed when the Ex-Service Organization Round Table forum, hosted by the responsible Minister, failed to address members' concerns. ADFRA, a properly constituted incorporated association and the largest ex-service organization advocating those concerns, has the support of an increasing number of other ex-service organizations, including RSL NSW and RSL QLD. However, the new Minister responsible, The Hon Andrew Gee, has not even shown the common

courtesy of replying to ADFRA's correspondence, reflecting his Department's contempt for the affected ex-service personnel.

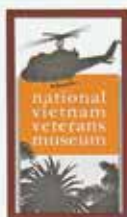
Prime Minister, please show some moral fibre and honor the commitment made to these ex-

servicemen and women for devoting a substantial part of their lives to the service of their country.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Hislop, OAM

President



The National Vietnam Veterans Museum

Visiting the National Vietnam Veterans Museum is an authentic experience.

At NVVM you will see the conscription ballot balls used in the system of National Service that divided our nation. You will walk beneath and around such key vehicles as helicopters, a tank, even a bomber used in Vietnam. See yourself in the boots of a Tunnel Rat or the helmet of a Chopper Pilot. Endlessly fascinating and absorbing, no matter what age group.

Expect the unexpected.

The museum galleries showcase the experiences of veterans during the Vietnam War through information provided and themed exhibitions. In the words of the veterans themselves, the NVVM will give visitors a fascinating, emotional, rewarding and educational journey through the tumultuous years of the Vietnam conflict. The museum mixes remembrance and reflection with a unique environment dedicated to the heritage and legacy of Vietnam veterans.

You, your family and friends will be totally engaged for the length of your visit.



National Vietnam Veterans Museum

25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven, Victoria 3925
(just next to the airfield on the main Phillip Island Road)
Opening Hours: 10am to 5pm daily
www.vietnamvetsmuseum.org

Call Sign VAMPIRE

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.

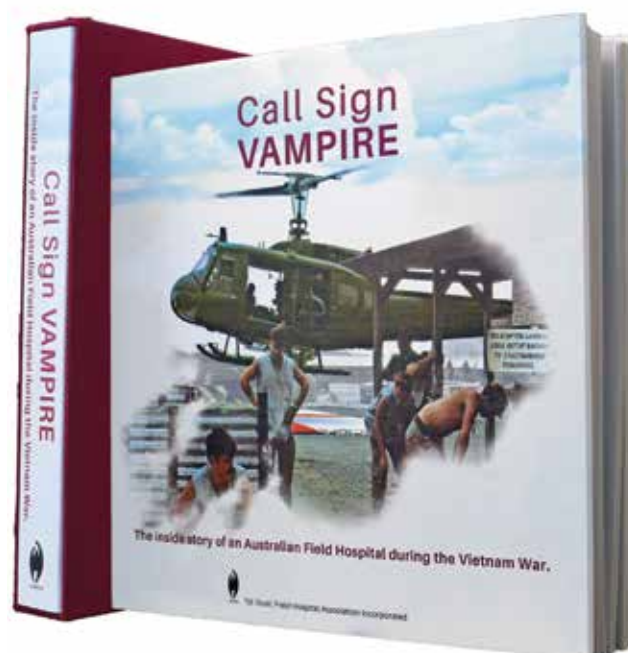
Enquiries: book@callsignvampire.com.au

Physical Details: Hard Cover with dust jacket, encased in a burgundy presentation sleeve embossed with the Fighting Bat Logo • Weighs over 2kg • Pages: 280 (High Quality) • hundreds of photos • Size: approximately 30cm square. RRP: \$149.99 plus postage.

“This helicopter that came out of nowhere was a saviour, wasn’t it? It was a bird from heaven,” Kevin Wigg.

Call Sign VAMPIRE: The Inside Story of an Australian Field Hospital During the Vietnam War is an insight into the world of medicine at war told with a mix of operational facts, personal accounts from those who served as well as the patients who passed through the doors of the hospital. Images add great visual depth and tell a story that words cannot.

This book provides a window into the frenetic world of a military hospital in a war zone. An environment where time was of the essence and life often hung in the balance. The story begins with a brief background of the war and includes an overview of both 2 Field Ambulance and 8 Field Ambulance, and the trials and tribulations they encountered in the lead up to 1 April 1968 when the 1st Australian Field Hospital (AFH) was



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

raised. The next 15 chapters detail the flow of patients through the hospital. From treatment in the field to Dustoff, the service of medics in the field, the helicopter pilots and the medics who flew with them is acknowledged. Our story continues with Vampire Pad to triage, X-ray, theatre, wards, doctors, nurses, medics, outpatients, psychiatry, pathology, physiotherapy and pharmacy. From chapter 17 the workings of other areas of the 1st AFH and its subsidiary partners, such as the Red Cross, chaplains, HQ and admin, messes and boozers are followed. The story ends with pack up and return to Australia.

Interspersed through the story are “insert” chapters beginning with “It Wasn’t Always

Australians We Cared For", "Graham Edwards, AM", "Medical Civil Action Program", "Poetry and Art" and "Supply Chain". The book finishes with an honour roll of all who served with 1st AFH and its co-located units.

A long time in the making, this book captures the essence of daily life at the 1st Australian Field Hospital. Every chapter is interconnected, each and every person an important cog in the mechanism that kept 1st Australian Field Hospital running on a day-to-day basis. The story of *Call Sign VAMPIRE* showcases not only humanity, compassion, empathy and an unparalleled level of teamwork, but also a camaraderie that endures to this day through the 1st AFH Association.

Reader Feedback

"This book embodies not only our teamwork, but our compassion and empathy as we dealt with the confronting human cost of war head on."

LtCol Michael Naughton, OBE (Rtd)

Commanding Officer 1AFH 1969/70

"The women and men who served there, who treated, cared for and looked after all the wounded and sick are in my mind. The true heroes of the Vietnam War. I will never forget the unknown nurse who spoke to me in a dark ward as I woke from surgery extremely distressed and vomiting... You are safe here Private Berry." I thank them all daily."

Michael Berry, 7RAR

"Well, I have just about finished reading all the print in the book, and that probably sounds a bit daft, but it is very easy to drift through it, doing mostly the great visuals, (and I've done plenty of drifting!), but the text is just wonderful ... and the research and work that has gone into it is extraordinary. There is just so much information about the many aspects of the Unit's operation that I was quite ignorant of, and I find it all quite riveting!"

"The style and brilliant presentation, with so

much personal input, must surely make it unique in the genre."

Ruth Devine

Lt Ruth Page, RAANC, 1st Australian Field Hospital SVN 1969/70

.....

"Take a bow all involved. One of the most outstanding unit books on Vietnam units I have ever read. What a great publication and it is certainly a collectors must have."

Graham Edwards, AM, 7RAR

"I received the book, thank you so much! Apart from the fact it is a beautiful book ... I now have SUCH an amazing resource."

Sarah Fulford BA, MPhil, PRECRU

Co-ordinator Curtin School of Nursing and PhD Candidate.

"Much has been written about Australia's role in the Vietnam War. There are many written histories by academics, journalists, historians, and first-hand accounts by veterans. All are valuable to our knowledge and understanding as a people and as a nation, but something was missing. Who cared for our sick and wounded? How was it done?"

Call Sign VAMPIRE fills a long-held void. A space where the premier Australian medical unit of the age is showcased by its veterans. The 1st Australian Field Hospital Association is to be commended for publishing an outstanding record of the hospital's achievement, a story of and about its members, and their commitment to the survival and welfare of the Australian and New Zealand Digger, who admire them beyond words."

Maj Geoff Jones Rtd, RAAMC

"Soldiers who found themselves as patients may well be amazed by the behind the scenes which occurred to restore them to good health or prepare them for evacuation home."

Kathy Mortimer, former FltLt, RAAF

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

This book is a history of the 1st Australian Field Hospital at Vũng Tàu, brought to life by the recollections of those who were there, told in their own words. You can feel the full range of their experiences: exhaustion from dealing with the never-ending Dustoff casualties; compassion for their patients; elation when a patient, thought to have no hope of survival pulls through; sadness at the soldiers declared “Dead on Arrival”; and even greater sadness when a very seriously ill patient dies under their care. That last event was fortunately very rare, with the hospital recording a phenomenal survival rate of 99%.

Coming through strongly in the book is the incredible stress that all members of the hospital experienced, dealing with the very heavy workload and shocking injuries of their patients. The book pulls no punches, it tells it as it was, direct and to the point: gross trauma, resuscitation, severe pain, amputations, deaths, and disposing of body parts. These are but a few of the stressful episodes encountered by those who worked there. Added to by never knowing when the Dustoff siren would next blare its strident wailing across the hospital, calling all hands on deck, including those not on duty, to deal with the next lot of casualties.

The book is well set out and covers the medical evacuation chain from the medics in the field and the Dustoff helicopters through to triage, theatre, wards, and either recovery and return to unit or medical evacuation to Australia. Every department of the hospital has been described in its own chapter.

The book has many great photographs. Perhaps the most interesting are those showing the medical staff at work: Dustoffs picking up patients in the

field, arriving at the Vampire helipad, bringing them into triage, resuscitation (where necessary) and preparation in triage, surgery in the operating theatre, and medevac to Australia. And it has photos and recollections of some of the patients, including a very moving section covering 7 RAR's Graham Edwards, AM.

Who should read this book? Anyone who was a patient in either 2 Field Ambulance, 8 Field Ambulance, or 1 Australian Field Hospital. You will learn a lot about what was going on in the background during your stay as a patient in these establishments. I would add that anyone who is a relative or a friend of one of the patients should also read the book, it will help you understand what it was like to be there and give you a very good appreciation of the wonderful work that the medical staff did to keep our diggers alive and help them recover. And of course, anyone who worked in Vietnam as a member of the medical fraternity, whether a medic, a surgeon, a nurse, or a member of the Red Cross.

Having written the above I must now admit that I am biased. I was a patient in 8 Field Ambulance at Nui Dat (RPG shrapnel right buttock – I naively asked the doctor if he could simply pluck it out with a pair of tweezers – I knew nothing about the process of debridement but was soon to find out). And a patient in 1 Australian Field Hospital (bullet through sole of the left foot – I was so delighted to be alive in triage that the nurse politely but firmly told me to keep quiet – they were treating a very seriously wounded soldier nearby). I am very grateful to the medical staff for my treatment.

I congratulate the team that put *Call Sign Vampire* together. They have done a great job.

Karl Metcalf, 7RAR

Posted to the 7RAR Facebook group, 6 July 2021

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

Life is enriched by the publication of heritage records of great events. For the many hundreds of men and women who served in 1 Australian Field Hospital during the Vietnam War, *Call Sign Vampire* is a record of one of the most significant events in their lives. For the thousands of wounded, injured and sick Australian servicemen, and others besides, recollections of their treatment as inpatients or outpatients in that unique hospital remain as one of their defining experiences of the Vietnam War.

Call Sign Vampire is an elegant, case-bound volume which tells the narrative of this pivotal medical unit; and of its service to the more than 50,000 Australian servicemen who served in that war. It tells also of the role which this hospital played in the clinical care of those who were treated by its skilled teams. This fine volume has the subtitle, *The Inside Story of an Australian Field Hospital During the Vietnam War*; and in this context, this book is about people – about people serving in diverse roles in order that their patients might receive best-practice care.

This book tells of the teamwork and essential coordinated service of nurses, medics, administrators and clerks, caterers, field hygienists, quartermasters, pharmacists, chaplains, doctors, radiographers and skilled scientists. It tells of the dedicated service of hundreds of nurses and medics; and of the 141 doctors, the majority of whom came from the ranks of the Citizen Military Forces to bring their specialist skills as part of the Forward Surgical Teams which saved the lives and limbs of so many. It tells of the outreach programs of those, based in the hospital, who worked in the Vietnamese civilian community that life might be healthier, safer and enriched.

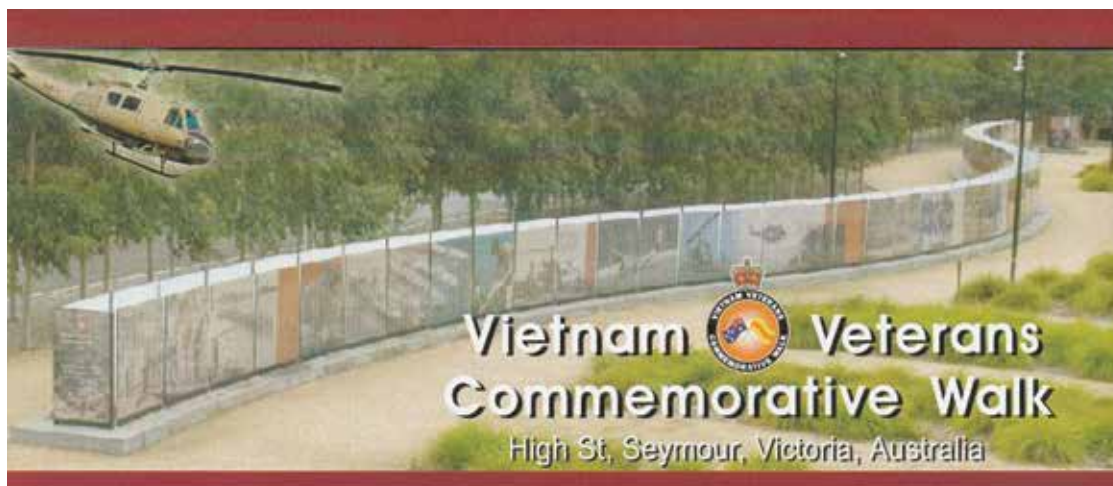
In this book, one reads and sees the photographs of the arrival of surviving casualties at the Vampire Pad, and the quiet horror of witnessing

a stretchered soldier, a mine victim, into the resuscitation bay. It tells of the teamwork needed to care for patients, and of Medevac Day – “A day not to be missed ... Everyone turned out ... And we had such joy in waving those boys off and wishing them well for the next part of the journey home”. In these pages, there is a record of the drama and pathos, and of the compassion and counselling which is part of the life of a military hospital on hot operational service. 1 Australian Field Hospital was raised on 1 April 1968 and, in its more than three years of service, its teams developed skills which became the foundation of much doctrine in the Australian Defence Force since that time. The survival rate of soldiers arriving at the hospital alive was 99 percent – an audit of unprecedented success in Australian military history.

The hospital closed on 25 November 1971. This fine book is its enduring memorial.

**Major General John Pearn, AO, RFD, MD
Surgeon General (Retd)
Australian Defence Force
October 2021.**

John Pearn has had a distinguished career as a paediatrician, surgeon, military physician and academic. He was the Physician to the Australian and New Zealand forces during the Vietnam War and served as Resuscitator and Consultant Physician as part of the Forward Surgical Team of the Australian Medical Support Force during the Rwandan emergency. He has also held positions at the Royal Children's Hospital Brisbane and the Royal Women's Hospital in Brisbane. His academic life includes numerous publications on medical history and he is the founder of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine. Some of the other significant roles held by John Pearn include National Director of Training for St John Ambulance Australia and Professor of Child Health and Paediatrics at the University of Queensland.



The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk is dedicated to the 60,267 Australian personnel and 11 Tracker Dogs who served in South Vietnam.

The only one of its kind in the world, the commemorative walk is an 80 metre long, double-sided digiglass wall depicting the names of all those who served during the Vietnam War.

The images, behind the names, will resonate with those who served, and all visitors will reflect on the role of the Australian Army, Navy and Airforce. The Walk will take the visitor through different aspects of the Vietnam War, from the Battles of Long Tan, Coral-Balmoral and Binh Ba to life at Nui Dat; the Dustoff helicopters evacuating the wounded into the care of the doctors, nurses and medics at 1 Australian Field Hospital in Vung Tau and the soldier at play on R&R then finally the troops heading home.

The replica Luscombe Bowl exhibits story boards on the Vietnam War, including the major battles, along with maps of Nui Dat, 1 ALSG and Phouc Tuy Province. Artifacts from the war are featured along the walk including a replica of the Long Tan Cross, a Centurion tank, a Huey helicopter and a Memorial Cairn to the Army, Navy and Airforce.

This memorial stands in perpetuity to the memory of Vietnam Veterans for their service to Australia.

PANELS

1 - 73 Australian Army
74 - 97 RAN

73 Tracker Dogs
98 - 106 RAAF



Portrait of Bushranger Gunner Kevin Kelly

Kevin Kelly joined the Royal Australian Airforce at the age of 18 and was sent to serve in Vietnam just after his 19th birthday, in 1969. Following an initial stint as an airfield defence guard, Kevin was selected for aircrew duties on RAAF 9 Squadron Iroquois helicopters. As part of RAAF 9 Squadron, based at Vũng Tàu in South Vietnam, Kevin took part in helicopter missions on most days over an 18-month period between 1969 and 1971.

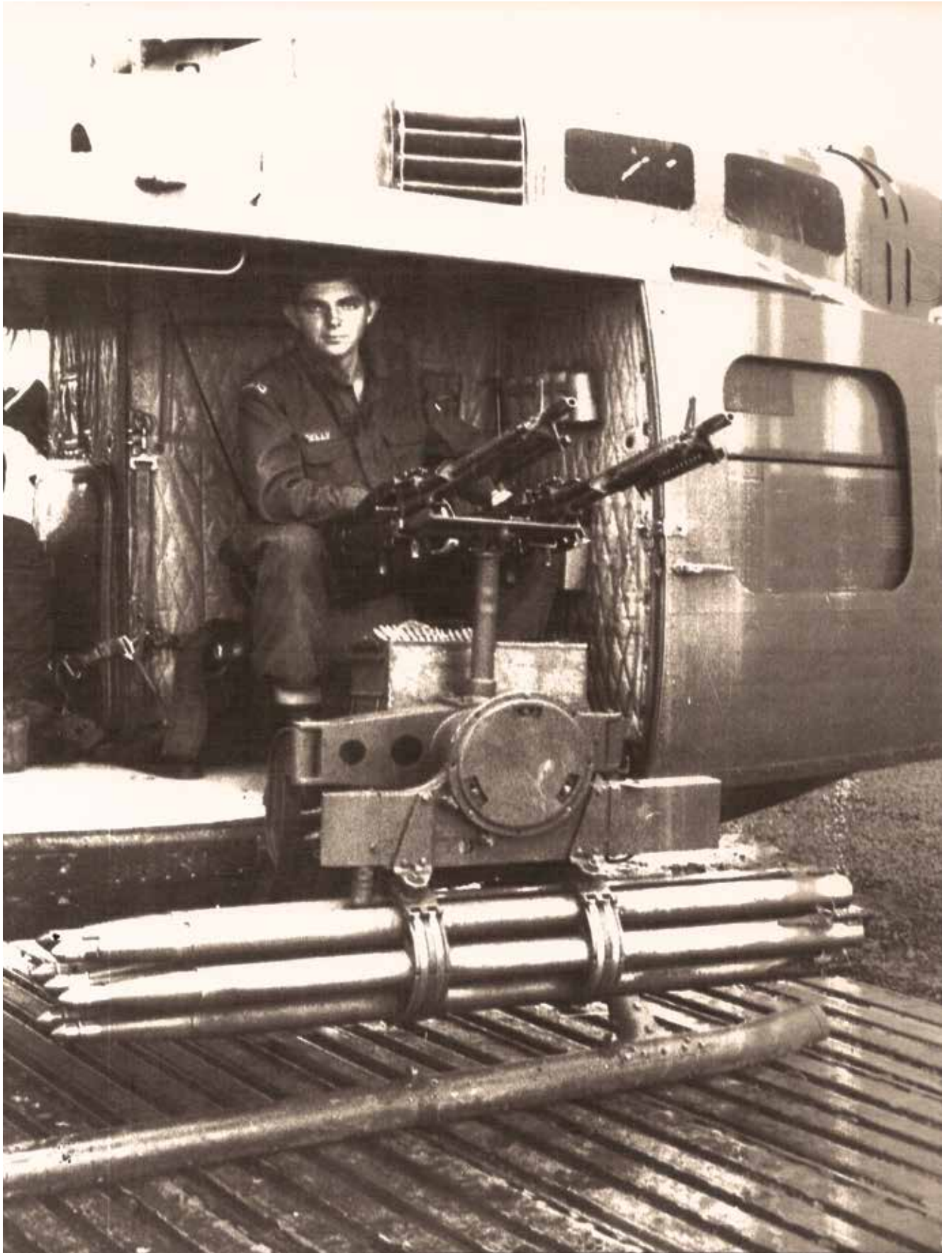
The RAAF had two Iroquois chopper categories, Kevin recalls. There was the normal Iroquois troop carrier with pilot, co-pilot and two crew. And 9 Squadron also had four Bushranger Iroquois gunships. Both helicopter types had an M60 machine gun on each side which the crewmen could swivel and fire under the chopper and towards the ground. But the Bushranger gunship had added firepower. Below the M60 machine guns on each side of the Bushranger chopper were seven rockets. Out the front the Bushranger gunship had a minigun on both sides, each capable of firing 7000 rounds a minute. Gunships were particularly vulnerable because the weight due to armaments meant they couldn't fly more than about 46 metres above the ground and their maximum speed was reduced to about 200 kilometres per hour.

Kevin took part in every type of duty that 9 Squadron helicopters were called on to perform. As a gunner positioned on the port side of the helicopter, he was part of Bushranger crews that carried out airstrikes when required by the army. The gunship would go in, Kevin remembers, when other helicopters were dropping troops off into the jungle to make sure the troops were safe. "If the

Gunners were strapped inside the chopper to help them move around without falling out and the only protection afforded to these gunners was an armoured vest. Kevin describes having bullets come through the chopper floor in front of him as "a bit hair-raising".

troops did get into trouble", recalls Kevin, "we were there to get them out of it." And this happened "pretty often". The penalty that the heavily armed gunships paid for "being low and slow" was that they were sometimes hit. Gunners were strapped inside the chopper to help them move around without falling out and the only protection afforded to these gunners was an armoured vest. Kevin describes having bullets come through the chopper floor in front of him as "a bit hair-raising".

Other helicopter duties that Kevin was involved in included "hot extractions" – transport of wounded troops to the hospital back to the base at Vũng Tàu. He was involved in dropping leaflets written in Vietnamese designed to diminish the opponents' morale. Kevin also recalls carrying out "sniffer" missions. The Aerial Personnel Detector, or sniffer machine, was "a child of 20th century technology" – a machine with a pipe for gas



Kevin Kelly at his bushranger post. Photo supplied by Kevin Kelly.



Kevin Kelly's RAAF Gunner Badge

intake and designed to disclose enemies hiding in the jungle by detecting sweat, urine, smoke or body heat. But describes Kevin, "The body heat could have been cows, could have been humans, could have been anything. And depending on the reading you got it was what you fired your guns at. And you didn't know what you were firing at. Could have been a farmer with his herd of cows there ... And all of a sudden you're shooting the Christ out of him ... You might run an area of say 30km and everything in that area was absolutely shot to pieces. Could have been a lot of dead cows, could have been a lot of dead farmers. That was the nature of the game."

"Being a helicopter crewman on the gunships was said to be the second most dangerous job in Vietnam", remembers Kevin. "Usually, the Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment was said to have the most dangerous job." SAS groups of four to six heavily armed soldiers would move slowly through the jungle, gathering intelligence on enemy operations. Their stealth led to the SAS being known by the Viet Cong as *Ma Rung*, "phantoms of the jungle". When encountering the enemy, SAS groups would employ a high rate of fire to simulate a larger force and to support their withdrawal. SAS extraction and insertion into jungle landing zones at tree-top height was routinely carried out by 9 Squadron helicopter crews. Nine Squadron, working closely with the SAS, was involved in inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy while sustaining relatively few Australian casualties. Kevin notes that the firing accuracy of New Zealand artillery, who were also

involved in these missions, was instrumental in minimising casualties.

Despite the danger that Australian and New Zealand troops dealt with in Vietnam, it was rare for them to receive a medal or commendation. But RAAF 9 Squadron, along with a small number of other military units, was awarded the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation. Initially offered by the Republic of Vietnam in the 1970s, it was not until 2016 that then Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove formally approved the wearing of the Palm Unit Citation; however, Cosgrove did not approve the wearing of the Cross of Gallantry. At the time of writing, wearing the Cross of Gallantry component of the award has not been formally approved by the Australian government. Nevertheless, Kevin is pleased that he and other former military personnel are at last able to wear the Palm Unit Citation at ceremonies.

Kevin left school at 15 to work as an apprentice diesel mechanic. But his ambition to be in the air force led him, at the age of 18, to leave his family home in Granville and take part in a 12-week RAAF recruit course in Elizabeth, South Australia. Following his return from service in Vietnam, he remained in the air force for a further four years. When he was about to leave the air force in 1975, the air force attempted to set Kevin up with a career as a wool classer. He was sent to the wool stores near Fairfield in Sydney. But after three days at the wool stores he decided, "This isn't for me".



Former Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) Palm Unit Citation



A recent portrait of Kevin Kelly. Photo supplied by Kevin Kelly.

So after leaving the air force Kevin worked as a salesman, initially at his uncle's brick pit in Sydney. He then went on to sell steel, import and sell diesel engines and sell industrial dust and fume control equipment.

For the 25 years immediately following his departure from the air force, Kevin wasn't interested in following the "military remembrance route". Most of 9 Squadron were from Queensland and returned there after Vietnam, but Kevin returned to Sydney so was not living near to 9 Squadron connections. However, in recent decades Kevin has been actively involved with military associations. He is a director of the Penshurst RSL and is junior vice president of the NSW TPI Association. Kevin is keenly aware of the importance of such organisations in supporting veterans' welfare. Kevin notes that the Sydney office of the NSW TPI Association attracts large numbers of veterans to meetings and functions (Covid permitting). Kevin is also active in maintaining the large number of Association-owned units in Sydney and elsewhere in NSW that provide supported accommodation for TPIs. He will soon be travelling to units up the coast to check on the welfare of fellow TPIs. Kevin remarks that many TPIs have had broken marriages, are living alone and have problems with alcohol. It's of the utmost importance to Kevin to help these fellow veterans.

Kevin is very conscious of the difficulties posed by trying to adjust to civilian life after military service. "Military training is all about instinctively getting you to follow orders without question", Kevin explains. "About being told what to do, how to do it and when to do it." When leaving the military, you are "all of a sudden thrown into Civilian Street and you have to think for yourself". He links sudden disconnection between the demands

of military and civilian life with psychological problems experienced by veterans. These problems are compounded by limited support avenues for military veterans. Despite these issues, Kevin sees that military service offers some advantages. He regularly urges his eldest grandson to pursue his goal of becoming an electrician through a military apprenticeship. And Kevin also feels this would help his grandson to become more disciplined.

A few years ago, Kevin and his wife returned to Vietnam with a mate and his wife. Kevin visited Vũng Tàu, where he had been based with 9 Squadron. He remembered what the air force base that they had shared with the Americans was like – an officers' mess, a sergeants' mess and an airmen's mess. The twice weekly entertainment, usually from a Filipino band or an up-and-coming Australian band. They had their own beach and a surf club there – just like surfing at Manly – with boards you could borrow if you wanted. And a hospital. The army lived under tents and were limited in the camp to a couple of cans of beer a night. But the air force lived in proper buildings, had their own bar and could "have virtually unlimited alcohol if we wanted it". And because Kevin was an airman a girl would come in every day, make his bed, polish his boots and do his washing and ironing. What the Australian Army had there at the time was "pretty spectacular". After the war, the Vietnamese ripped the base "all to pieces and got rid of it all". So Vũng Tàu has changed, but "basically Saigon hasn't changed. The only thing is they've got rid of three million pushbikes and now there are three million motorbikes on the road." ●

Alexandra Kaufman

Salute Subeditor

email: subeditor@tpinsw.org.au

An Aussie Bushranger in Vietnam

October 20, 2021 marks the 65th anniversary of the first Iroquois helicopter hover flight. Affectionately known as “the Harley-Davidson of the sky”, the Iroquois helicopter is an inseparable part of Australia’s military history. Iroquois helicopters served Australia in the Vietnam War, on deployments to the Solomon Islands and Bougainville and were used to assist those affected by Indonesia’s 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami.

The Bushranger gunship was developed as a uniquely Australian version of the iconic Bell Iroquois group of utility helicopters. During the Vietnam War, number 9 Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Squadron was equipped with Iroquois helicopters to carry out a range of missions. These included inserting and extracting Special Air Service (SAS) patrols, evacuating wounded troops, dropping leaflets and spraying herbicides and pesticides. Nine Squadron also carried out “olfactory reconnaissance” or “people sniffer” missions, using technology designed to detect hidden enemy soldiers. By 1968 it had become clear that 9 Squadron activities required gunship support. Nine Squadron members Flight Lieutenant Brian Dirou, Flight Sergeant Graham (“Blue”) Downer and Sergeant Phil Hodge set about designing the Bushranger gunship by acquiring weapons that were added to an Iroquois helicopter. Weapons acquisition was initially done through bartering with US servicemen. Among items that the Bushranger designers were able to trade for this purpose were beer, soft drinks, cartons of steak,

Four & Twenty Pies and slouch hats. The resulting prototype gunship was exhibited to the Australian Minister for Defence, the Honourable Malcolm Fraser, MP during his visit to Vietnam in November 1968. Following this, the Australian Government authorised funds to equip four Iroquois helicopters as Bushranger gunships. The name Bushranger was chosen from several suggestions put forward by

known as “the Harley-Davidson of the sky”, the Iroquois helicopter is an inseparable part of Australia’s military history.

9 Squadron because it was distinct from Albatross which was used by 9 Squadron utility aircraft, was characteristically Australian and could be easily understood in radio communication. Bushranger also resonated with Ned Kelly, the name of an earlier 9 Squadron experiment in augmenting Iroquois firepower.

The Bushranger gunship became operational in April 1969, but production of its predecessor helicopter range by the US company Bell Helicopter began in the 1950s. In 1960 the US Army contracted Bell to produce a new utility helicopter for military use, which the army designated HU-1 (Helicopter



Australian Army soldiers having been dropped to the ground from a 9 Squadron RAAF Iroquois helicopter, during an assault on a Viet Cong installation, take cover in a rice paddy. Photographer: Gerald Wallace Westbury, AWM, vn/66/0066/09.

Utility 1) and officially named the Iroquois. The HU-1 designation gave rise to the HU-1 nickname Huey. The official name given to this helicopter, Iroquois, is in line with the tradition of naming US Army helicopters after Native American tribes. Other examples of US Army helicopters named after Native American tribes include Black Hawk, Apache and Chinook. The traditional naming of army helicopters after Native American tribes is attributed to General Hamilton Howse, who was assigned to US Army aviation. Howse didn't approve of early army helicopter names such as Hoverfly and Dragonfly so he instructed that army helicopters were to be named after Native American tribes. Howse said that the speed and agility of helicopters were reminiscent of how

Native Americans attacked during the American Indian Wars, which occurred from the 17th to the early 20th centuries. In 1947, Howse decided to name the Bell H-13 helicopter the Sioux, after the tribe who had had been victorious in the Battle of Little Big Horn. The Sioux helicopter was widely used in the Korean War and was also used in the Vietnam War. Additionally, the Sioux is known for its role in the movie and TV series MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital).

Over hundreds of engagements and 30 months of service in Vietnam, the skilful operation and impressive firepower of the Bushranger Iroquois protected Australian troops. Their versatility and reliability led to Iroquois helicopters serving Australia for almost half a century. Australia's



*Reverse Side of the Australian Iroquois Commemorative
Fifty-Cent Piece*

military Iroquois helicopters were retired in 2012 and several are now on display in various locations around Australia. Venues displaying the Iroquois helicopter include the Vietnam War Gallery at the Australian War Memorial. At the time of writing, the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS) at Albion Park NSW is restoring two Iroquois helicopters with a view to returning at least one of these to flying status. In 2021, to commemorate 100 years of the RAAF, 15,000 fifty-cent collector coins featuring the Iroquois helicopter were issued by the Royal Australian Mint. ●

Alexandra Kaufman

Salute Subeditor

email: subeditor@tpinsw.org.au

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From the archives: P & O advertisement from Salute August – October 1976.

We See Without Being Seen: A Short History of RAAF 9 Squadron

The albatross depicted on the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) 9 Squadron crest reflects the origin of 9 Squadron. RAAF 9 squadron was the successor to 101 Fleet Co-Operation Flight, which operated Seagull III amphibious biplanes from HMAS Albatross starting in 1929. However, the Seagull III's low freeboard (the distance from waterline to deck level) and relatively low engine power limited this amphibious biplane's performance at sea. Additionally, the majority of Seagull III was constructed from wood and exposure to salt water and humidity degraded parts of the biplane. Supermarine, the British manufacturer of Seagull, was prompted to upgrade their design and Seagull V was born. Seagull V – also known as the Walrus – was built predominantly of metal, was much more robust than earlier Seagull amphibians and was better able to withstand a catapult launch from a ship. Albatross was temporarily demoted from seagoing status in 1933 but was recommissioned for patrol and escort duties near the start of World War II. Albatross subsequently supported the 1944 D-Day Normandy landings.

By 1939, 101 Fleet Co-Operation Flight had become RAAF 9 Squadron. Nine Squadron operated Walrus (Seagull V) aircraft during WWII from numerous Royal Australian Navy, Royal New Zealand Navy and Royal British Navy ships. Six 9 Squadron members were lost, along with all hands, when HMAS Sydney was attacked by the German raider Kormoran off the West Australian coast on 19 November 1941. Five 9 Squadron personnel were lost in the Sunda Strait when HMAS Perth was sunk



*RAAF 9 Squadron Crest – Videmus Nec Videmur
(We See Without Being Seen)*

on 1 March 1942. Another five squadron members were killed and two injured when HMAS Canberra was sunk in a night action off Guadalcanal on 8 August 1942.

On 12 June 1966, RAAF 9 Squadron arrived in Vũng Tàu, South Vietnam with the role of supporting the 1st Australian Task Force. The 1st Australian Task Force was based at Nui Dat, a rubber plantation about 30 kilometres north of Vũng Tàu. RAAF 9 Squadron forces were joined in this effort by personnel from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Nearly all 1st Australian Task Force operations required air mobility, so 9 Squadron was involved in wide ranging activities including troop lift and resupply

of field troops with food, ammunition, clothing and other items. Medical evacuation and “hot extraction” of troops under enemy attack were two other important roles of 9 Squadron. On 28 July 1968 RAN Lieutenant Commander Waddell-Wood and his RAAF crew were tasked with carrying out a hot extraction of a Special Air Services (SAS) patrol in a jungle-clad part of Phước Tuy Province. Due to the landscape and automatic weapon fire by the Viet Cong at a range of 30 metres, the crew had no choice but extract the SAS members by winch. Waddell-Wood managed to hold his helicopter in a hover until all the troops had been winched aboard. They were then returned to Nui Dat. Also in mid-1968 another navy pilot, Sub Lieutenant Geoff Vidal, took part in evacuating two wounded Australian soldiers from an enemy bunker complex. Accompanied by 9 Squadron gunship protection, Vidal found when he reached the scene that he had to make a dangerous descent to the landing zone between trees that were 40 metres high. Under heavy enemy fire, somewhat suppressed by 9 Squadron gunship attack, Vidal gradually worked his way to the ground and picked up one of the wounded soldiers as there was only room in his helicopter for one stretcher. Vidal then made the

hazardous ascent and delivered the first soldier to a clearing where the soldier was placed in another helicopter to be taken to hospital. Vidal then returned to the site and repeated the process to remove the second stretchered soldier. Similar acts of valour were carried out by 9 Squadron until their final operation in Vietnam on 19 November 1971.

In 1982, a contingent of 9 Squadron personnel with eight Iroquois helicopters was deployed to the Middle East on peace-keeping duties, remaining there until 1986. In 1988, 9 Squadron began to replace their Iroquois helicopters with Black Hawks. The same year, 9 Squadron’s base was moved from Amberly in Queensland to Townsville, Queensland. In 1989, 9 Squadron was disbanded. Nine Squadron’s aircrew and aircraft were then used to create A Squadron, as part of the Australian Army’s 5th Aviation Regiment. The final commanding officer of 9 Squadron was Wing Commander Angus Houston, who was later Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) from 4 July 2005 until his retirement on 3 July 2011. Nine Squadron is remembered today for their bravery and aerial accomplishment. ●

Alexandra Kaufman

Salute Subeditor

email: subeditor@tpinsw.org.au



HMAS Albatross Lowering a Seagull III Amphibious Biplane, courtesy FAAAA

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															
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SUBSCRIPTION 2 YEARS		\$60.00													
SUBSCRIPTION 3 YEARS		\$90.00													
SUBSCRIPTION 4 YEARS		\$120.00													
SUBSCRIPTION 5 YEARS		\$150.00													
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION		\$200.00													
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TIE		\$25.00													
WIDOW'S SALUTE SUBSCRIPTION 1 YEAR		\$10.00													
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New Members

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

Armstrong	Mr Phillip Glen	Leading Seaman Medic	HMAS Canberra, Manoora, Ballarat, Albatross, Harman, NPCMA, Success, Mohu, Kuttabul, Moreton, Coonawarra, Cerberus, JHC, 25/49, RQR (1997-98)
Criddle	Mr Anthony Walter	Lieutenant Commander	PN1 12 RAN Fleet Air Arm
Tutin	Mr Christopher John	Lieutenant Colonel	Army Helicopter School

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.*



Abell	Mr Keith Edward	Signal Man	Army, Anti-Aircraft & Fortress Signals, WW2
Bayliff	Mr Thomas Ian	Private	Army, 2nd Royal Australian Regiment, SVN
Brown	Mr Adrian David	Trooper	Army, 3 Cav Regiment A Sqn RAAC, SVN
Cleere	Mr Jack	Captain	Army, 17 Construction Sqn RAE, SVN
Cole	Mr Gregory William	Private	Army, 1st Royal Australian Regiment, SVN
Crelley	Mr Robert W	Lance Bombardier	Army, 1 Field Regiment RAA, SVN
Dietrich	Mr Ronald	Private	Army, Royal Australian Regiments, Korea
Elliott	Mr Noel Leigh	Sergeant	Army, 1st Division Intelligence Sqn AIC, SVN
Harvey	Mr Peter John	Able Seaman Radar	Navy, HMAS Perth, SVN
Keevers	Mr Christopher Scott	Dental Assistant	Navy, HMAS Sydney, SVN
Kember DSM	Mr Phillip Charles	Clearance Diver	Navy, Clearance Diving Team 3, SVN
Kenyon	Mr Kevin John	Warrant Officer	Navy, Supply Branch, SVN
Maurer	Mr Paul Maxwell	Private	Army, 31 & 51 Battalions, WW2
May	Mr Anthony S	Private	Army, 3 & 9 Batt Royal Australian Regiments, SVN
McGarry	Mr Ronald C	Warrant Officer Class Two	Army, 104 Signal Sqn, SVN
Mungovan	Mr Lindsay Howard	Leading Seaman Musician	Royal Australian Navy
Park	Mr William Donald	Private	Army, 3rd Aust Field Butchery Coy, WW2
Poulsen	Mr Stanley Charles	Private	Army, HQ British & Comm Occupation Forces, Japan
Salter	Mr John Neville	Major	Army, HQ Australian Forces Vietnam, SVN
White	Mr Anthony	Chief Petty Officer	Navy, Marine Engineering Branch, SVN

Bury Me with Soldiers

I've played a lot of roles in life;
I've met a lot of men.
I've done some things I'd like to think
I wouldn't do again
And though I'm young, I'm old enough
To know someday I'll die.
And think about what lies beyond, And
Besides whom I would lie.

Perhaps it doesn't matter much;
Still if I had my choice,
I'd want a grave amongst soldiers when
At last death quells my voice
I'm sick of the hypocrisy
Of lectures by the wise
I'll take the man with all his flaws
Who goes, though scared, and dies.

The troops I know were commonplace;
They didn't want the war
They fought because their fathers and
Their father's fathers had before.
They cursed and killed and wept –
God knows they're easy to deride –
But bury me with men like these;
They faced the guns and died.

It's funny when you think of it,
The way we got along.
We'd come from different worlds
To live in one, where no one belongs
I didn't even like them all and,
I'm sure they'd all agree.
Yet, I would give my life for them,
I hope. Some would for me.

So bury me with soldiers, please
Though much maligned they be
Yes, bury me with soldiers, for
I miss their company.
We will not soon see their like again
We've had our fill of war.
But, bury me with men like them
Till someone else does more!

Father Charles R. Fink

from Northport NY, USA served in Vietnam as
a Sergeant in the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.
This poem by him is now often read at funerals
for Vietnam veterans.



*Mosaic from the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier,
Australian War Memorial, Canberra.*

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: 3 March to 7 March 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

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, our 2020 Reunion of Headquarters 1st Australian Task Force / D & E Platoon (Nui Dat, South Vietnam 1966-1972) has now been rescheduled to 3 – 7 March 2022. It will still be held at the Capital Country Holiday Park, which is located just off the Federal Highway, some eight kilometres north-east of Canberra.

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war from 1965–1972 has had a lasting impact on all the servicemen and women who served there. HQ1ATF and its subunit Defence and Employment (D&E) Platoon, the longest continually serving infantry platoon in South Vietnam, served from 1966–1972 and encountered much enemy action during those years.

Each two years HQ1ATF Association holds a reunion and the upcoming rescheduled event will remember 50 years since we closed the gates of Nui Dat. It is anticipated that some 70 veterans and 60 wives/partners (a total of 130 people) will participate in the four-day event. The reunion is an important part of the Association's efforts in the healing process which is achieved through the continual networking of members and also, importantly, their partners and carers. With objectives to improve health and well-being and to reduce social isolation, the reunion plays a significant role.

The Commemorative Dinner will be held on Saturday 5 March 2022 at Old Parliament House (Museum of Australian Democracy). The dinner will be preceded by a memorial service at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Anzac Avenue, Canberra.

Thanks to all those who have confirmed their attendance at this stage – we have had three cancellations but four additional bookings. The committee feels that once January arrives and, hopefully, the country settles down, a few more bookings will eventuate.

For details contact:

John Verhelst

Phone: 0437212121

Email: jeverhelst@gmail.com

TPI Association of NSW Christmas Luncheon



The TPI Association of NSW Christmas Luncheon has been re-scheduled to:

Tuesday 1 February 2022

11.30am for 12.00 noon

at Barracks on Barrack

1st floor 5 – 7 Barrack Street, Sydney.

The cost is \$40 per person.

A three course meal and drinks will be served.

If you need a special meal please let us know.

Members who have already paid can attend or ask for a refund. We encourage others to book.

If you'd like to attend, please contact the

TPI NSW office to book and pay by

Thursday 13th January 2022

Phone: (02) 9235 1466

Email: office@tpinsw.org.au.



The photo is from one of the Blacktown Social & Welfare Club BBQs which had a colour theme.

Do you have a reunion or function happening?

Let us know and we can advertise it.

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.

DVA Media Releases

November 2021

Alignment of Regulations Across Care and Support Sectors	17/11/2021
Council of the Australian War Memorial Reappointment	16/11/2021
\$4.35 Million Additional Support for Veteran Groups Across Australia	12/11/2021
An Unknown Australian Soldier of the Great War Identified	11/11/2021
ABC News Radio, Thomas Oriti Interview Discussing the	
National Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial	11/11/2021
A Call to Honour the Fallen on Remembrance Day	09/11/2021
Funding to Help Local Communities Remember Those Who Served	09/11/2021

October 2021

Veteran Wellbeing Centre Network expanding South East Qld	27/10/2021
Veterans Claims System to be Overhauled	16/10/2021
New Memorial for Afghanistan Veterans Unveiled in Brisbane	16/10/2021
Joint Media Release – Grand Launch of Townsville Veteran Wellbeing Centre	16/10/2021
Join in and “Get Moving” During Veterans’ Health Week	15/10/2021
Resources to Help Schools Commemorate Remembrance Day	13/10/2021
Joint Media Release – Veterans Recognised in Civilian Life	07/10/2021
Remembering the Epic Battle of Maryang San	02/10/2021

September 2021

2SM, Marcus Paul Interview Discussing Veterans’ Mental Health and Suicide,	30/09/2021
Interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide	
Prevention Report, and NSW Covid-19 Restrictions	
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)	29/09/2021
Interim National and Commissioner Reports	
Annual AIHW Report Highlights Need for Veterans’ Support	29/09/2021
Media Statement – Shrine of Remembrance Sanctity Restored	23/09/2021
Media Statement – Shrine of Remembrance	22/09/2021
Speech – Operation Ivanhoe Ceremony, ABC	20/09/2021
Virtual Commemorative Service for the 50th Anniversary	18/09/2021
of Australia’s Last Battle in Vietnam	
Statement on New Security Partnership and Nuclear-Powered Submarines	16/09/2021
Minister Gee’s Address on Australian Peacekeeper Day	14/09/2021
Twentieth Anniversary of September 11 Terror Attacks	10/09/2021
Remembering Our Merchant Mariners	03/09/2021
Honouring Those Who Defended Australia During the Second World War	01/09/2021

August 2021

Honouring Our Veterans Who Served in Malaya and Borneo	31/08/2021
Minister Gee Statement – Townsville Accident	30/08/2021
Drive 4BC, Scott Emerson Interview Discussing ADF Deaths and Legacy Week	30/08/2021
Bring on the Badges This Legacy Week	28/08/2021
Media Statement – Murderous Atrocity Demonstrates Why Our ADF Were Fighting	27/08/2021
5AA Adelaide, Leon Byner Interview Discussing Kabul Evacuation and Bombings	27/08/2021
Aussie Veteran Vying for More Paralympic Gold	25/08/2021
Mr Stuart Smith Appointed Defence Engagement Commissioner	24/08/2021
6PR, Gareth Parker Interview Discussing Afghan Veterans, Evacuation Program in Afghanistan Media Statement –	24/08/2021
Young Veterans Show Support for Our Troops	23/08/2021

\$4.35 Million Additional Support Across Australia

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

Friday 12 November 2021

127 veteran groups around Australia will benefit from more than \$4.35 million in additional funding through the Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) Program.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the funding would help ex-service organisations (ESOs) continue to deliver the highest quality advocacy services and support.

"This additional funding will help these groups provide local veterans even greater transition support, assistance with claims and entitlements, and access to services such as rehabilitation and

wellbeing programs," Minister Gee said.

"This is an extra investment in the health and wellbeing of our veterans and their families, and will make a real difference to those on the ground, providing critical support and resources.

"This year has been particularly tough for many veterans and this funding boost demonstrates the Australian Government's commitment to our ESOs and the veteran community.

"Australian War Widows Queensland, Returned & Services League of Australia (Victorian Branch) Inc and Veterans Centre Mid-North Coast Incorporated are just some of ESOs receiving support through the program.

"I'd like to thank all local ESOs as they continue to provide this vital support for local veterans."

To apply for future rounds of the BEST Program or for further information, including a full list of successful recipients, visit the Community Grants Hub website (<https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/>).

Veterans Claims System to be Overhauled

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

Saturday 16 October 2021

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee has announced the appointment of independent consultants to overhaul the Department of Veterans' Affairs' claims processing system.

Consultants McKinsey & Company will work with families who have lost loved ones to suicide, to formulate recommendations that will overhaul the system to better serve our veterans.

Minister Gee said the backlog of claims is unacceptably high which is delaying veterans and their families access to vital services and funding.

"One of my top priorities is to improve the claims processing system and cut waiting times for veterans and their loved ones, and as such, I have directed that this rebuild takes place as a matter of urgency," Minister Gee said.

"This is not another review.

"McKinsey will immediately examine how the Department can simplify the claims process, how it is currently processing claims, and identify how we can have a faster, more efficient and effective system for all veterans and their families.

"As part of this vitally important work, I have directed McKinsey to hold meetings with families of veterans who have suffered the tragic and devastating loss of a loved one, so that those rebuilding the system can gain a first-hand understanding of the impact of veteran suicide and the importance of a quick and efficient claims processing system.

"We can't wait for the Royal Commission to get cracking on this crucial reform.

"In the recent Budget \$98.5 million was delivered for hundreds of new claims processing officers for veterans which is welcome news. However, I don't want to see these officers dropped into an inefficient system, tangling themselves up in red tape.

"If that budget boost is to have maximum effect we need to make sure that the fundamentals of the claims processing system are right."

Karen Bird, who lost her veteran son Jesse to suicide, said she was eager to participate in the meetings, together with her lawyers who represented the family during the coronial inquest, and hopes that the feedback will provide clear direction on what is required to overhaul the claims processing system, making it a positive experience for veterans and their families.

McKinsey will deliver its action plan in December 2021. Minister Gee has reiterated that he wants to see immediate progress so that veterans and their families can receive the support they deserve and require.

"McKinsey will be tackling the issue with an independent set of eyes to ensure that claims are processed in a timely manner. I won't be waiting to action this roadmap," Minister Gee said.

"McKinsey will provide recommendations with clear milestones and deliverables that can be tracked, measured and monitored by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Australian Government at three, six, 12, 18 and 24-month intervals.

"The Australian Government is currently supporting more than 336,000 veterans and their families and we're committed to ensuring they have the support they need, when and where they need it.

"Our veterans have served our nation with

courage and distinction and we must give them the best possible care and support. They deserve nothing less."

If any veteran or their family member has information that will help this process, I encourage them to get in touch by emailing office.ministergee@dva.gov.au.

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

(international: +61 8 8241 4546)

or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au

Joint Media Release – Veterans Recognised in Civilian Life

The Hon Scott Morrison, MP

Prime Minister

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

Thursday 7 October 2021

The 2021 Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Awards have recognised the outstanding contributions made by veterans in the civilian workforce and the organisations that support them and their families.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said this year's eight Awards recipients highlighted the exceptional contribution of veteran employees, employers and entrepreneurs to the business world, after they transition out of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

"Veterans have so much to offer the businesses of our country," the Prime Minister said.

"In the ADF, our service men and women demonstrate skill, loyalty, dedication, perseverance, service and sacrifice. They understand mission, are trained problem solvers, deal with stress, and always have a go.

"You won't find a better employee than the highly-skilled men and women who have served in the ADF, and the Veterans' Employment Awards celebrate that path into the civilian workforce.

"I congratulate all the nominees and winners of this year's Awards for their leadership in demonstrating the value and contribution that our veterans continue to provide to the workforce.

"I would like to particularly acknowledge the winner of the Veteran Employee of the Year Award, Ben Davoren, for his contribution post-service as Business Development Manager at TacMed Australia.

"Ben deployed on combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and has shared his ADF knowledge and experience to train our first responders, positively impacting the lives of many."

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the Royal Australian Navy veteran and proprietor of Meru Foods, Chris de Bono, was a natural fit for Veterans' Entrepreneur of the Year.

"Mr de Bono has successfully transitioned skills he gained during his 14 years in the Navy and the Reserves to start an innovative food company that is now servicing domestic and international restaurant markets. Meru Foods has been specialising in producing fermented soy products in Tasmania since 2017. Mr de Bono is an outstanding example of an entrepreneurial and dedicated individual who is leading the way in private business," Minister Gee said.

"Our nation's veterans are some of the most capable operators in business. They are leaders, critical thinkers and problem solvers. Quite simply our veterans are a national asset.

"The qualifications and skills of veterans can

be applied to any workplace, and Australian businesses recognise that our defence force personnel are among the most highly skilled in the world.

“We know that the men and women who serve in uniform are our nation’s best, and it’s an honour to celebrate the achievements of all our veterans in civilian life.”

Each year around 5,500 Australian men and women transition from service into civilian

life. The annual Awards are part of the Prime Minister’s Veterans’ Employment Program and are an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate veterans and the organisations who employ and support them and their families.

Further information about the Awards and the 2021 winners can be found on the Prime Minister’s Veterans’ Employment Program website, and images and other materials are available on Dropbox.

Winners of the Prime Minister’s Veterans’ Employment Awards

Veteran Employee of the Year

Ben Davoren, TacMed Australia

Veteran Entrepreneur of the Year

Chris de Bono, Meru Foods

Veterans’ Employer of the Year – Large

BAE Systems Australia

Veterans’ Employer of the Year – Medium

HENSOLDT Australia

Veterans’ Employer of the Year – Small

Australian Expedition Vehicles

Excellence in Supporting Veteran Employment

Working Spirit

Excellence in Supporting Partner Employment

Alison Bannister Career Coaching

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

(international: +61 8 8241 4546)

or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au

Safe Zone Support *is available for current and former ADF personnel on 1800 142 072. Calls to Safe Zone are confidential and never recorded.*

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and Interim National Commissioner Reports

Wednesday 29 September 2021

Today, 29 September 2021, the Preliminary Interim Report from the Interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention was tabled by government and publicly released. This coincided with the release of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report – *Serving and ex-serving ADF members who have served since 1985: suicide monitoring 2001 to 2019 report*.

This is the fourth annual update to this report which has been commissioned by the Department of Veterans' Affairs to assist in our understanding of the complex issue of veteran suicide.

The death by suicide of any Australian is a tragedy – for their family, their friends, their colleagues, their local community and for the nation.

There is no simple or single solution to suicide.

DVA remains committed to addressing ways to prevent deaths by suicide and the ongoing impact of suicide on the veteran community.

The AIHW's report provides the most recent and up-to-date statistics on the deaths by suicide of serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel.

This year's update includes a significant expansion of the study population and will, for the first time, include anyone with a single day of ADF service from 1 January 1985 who died by suicide between 2001 and 2019. The larger study population enables more detailed analysis, providing greater insight into the risk and protective factors for suicide within the permanent, reserve and ex-serving populations.

Because the ex-serving population included in this latest update is more than double that

of the previous report, the number of suicides reported in this report has increased. However, the general patterns, including rates of suicide and comparisons with the general Australian population, remain similar to previous studies.

The AIHW's Serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members who have served since 1985: suicide monitoring 2001 to 2019 report is now available and a recording of the AIHW's webinar on the report's findings can be found on Vimeo.

The National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention's Preliminary Interim Report tabled today is now available.

When undertaking the inquiry, the Interim National Commissioner conducted multiple engagements with the Defence and veteran community, government departments, medical professionals and peak bodies. In addition, a broad assessment of previous inquiries, reports and reviews were conducted.

The Preliminary Interim Report makes a number of recommendations for consideration across government, Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. It will be important to work with the veteran community when considering these recommendations and responding to this report.

With the commencement of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, there will continue to be significant review and consultation with the Defence and veteran community. I would like to thank the Interim National Commissioner for her work and to all who supported the inquiry.

Should you have any questions or enquiries about the Royal Commission, including how to make submissions and timeframes for hearings, these should all be forwarded directly to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

There is a broad range of mental health support services available to veterans and families who may be experiencing concerns with their mental health or thoughts of suicide.

Letters to the Editor

Friday 9 July 2021

Dear Editor,

I have had some issues of late which I hope that you may be able to assist with.

1. Medical Treatment – I attended my GP to have a skin cancer removed for a biopsy which is a fairly simple and routine procedure. I was advised that DVA would pay for the consultation but not for the procedure, hence I would need to make an additional payment of \$50 (instruments, suture, nurse assist). I rang DVA to clarify and they advised me that the GP could complete a Form D1328 and email it to DVA and then wait several weeks for approval. This seems like a very draconian measure for a simple and common procedure, since the Form D1328 looks like the same one that might be needed for brain surgery. Why should one need to wait unnecessarily and incur an additional consultation fee (to DVA)?

2. Travel Expenses – The current claim procedure through the MY Service section of the DVA site has taken a giant backward step (amid some improvements) in that individual trips cannot be saved until a suitable number are prepared for submission (they were previously). This means that the claimant needs to keep separate records of each trip before submitting a group of them, or submit them one at a time (which must also cause additional administration costs to DVA).

3. GST Exemption on Car Parts – I recently had some repairs performed on my motor vehicle to the tune of around \$1,500 (parts and labour) but the proprietor declined to accept the GST Exemption (form NAT3418) on the basis of advice from his tax accountant, and there is no point in my trying to

convince him otherwise (he also does not accept exemption for government vehicles). I checked the ATO website to find out how to claim a refund, but it indicates that they do not provide refunds. This is not the first location where I have unable to claim my exemption, but certainly has the highest dollar value. This all makes a mockery of the concession.

I hope and trust that you may be able to assist.

Cheers,

Dave Nothrop

Editor's note: This letter has been brought to the attention of the Association and we are making enquiries in relation to these matters. Please forward any helpful advice/suggestions regarding these issues to Sara Thorne (office@tpinsw.org.au) and Victoria Dawson (editor@tpinsw.org.au).

Sunday 31 October 2021

G'day Victoria,

Congratulations on the new issue of *Salute*. At last a nice magazine presentation of the Association. You have breathed new life into the old rag, making it more enjoyable to read!!

Typically, TPI news can be a bit maudlin, however you have spiced it all up to be attractive and acceptable.

Well done, keep up the good work, I look forward to the next issue.

With thanks,

Dallas Burrage

Toormina, NSW 2452

Friday, 3 September 2021

I wrote this poem years ago with the Vietnam War in mind but now think given the situation regarding Afghanistan it is pertinent today...

Unanswered Questions

For reasons better left unsaid, that year I did not march,
I chose to go and stand instead beside the cenotaph
and there on the pavement stood an old man and his wife,
the lines upon their faces betraying a sadness in their life.

I could not help but notice the sad tears fill each old eye
as they watched the veterans go proudly marching by,
I thought of sons or daughters, of brothers, perhaps a mate,
of a burden grown so heavy it had bent them with its weight.

But when the old man took his lady gently by the hand
and they turned to speak to me, I began to understand.
The old man's voice was tired, worn through years of pain,
as he said, "Son, could you tell us, would you do it all again?"

"You see, Mum and I recognize those medals that you wear
for on our lounge room wall at home there hangs a similar pair,
the Army sent them to us with a lovely telegram -
instead of sending back our son from that war in Vietnam."

"Oh, we know we're old and foolish and it was long ago,
but we think it might ease our pain if somehow we could know,
just what the men like yourself think about that war today;
was it worth our Jimmy's life and the price we've had to pay?"

Silently, I cursed the politicians and all their evil kind;
I cursed their precious Jimmy for the pain he'd left behind;
I cursed the Vietnam war for robbing me of youth (and God forgive me)
I cursed these poor old wretches now asking for the truth!

Thoughts and sounds and faces came rushing to my mind
as I struggled with their question to find an answer that was kind.
How often had I sought that answer - searched night and day -
but now the hope I saw in their eyes told me what I must say.

So I mouthed those words I'd often heard fools pronounce before:
about sacrifice and courage and the glory to be found in war;
I told them how their Jimmy now slept in a hero's grave
because he'd offered up his life so freedom he might save.

And to those of you who hold the truth sacred in your heart,
I'd ask you to reflect upon the pain it can impart,
for I've no doubt they knew the truth, perhaps better than did I,
but they'd chosen long ago to seek sanctuary in a lie.

Then the old man shook my hand and his wife's smile was sweet
as I watched them shuffle off on their old and weary feet,
but when they stopped another, my heart nearly burst with pain
as I heard, "Son, could you tell us, would you do it all again?"

Vic Jefferies

9 Squadron RAAF

Vietnam 1966 – 67



The wreath representing TPI Association of NSW laid by Junior Vice President Kevin Kelly at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Martin Place Cenotaph on 11 November 2021.

Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT)

TPI NSW Scholarship Updates & Students Thank You Notes

2019 Cohort

Tessa Lucas – Bachelor of Arts (Culture & Heritage), University of Canberra

Course Completion: June 2022

Tessa continues to achieve outstanding results. She enjoyed being back on campus with face-to-face learning and is looking forward to her new courses in Semester 2. Her scholarship has supported day to day needs including food and fuel.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI NSW,

Thank you once again for your support this semester. This semester was fairly quiet in comparison to my last few. In fact, it almost felt kind of strange how straightforward this semester was when I look back at 2020.

The normalcy of being back on campus was refreshing. It was really nice to be able to sit in class in person and to interact with people face to face again.

Next semester I will be taking the classes 'Exploring Digital Heritage', 'Heritage Materials – Aesthetics and Stability' and 'Professional Evidence'. They all sound really fascinating so I am looking forward to semester two.

As I am back at university in person, your support was really appreciated. It went into my day to day needs such as my groceries or fuel. You have supported me with the small things that really matter, and I would struggle without them.

A small letter this time but thank you once again.

Stay safe and warm regards, [Tessa Lucas](#)

Madellyn Urquhart – Bachelor of Animal Science – Bachelor of Science – Genetics and Zoology, University of New England

Course Completion: December 2022

Madelyn's results have once again been excellent. She has had to change her course due to the previous course not being offered and her poor health resulted in part time study this semester.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI NSW,

Please accept this as a sincere Thank You for the generous support I've received from your Scholarship.

I have been undertaking a Bachelor of Animal Science, with a Major in Equine & Canine since 2019. This was a Cross Institutional degree with the University of New England and University of Queensland's Gatton Campus. Due to factors unknown to me, this major wasn't offered to new students this year. After great consideration and discussion with lecturers, I decided to change my Degree.

This decision wasn't made lightly, I now have a clearer idea of where my Degree will lead me in the future.

I have transferred my units across to the new Degree without penalty and am very excited.

I am now undertaking a Bachelor of Science, Majoring in Genetics & Zoology. My long-term goal with this degree is to become a Genetic Counsellor.

I have had considerable health challenges over the last trimester. I was diagnosed with Glandular Fever and strep throat, tonsillitis and anaemia early in the trimester and have been battling the severe fatigue, insomnia and other symptoms that come with this diagnosis. When I get sick and cough lots, my condition deteriorates because of the strain this puts on my spine. I suffer from severe muscle spasm in my back and chest and have to manage this carefully to stay functional.

I reduced my course load to 2 units so that I could still strive for the grades I need to complete this degree and undertake a Masters, which is required to become a Genetic Counsellor. There is only one University in Australia that offers this course so I need to earn my place there. With this reduction in course load I have managed to maintain a great GPA of 6.5. Next trimester I have enrolled in 3 units and a further 2 to be undertaken over the summer semester.

Now, more than ever your support has made this possible. It would have been financially impossible to continue with my studies this Trimester without your support. It has allowed me to focus solely on my studies and earn great marks.

My spine makes it very difficult to participate in a learning environment in the same manner as most other people my age. The nature of my condition means sitting for more than 5 - 10 minutes causes severe pain and muscle spasm in my spine.

Because of this I've had to make major adjustments to every aspect of my life to access a University education. They have been costly and are ongoing.

I have significant Physiotherapy and Medical commitments, this has a financial impact but also impacts on my time. With my study and medical commitments I am unable to work my way through

University as most other students do. This has made your support very important to me being able to continue my study this year.

My most notable personal and academic achievements are that I am able to attend University and I have completed my enrolled units to a high standard, despite the challenges faced this year. This is a very important personal goal I have set for myself. I am forever most thankful for your supports allowing me to do so in these difficult times.

I am now in my third year of studies, it has been very challenging physically and has taken a great deal of planning and dedication.

I have significant hurdles to overcome so I can have a career in the future. This scholarship is helping me work towards that career where I can fulfil my passions with genetics.

I am sincerely very grateful for this Scholarship and cannot thank you enough for your support.

Kind Regards, Madellyn Urquhart

2020 Cohort

Erin Ginters – Bachelor of Paramedicine, Charles Sturt University

Course Completion: December 2022

Erin is very appreciative of the support her scholarship has given her, in that she was able to rent her own home and work less to focus on study. Erin is now only studying part time i.e. 1 subject and working full time with NSW Ambulance. Erin's scholarship has been suspended.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI NSW,

I would like to thank you sincerely for your generous increase in my scholarship this year and for continuing to sponsor me. Your scholarship has allowed me to finally move back to my hometown of Newcastle while continuing to study online.

Being able to study online has resulted in my grades improving significantly as I achieved a high distinction and a distinction in 2 of my assignments for my Mental Health subject last semester. Due to your generous scholarship, I am able to maintain my independence by renting my own place which allows me to have a quiet place to study. As I have stated in previous letters, your scholarship has allowed me to take some time off work which means I am able to focus on my studies which has resulted in achieving high grades for assignments. During this semester, I have also completed my first placement with NSW Ambulance for 4 weeks in Port Macquarie. I thoroughly enjoyed this placement and saw a lot of different things which inspired me to continue with my studies and gave me significant motivation. Your scholarship paid for my accommodation and allowed me to enjoy the placement without having to worry about my finances.

Due to the Covid-19 situation, I have elected to continue my studies part time. As I lived in Victoria last year, I was unable to complete some practical assessments and other placements. It would be impossible for me to continue my studies full time as I have a lot more to complete in such a short amount of time. If I stayed full time, I believe I wouldn't be able to do as well as what I am doing now. Going part time has also allowed me to spend time with my family and as I have stated before, focus solely on certain subjects. I also have been offered full-time employment at NSW Ambulance at the control centre for triple zero as a Communications Assistant. I will commence this role in August of 2021 while continuing to study part time. This role will allow me to gain employment as a Paramedic when I complete my studies.

Even though I achieved high grades in my assignments this semester, I also have some goals I would like to achieve throughout the rest of the year. Personally, I would like to start exercising more

and eating healthier as I believe this directly effects how I study and what I achieve during the semester. For my studies, I would like to be more organised when it comes to starting assignments. I would like to plan assignments rather than starting them straight away. I would also like to start assignments well before the due date so I can utilise the feedback service that my university provides. Even though I will be working full time, I believe I will be able to maintain my studies by planning out work, personal and study commitments on a calendar. I have made a commitment to myself that my studies will always be a priority for myself as I really enjoy the degree and it's important to me that I finish it.

I would like to thank you again for your generous increase in the amount of the scholarship. Without your scholarship, I believe I wouldn't be achieving high grades like I am now. I also wouldn't have been able to enjoy placement as much as I did. Your continuation of sponsorship would mean a lot to me.

Kind regards, [Erin Ginters](#)

Ethan Surace – Bachelor of Software Engineering, University of Canberra

Course Completion: December 2022

Ethan's academic record remains excellent. He has developed a new interest in Robotics and grown personally through interactions with his lecturers and tutors. His scholarship assists in the purchase of textbooks, general course material and living expenses.

Thank You Note

To my scholarship sponsor TPI NSW.

I write to you again, thanking you for your continued support of my academic efforts at the University of Canberra. The life that I have had over the past 6 months studying has been both progressive and illuminating.

Academically, I have studied within an

environment that is a hybrid of regular and digital behavior. This was a welcome surprise after a full semester of digital learning. Additionally, I found myself studying a unit that piqued my interest in Robotics for the first time since beginning my degree. I found that the main highlights I had this semester were from within of my Foundations of Robotics unit particularly due to my passion. Of note are the visit from the Australian Army Research Center and their accompanying robotic counterparts, for a guest lecture.

Personally, my development as a human being has been steady. I find that as I gain more knowledge, I am able to apply that more effectively in the world. That knowledge is both gained from personal research (via many mediums) and the knowledge I gain from University staff that is more than based around my degree. This kind of thing is something that I always appreciate and attempt to honour.

To end this letter, there are many ways why this scholarship has assisted me over the course of the last six months. There is always going to be the assistance that it gives to living expenses, but it also helps with academic purchases like textbooks, which are inherently expensive, and maintaining the general equipment that is required for my course material.

The help that you have provided to not only myself but the other recipients of TPI NSW Scholarships, has been invaluable. I am grateful for your contribution in advancing me further in life and study and I hope that your continued support will show just how far that a scholarship can take students like me.

Cheers, for the semesters to come, Ethan Surace

Zara Whelan – Diploma of Beauty Therapy, TAFE NSW

Course Completion: June 2021

Zara has graduated with a Diploma of Beauty Therapy. She is confident about securing a position in the beauty industry and intends to keep engaging in ongoing professional development. Zara is now a member of the AVCAT Alumni Network.

Thank You Note

Dear NSW TPI Association,

For the past six months I have been studying a Diploma of Beauty Therapy at TAFE NSW in Orange. I completed courses in Certificate 3 in Beauty Services and Certificate 3 in Nail Technology in 2020.

With these certificates and the Diploma, I will be able to find a job in the beauty industry and/or in a nail salon. My AVCAT sponsorship for the past 6 months has helped me by giving me the financial means to study away from home and receive my Diploma of Beauty Therapy without any problems or stress.

I would like to thank you because without the financial support that you have given me, I would not have been able to study away from home and receive these qualifications. The support has given me the chance to follow a career path that I love and will continue to grow into and learn from. I plan to keep up to date with the newest techniques, technology and products that come into the field of beauty. I will achieve this by finding a job in a salon, keeping up to date with the newest information and research data that comes from the products used in the salon, the treatments we do, and the technology that we use in the salon.

I have not yet secured a position in a salon as our whole family is moving interstate very soon, so once we move I will be looking for a job straight away.

Thank you for all the help that you have given me in the past year and a half. Without your help I would not have been able to receive my qualifications – Diploma of Beauty Therapy, Certificate 3 in Beauty Service, and Certificate 3 in Nail Technology.

Thank you so much, [Zara Whelan](#)

2021 Cohort

Aidan Hill – Bachelor of International Security Studies, Australian National University

Course Completion: June 2023

Aidan has achieved very good results and has enthusiastically embraced his course of study. His scholarship has allowed him full independence and has taught him about managing personal funds and time. Aidan enjoys road cycling and works part-time in a bike store.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI NSW,

It has been an exciting 4 months at university thus far. Whilst living away from home was not a new experience after attending boarding school, balancing all parts of my life was however, I settled in pretty quickly. The courses I completed in semester one were all quite different with a number building on knowledge I developed in last semester's courses. My particular favourite was one looking at the Modern Middle East, one I did based on a similar course from last year and recommended by that convener, who was right in their recommendation. In looking ahead to next semester and my second year of university, I will again study another Middle Eastern based course, which will almost complete my Middle East and North African minor as well as two security-based courses, with one focusing entirely on the Vietnam War. These were chosen due to interests as well

as a personal desire to learn more about Vietnam and reactions to it, based on my grandfather's involvement in this conflict.

I have made the decision to complete only three courses this next semester, which is still a full load, based on opportunities I have had and other commitments outside of university. Whilst I did have academic success last semester with four courses and strong grades in each of these, my lifestyle in Canberra has diversified even further, the more that I have become familiar with my new environment. Therefore, with a desire to maintain strong grades whilst enjoying other aspects of my life, I have decided three courses will be sufficient with the potential to do a summer course come December.

Outside of university I participate in a large amount of training for road cycling, which requires discipline and time. Whilst originally a hobby,



AVCAT scholar Aidan Hill with Governor General David Hurley, AC, DSC (Retd) at the presentation ceremony for AVCAT scholars held at Admiralty House on 20 May 2021.

I enjoyed the competitive side of it in racing and since moving to Canberra I have had the opportunity to race most state level races as well as training with better athletes, pushing myself to do better. Whilst I am more serious about it, it also gives me a way to reduce stress and get fresh air on a regular basis. Furthermore, through this I was fortunate enough to receive a job offer at a local Trek bike shop, where I work three days a week in the workshop, allowing me to see a different side of riding and an ability to develop my skills.

In terms of the future, I am still undecided on what career I might follow. With this degree, it allows for a diverse range of jobs and pathways. Whilst many progress into the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with a similar style of degree, I'm likely angling towards Defence or the AFP at the current stage with a focus towards the intelligence sector. Whilst this is the current goal, times can change and depending on what opportunities I have, I will decide on what is best for me and my own development, personally and professionally. Regardless, being in Canberra is the best location for this lifestyle and pathway, even if I do have to suffer through freezing temperatures to do so.

However, TPI has also played a large role in my newfound lifestyle in Canberra. This scholarship has allowed me to become fully independent and has also taught me greater responsibilities around managing personal funds, time and where to direct my energy. By knowing I have a sponsor, it gives me some breathing room and allows for me to ensure I can be fully committed to my university studies first and foremost, as well as allowing for me to continue to develop other aspects of my life successfully. This has certainly allowed for me to maintain a focus on what matters the most whilst at university whilst still allowing for me to explore other opportunities.

Thank-you once again for this opportunity and support. It will be of great aid in the future,

particularly as I near the end of my degree and look ahead to life outside of university.

Regards, Aidan Hill

Molly Horne – Bachelor of Education (Primary), Australian Catholic University

Course Completion: December 2024

Molly has started her studies with strong results. Her scholarship has helped buy petrol, textbooks, a laptop, stationary and a suit and shoes, proudly wore at the AVCAT Ceremony at Admiralty House. She is working part time in a restaurant and also hopes to secure some work in a primary school.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI NSW,

Thank you very much for sponsoring me to help me to achieve my best potential at university. This scholarship has assisted me in being able to travel to my university campus which is over an hour from home. It helps put petrol in my car and has assisted greatly in purchasing the recommended texts I have needed to commence the course. I have bought a laptop computer and stationery items to do my research and studies. I was also able to purchase a suit and shoes that I proudly wore at the AVCAT Ceremony at Admiralty House a few months ago. I am studying hard and enjoying the university experience. I have just recently completed my first semester at the Australian Catholic University in Strathfield, NSW. My results are pleasing and I am hopeful that I continue to do well.

In the meantime I have applied to a local primary school to do part time work as a teachers' aide to get some hands-on experience. I was successful in gaining employment which was meant to start next week but because of the current restrictions due to Covid-19 my start date is delayed. I continue to work part time at my local Chinese restaurant to keep engaging with the community and to be of service.



AVCAT scholar Molly Horne with Governor General David Hurley, AC, DSC (Retd) at the presentation ceremony for AVCAT scholars held at Admiralty House on 20 May 2021.

I hope that I do the TPI Association NSW proud. I am forever thankful for the opportunity and generosity of you, my sponsor, in giving me the best chance at succeeding in my studies. I am so very grateful for your sponsorship. It has given me relief from the financial stress my family has faced. I am motivated to do well and make my Grandad and all those who served our country proud. It is a privilege to be an AVCAT Student, a privilege my Grandad was never afforded and something I will never take for granted.

Thank you. I look forward to keeping you updated on my progress.

Yours Sincerely, Molly Horne

Keely Jameson – Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Diagnostic Radiography, University of Newcastle

Course Completion: December 2024

Keely's results are excellent. She is enjoying life in Newcastle and has made new friends. Her scholarship motivates her to reach her academic potential and provides practical assistance for everyday living.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI NSW,

I want to begin by expressing how grateful I am for providing me with this scholarship as it has assisted me immensely. Semester one has been amazing in Newcastle and I have had the chance to make many incredible relationships with other fellow students. This scholarship has allowed me to stay on top of study and living related costs, assisting me in paying for my fortnightly rent, as well as grocery and uni related expenses such as printing and study materials.

Academically, my progress has exceeded my expectations, particularly in one of my courses, musculoskeletal anatomy. This course was a challenge for me throughout the semester and I made the assumption that I was not going to pass. However, this was not the case and I surprised myself by obtaining a credit in this course. In regard to my other courses, I am extremely happy with how I went, particularly receiving both a distinction and high distinction for two of my courses. In many of my quizzes throughout the semester I received at least 70%, and I now challenge myself to raise that for semester two. Passing my end of semester formal exams was a highlight, as I was unusually stressed around this time. The scholarship has allowed me to strive towards my academic potential

Personally, my mental health has been improved since moving to Newcastle. Living on campus in

International House allowed me to make many great friendships which I understand will likely be lifelong. The environment on campus and in Newcastle in general is a much more accepting and open minded one, particularly in regard to how I express myself as a person. I have never experienced so much support and appreciation from a group of friends.

During the semester, I had a few personal matters that affected my study and mental health. As a result, I fell behind on my studies about halfway through the semester and had to work extremely hard to catch up again. During this time, I missed a quiz for one of my courses (Human Bioscience) and was unable to complete it. I understand that this does not represent my academic potential and have thoroughly thought about it since. Hence, this semester, I will endeavour to prevent this from occurring again, and aim to improve this by seeking support from relevant services provided by the University of Newcastle.

Once again, I cannot express how sincerely thankful I am for providing me with many opportunities and financial assistance through this scholarship.

Regards, Keely Jameson

Gemma Plant – Bachelor of Creative Industries University of Newcastle

Course Completion: June 2022

Gemma has fully embraced the opportunity to study and is extremely grateful for the support of TPI NSW. One highlight this semester included her created book being placed in an art exhibition at the University of Newcastle.

Thank You Note

Dear, Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales,

I am very happy to be writing this thank you

letter to you. Firstly, thank you. I feel very special that I can finally say thank you and describe how much you have helped me so far.

This scholarship has assisted me in my academic career, as it allows me to place and invest more money and effort into my assessments. Such as, one of my assessments was to create a book and it was placed in an art exhibition at the University of Newcastle last semester. I have never had this opportunity before, and I felt very humbled and excited. This money allowed me to place more effort and tries into the book to make it look the best I could and the most professional I could.

Another thing is, I feel more comfortable buying tools to progress my talents and assessments both through my computer and on paper. Such as a Wacom tablet which allows me to draw on my computer. Things such as this makes my University life more easy and more fun.

In my personal life, this has helped me through the worries of money for some necessities such as food or parking in Newcastle. Sometimes being a uni student I am there long hours in the day and would have no food left and usually I would just go home, (30-50 min travel) and find something there, however I now have more ease when feeling hungry to purchase food.

Having this scholarship has allowed me to think more easily about my future after University and what other study options or paths I could take. It allowed me this semester, to try an elective from another course to see if I would like this after University. It was great to experience this class and have the ease of mind that I have the opportunity to do more study after this amazing course.

This has made me feel independent and grateful more than words can describe, and there are not enough thank yous in the world to give to you. I feel truly blessed and honored to be one of the people receiving this scholarship.

Kind regards, Gemma Plant

Welfare Officers

ACT/Queanbeyan and surrounding districts

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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

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Ernie Payne0410 415 668

Nowra (South)

Jack Doulis0402 584 041

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John A Graham, JP 9718 2583 / 0411 809 936

Taree

Robert Hicks0418 979 102

Wagga Wagga

John Curtis6924 1924

Wollongong Area

John Kiley4228 4068

Social & Welfare Clubs NSW & ACT

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

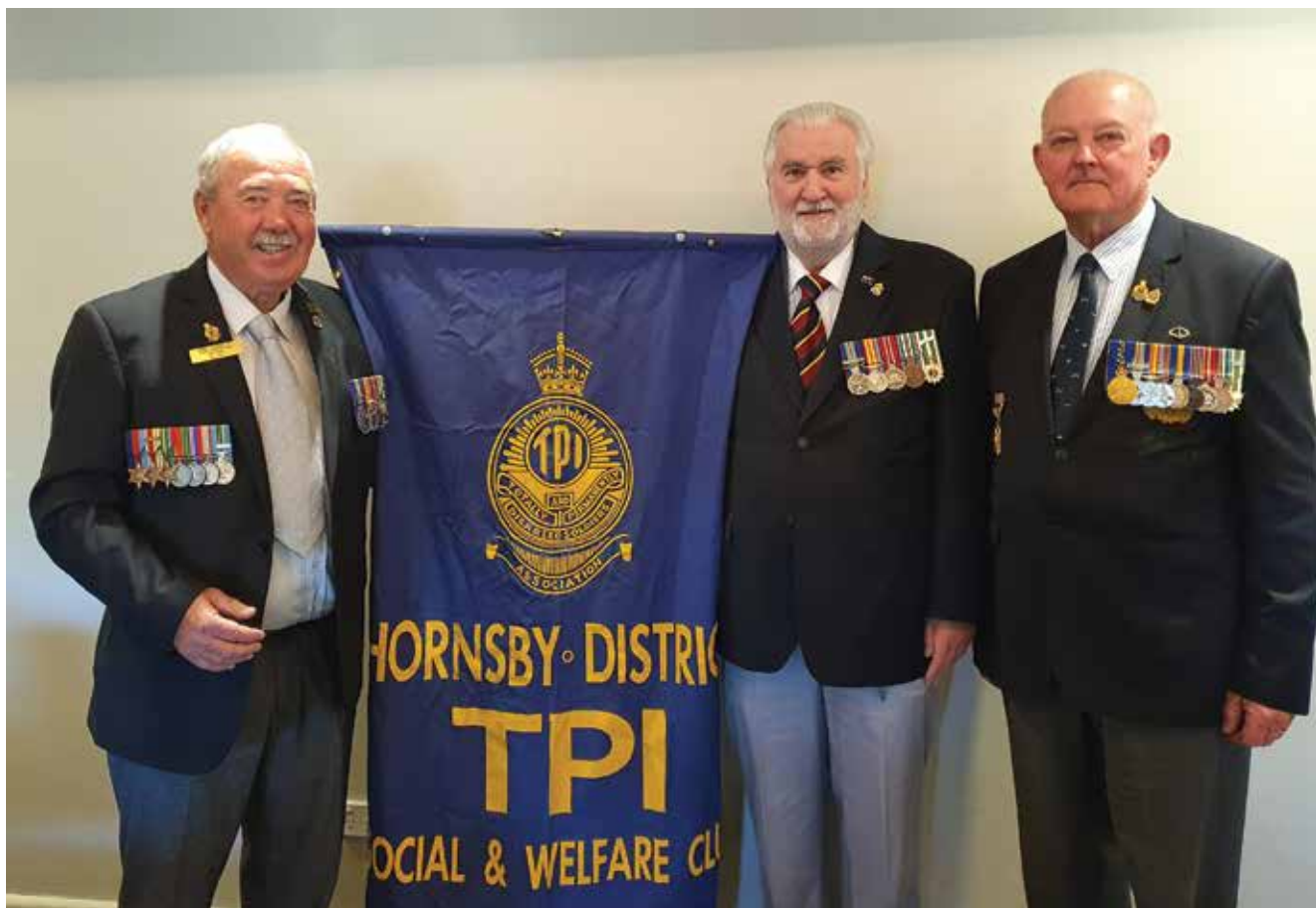
President: Jack Doulis 0402 584 041
Senior Vice-President: Ernie Payne 0410 415 668
Jnr Vice-President:
Howard Van Dervord 4443 2840/0419 238 024
Secretary: Leanne Wehmeier 4443 4038
Treasurer: Mick Carden 0402 444 315
Welfare Officer: (North)
Ernie Payne 0410 415 668
Welfare Officer: (South)
Jack Doulis 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 the Shoalhaven Ex Servicemen's Club.

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



The current committee executive of the Hornsby TPI Social and Welfare Club, left to right: President Ray Davis, Treasurer David Coleman, Secretary Rod White

A Short History of the Hornsby TPI Social and Welfare Club

Whereas in 1935 The Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales was established, The Hornsby, Northern Districts and North Shore TPI Social and Welfare Club was formed in 1986 with the motto "Honour and Friendship". Today, The Hornsby TPI Social and Welfare Club continues to draw its members from across the very broad Sydney northern region.

For over a century Defence Force veterans in significant numbers representing all arms

and services, from the South African (Boer) War through the two World Wars and just about every deployment since then, have resided in the greater northern region from the Sydney Harbour Bridge to the Hawkesbury River Bridge and along the Northern Beaches from Manly to Palm Beach. Some members have since relocated out of the region, but return for meetings and functions. Early membership was primarily TPI veterans of the Second World War, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. During 2021 our last member with WW2 service died, preceded by the

last Korean War veteran member. For some years veterans of the Vietnam War have occupied the committee executive positions and, as with other organisations, it is hoped that veterans of more recent deployments will step up to these roles, to ensure the continuance of the TPI esprit de corps.

The founding and continuing objects of the Club are: to provide for the welfare of the members and dependants of deceased members of the Club; through the Club's Welfare Officers, to assist members with regard to rights and claims to any pensions, homes, allowances, medical treatment or other benefits given to members of the TPI Veterans' Association of NSW through the Department of Veterans' Affairs; to encourage and hold social and recreational gatherings, including bus tours and luncheons amongst its members; to work in close co-operation with other organisations, namely The Hornsby RSL Sub Branch, The Hornsby RSL Club, Hornsby Legacy, other service organisations in the Northern Districts and North Shore, and clubs having similar aims and objects to the Hornsby TPI Club. Regular social activities have included BBQs at Bobbin Head National Park and other locations around Sydney, also Coach Tours to regional NSW.

The enduring success of the Hornsby TPI Club over the past 35 years has been based on: the commitment of its members to uphold the purpose and objects of the Club; support from members through fundraising activities; financial and other support from the Head Office of the TPI Veterans Association of NSW, RSL and other clubs community grant programs, The Hornsby RSL Sub Branch, The Hornsby War Memorial Hall Committee and other organizations and individuals.

Although the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic have affected the conduct of some Club activities, the committee executive has maintained a focus on member contact and planned for the resumption of business when

possible. With regular meetings of members and their partners, occasional luncheons, as well as social outings, TPI veterans can enjoy the unique comradeship and mateship formed during their service with the Australian Defence Force.

The Hornsby TPI Social and Welfare Club meet at The Hornsby War Memorial Hall (adjacent to the rail station) at 1.00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month, with the exception of January and November. New members are most welcome, please contact Ray Davis – Phone: 0409 123 525; Email: academy077@hotmail.com.

Written by R D White, AM, Secretary

Blacktown & Districts TPI Social & Welfare Club

Everyone is beginning to venture out after a very long time behind closed doors and isn't that a great feeling!

Our next meeting is on 2 December 1pm at Blacktown RSL, and we will be collecting money and making arrangements for our Christmas Luncheon on the 10 December at Fox Hills Golf Club. This will be our last outing for the year. I know we haven't had much to get excited about so far this year, but let's hope we have a better time in 2022.

We had arranged a three-day trip to Port Stephens during September 2021 so we will be moving that forward to sometime in 2022 and other outings are being arranged. Any new members are more than welcome to join us on any outings, and we would love to see all members at our meetings. Everyone is welcome.

Sadly two members passed away this year, Gus Brown and Bob Crelley. We were very sorry to hear the news, and our sincere thoughts and best wishes go to each of their families.

Lynne & Lance Northey

Phone: 0411 221 921

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



The photo is from one of the Blacktown Social & Welfare Club BBQs which had a colour theme.

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 NSW and ACT

Doing Anger Differently

Online – Tuesday & Thursday 14 & 16 December,
2 x 90-minute sessions

Managing Pain

Online – Wednesday & Friday 8 & 10 December,
2 x 90-minute sessions

Canberra – Monday & Tuesday 6 & 7 December,
two-day program

Mental Health First Aid

Canberra – Monday & Tuesday 13 & 14
December, two-day workshop

Recovery from Trauma

Online – Monday & Wednesday 6 & 8 December,
2 x 90-minute sessions

Residential Lifestyle Management

Canberra – Two Weekends, 4 – 6 March &
11 – 14 March 2022

Sleeping Better

Canberra – Tuesday & Wednesday 14 & 15
December, two-day program

Stepping Out

Nowra – Tuesday & Wednesday 14 & 15
December, two-day workshop

Understanding Anxiety

Canberra – Thursdays 9, 16 & 23 December,
three-day program

Upcoming Open Arms workshops and programs

available in all states and territories of Australia
can be viewed online. Interest in workshops and
programs can also be registered at:

www.OpenArms.gov.au

You can phone Open Arms 24/7 on **1800 011 046**.

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

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@acttpi.org

Web: www.acttpi.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.qldtpi.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

