

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

E-Newsletter October 2024



Bright red bottlebrush flowers. Photographer: Osman Temizel, Shutterstock.

Welcome to the October 2024 issue of the TPI NSW E-Newsletter

Our October E-Newsletter header features a photograph of bottlebrush flowers. Bottlebrushes are members of the genus *Callistemon* and belong to the family Myrtaceae. An invitation to the TPI NSW Christmas luncheon appears on page 2. If you'd like to attend this event, please complete the form and return it to the TPI NSW office by 25 November 2024. There's also an invitation to a morning tea at Gosford RSL on Tuesday 12 November for TPI NSW members living on the Central Coast.

Useful and interesting information includes an article about community nursing services on page 4. Pages 6 – 7 contain brief versions of DVA media releases with links to the full articles. Starting on

page 8 is a short article about General Sir John Monash. This is a preview of a longer article about Monash that will appear in Summer *Salute*. On pages 10 – 13 you can read Messages sent to TPI NSW, including by health providers. Reunions start on page 13 and media releases from Defence are found on pages 18 – 21.

If you have information that you would like to share with other TPI NSW Association members, please email me at the address below. We look forward to hearing from you.

Victoria Dawson

Salute Editor & Designer

Email: editor@tpinw.org.au

TPI Association of NSW Christmas Luncheon

The TPI Association of NSW Christmas Luncheon will be held at
Club York, Level 1, 99 York Street, Sydney on

Tuesday 10 December 2024 at 12 noon for 12.30pm

A three-course meal and drinks will be served.

There will be lucky door prizes. The cost is \$25 per person.

If you need a special meal please let us know.

If you'd like to attend, please complete the form below and

return it to the TPI NSW office by: **Monday 25 November 2024**

Mail: GPO Box 4429, Sydney NSW 2001 Email: office@tpinsw.org.au

PLEASE NOTE: we are no longer able to accept payments by telephone.

Under Australian banking legislation, all payments require a signed authority or a pin from the payer.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Name | | TPI Badge Number |
| Telephone (Home) | Telephone (Mobile) | Email Address |
| Number of People Attending | Cost per Meal: \$25.00 | Total \$ |
| Total Payment | | \$ |

PAYMENT METHOD (Tick Box)

INTERNET TRANSFER CHEQUE MONEY ORDER VISA MASTERCARD

BSB: 082 001

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 025402663

Please quote your surname and badge number in the details section of your internet payment.

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| CARD NO. | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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CARDHOLDER NAME: _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____ SIGNATURE _____



Central Coast Morning Tea

Date: Tuesday 12 November 2024
Time: 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue: The Gallery, Gosford RSL Club, 26
Central Coast Hwy, West Gosford NSW 2250

Dear TPI NSW Member,

We are having a social get-together for TPI Association members in your local area and we cordially invite you and a guest (spouse or a friend, carer or relative) to attend. This will be a free event for our members and their guest, and we will be providing a morning tea with coffee, tea and light refreshments.

It is a chance for some of our directors and staff to meet and connect with TPI members who are located outside of Sydney. There will be opportunities for you to ask questions, meet old and new friends and have a nice time socialising with fellow TPIs.

We will be able to update you about some of the upcoming plans for the Association. We also plan

to have speakers from DVA on hand to talk about veterans' matters and answer questions.

If you would like to join us on 12 November 2024, please email Kayleen Hoolihan, Wellbeing Officer at wellbeing@tpinsw.org.au no later than Wednesday 30 October 2024.

Please include the following information in your email:

Member Name attending:

TPI Association badge number: N _____

Email address:

Number of people attending: 1 or 2

Name of guest attending:

We look forward to seeing you (and your "plus one") on the day.

Best wishes,

John Szabo, CPA

CEO TPI NSW

Email: info@tpinsw.org.au

Community Nursing Services

Community nursing services

DVA funds approved Community Nursing (CN) providers to deliver clinically required nursing and personal care services to eligible DVA Veteran Card holders. This includes:

- assessing client needs and developing a care plan
- providing care to meet assessed clinical needs
- re-assessing needs over time and updating the care plan as necessary
- working with other health care providers as required.

This care is to help clients maintain independence and receive the care they need to remain at home.

Who can provide community nursing services

DVA funds approved CN providers to deliver services to eligible DVA Veteran Card holders.

Who can access community nursing services

To receive community nursing services for an assessed clinical need, a client must have either a:

- Veteran Gold Card, or
- Veteran White Card

If a client has a Veteran White Card, DVA will fund CN services if the care they need is due to an accepted service-related injury or condition.

If a client has a Veteran White Card, contact DVA to determine if the client can receive DVA funded CN services before providing care to the client.

Which clients need a referral for community nursing services?

All clients need a written referral if they are either:

- new to receiving community nursing services
- have been out of care from a CN provider for over 28 days

- at the end of each continuous 12 month period of care.

Upon receiving a written referral from an authorised referrer, a CN provider must:

- assess the client's clinical nursing and personal care needs
- provide services to meet their clinical and personal care needs that are within the scope of the CN Program.

Who can refer clients

To provide community nursing services to a client, a written referral must come from an authorised referral source, which can be a:

- general practitioner (GP)
- treating medical practitioner in hospital
- hospital discharge planner
- nurse practitioner specialising in a community nursing field.

Referrals should be sent directly to a CN provider and not to DVA.

Community Nursing referral template

Written referrals can be made by completing the D9389 CN Referral form and sending it directly to an approved CN provider.

[The Panel of Providers](#) page lists approved CN providers for each state and territory.

Alternatively, the written referral can be provided using the authorised referrer's own letterhead or referral document.

Note: The client's GP is to have ongoing clinical oversight of the client's care.

Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program

The CVC Program is a proactive coordinated care program. It aims to improve participant



quality of life and decrease the risk of unplanned hospitalisation.

The role of a Community Nurse in the CVC Program

Where a GP does not have access to a practice nurse, they may choose to work with a CN provider to deliver the care coordination element of the program. The role of the Community Nurse in this situation is to coordinate care for the CVC participant, and be in contact with the client's GP regularly.

A CN provider must receive a written referral from a GP requesting the provider to deliver CVC coordination services to an eligible client. Referrals are valid for 12 months and monthly updates are required to be provided to the GP.

2022 Feedback Survey

In 2022, a survey of a sample of CN clients and their carers was conducted. A summary of the results is now available.

- [Summary of 2022 Survey results for DVA Community Nursing Program Clients \(PDF 538 KB\)](#)
- [Summary of 2022 Survey results for DVA Community Nursing Program Clients \(DOCX 32.6 KB\)](#)

Protective Factors Study

- [Protective Factors of DVA's Community Nursing Program \(2023\)](#)

Last updated: 19 January 2024

DVA Media Releases

Be on the watch for false or misleading representations



23 September 2024

Veterans and families are encouraged to be on the lookout for third-party organisations making false or misleading claims that they are working on behalf of DVA, or any other Australian Government department.

[Read the warning signs.](#)

Rise in some pensions, compensation payments and allowances from 20 September



19 September 2024

On 20 September, some veterans and their families received an increase to their DVA pension and compensation payments. The first full payment at the new rates will be payday 17 October 2024.

[Find out more.](#)

Keep connected during Veterans' Health Week



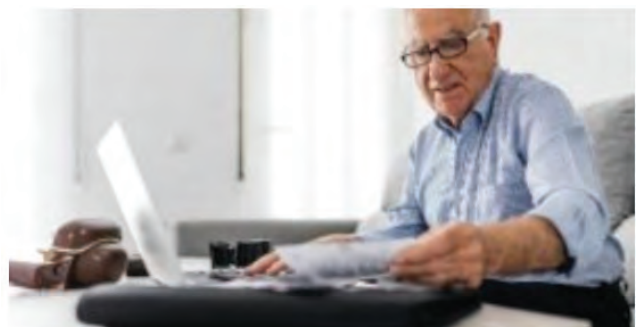
17 September 2024

Veterans' Health Week is happening soon! From 13 to 20 October you can get involved in some exciting events near you.

This year's theme is Keep Connected, highlighting the importance of staying socially connected to family, friends and peers.

[Find out more.](#)

Claims processing data – July 2024



15 August 2024

DVA is processing claims at record levels.

[See the statistics for July.](#)

Compensation offsetting and recovery – an introduction



6 August 2024

Put simply, compensation offsetting and recovery aims to prevent someone being paid twice for the same injury, incapacity or death. But there isn't a lot that's "simple" about this topic. [Read our explainer.](#)

New medical assessment forms bring greater efficiency and clarity



29 July 2024

DVA's review of Compensation Medical Assessment Forms has successfully reduced 210 forms down to just 84 – streamlining a total of 658 pages to 183 pages. [Find out more.](#)

These media releases are taken from the monthly DVA e-news.

If you would like to receive a round-up of Latest News stories every month, you can subscribe to DVA e-news. You can also subscribe to DVA's flagship newspaper Vet Affairs. Just visit the [Subscriptions page.](#)

Report on hospitalisations for suicidality and self-harm released



31 July 2024

This report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare was commissioned by DVA and examines the characteristics of veteran presentations to public hospitals from 2010 to 2020 for conditions associated with suicidal behaviour, including mental health-related care, alcohol and other drug use, and intentional self-harm.

If you need support, please reach out to Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling Service is available 24 /7 on 1800 011 046.

[Read the report's findings.](#)

Mindframe

What advice would you give someone considering sharing their story?

Mindframe is an organisation that supports safe media reporting, portrayal and communication about suicide, mental ill-health, and alcohol and other drugs. While much of Mindframe's work is aimed at helping media and communications professionals safely report on suicide, Mindframe also has useful tools for the public sharing of lived and living experiences of suicide. Some of these tools can be found at <https://mindframe.org.au/our-stories-matter>

General Sir John Monash

General Sir John Monash, GCMG, KCB, VD Australia's Distinguished Military Commander

October 8 marks the anniversary of Sir John Monash's death, in 1931. Born in Melbourne in 1865 to German Jewish parents, Monash was fluent in spoken and written German. In the 1870s the family moved to Jerilderie in the NSW Riverina, where John Monash claimed to have met Ned Kelly during the bushranger's raid in 1879.



John Monash 3 years old. sends his best
Love to Miss Clara Susman

Monash as a child: Portrait John Monash aged 3, Davies & Co Photographers, 1868 from mounted albumen print, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, P1/1177.



Portrait of Lieutenant General Sir John Monash, one of Australia's most distinguished soldiers during the First World War. London, circa 1918. Photograph, black & white - glass original half plate negative. Photographer: Swain. AWM Accession Number: A02697.

At the end of the of the nineteenth century Monash obtained degrees from Melbourne University in Engineering, Law and Arts. Working as an engineer, Monash played a leading role in the introduction of reinforced concrete into Australia;



Monash Sphinx: Monash (left) and his Chief of Staff Major JP McGlenn in Egypt at the foot of the Sphinx in early 1915, before the Gallipoli offensive. The two were dubbed by AIF rivals Tweedledee and Tweedledum.

many structures which he was involved in building still stand today.

Monash commanded troops at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. In June 1918 he was promoted to lieutenant general, taking command of the Australian Corps. This was despite support for Major General Brudenell White to be given this command. Those who opposed Monash's promotion to the position included Official War Correspondent Charles Bean and journalist Keith Murdoch, father of Rupert Murdoch. It has been reported that Bean had a prejudice against Monash's Jewish background.

However, by the end of WWI Monash had acquired an excellent reputation as a military commander. He led several victories on the Western Front. Notable among these was the Battle at Hamel on 4 July 1918, which Monash wrote was "all over in ninety-three minutes [and] the perfection of teamwork". Monash has been described by historian AJP Taylor as "the only general of creative originality produced by the First World War".

A more extensive consideration of the life and times of Sir John Monash will be featured in the 2024 Summer issue of *Salute*.

Messages to TPI NSW

Messages passed on from Kayleen Hoolihan, TPI NSW Wellbeing Officer

Wednesday 28 August 2024

Dear Kayleen,

My name is Stéphane Portal and I am a French/Australian artist based in Sydney. Years ago, I produced a series of aluminium panels representing WWII fuselage replicas symbolising the heroism of international air force pilots and crews involved in that tragedy. I did several successful exhibitions at the Sydney Downing Centre and was selected at the Mosman Art prize.

My inspiration came from my grandfather's

military history and an old friend of my family, who had fought as a pilot in the RAF after escaping invaded France.

Now that I am preparing a new series of panels including some fuselage honouring the RAAF, I was thinking that it would be amazing to see them exhibited in a location that is appropriate for the celebration of the next 2024 Armistice Day.

Let me know if that could be of any interest for you. If you have any question or suggestion, you can contact me via email or directly by phone.

Following up with our phone conversation, please find, attached below, some examples of my artworks.



Artwork by Stéphane Portal.



Artwork by Stephane Portal.

Kind regards,

Stéphane Portal

Phone: 61 477 277 742

Email: stephaneportal@yahoo.com

Tuesday 10 September 2024

Mr Keen rang in to obtain DVA Booklets and was very complimentary about the *Salute* article on the Reverse Mortgages/Home Equity Access Scheme. Mr Keen thanked the Association for the invaluable advice that is published in both the Newsletter (DVA Booklets) and the *Salute* magazine.

I thanked him for the compliment and advised that I would pass this onto the CEO, Board Members and Editorial Staff.

Mr Keen

TPI NSW member

Tuesday 17 September 2024

Bob Roach contacted TPI NSW Wellbeing Officer, Kayleen Hoolihan, to thank her for DVA information booklets she had posted to him.

Bob also asked it to be noted that he was very against the *Salute* article on reverse mortgages, as he feels that older veterans would see access to equity in their home as easy money and be caught in a debt trap.

Bob also emailed Kayleen:

Thank you very much, just what I wanted ... this ageing process is getting a bit hard to set a course for the future ... again thank you.

Bob Roach

TPI NSW member

Messages to TPI NSW

Monday 25 March 2024

Hi TPI NSW,

My name is Fern and I am writing on behalf of The Mobile Foot Clinic.

Our mobile podiatry clinic is hoping to raise awareness of our at home, mobile service for Veterans with lower limb issues. We accept both Gold and White cards and operate mainly within the Sydney and Illawara area but may also service some of the outer regions.

Please find enclosed our flier. We would appreciate if you could assist in reaching out to veterans who might have need for podiatry services. Please don't hesitate to contact us back regarding any questions.

Warm regards,

Fern

The Mobile Foot Clinic

1/47 Stowe Avenue

Campbelltown NSW 2560

Phone: 0493 367 109

www.themobilefootclinic.com.au



THE MOBILE
FOOT CLINIC

THE MOBILE FOOT CLINIC THAT COMES TO YOU

**ARE YOU A VETERAN?
WITH FOOT & KNEE
RELATED ISSUES?**

MOBILE PODIATRIST

SYDNEY & ILLAWARRA



MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
0493 367 109

INFO@THEMOBILEFOOTCLINIC.COM.AU



**General nail and foot care,
including corns, calluses and
ingrown toe nails**



**Management of
foot/ankle/heel and knee pain**



**Prescribed Medical Grade
Footwear/Orthotics**

DVA Health Cards
(Gold & White) are
accepted as payment
upon GP referral

We also take care of
organising your GP
referral for a seamless
experience.

0493 367 109 • INFO@THEMOBILEFOOTCLINIC.COM.AU

Wednesday 28 August 2024

Dear TPI Association of NSW

I hope this email finds you well!

My name's Shelby and I'm an Exercise Physiologist specialising in Veteran exercise rehabilitation. I was hoping to reach out and tell you a little bit about what we do and what we have to offer in hope that there may be some veterans/

war widows in your community that may benefit.

We're a small team of Exercise Physiologists working locally across the Tweed Heads (NSW) and Currumbin (Qld) areas. We welcome all current and ex-servicemen and women, and war widows to participate in one-on-one exercise sessions. These sessions can be directed towards specific injury rehab, chronic disease management (for conditions such as osteoarthritis, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, falls prevention), as well as mental health

support for veterans suffering with depression, PTSD, anxiety etc.

Our main goal is to support our veteran/war widow community through the use of movement, to help improve mobility, reduce pain, prolong independence, and enhance quality of life.

I've attached a few photos of some of our current vets/war widows that enjoy our program for your perusal.

If you have anyone in mind or think this may be of interest to any of your community, I'd love to organise a chat with you or send you some flyers for your members to have a read through. Please feel free to contact me anytime!

Looking forward to hearing from you

Kind regards,
Shelby Gates

**Accredited Exercise Physiologist, ESSAM
Health & Rehab Solutions**

Phone: 0451 160 297

Fax: 07 5677 0230



Photograph supplied by Shelby Gates

Wednesday 28 August 2024

Apex Health

TPI NSW Wellbeing Officer Kayleen has advised that Apex Health Movement Physiology is being used by a group TPI NSW members who are very happy with the practice and the practitioners.

Find out more about Apex Health Movement Physiology at <https://apexhealthmove.com.au/about/>



Reunions & Functions

10th Intake National Service Reunion – 1967 to 1969

WHEN: Most attendees have already booked from Tuesday 22 October till Tuesday 5 November 2024.

WHERE: Sawtell Beach Holiday Park - 5 Lyons Road Sawtell NSW 2452. 1800 200 555. Suggest book early and quote Booking Number 122855 to secure 10% discount. Mention army reunion or 10th intake reunion.

WHO: All those who were called-up October 1967 plus wives and partners. Overseas service not a prerequisite.

SERVICE: Thursday 24 October 2024 at 0800 hours. Memorial Service at Lyle Rose Park behind the Sawtell RSL (medals please). Wreath layers and other duties to be confirmed. At 0900 hours there will be a big sit down hot breakfast at the RSL. 10th intake to subsidise. News regarding a special guest to be announced later.

OLD CAMP KITCHEN: There will be morning teas - BYO drinks and eats. Also HAPPY HOUR at 1600 hours or alternatively at various sites in the park. Singalong sessions in the evening. Cards and intriguing board games.

DINNERS: There will be organised dinners either at the RSL, bowling Club (Chinese) or a fish restaurant

(Fishtales). The RSL puts on very cheap pensioner lunches every day.

ACTIVITIES: There will be Barefoot Bowls, Croquet, and Disc Bowls. The State of Origin winner to be inscribed on the John Mason Memorial trophy. The State of Origin Trivia team winner will be inscribed on the Richard Irons Perpetual trophy. Return grudge match - Barefoot Bowls with the Beenleigh Boys versus 10th Intake.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Coffee sessions down the Sawtell main street. Secret Women's Business. Trips to the hinterland for lunch. Bush walking. A whiteboard in the Camp Kitchen showing activities will be on hand.

LAST NIGHT: Pizza dinner in the Camp Kitchen partly subsidised by 10th Intake. Discussions about the 10th Intake cruise in March 2025 - several couples already booked. Safe journey home to get ready for October 2025 get together.

REGISTRATION: No entrance or registration fees. Donations graciously accepted. Guests permitted.

Richard Barry, OAM

Email: richyvon47@hotmail.com





HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE SOUTH VIETNAM 1966 - 1972

HQ1ATF Association 2024 and D & E Platoon Reunion

Hahndorf, South Australia

21 November to 25 November 2024

Discovery Hahndorf Resort

145A Mount Barker Road, Hahndorf, SA 5245

Phone: 1 300 763 836

Email: hahndorf@discoveryparks.com.au

Website: discoveryholidayparks.com.au

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war from 1965 – 1972 has had a lasting impact on all the servicemen and women who served. HQ1ATF and its sub-unit 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 2024 will remember 53 years since we closed the gates of Núi Đất. The four-day event 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 biennial reunion plays a significant role.

HQ1ATF Association decided at our November 2022 Reunion meeting that South Australia will be our venue for November 2024. Hahndorf, in the Adelaide Hills, is our chosen town – it is so pretty with so much to see and do. In this regard I do suggest that you add some days prior and /or after the reunion to experience the Adelaide Hills and also the village of Hahndorf. Their Holiday Park has space for us and our requirements, however November can be a busy time so I suggest you do

make arrangements early. On recommendation by our WA committee person, Ned Dixon, our South Australian committee person, Graeme Pulford, and his wife, Rosemary, joined by Helen and myself visited the Park, and other suggested locations early February. Hence the decision was taken. Accommodation and resort layout is superior to anything we have experienced before – and we all deserve it.

Another reason for Adelaide is that, in 2022, Graeme, along with myself and Treasurer, Helen, visited the Commemoration Pathway of Honour in Adelaide. We saw numerous memorials for Vietnam Vet groups. Subsequently I completed the required forms for the DVA "Saluting their Service" grant and received our required amount of \$7360. The memorial will be dedicated during our visit, though it will probably be in place by July 2023. Thank you DVA.

The Commemorative Lunch will be held on Saturday 23 November 2024 at the Bespoke Restaurant in the Adelaide Oval Hotel. The lunch will be preceded by a Dedication Service at the Pathway of Honour, (Adelaide War Memorial) where our own Memorial will be unveiled. Our Commemorative service will follow the Dedication. (1115 hours – 1150 hours). Both the Dedication Service and the Commemorative service will be open to the public.

The 2022 Reunion photos are now on our website (www.hq1atf.org).

For further information contact:

[John Verhelst, JP](mailto:jverhelst@gmail.com)

HQ1ATF 2024 Reunion Committee President,

Red Rat Editor

PO Box 328, Gladesville, 1675

Telephone: 0437 212 121

Email: jeverhelst@gmail.com

The Eight Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (NSW Branch)

**8th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (8 RAR)
2025 National Reunion**

Sydney 26 – 28 February 2025

Venue: Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200

Program:

Wednesday 26: Registration 1400 -1700 Hours
Meet & Greet 1800 – 2100 Hours

Thursday 27: National AGM 1000 Hours Company
Get-Togethers – All Day

Friday 28: Memorial Service & Commemorative
Dinner

All official activities will be held within the
Bankstown Sports Club premises.

Accommodation is available in the Mercure Hotel
attached to the Sports Club

See 8 RAR Association web link below:

<https://www.8rarassociation.org/8rarassoc/reunion.php>



Please register your attendance with any of the following and an Information Pack and Registration Form will be sent to you:

Mick Carter, OAM

NSW Branch President

Phone: 0432 500 632 or

Email: cartercm@optusnet.com.au

Ron O'Connor

NSW Branch Secretary

Phone: 0413 008 025

Email: secretary@vfvfagranville.org

Kevin Sullivan

Phone: 0416 262 924 or

Email: kevinsully1948@gmail.com



**AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST**

AVCAT SCHOLARSHIPS

Tertiary scholarships for children and grandchildren of
Australian ex-serving veterans

\$4000–\$6000 a year, for 3 years

Eligibility: Australian residency or citizenship, child or grandchild of an Australian ex-serving veteran, full-time tertiary student in 2025 enrolled in a minimum one-year course at uni, TAFE or an RTO and in receipt of, or eligible to receive, a means-tested Commonwealth educational benefit - Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY, or Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES) or Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme (MRCAETS) in 2025.

Applications open Vietnam Veterans' Day

18 August 2024

And close midnight 31 October 2024

**Apply online at
avcat.org.au**

Defence Media Releases

A Statement from the Secretary and the Chief of the Defence Force

9 September 2024

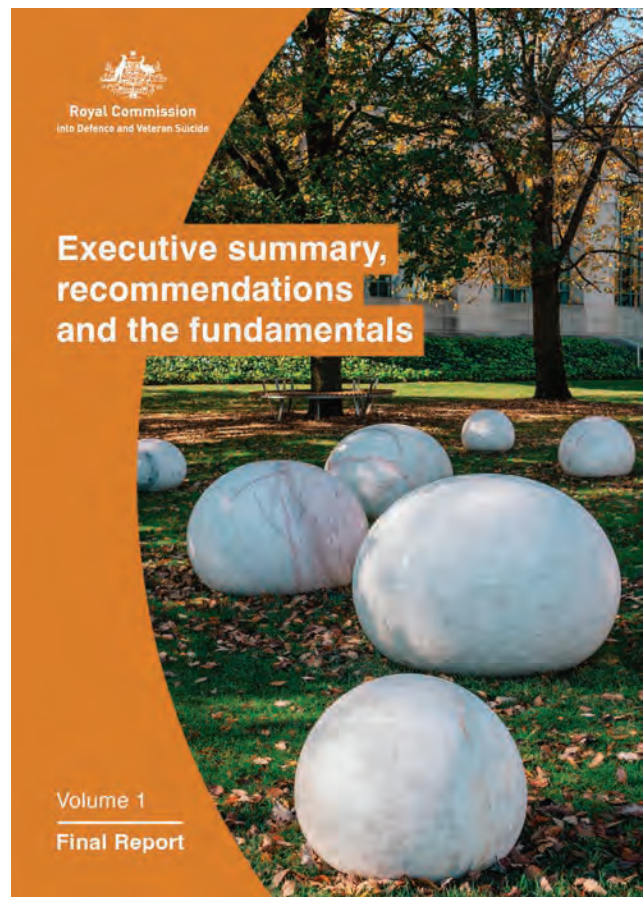
Today, we acknowledge the release of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Final Report. The death by suicide of any person is a tragedy – for their family, their friends, their colleagues and their community.

The Royal Commission has provided an opportunity for all of us in Defence to reflect on our policies, processes and practices. The wellbeing, support, and care of our people remains our priority. It has been sobering to hear of experiences of our current and former personnel, their families and loved ones, particularly where Defence has let people down, and not aligned actions with our values of Service, Courage, Respect, Integrity and Excellence.

Defence wholeheartedly acknowledges that the Royal Commission's inquiry has brought into focus issues that need to be addressed within Defence, and the impact these issues have had for our serving and former serving personnel, their families and loved ones, and the broader Defence community.

Defence is supporting the government as they consider their response to the Royal Commission's report and recommendations. Implementing recommendations will require significant reform across Defence – and we are committed to doing better. Defence has been listening and we will continue the work that has already commenced to improve the experience of personnel based on what we have learned as the Royal Commission has been underway.

Defence is continuing to evolve our culture to



prioritise the wellbeing of our people who strive every day to contribute to our common goals and mission. We are delivering programs to address suicide and suicidality, and promote mental health.

We know that there will be current or former serving ADF members, Defence personnel and families who will be impacted by this report. Where the Royal Commission has raised issues that are personally challenging for people in our Defence community, please know that support is available.

Once again, we thank everyone for their significant support and commitment to the important work of the Royal Commission.

[Download a copy of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Final Report Here.](#)



Japanese sailors onboard Japanese Destroyer, JS ARIAKE during colours ceremony, on arrival of their ship berthing Darwin harbour on completion of sea phase of Exercise Kakadu, Darwin NT.

Navy's Largest Biennial Exercise Concludes in the Top End

22 September 2024

The 16th iteration of Australia's largest biennial maritime warfare exercise, Exercise Kakadu, has come to a successful close at the port of Darwin, Northern Territory. Exercise Kakadu involved warships and personnel from over thirty nations contributing to planning, briefings, sporting and cultural events, to the full spectrum of maritime warfare from constabulary operations through to high end, anti-submarine and anti-air warfare.

Read more here: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2024-09-22/navys-largest-biennial-exercise-concludes-top-end>

\$2.7 Million For Cutting-Edge Quantum Optical Atomic Clocks

13 September 2024

The Australian Government is acquiring quantum optical atomic clocks from Adelaide-based QuantX Labs to deliver position navigation and timing (PNT) capabilities to the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Two contracts worth \$2.7 million will enable AUKUS partners to develop PNT capabilities to support superior decision advantage and enhanced maritime domain awareness, which are key objectives under AUKUS Pillar II.

These QuantX Lab clocks contribute to accelerate the development of quantum technology for precision navigation and timing



Defence Science and Technology Group scientist Dr Ben Sparkes (left), working with Australian- built quantum clocks at the University of Adelaide.

in military capability. QuantX will also deliver an optical atomic clock as part of a mobile test and measurement system to Defence in early 2025.

Read more at: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2024-09-13/27-million-cutting-edge-quantum-optical-atomic-clocks>



The Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Richard Marles MP joined the Chief Defence Scientist, Professor Tanya Monro AC for a fireside chat at the Opening Plenary for the Australian Defence Science, Technology and Research (ADSTAR) Summit 2024.



Australian Army soldiers from the Regional Force Surveillance Group operate the Ground Uncrewed System, developed by Australian company Outlook Industries to enable their intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission in Australia's north.

Launch of Defence Innovation, Science and Technology Strategy

17 September 2024

Today, the Department of Defence released the Innovation, Science and Technology (IS&T) strategy, aimed at leveraging Australia's scientific capability in the defence of our nation. Accelerating Asymmetric Advantage – Delivering More, Together is Defence's 10-year vision for the Defence IS&T ecosystem.

Read more here: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2024-09-17/launch-defence-innovation-science-and-technology-strategy>

Australian Soldiers Trial Robots to Protect our Borders

11 September 2024

Soldiers from the Australian Army's Regional Force Surveillance Group (RFSG) Pilbara Regiment are trialling an uncrewed robot.

The Ground Uncrewed System, known as GUS, is an Australian-developed surveillance robot. GUS is equipped with cameras and sensors capable of providing persistent surveillance for more than 30 continuous days using battery power. An on-board liquid fuel generator recharges the battery when it is low to extend GUS's mission endurance even further.

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

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

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

This invitation stands for our general meetings.

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

If attending a meeting contact Ian Brady

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

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

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

Contact and Feedback

We value your feedback!

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

By Post:

**TPI Veterans' Association of NSW
GPO Box 4429
Sydney NSW 2001**

Email: editor@tpinsw.org.au

Phone: (02) 9235 1466

Free Call: 1800 649 216

Website: www.tpinsw.org.au

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

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Our mission is to provide our members with support in four key areas:

• Representation • Wellbeing • Camaraderie • Commemoration