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# SALUTE

Official Journal of the Totally and Permanently  
Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited  
Summer 2024

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

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# National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare

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## Veterans access to specialist care

An updated GP Referral Form has been released to make it easier for veterans to be referred to the National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare (NCVH) at Concord Hospital (National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare | RSL NSW).

The NCVH provides care to current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel across a range of specialist services, including mental health support from psychiatry and psychology, physical conditions, drug and alcohol problems, pain management and control, and generalised lifestyle, fitness, and nutritional programs.

There is no cost associated with receiving treatment and services at the NCVH. Patients and their families/carers who need to travel for care can be accommodated at the onsite Fussell House during their treatment. The NCVH team can coordinate travel and accommodation costs with DVA directly.

The new NCVH GP Referral Form can be

accessed via the NCVH website at: <https://www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/concord/ncvh/access-form.html>. To make referrals simpler, the GP or referring physician now only needs to refer to the NCVH Medical Director. This will cover all medical specialties, which can then be determined during the intake and risk assessment phase.

If you have any questions about this new referral form or the NCVH service in general you can contact via email:

[SLHD-NCVHconcord@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SLHD-NCVHconcord@health.nsw.gov.au) or phone: (02) 9767 8669.

**National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare  
Sydney Local Health District Concord Hospital  
Hospital Road  
CONCORD NSW 2139**

Sydney Local Health District is now supporting HealthLink eReferrals direct from GPs. A simple, yet revolutionary solution, designed to improve the process for all stakeholders, reduce paper, support faster patient interaction and better healthcare outcomes.



*Fussell House is a residential accommodation facility for veterans receiving care at the National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare (NCVH) at Concord Hospital.*

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# SALUTE

**Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans'  
Association of New South Wales Limited***Our mission is to provide our members with support in four key areas:**• Representation • Wellbeing • Camaraderie • Commemoration*

Non-sectarian – Non-political

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# From the Editor

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## Our Front and Back Covers



### Front Cover

The \$100 banknote released into circulation on 29 October 2020 celebrates Sir John Monash, soldier, engineer and civic leader. Renowned soprano Dame Nellie Melba appears on the other side of the \$100 note. Monash was instrumental to building the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance, which is featured on the banknote.

New security features have been used in the \$100 banknote to protect against counterfeiting. These include a top-to-bottom clear window, which is also used on newer banknotes of other denominations. The window in the \$100 banknote includes dynamic features such as a reversing number and flying bird. The \$100 banknote also contains a patch with a rolling colour effect and microprinted excerpts from a letter by Monash.

### Back Cover

**Top:** Remembrance Sunday Service, Australian War Graves Cemetery, Rookwood, 3 November 2024.

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**Salute ISSN 2981-8478 (Print)**

A catafalque party from Newington College Cadet Unit stands guard while Master of Ceremonies Lt Col John Moore, AM, RFD addresses attendees. This event was organised by the Western Metropolitan District Council of RSL NSW. Photographer: Victoria Dawson.

**Bottom:** TPI NSW Association President Kevin Kelly taking part in wreath laying at the Australian War Graves Cemetery, Rookwood, 3 November 2024. Photographer: Victoria Dawson.



### Greetings TPI members

I hope you're well.

This issue of *Salute* contains useful information for members supplied by TPI NSW Wellbeing Officer Kayleen Hoolihan. On the inside front page you can find information about the National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare (NCVH) at Concord Hospital.

The NCVH provides care to current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel across a range of specialist services. NCVH services include mental health support, as well as treatment for physical conditions, drug and alcohol problems, pain management and control and generalised lifestyle, fitness, and nutritional programs. There is no cost associated with receiving treatment and services at the NCVH. Of particular relevance to TPI



NSW members who live outside of Sydney, patients and their families/carers who need to travel for care can be accommodated at the onsite Fussell House during their treatment.

Other information provided by Kayleen includes an article on Community Nursing Services on page 7 and “Transitioning to a Residential Aged Care Facility” on page 9. These articles have been prompted by the requests for help from TPI NSW members received by Kayleen.

This issue also contains a selection of feature articles. On page 25 is an article about the Royal visit to Australia by Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla in October 2024. This includes details about King Charles’ close encounter with Hephner the alpaca in Canberra.

Starting on page 29 is a long feature article about General Sir John Monash, GCMG, KCB, VD – Australia’s Distinguished Military Commander. From page 38 is an interview with John Graham, an APC driver who was blown up in his track (APC) in the Long Hai Mountains during Operation Hammersley in February 1970 and survived. Following this on page 44 is “The Future for Tanks in the ADF” by Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Cameron (Retd), MC. This issue of *Salute* also contains a review of a book, *Vietnam’s Modern Day Boat People*, with a spotlight on author Shira Sebban.

Regular items include Letters to the Editor, now called Messages to TPI NSW, Reunions & Functions and Reports from TPI NSW Social and Welfare Clubs. We hope you enjoy reading the Summer 2024 *Salute*.

Thanks to all the contributors for their articles, poems and photographs. If you’re interested in writing an article for *Salute* or have a story you’d like to tell for an article, please contact one of the members of the *Salute* editorial committee listed below. Email addresses of the editorial committee members are listed on page 1.

### **Salute Editorial Committee**

Victoria Dawson  
John Hoban  
Kayleen Hoolihan  
Alexandra Kaufman  
John Szabo

### **TPI NSW Facebook page**

TPI NSW has a Facebook page that you can access [here](#) (digital version). If you’re reading the print version of *Salute*, you will need to go to Facebook and search for TPI NSW. Please like the TPI NSW page as this is another way to keep up-to-date with news.

### **Monthly E-Newsletter**

TPI NSW publishes a monthly E-Newsletter that is emailed seven times a year, between issues of *Salute*, to keep TPI NSW Association members updated on matters of interest. The E-Newsletter can provide information that is more time-critical than can be communicated via our quarterly magazine, *Salute*.

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

### **Contributions**

We hope that both *Salute* and the E-Newsletter will not be just one-way communication and that you will share your ideas and experiences with other TPI NSW Association members. If you have information or contributions that you would like to share or



# 2025

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

suggestions for topics that you'd like to read about, please email: [editor@tpinsw.org.au](mailto:editor@tpinsw.org.au). TPI NSW has over 2,400 members and therefore, over 2,400 stories. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please send us contributions including articles, letters, poems, 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 TPI NSW, GPO Box 4429, Sydney, NSW 2001
- by fax on (02) 9279 0156
- by email to [editor@tpinsw.org.au](mailto: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. 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.

### Publication Deadlines

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

**15 January** for Autumn issue

**15 April** for Winter issue

**15 July** for Spring issue

**15 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 & Designer**

**Email: [editor@tpinsw.org.au](mailto:editor@tpinsw.org.au)**

### Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is provided for general information only and does not constitute professional advice. The Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited (TPI NSW) has used reasonable endeavours to ensure that material contained in this publication was correct at the time of creation and last modification. However:

- TPI NSW does not warrant the accuracy, content, completeness or suitability of the material contained in this publication (or any site linked to this publication) for any purpose.
- No reliance should be made by any user on the material but, instead, users should make their own independent enquiries with the originating or authorising body.
- TPI NSW reserves the right to make changes without notice.
- TPI NSW will not be liable for any claims or damages whatsoever resulting from use or reliance on material contained in this publication.
- Material contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the official views of TPI NSW but may reflect the views and/or opinions of our members, other individuals, or organisations in an effort to facilitate open, informed debate on topical issues.
- Any official policy positions of TPI NSW are identified as such.

# Notice Board

## GENERAL MEMBERS MEETINGS

General members meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 pm. Meetings have reverted to Barracks on Barrack, lower ground level, 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 28/1/2025  
Tuesday 25/2/2025  
Tuesday 25/3/2025  
Tuesday 22/4/2025  
Tuesday 27/5/2025  
Tuesday 4/6/2025  
Tuesday 22/7/2025

Tuesday 26/8/2025

Tuesday 23/9/2025

Tuesday 28/10/2025 (AGM)

Tuesday 25/11/2025



## 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.

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# President's Report

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I am very pleased to report that, at the 22 October 2024 annual general meeting, the members passed a special resolution to amend the Association's constitution. The constitutional changes have broadened the criteria for membership as follows:

- TPI veterans under all existing legislation, as well as those under anticipated future legislation, will be eligible to join the Association. Currently, the federal government is undertaking a legislative process to harmonise and simplify veterans' legislation. Our membership was previously limited to persons in receipt of the Special Rate Pension under the VEA (1986) and MRCA (2004) legislation. The Association now welcomes veterans who are in receipt of a Special Pension, defined as any pension like the current Special Rate Pension. A Special Pension may be payable to a totally and permanently incapacitated (TPI) veteran under any other Australian legislation, whether paid as periodic payments, in a lump sum or a combination.
- Approved dependants and other approved persons (as determined by the directors) may be eligible to join the Association.

In addition to the membership amendments, the constitution allows the Association to elect directors who are not only members of the Association (that is, TPI members), but also any qualified person who may be reasonably expected, based on their qualifications, position and/or prior experience, to be considered appropriate to act as a director of the Association.

These changes have been put into place to ensure that the Association grows its membership into the future and continues to implement its charitable purpose, which is to advance the social welfare of TPIs.

I would like to thank my fellow directors for their



support and for giving their time and energy to the Association. I also thank our staff, Membership Services Coordinator Sara Thorne, Wellbeing Officer Kayleen Hoolihan and CEO John Szabo, for their efforts and diligence in efficiently managing the Association and for providing assistance to many of our members and their families throughout the year.

I 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 at our members meetings at Barracks on Barrack, 5 – 7 Barrack Street, Sydney.

**Kevin Kelly**  
**President, TPI NSW**



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# Community Nursing Services

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## 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

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## **Could There be Centrelink Benefits to Renting in a Retirement Village Instead of Buying?**

Independent financial planner Nick Bruining considers this topic [here](#).

(<https://thenightly.com.au/business/nick-bruining-qa-consider-the-centrelink-benefits-of-renting-in-a-retirement-village-instead-of-buying--c-15124549>)

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# Transitioning to a Residential Aged Care Facility

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**DVA booklets were provided to TPI NSW members via hyperlinks in the Spring 2024 issue of *Salute*. Following on from the information in the DVA booklets, TPI NSW would like to present advice from DVA on transitioning from Living Independently to a Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF).**

**Kayleen Hoolihan**

**Wellbeing Officer, TPI NSW**

**The following information has been provided by DVA**

## **What is residential aged care?**

When you are no longer able to live comfortably and safely in your own home, you may move into a residential aged care facility (RACF) where you have more support available. The Australian Government may help pay for your accommodation in an RACF, depending on your income and assets.

## **Working out your needs and your RACF costs**

DVA strongly suggests that you seek independent financial advice before you begin the process of going into aged care. Doing so could provide you with significant savings on your aged care fees. If you cannot find independent financial advice, a [Financial Information Service \(FIS\)](#) officer from

Services Australia may be able to help you.

## **Assessing your care needs**

To work out what kind of care you'll need, you should contact the My Aged Care Contact Centre on 1800 200 422 for an assessment. You can also apply for an assessment online or on behalf of someone else by using the [Apply for an Assessment online form](#) as an alternative to calling the My Aged Care Contact Centre.

## **Assessing the fees you pay**

Before you enter an RACF, you'll need to have your income and assets assessed. These assessments will help Services Australia figure out how much you can contribute to your care.

Your income will be assessed by DVA or Services Australia, depending on what payments you receive. You should contact DVA for your assessment if you are receiving one of the following:

- [Service Pension](#)
- [Social Security Age Pension](#)
- [Income Support Supplement](#)
- [Disability Compensation Payment](#) and you have qualifying service
- [War Widow\(er\)'s Pension](#) and you have qualifying service

You should also contact DVA if you are an Australian ex-prisoner of war or Victoria Cross





recipient, because your basic daily fee and income-tested care fee will be waived.

In all other cases you should contact [My Aged Care](#) for your assessment.

### **How you can have your income and assets assessed by DVA**

If you are a homeowner you can:

- complete and send in form [SA457](#) if you haven't updated your income and asset details with Services Australia in the last 2 years
- contact Services Australia to update your income and asset details, then complete and send in form [SA485](#)
- complete and send in form [SA485](#) if your details are up to date.

If you are a non-homeowner and your income and asset details are up to date, you can contact Services Australia and ask for an automatic assessment. This means Services Australia can perform your means test assessment based on information you have already provided, and you do not need to complete a form.

If you haven't provided updated income and

asset details in the last two years, you will need to do so before your assessment can proceed. You can do this when you contact DVA. Alternatively, you can choose to fill in the [SA486](#) form. When completed you will need to print the form and mail it to DVA. You can use this form for all home care and residential care assessments.

### **What might affect the fees you pay**

Some things that may count as income and assets include:

- lump sum accommodation payments to your RACF
- the capped value of your home if you haven't sold it and aren't renting it out
- the full value of your home if you have sold it
- income from renting out your home if you moved into RACF after 1 July 2014 and paid all your accommodation costs as a lump sum.

We won't count income from renting out your home if you moved into RACF after 1 January 2017 or moved in during 2016, and you are doing one of the following:

- paying a daily accommodation payment

- paying a daily accommodation contribution
- paying an accommodation charge
- paying all, or part, of an accommodation bond by periodic payments.

### What fees to expect

Some costs you might be asked to pay for your aged care include:

- a basic daily care fee which all residents pay
- a means-tested fee if you have sufficient income and assets
- an accommodation payment which depends on your income and assets at the time of entry
- an additional service fee if you choose to pay for additional services, which go beyond the care and services your aged care home must provide
- an extra service fee if you opt for extra services.

Some resources that may help you work out your aged care costs include:

- the [fee estimator](#)
- the [Residential aged care fee scenarios](#).

### You may also want to seek independent financial advice.

There are two caps that apply to your means tested RACF fees:

- an annual cap
- a lifetime cap.

The annual and lifetime caps are indexed on 20 March and 20 September each year. Current rates are available on the [My Aged Care website](#).

These caps do not apply if you entered care before 1 July 2014 and remain in care.

### Your DVA cards and benefits in an RACF

Changes in your finances when you move into an RACF might have some effect on your [income support payments](#).

If you have a [Veteran Gold Card](#) or a [Veteran White Card](#), you may continue to get DVA services such as allied health and certain aids and appliances that the RACF does not provide, as long as there is no duplication. Aged care homes are funded by the Commonwealth Government to provide a client's clinical and care needs. They are required to provide the allied health services, furnishings, aids and equipment necessary to meet the resident's care, safety and comfort needs, including to accommodate the resident's height or weight. Where an RACF is funded to provide an aid or appliance, it is expected to do so. DVA does not seek to duplicate these arrangements.





You may still be able to have clinically required [transport arranged](#) and paid for by DVA. Your RACF may be able to book this for you.

### Choosing your new home and moving in

When you're searching for the right RACF for you, you may want to consider using the My Aged Care [Find a provider tool](#). You may also have a social worker to help you look for one if you are in hospital waiting for a vacancy.

You won't be able to live in an RACF temporarily to "test it out" but you can most certainly visit facilities to see which one you like best. To find out about aged care homes and figure out if an aged care home is right for you, please visit the [Aged Care Homes](#) page on the My Aged Care website.

Once you've been assessed and you've chosen your home, you may be put on a waiting list if there are no vacancies. You should contact your chosen RACF occasionally to remind them you're interested.

When a vacancy opens up, you'll be informed either by the RACF or your social worker. You may need to decide quickly if you want to move in.

### Things you should know

- Ex-service organisations can come visit you in your RACF if you arrange it with them.

- If we don't have your current income and asset details, you may need to pay the maximum fees.
- If you leave care for more than 28 days without approved leave and then re-enter care, you will be assessed under the current rules.
- If you believe you will face financial hardship in paying your aged care costs, you can ask for [financial hardship assistance](#) from Services Australia.
- Aged care homes cannot ask you to pay any fees or deposits before you have moved in. If you've been asked to do so, please call the Aged Care Complaints Scheme on 1800 550 552.
- If you have a complaint about the quality of your care, you can contact the [Aged Care Complaints Commissioner](#).
- You could save a significant amount on your aged care fees by getting independent financial advice before you begin the process. [A Financial Information Service \(FIS\)](#) officer from Services Australia may also be able to help you.

The above information is available at <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/care-home-or-aged-care/help-pay-home-or-aged-care/moving-residential-aged-care#:~:text=When%20you%20are%20no%20longer,on%20your%20income%20and%20assets>.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

To renew your membership for 2025, please complete the details below and return the completed form with your remittance to: TPI Association, Reply Paid 4429, Sydney 2001.

Subscriptions are from January to December of each year.

Make cheques and money orders payable to: TPI Association of NSW.

**PLEASE NOTE: We are no longer be able to accept payments by telephone.**

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

<b>NAME</b>		<b>TPI BADGE/MEMBER NUMBER</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>			
<b>SUBURB</b>		<b>STATE</b>	<b>POSTCODE</b>
<b>TELEPHONE (HOME)</b>		<b>TELEPHONE (MOBILE)</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>
Is this a change of address? <b>Yes / No</b> (please delete whichever does not apply)			
<b>NEXT OF KIN NAME</b>		<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>	<b>CONTACT NO</b>
<b>ADDRESS</b>			
<b>DETAILS</b>		<b>COST</b>	<b>TOTAL \$</b>
SUBSCRIPTION 1 YEAR		\$20.00	
SUBSCRIPTION 2 YEARS		\$40.00	
SUBSCRIPTION 3 YEARS		\$60.00	
SUBSCRIPTION 4 YEARS		\$80.00	
SUBSCRIPTION 5 YEARS		\$100.00	
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION		\$200.00	
CAR STICKER		\$1.00	
MINI BADGE		\$6.00	
TIE		\$25.00	
DONATION (Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible)			
<b>Please note:</b> Fees owing prior to 1 January 2024 need to be paid at the old rate.			
<b>TOTAL PAYMENT</b>			<b>\$</b>

**PAYMENT METHOD (Tick Box)**

INTERNET TRANSFER     CHEQUE     MONEY ORDER     VISA     MASTERCARD

BSB: 082 001

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 025 402 663

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

<b>CARD NO.</b>							
<b>EXPIRY DATE</b>							
<b>CVV NO.</b>							

**CARDHOLDER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT: \$** \_\_\_\_\_      **SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

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# New Members

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

Douglas	Mr William James	Private	25 Supply Company, 5 Supply Company, Royal Australian Army Service Corps, (RAASC), Australian Army
Macartney	Mr John Ralph	Petty Officer	HMAS Melbourne, Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Helicopter Flight Vietnam, Royal Australian Navy
Redmond	Mr David John	Corporal (Australian Army) Able Seaman (RAN)	4 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment, (RNSWR), Australian Army, HMAS Stuart (RAN), HMAS Anzac (RAN), Royal Australian Navy
Rice	Mr Michael Brian	Warrant Officer Class Two	Royal Australian Regiment, (8 RAR & 9 RAR), School of Infantry (SOI) Royal Australian Regiment, (2 RAR & 4 RAR), Royal Australian Regiment, (2 RAR) Royal Military College, (RMC), NORFORCE, (North-West Mobile Force), Australian Army Reserve, Australian Army

Feel free to make use of our facilities and attend meetings that are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Barracks on Barrack, lower ground level, 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 on page 61 in this issue of *Salute*.

## Replacement Service Medals

The Australian Government Defence Department has processes in place for eligible recipients or their relatives to obtain replacements of service medals that have been lost, stolen or damaged.

Guidelines for obtaining replacement medals can be accessed [here](#). The form to apply for replacement medals can be found [here](#). Alternatively, phone 1800 333 362 and a customer service representative will assist you.



# 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.*

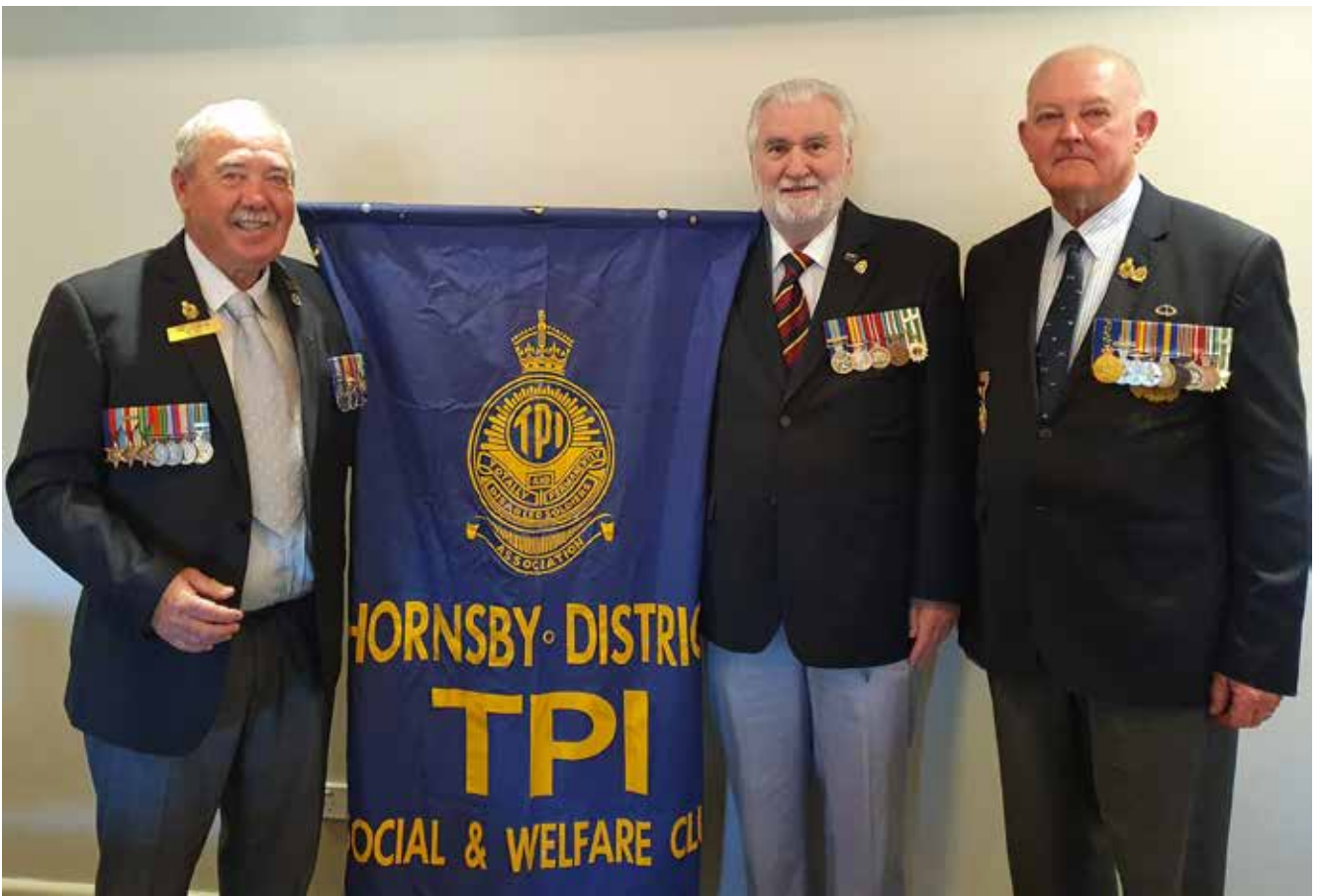


Britz	Mr Bede James	Chief Petty Officer	Royal Australian Navy
Conyers	Mr Gary Colin	Private	Royal Australian Army Service Corps, (RAASC), Australian Army Headquarters Catering Corps Pool, 161 Independence Reconnaissance Flight, 1 <sup>st</sup> Australian Field Hospital, Eastern Command Personnel Depot, 4 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal NSW Regiment, (RNSWR), Australian Army
Cooper	Mr Colin David	Warrant Officer	Royal Australian Regiment, (1 RAR), Class Two Australian Army
Davis	Mr Raymond John	Corporal	Headquarters, 5 Company, Royal Australian Army Service Corps, (RAASC), Australian Army
Good	Mr Jack	Private	Royal Australian Infantry Corps, 7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, (RAR), Australian Army
Farr-Wharton	Mr John Douglas	Sergeant	2 <sup>nd</sup> Advanced Ordnance Depot, Australian Army
Hart	Mr Phillip Cullen	Lance Corporal	Royal Australian Engineers, (RAE), 1 <sup>st</sup> Field Squadron, Australian Army
Howes	Mr Alan Richard	Lieutenant Colonel	6 FF GROUP, Royal Australian Army Service Corps, ( RAASC), Australian Army
Jerrard	Mr Barry James	Private	Royal Australian Regiment, (9 RAR), Australian Army
McNeil	Mr Derek Geoffrey	Private	Royal Australian Army Service Corps, (RAASC), Australian Army
Moffett	Mr Alfred William	Chief Petty Officer ATA 3	Royal Australian Navy
Moore	Mr Raymond	Private	Royal Australian Army Service Corps, (RAASC), 1 <sup>st</sup> Field Regiment, Australian Army

Oliver	Mr Kevin Adrian	Private	Royal Australian Infantry Corps, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, (RAR), Australian Army
Petrie	Mr Ronald William	Able Seaman	Royal Australian Navy
Phillips	Mr John Arthur	Lance Corporal	Royal Australian Engineers, (RAE), 32 Small Ship Squadron, (AV 1356 Clive Steele), Australian Army
Ramsden	Mr Edward Craig	Corporal	Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, 1 <sup>st</sup> Australian Field Hospital, Australian Army
Ridout	Mr John William	Warrant Officer	Royal Australian Air Force
Stevens	Mr Raymond Francis	Corporal	Royal Australian Corps of Signals, 110 Signal Squadron, Australian Army
Tovey	Mr William Henry	Private	Royal Australian Regiment, (7 RAR), Australian Army
Tripp	Mr Ronald William	Staff Sergeant	Royal Australian Engineers, (RAE), Australian Army
White	Mr Leonard Leslie	Private	Royal Australian Regiment, (1 RAR), Australian Army
Wickes	Mr Robert	Private	Royal Australian Regiment, (2 RAR), Australian Army



*The catafalque party – Australian Armed Forces Re-enactment Heritage Unit, at the centrepiece at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway at Concord, NSW, on Kokoda Day, 3 November 2024. Photographer: Victoria Dawson.*



*From left to right: Ray Davis, late President of Hornsby & Northern District TPI Veterans Club, Treasurer David Coleman and current President & Secretary Rod White.*

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# Vale Raymond Davis

## President, Hornsby & Northern District TPI Veterans Club

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It is with great sadness that we advise the recent and sudden death of our President, Raymond John Davis on 15 August 2024. Ray had been our President and a welfare officer for many years, as well as being very active with the Hornsby RSL sub-branch.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Ray was posted to HQ 5 Company and 86 Transport Platoon. He served six years in the Australian Regular Army with the Royal Australian Army Service Corps and was immensely proud that his father had served with the Army Service Corps in the Second World War.

Ray maintained a firm commitment for the betterment of his fellow veterans and their dependants. He was a keen fundraiser, gave

presentations at schools and frequently visited veterans in their home and elsewhere. Ray contributed significantly to local commemorative services and was the bus driver on many occasions to ensure veterans and widows could attend such events and social activities.

Our Club wishes to record Ray's outstanding service to his fellow TPI veterans and their partners. We also extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Christine and the family.

### **Lest We Forget**

**Rod White**

**President & Secretary**

**Hornsby & Northern District TPI Veterans Club**

## The Tour

We left our shores in '69, not knowing our fate at the time.  
We were young and spirited, full of life.  
This journey of ours would lead to strife.

The day had come to say goodbye, from airports and wharves the flag did fly.  
Family and friends showed us much love, with tears in their eyes they looked above.  
As the jets flew past, with such a roar.  
Would it be the last time they saw, their sons, brothers, fathers leaving for war?

As distance gathered between them and us, we looked at each other "Why all the fuss?!"  
Heading to a land far away, to an unknown war to this day.  
The Regs, the Nashos together as one, carrying their packs and a brand-new gun.

After days at sea and hours in the air, we finally arrived glad to be there.  
Looking in amazement with what we saw, this was the beginning of our tour.

As we moved to our base at Nui Dat, armoured vehicles to our back.  
The war was near it could be seen; I heard a bang the truck did lean.  
"How close was that?!" my mate did say, his safety reassured without delay.

On arrival at Base Nui Dat, settled into my new flat.  
Metal bed, metal locker, this old tent was a real shocker!  
Wooden pallets for the floor, mouldy sandbags around the wall.  
Home from home let's not complain, the mud, the heat and continuous rain.

Fourteen days in country the task at hand, operations in Phuoc Tuy over a vast land.  
The initial patrols were 5 days long, the Hamlets, the bunkers around Hao Long.  
Protecting the farmers during the day, ambushing at night without delay

Six months in country and operations grew long, five weeks at a time chasing Viet Cong.  
Day after day the hardships abound, the killing and wounding, the shouting out loud.  
Patrols continue around Xuyen Moc and Dat Do, the pain and suffering of mates I know.

Back in the lines another op complete at last a beer in my hand and weight off my feet.  
It doesn't last long that's for sure, 10 days later back for more.  
As the months go on nothing has changed, home soon hopefully can be arranged.  
With casualties mounting and unrest at home, this television war can't leave us alone.  
Eleven months in my tour I lost mate after mate, 18 in total, this war I do hate.

The day has come the news is here, 350 days in country and the end is near!  
Finally, to leave this godforsaken place, the excitement could be seen on everyone's face.  
We had served our "country" as requested, we fought and toiled and never rested.

By air and sea, we left for home, together as one and never alone.  
We were brothers in arms to say the least, the mates we lost,  
May they rest in peace.

On arrival home no words (of war) were spoken, some battered, some bruised with spirits broken.  
Family and friends gave us support, with little knowledge of the war we fought.  
With pain and anger in my heart, I longed for the day and a fresh new start.

Lest we forget.

“To live in the present, negates the past.”

**Paul Zaat**

**8RAR 26-11-1969 – 10-11-1970**



*Men of 8th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (8RAR) en route to Nui Dat from Vung Tau where they were landed from the troop carrier HMAS Sydney. The soldiers travelled by road in open trucks, weapons at the ready, November 1969. AWM EKN/69/0139/VN.*

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# Messages to TPI NSW

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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](mailto: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](http://www.themobilefootclinic.com.au)**



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WITH FOOT & KNEE  
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ingrown toe nails**



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(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](mailto: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/>



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# Reunions & Functions

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## The Eight Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (NSW Branch)

**8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cartercm@optusnet.com.au)**

**Ron O'Connor**

**NSW Branch Secretary**

**Phone: 0413 008 025**

**Email: [secretary@vvfagranville.org](mailto:secretary@vvfagranville.org)**

**Kevin Sullivan**

**Phone: 0416 262 924 or**

**Email: [kevinsully1948@gmail.com](mailto:kevinsully1948@gmail.com)**



*His Majesty King Charles III inspecting Australia's Federation Guard at Parliament House in Canberra on 21 October 2024. Photograph courtesy of Defence Media.*

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# Royal Visit to Australia

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Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited Australia between 18 and 23 October 2024. It was The King's first Royal Visit as Sovereign, and the first visit by a reigning monarch since 2011. During the visit, Their Majesties visited the Australian War Memorial and Parliament House in Canberra on 21 October 2024; and observed a Royal Australian Navy Fleet Review and Australian Defence Force fly-over along Sydney Harbour on 22 October 2024. The critical role of the Australian Defence Force during the visit of Their Majesties demonstrates the close relationship between the

monarchs and Australia's military forces. His Majesty the King has a long and proud relationship with Navy, Army and Air Force organisations, and he holds a number of honorary ranks.

King Charles III has been appointed to the Honorary Ranks of Admiral of the Fleet of the Royal Australian Navy, Field Marshal of the Australian Army, and Marshal of the Royal Australian Air Force by the Governor-General of Australia.

King Charles III is known for his interest in climate change and passion for the environment. These concerns "fuelled" his visit to the CSIRO



*In February 1966 a young Prince Charles visited the CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research Division at Gungahlin near Canberra and was given a tour by the Divisional Chief Harry Frith. Photograph courtesy of CSIRO.*

National Bushfire Laboratory in Canberra on 21 October 2024. As the impact of wildfires is increasingly being felt worldwide, The King learned about how Australian scientists are working to understand bushfire behaviour and help protect communities and fire crews. This was Charles' second visit to a CSIRO Canberra site. In February 1966, the young Prince Charles toured the CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research at Gungahlin.

During his recent visit to the bushfire lab, The King witnessed two bushfire demonstrations. The first demonstration saw King Charles ignite an experimental fire in the "Pyrotron" – a 29-metre-long tunnel that allows fire to be studied in a safe and controlled setting. Following this, The King met with CSIRO researchers, the ACT Rural Fire Service (RFS) Chief and Tidbinbilla volunteer brigade members to witness a "burnover" drill using an RFS heavy tanker.

CSIRO Senior Research Scientist, Dr Matt Plucinski, explained that the Pyrotron helped with understanding factors that influence bushfires, such as fuel types and wind. The Pyrotron is also used to study suppression effectiveness and bushfire

emissions. "Understanding changing weather patterns due to climate change and the likelihood and behaviour of bushfire outbreaks helps to increase resilience in Australia and overseas, especially in regions that previously haven't been that prone to bushfires," Dr Plucinski said.

The burnover drill witnessed by King Charles demonstrated fire protection features that the CSIRO helped to develop. These included nozzles that spray over the tanker cabin, heat shields for windows and fire-resistant covers for vital components such as



*CSIRO burnover testing a firefighting vehicle to support development of crew protection systems at the NSW Rural Fire Service Hot Test Fire Facility at Mogo in NSW. Photograph courtesy of CSIRO.*



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II being greeted by Prime Minister Robert Menzies during her 1963 Australian visit.

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Large economy size \$11.99

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Everyday outdoor users demand to complete protection against annoying and biting insect pests

Page 3 - EVERETT'S, December 27, 1964

Word spread about the absence of flies around The Queen during her 1963 visit and Aerogard become an Australian legend.

pumps and air hoses. This fire protection system had its first major test during Victoria's 2009 Black Saturday bushfires; eight fire trucks were affected by fire and all of the fire truck personnel stayed safe.

King Charles met Australians of the Year Professor Georgina Long, AO and Professor Richard Scolyer, AO and learned about their ground-breaking cancer research. His Majesty also met with Indigenous representatives to find out about their local community and culture-strengthening work.

During their visit, King Charles and Queen Camilla attended a community barbecue. Queen Camilla met with children who have participated in The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition and contributed to a discussion on domestic violence. She also met representatives of GIVIT – an organisation that connects Australians with a wide range of charities.

While King Charles' recent Australian visit was the first by a reigning monarch since 2011, this was not the first time that royalty has made CSIRO history. Aerogard



*King Charles shared a special moment with Hephner the alpaca.*

rose to prominence during Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Australian visit in 1963. Aerogard was invented by the CSIRO to protect The Queen from the Australian bush fly while she played golf. Word spread about the absence of flies around The Queen and Aerogard became an Australian legend.

**King Charles shared a special moment with Hephner the alpaca. At the moment King Charles approached, Hephner sneezed. "Had it have been a spit – totally different story!"**

King Charles shared a special moment with Hephner the alpaca during the Royal Visit. Hephner often visits those in the ACT palliative care facility Clare Holland House. Hephner is also accustomed to meeting celebrities and, so it was, that Hephner found himself waiting with the crowd outside the Australian War Memorial to meet King Charles. Hephner's handler Robert Fletcher said, "I'll often just flip Hephner's lip and play with it, which doesn't really bother him." But at the moment King



*Hephner was interviewed about his encounter with King Charles.*

Charles approached, Hephner sneezed. The sneeze can be viewed [here](#).

"I don't know why it happened," said Mr Fletcher. "Had it have been a spit – totally different story," Mr Fletcher said.

**Alexandra Kaufman**  
**Salute Subeditor & Features Writer**  
**Email: [subeditor@tpinsw.org.au](mailto:subeditor@tpinsw.org.au)**

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# General Sir John Monash

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

John Monash has been described as "the only general of creative originality produced by the First World War". Monash was born in Melbourne on 27 June 1865 to German Jewish parents who inspired his love of learning. The native language of the Monash family was German, and John Monash



*John Monash 3 years old. sends his best love to Miss Clara Inman*  
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. Black & white, glass original half plate negative. Photographer: Swain. AWM A02697.*

was fluent in spoken and written German. In 1874, Monash's family moved to Jerilderie in the NSW Riverina where his father worked as a merchant. John Monash claimed to have met Ned Kelly during the bushranger's raid on Jerilderie in 1879. The family later returned to Melbourne, where John sang with the choir of the East Melbourne Synagogue. This was also the location of his bar mitzvah celebration.

At the age of 14, Monash matriculated from



*This painting shows a scene in the saloon of the transport ship Arran. The saloon assumed the atmosphere of a crowded hotel parlour as friends relaxed amid the din of conversation and a haze of tobacco smoke after weary months of fighting and danger. Several Australian Imperial Force leaders are represented in the painting including Major General J Paton, Captain C A Littler, General Sir John Monash, Major General W Holmes, Brigadier General Glasfurd, Major General J Antill, Lieutenant Colonel W E H Cass, Lieutenant Colonel S Midgley, Major W J M Locke, Major F L Biddle, and Lieutenant Colonel E J H Nicholson. 1927, Oil on linen, 142.5 cm x 214.3 cm; Framed: 176 cm x 247.3 cm x 15 cm. AWM ART09582.*

Scotch College. He was one of only five students, among the 268 who sat the matriculation exam, to pass all nine subjects comprising the exam. In the final decade 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; many structures which he was involved in building still stand today. Monash, however, did fail his first year of Arts studies – possibly due to various distractions. He was a gifted pianist, and it is said that he spent too much time at the theatre.

Monash has been variously described as intelligent, ambitious, vain, ingratiating and

diplomatic, but also combative. When young he ingratiated himself with several women through “habitual flirtation”, leading to a series of embarrassing scrapes. In 1888 – 89 he had a “tempestuous affair” with a married gentile woman, Annie Gabriel. Monash attempted to abscond with Annie and abandon his Jewish heritage – but, in the nick of time, Annie’s husband carried her away to Sydney. Monash soon became engaged to Hannah Moss and the two were married. The union was turbulent, and the two separated for ten months during the first years of their marriage. However, they were together at the time of Hannah’s death from cervical cancer in 1920. Alongside this, there is evidence that John Monash had a “clandestine





*In front of ship Ulysses A38 Brigadier General Monash, Captain Carl Herman Jess and friends, 23 December 1914. Photographer: Josiah Barnes. Black and white, glass original half plate negative, AWM PB1076.*

**Monash attempted to abscond with Annie and abandon his Jewish heritage – but, in the nick of time, Annie’s husband carried her away to Sydney.**

partner” – Monash family friend Lizette Bentwitch.

Monash joined the Melbourne University Metropolitan Brigade of the Garrison Artillery in 1884. He worked at learning engineering, artillery and design skills and was promoted to colonel 1913. At the outbreak of WWI Monash acted as chief censor for four weeks. But soon he was appointed Commander of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) 4th Brigade. Monash’s German

and Jewish ancestry led to protest against this appointment. However, Monash was supported by many high-ranking officers and the appointment stood.

The AIF 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade under Monash’s command arrived in Helipolis, Egypt, at the start of 1915. The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade came ashore at Gallipoli early on 26 April 1915. The area behind the line at Gallipoli initially defended by the brigade came to be called Monash Valley. Monash’s ability as a commander shown in Gallipoli resulted in his promotion to brigadier general in July 1915. At the same time, rumours were circulating in Cairo, London and Melbourne that Monash was a “German spy and traitor”.

On 6 August 1915 AIF 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade took part in a night march at Gallipoli to prepare for the battle of Sari Bair and a left hook movement on Hill 971. The night march was delayed, which was contributed



*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.*

to by a wrong turn being taken; the brigade had been relying on faulty maps. Nevertheless, Monash pushed on to the front and his battalions made good progress. But the men were exhausted, with many suffering from paratyphoid. On 8 August 1915 withdrawal of the brigade started. Monash went to Egypt for three weeks' leave.

Resuming his military duties in Egypt, Monash's brigade carried out defence of the Suez Canal. On the first anniversary of the Gallipoli landing Monash and his men took part in a solemn Anzac Day commemoration at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt. For the ceremony, Monash gave red ribbons to soldiers who had been part of the first Gallipoli landing and blue ribbons to soldiers who had arrived at Gallipoli later.

In 1916 Monash was assigned to the Western Front and promoted to Major General, taking command of the 3rd Division. Monash's troops met with some success in a number of battles including the Battle of Messines, the third Battle of Ypres and the Battle of Polygon Wood,

Monash continued his rise within Australia's military command. This was despite Official War Correspondent Charles Bean and journalist Keith Murdoch, Rupert Murdoch's father, agitating against Monash. Charles Bean's anti-Semitism regarding Monash include Bean writing: [Monash] "has the Jewish capacity of worming silently into favour ... We do not want Australia represented by men mainly because of the ability, natural and inborn in Jews, to push themselves forward."



*Group portrait of officers and men of the 3rd Division Headquarters' staff. General Sir John Monash KCB VD is seated in the centre front row. Photograph black and white, print silver gelatin, WWI. AWM H00465.*

Despite Cabinet approving promotion of John Monash to command of the Australian Corps, Bean and Murdoch were pushing to instead have Major General Cyril Brudenell White appointed to the position.

Prime Minister Billy Hughes suspended Cabinet's approval of Monash's promotion to commander of the Australian Corps. Monash wrote to Hughes to argue his case:

I have been made aware that there is a body of opinion in London, led by Mr Keith Murdoch. May I say that I'm on the best of terms personally with Mr Murdoch, I admire

his patriotism and respect his motives, but on the question at issue, I entirely disagree with him. It is said that he has urged upon you that his proposal has received wide, not to say unanimous, support ... I wish to say that this is wholly misleading and absolutely incorrect.

Monash also wrote in his diary, "It is a great nuisance to have to fight a pogrom of this nature in the midst of all one's other anxieties. To Hughes' credit he visited London and France, where he saw that Australia's officers stood firmly behind



*Group portrait of Lieutenant General Sir John Monash, KCB, with General Pau and members of the French Mission about to leave for Australia, in the grounds of Corps Headquarters. Back row, left to right: Major Burr; Captain Simonson; unidentified; Brigadier General TA Blamey, CMG, DSO; unidentified; unidentified. Front row: unidentified; unidentified; Gen Monash; Gen Pau, 17 July 1918. Black and white, glass original half plate negative, AWM E02751.*

Monash – and approved the elevation of Monash to Commander of the Australian Corps. Charles Bean later attempted to redress some of his negative representations regarding Monash.

As Commander of the Australian Corps, Monash meticulously planned and executed the Battle at Hamel which took place on 4 July 1918. Thorough briefings and rehearsal exercises on a full-scale battlefield replica were carried out beforehand. The result was well-coordinated action between infantry, tanks, artillery and air support culminating in an impressive Allied victory. Monash wrote that the Battle at Hamel was “all over in ninety-three minutes [and] the perfection of teamwork”. This

was three minutes longer than the 90 minutes Monash had calculated during planning for the battle.

A US platoon was attached to each Australian company for the Battle at Hamel. This was the first time that US troops had taken part in combat under a foreign commander. Australian Lance Corporal John Tillbrook wrote in a letter home:

The Yankees liked our boys when they were mixed up with us to go over the top on July 4, and after we came out and they had to go back to their own lot they were quite disappointed. They are good fellows. Their



*Monash led the Australian Corps at the Battle of St Quentin Canal. Brigadier General John Vaughan Campbell, VC is shown here addressing troops on 2 October 1918, following the Allied victory.*

general told them when they were coming to the Australians that they were going over the top with the best soldiers in the world.

The Allied success at Hamel was followed on 8 August 1918 by the Battle of Amiens. This was the start of a phase known as the “Hundred Days Offensive”, which led to the end of WWI. Monash led the Australian Corps which, along with the Canadian Corps, spearheaded the offensive at Amiens. The Battle began at 4:20am, with the Australians and Canadians advancing quickly behind 534 tanks. The attack took the Germans by surprise – it was reported that some German officers were eating their breakfast when they were captured.

Monash then led the Australian Corps in a series

of Allied victories. Among these, the Battle of St Quentin Canal, beginning on 29 September 1918, was pivotal to ending WWI. Australian, British and US units combined to form the British Fourth Army. Although under the command of General Sir Henry Rawlinson, John Monash took command of ground operations. By 2 October 1918, the Allied forces had breached Germany’s Hindenberg Line at St Quentin Canal.

There was just over a month of fighting between the Allies’ victory at St Quentin Canal and the 11 November Armistice. However, Allied success at the Battle of St Quentin Canal came at great cost to both sides. It is estimated that Britain and Australia together sustained 10,000 killed, captured, missing, or wounded. US casualties numbered 13,000. While German figures are harder to ascertain, as many as



*The Right Honourable W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, with General Sir John Monash, and officers of the Australian Corps, France: Picardie, Somme, Brie, 14 September 1918. Unknown Australian official photographer, black and white, glass original half plate negative, AWM E03300.*

36,000 Germans were taken prisoner.

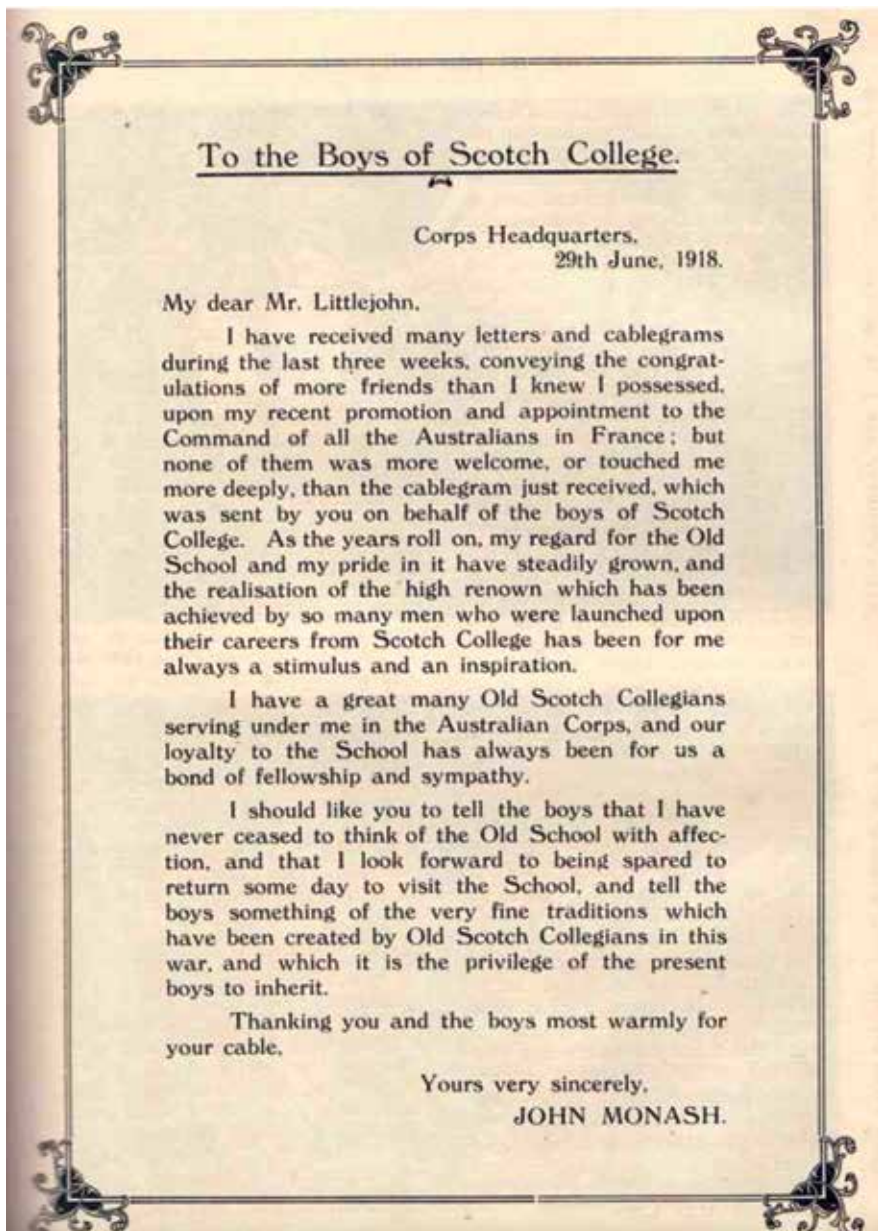
By the end of the War, Monash had won great admiration and respect. One British captain said of Monash that he was "a great bullock of a man ... though his manners were pleasant and his behaviour far from rough, I have seen few men who gave me such a sensation of force ... a fit leader for the wild men he commanded". British Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery named Monash "the best general on the Western Front".

Monash's motto was "Feed your troops on victory". In post-war reflection he wrote:

A perfect modern battle plan is like nothing so much as a score for an orchestral composition, where the various arms and

units are the instruments, and the tasks they perform are their respective musical phrases. Every individual unit must make its entry precisely at the proper moment and play its phrase in the general harmony.

For his War service, Monash was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath and a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George. He also received a host of foreign honours, including the French Croix de Guerre and being made a Grand Officer of France's Légion d'honneur. Belgium appointed Monash a Grand Officer of the Order of the Crown, also awarding him a Croix de Guerre. The United States awarded Monash the Distinguished Service Medal. The



*John Monash had lifelong affection for his alma mater, Scotch College. This letter by Monash, "To the Boys of Scotch College", appeared in the 1918 Scotch Collegian.*

Australian Government promoted him to the full rank of general on 11 November 1929. A campaign to elevate Monash to the rank of field marshal has, so far, not been successful.

Following the Armistice, Monash spent eight months in London where he was director-general of repatriation and demobilisation. As a civilian, he headed the State Electricity Commission of

Victoria and served as the University of Melbourne vice chancellor.

Monash was a founding member of Australia's first Rotary Club, established in 1921 in Melbourne. In 1927 he became the founding president of the Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand. Monash was also a principal organiser of Melbourne Anzac Day commemorations and oversaw planning of Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance.

Late in his life Monash was troubled by high blood pressure, despite which he continued to work. He was considered by Prime Minister Scullin for the position of governor-general but missed out on this appointment. Against the backdrop of the Great Depression, there were calls for an Australian "dictatorship or a government run by a committee of experts". Many conservatives hoped that Monash could become dictator. However, Monash rejected the idea. In early 1931 he represented the Australian government at the inauguration of New Delhi as India's capital.

Monash died of heart disease on 8 October 1931 at age 66, with approximately 300,000 mourners attending his state funeral. He was buried with Jewish rites alongside his wife at Brighton General Cemetery, Victoria.

**Alexandra Kaufman**

**Salute Subeditor & Features Writer**

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# The Story of Two Zero Alpha

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**From John Hoban:** *Kim Thompson is a friend of mine and served in the Cav during my time in South Vietnam, 1971–72. Kim was an APC driver during his tour of duty and is a member of TPI. Some months ago, Kim told me a story about an APC driver who was blown up in his track (APC) in the Long Hai Mountains and survived. I thought it would be of interest to our readers. So I tracked him down and we talked.*

*As a result, here is the story of Corporal John Graham, the driver of an APC from B Squadron, 3 Cavalry Regiment. John was the driver of the lead APC of a troop – callsign 20A (two zero alpha). The Cav were operating in the Long Hais with 8RAR as part of Operation Hammersley in February 1970 in South Vietnam. What happened next would change his life. John Graham tells Salute his story in his own words.*

I can clearly remember the day – it was 25 February 1970 – I can recall the date because I was due to go home on R and R next day to Albion in Melbourne to see the wife and kids. We used to joke, if you had, say, seven days left in theatre, you had seven days and a “wakey” – I was on a wakey that day.

My troop was operating as part of B Squadron 3 Cavalry Regiment in support of 8 RAR which was conducting a major sweep through the Long Hai Hills to flush out enemy forces known to be there. In our troop were 4 APCs with the callsigns 20A (mine), 20B, 20C and 29J.

During Operation Hammersley the Australian forces were in constant contact with elements of D445 NVA Regiment acting with local guerillas. It was early morning and my “car” was leading the APCs of part of 2 Troop following a Centurion tank from the Armoured Regiment. My boss, Captain Peter Murphy, suggested that 20A be the lead car behind the tank. I didn’t think it was a great idea and told him so. However, he insisted and so the



*John Graham circa 1969. Photograph supplied by John Graham.*

troop set off, one behind the other with me as the driver of 20A right behind the tank. Then, the tank veered left onto higher ground and the only path forward for me was to go down to a dry creek wash which lay dead ahead. Next minute I felt a strange shudder through my body. We had hit a VC mine! I was blasted straight up in the air out of the driver’s turret and landed some distance away. (pull quote)

After the blast, in an odd scene, Troop Commander Peter Murphy was seen walking away from the APC in a dishevelled state carrying his valise and an umbrella. It was later determined that the mine was an anti-tank device possibly of Chinese origin.

My first memory after the blast was being awake





*John Graham on a stretcher waiting to be airlifted to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Field Hospital at Vŭng Tâu. Photograph supplied by John Graham.*

on a trolley going into surgery and a priest was hovering nearby ... My first thoughts were "Oh..." Then they knocked me out, stripped me down and made a medical evaluation. I had my teeth knocked and broken, my chin ripped down, contusions on

**We had hit a VC mine!  
I was blasted straight  
up in the air out of  
the driver's turret and  
landed some distance  
away.**

the hands and feet and I was badly burnt on the arms. The main reason I was seriously burnt was that I had not been wearing a long-sleeved shirt. Captain Murphy and I were only wearing our flak jackets.

My troop Sergeant 29J, Charlie Chester, called for dust off (which is code for casualty evacuation required by helicopter) but our choppers would not respond due to danger from the mines. But the Americans responded and landed nearby. They gave me a tracheotomy and the infantry medics bandaged me before they lifted me off to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Field Hospital at Vŭng Tâu.

The doctors and nurses met me on the hospital helipad and thus began a long treatment process. Because of the burns on my arms, they were bandaged and made to stay in the "hands up!" position. Because of this ridiculous posture and the blackened burns, they called me the Scarecrow.

I remember the nurse that treated me the most – her name was Trish Ferguson – who had a brother, Trooper Peter Ferguson, serving with 2 Troop in theatre at the time. Every time there was a dust off, she would run out to check if her brother was on



*20A back at Nui Dat. Photograph supplied by John Graham.*

board. She bought me a long ivory cigarette holder and she would hold it for me while I smoked. I don't know if she was breaking any rules, but I sure appreciated it.

I was told later that I was the first Australian casualty to have burns treatment using silver sulfadiazine. I would have a bath of pHisohex, a big dose of morphine and then they would scrape the burnt skin two or three times a day to prevent major scarring. I think I was getting hooked on morphine!

On 11 March 1970 I was moved to the nearby RAAF base at Vũng Tàu and loaded onto a C130. The RAAF loadmaster was Sergeant Gerry Keenan, who recognised me because he married my cousin Dawn back home in Albion. I was sick on the flight and was offloaded at RAAF base Butterworth for seven days till I was stabilised. After this we flew to Darwin for a few days, then to Richmond RAAF

Base Hospital where Gerry was stationed and Dawn came to see me. They then flew me to RAAF Laverton and I was admitted to the Repat Hospital in Heidelberg. Here I was in and out for 12 months being treated for burns and psych for anxiety and depression.

Fast forward and after 12 months of treatment I was medically assessed as HO (Home Only). I was sent back to 3 Cav at Holsworthy and promoted to Corporal in 1971.

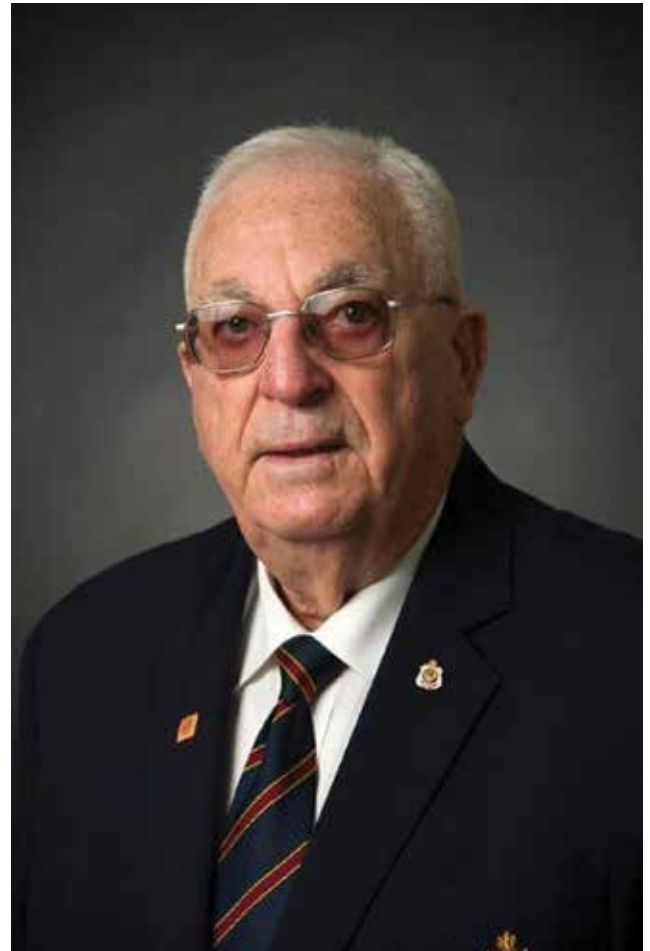
In 1972 I took a medical discharge and became a butcher shop wholesaler. After that, in 1973, I joined the Victorian Protective Service and rose to the rank of Chief Inspector and left in 1991. Of interest was the fact that in 1985 I went to Caulfield RSL and saw the Welfare Officer, John Brampston, to see if I was eligible for some kind of pension. The answer came back from DVA that there was insufficient information, and the wrong forms were used. I gave up.

My life then took an unexpected turn. In 1994, I was working for Dunlop as the Security Manager and in the process of getting divorced. One morning I woke up, got dressed to go to work and then I broke down and started crying. I did not know what was wrong with me. I lived near Doctor Myra who I went to see out of hours. He invited me into his kitchen to have a cup of tea. He said, "Are you a vet?" When I answered in the affirmative, he rang DVA. A Commonwealth car was with me within the hour, and I was taken to Harris Park for psych assessment. I spent ten weeks at St John of God Hospital, got out and after one day I had to go back for a second time. I went to the Vietnam Veterans at Granville and they got me the TPI pension. I went on a cruise and remarried.

I am the Past Secretary of Kingsgrove RSL Sub-branch and past President of the Far Southern Metropolitan District Council. It's been a long journey.



*Centurion tanks of 1 Armoured Regiment provided vital fire support throughout Operation Hammersley. The tanks' main guns were particularly useful in dealing with enemy bunkers. AWM Accession Number EKN/70/0052Q/VN.*



*John Graham in the present time. Photograph supplied by John Graham.*

On a final note, I have been diagnosed with a form of throat cancer and I am a drinker. My doctor said that if I must drink, I should only drink black beer. I prefer Guinness and I have been rigorously following doctor's orders ever since."

**Lance Corporal John Arthur Graham**  
**B Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment,**  
**27/08/1969-11/03/1970- 197 days.**

**Email: [jagraham@gmail.com](mailto:jagraham@gmail.com)**

with

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# Operation Hammersley

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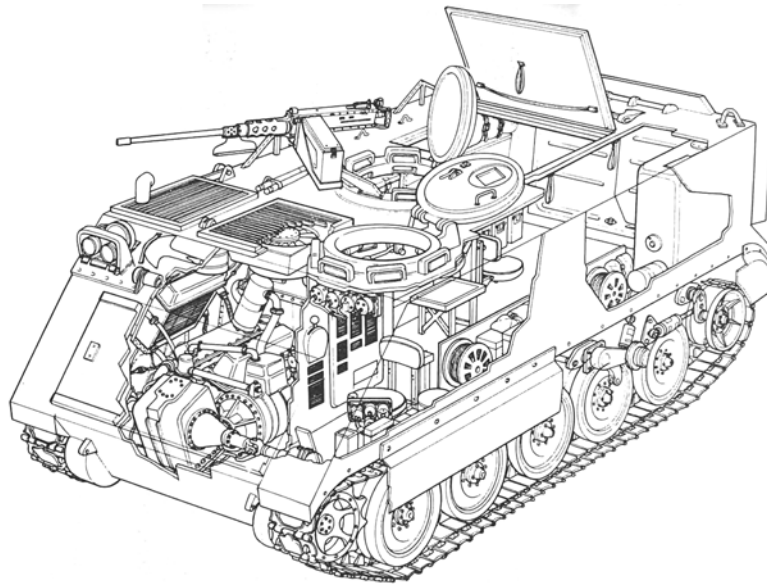


*After the B52 Arclight strike, 8RAR went back into the Long Hais mounted in APC's and with tank support. Photographer: Rod Simpson.*

Operation Hammersley began on 10 February 1970 as a routine security operation when C Company, 8RAR, along with a troop of M113A1 Armoured personnel carriers (APCs) from 3 Cavalry Regiment, a troop of Centurion tanks from 1 Armoured Regiment and a mortar section from 8RAR's Support Company were deployed to protect 17 Construction Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers at a quarry in the foothills of the Long Hai Mountains.

The operation concluded on 9 March 1970. It had been a costly operation for the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force which suffered 12 men killed or died of wounds and 59 wounded. However, they had inflicted heavy losses on their enemy, with 42 enemy bodies counted and estimates of as many as 100 enemy killed. One prisoner was taken, along with a large amount of weapons, ammunition and other material. Operation Hammersley was the last time the 1ATF entered the Long Hais in force.

**Source: Australian War Memorial – “Operation Hammersley”.**



### **Basic Specifications for the M113A1 APC**

Manufacturer:	American Food and Machinery Corporation
Crew:	2, driver and Commander – carries 10 passengers
Length:	4.87 m
Height:	2.41m
Width:	2.69m
Weight:	10,500kg
Max speed:	62 kph on land, 6 kph in water
Radius of operation:	480 km on road
Armour:	Aluminium, various, angled, proof against small arms and Mortar splinters
Engine:	GMC V6 diesel giving 215 HP

The cutaway illustration shows the basic components of the M113A1. The Armament on this vehicle is a .50 calibre machine gun. Note the right-angled drive configuration, with the final drive extending out from the differential at the front of the engine.

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# The Future for Tanks in the ADF

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*Combined Arms Operation, Vietnam, 1970. Photograph supplied by Bruce Cameron.*

The war in Ukraine has generated many headlines in the Australian media. Among them: *Heavy Combined Arms Have Seen Their Day; Tanks Will Never be of the Slightest Military Use to Us*; and *Drones Have Spelt the Death Knell for Tanks*. The coup de grâce always asserts that any funds spent on tanks is a waste of the limited defence budget.

Often the first justification for scrapping tanks is, “They haven’t been used since Vietnam.” Let’s get rid of the “use it or lose it” argument right from the start. The last time a RAN submarine fired a torpedo in anger was 1915, over 109 years ago. The last

RAAF aircraft to be involved in air-to-air combat was during the Korean War. The issue just isn’t relevant.

## **The Role of Tanks and Supporting Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs)**

Tanks and AFVs are an essential component of combined arms teams which form the basis of ground force tactics, especially in offensive operations. They are the mainstay of modern armies for good reason – providing both the direct firepower necessary to support infantry



*Canadian Leopard Tanks, Afghanistan. Photograph supplied by Bruce Cameron.*

in capturing enemy objectives and the mobile combat power on which shock action depends. (This is the rapid deployment of forces designed to

**The first justification for scrapping tanks is, “They haven’t been used since Vietnam.” Let’s get rid of the “use it or lose it” argument. The last time an RAN submarine fired a torpedo in anger was 1915, over 109 years ago.**

create surprise and confusion, beyond the enemy’s ability to cope and respond.) Without tanks, Army’s capability options are limited to an unacceptable degree, the cost of which is counted in infantry lives.

The former Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Rick Burr AO, DSC, MVO, was very clear when he stated that, “The main battle tank is at the core of the ADF’s Combined Arms Fighting System, which includes infantry, artillery, communications, engineers, attack helicopters and logistics.” (Defence Press Release, 10 Jan 2022) The importance of this was underscored subsequently by the current Chief, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, AO DSC. Many Russian tanks have been lost in Ukraine because they were used in isolation and were not part of mutually supporting combined arms teams. The astute deployment of combined arms is pivotal to successful ground force tactics.

History has consistently demonstrated the benefits of tank support. Australian field commanders in New Guinea in 1944 called for tanks to provide direct fire support. Opposition by US commanders was overruled. Australian field commanders in Vietnam called for tanks to provide direct fire support. Opposition by US commanders was overruled. Canadian field commanders in



*Australian Army M1 Abrams Tank. Photograph supplied by Bruce Cameron.*

Afghanistan called for tanks to provide direct fire support. They were supported by the Canadian Government. “Embattled Canadian soldiers erupted in cheers on 2 December 2006, when the squadron of Canadian Leopard tanks emerged from the early-morning mist and rain to provide welcome support to war-weary ground troops as they battled Taliban insurgents.” (CTV News, 18 June 2011) This was a very similar response to that of Australian infantry when Centurion tanks arrived at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral in 1968. The Leopards made a tremendous contribution to the Canadian role in Afghanistan and were in high demand throughout their area of operations, remaining until 2011. The tanks employed by the Danish Army were equally successful; the inevitable conclusion being that they are a “game changer”, one whose firepower is capable of altering the course of a battle.

### **The Need for a Manoeuvre Warfare Capability**

Military terminology referred in the past to attrition warfare and then to positional warfare. When Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) came to dominate the modern battlefield, the concept of mobile warfare took over. More recently that has been replaced with manoeuvre warfare, one in which a force capitalises on achieving surprise using shock action – the essential element of which is the tank. Defence pundits have previously used the media to argue that the traditional concepts of warfare are no longer relevant to the defence of Australia. BUT ...

While threat warning times and readiness lead times govern ADF force posture, contingency plans involving ADF ground force deployments include: defence of continental Australia; defence



of offshore Australian possessions, e.g. Christmas Island; defence assistance to regional neighbours e.g. stabilisation operations; and defence assistance under treaty agreements, e.g. ANZUS. If tanks were to be scrapped, what would replace them? Drones have received a lot of press, but they can neither capture objectives, nor hold ground. There can be no doubt that an effective manoeuvre warfare capability is essential for the Australian Army (desirably, one which is capable of being deployed to at least two operational areas simultaneously, as well as being sustained).

Shock action can sometimes be achieved by innovative tactics such as, say, the use of parachute or amphibious forces, however, more often than not, sustaining the action requires direct fire support and the outcome becomes dependent on the availability of a mobile protected weapon system – in short, the tank.

### **But Can Tanks Survive on the Modern Battlefield?**

Tank design has traditionally involved trade-offs between protection (now referred to as “survivability”), firepower, and mobility. While this is still the case, the prevalence of drones on the battlefield has meant that speed can no longer be considered an element of protection. Drones, however, have not won the day ... by any means.

New methods of protection are always under consideration, and it is unsurprising that new Active Protection Systems (APSs) are capable of defeating attacks by both kinetic energy penetrators and Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs). There are a number of different versions of APSs, some of which break up an incoming threat at a distance from its target by detonating an explosive device. Refining systems which fire upwards to protect against attacks from above, is one area in



*A tank of the future – modular design with external gun. Photograph supplied by Bruce Cameron.*

which breakthroughs are being achieved. So-called “soft” or non-explosive APSs are also available. One variant uses a laser “dazzler” to blind drones in the final guidance phase of the warhead they launch.

### **What Will the Next Generation Tank Look Like?**

Is it possible that future wars will not involve infantry? There will be all sorts of autonomous machines, but will any be able to take the place of a soldier? The answer is certainly “no” in the near term. It follows that there will be a need to provide direct fire support, as part of the combined arms force underpinning land operations. The fact that the future tank may not be anything like those of today is without dispute.

What does such a direct fire capability need to provide? The answer is, as it has always been: lethality, survivability, and mobility, under all extremes of climate and terrain. This is self-evident. What is unknown is the way in which advances in technology will influence the solution. Direct fire support can be provided by a manned vehicle, a robotic vehicle, or an optionally manned vehicle.

Many arguments have been advanced that, whether crewed or optionally crewed, the weight of a direct fire support capability has to be reduced to enable it to be deployable in all scenarios. This is especially so in terms of ADF roles and contingency planning.

Volume under armour is the biggest impost on the weight of an AFV. Reducing the size of the crew by incorporating an autoloader was the answer at one time, but the lethality of anti-armour weapons is now such that this is no longer enough. The latest Russian tank, the T-14 Armata, is an example of one solution. The crew is within a “cocoon” in the hull of vehicle, below the external gun and autoloader. Considerable weight is saved by not having to protect crew members in their own

turret. The replacement for the latest US Abrams (M1A2 SEPV3, which Australia is now receiving) will also be a modular design with an external gun.

Of course, military capability is not predicated on technology alone. As new weaknesses and strengths become apparent, organisational structures evolve. New groupings of complementary force capabilities may well be needed in the future. It could be that the readily deployable combined arms formation of tomorrow is very different to that of today.

### **Conclusion**

The tank is a protected mobile weapon system, capable of providing accurate fire support to infantry. It is one of the essential parts of a combined arms system. A system which, in turn, is the basis of manoeuvre warfare, upon which ground force tactics are predicated.

One of the core functions of society is to find solutions. This applies to research, both on and off the battlefield; scientists are always pushing the boundaries of new frontiers. Tanks were first employed to support infantry 108 years ago. Since then, as tank guns have become more powerful, so has tank armour become stronger. As threats have developed, so solutions have been found.

The crux of the current design challenge is to decrease weight, while increasing protection against both ground and air attack. The role of the APS (especially against “top attack”) is crucial; as is the need to structure future operational groupings in such a way that direct fire support can be provided in a readily deployable “all arms” context.

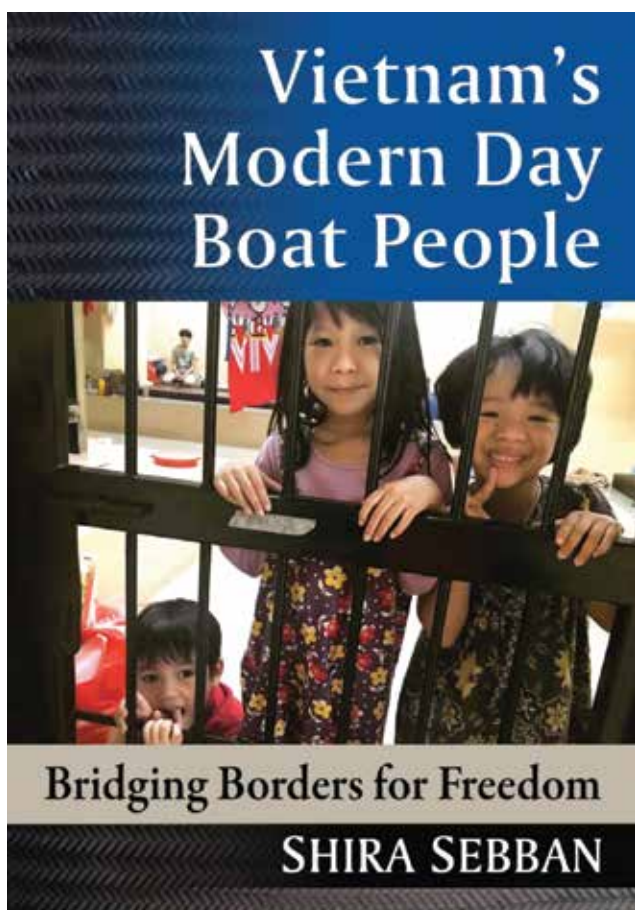
A mobile protected weapon system is needed today, as it was yesterday, and as it will be tomorrow.

**Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Cameron (Retd), MC**

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# Vietnam's Modern Day Boat People

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***Vietnam's Modern Day Boat People: Bridging Borders for Freedom***  
by Shira Sebban, OAM

*Vietnam's Modern Day Boat People*, a new book by Shira Sebban, OAM, draws attention to the plight of Vietnamese who are today seeking asylum from religious and other forms of persecution. The exodus of refugees from South Vietnam that started with the 1975 fall of Saigon was part of a larger outflow of people from the former French colonies of Indochina – Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. As was

the case with Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos came under the control of communist governments in 1975. Over the following 25 years, millions fled from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. This situation has often been called the *Indochina Refugee Crisis*.

According to New York-based Human Rights Watch, Vietnam's human rights record remains dire. Members of religious and ethnic minorities, as well as political and social dissidents face harassment and arbitrary arrest. Workers unions are prohibited, and land is appropriated without adequate compensation. Police extract confessions through torture and the criminal justice system is under dictatorial government control. According to the late Ngo Ba Thanh, who was a prominent lawyer and Vietnamese National Assembly member, "Vietnam has a jungle of laws, but when it comes to trial, we use the law of the jungle". These grim circumstances have led large numbers of Vietnamese to seek homes in other countries even in recent years. As of May 2024, 60 people who had fled Vietnam were being held in Australian immigration detention facilities.

*Vietnam's Modern Day Boat People* vividly describes the travails of Vietnamese who have tried to reach Australia by sea in recent times. It begins with the story of a mother, father and their four children who set out for Australia in 2015 on a small fishing boat. Tran Thi Thanh Loan, her husband Ho Trung Loi and their four children were among 46 Vietnamese asylum seekers who were trying to reach Australia, when they were intercepted by the Australian Navy and returned by boat to Vietnam. Back in Vietnam the family's father, Mr Loi,



*Fishing boat similar to one Tran Thi Thanh Loan, her husband Ho Trung Loi and their four children unsuccessfully attempted to travel to Australia on in 2015.*

was sentenced to two years' prison for his role in organising the "illegal departure". Mr Loi's wife, Mrs Loan, also received a jail sentence but was granted a reprieve to care for the couple's four children aged between four and 16.

Tran Thi Thanh Loan and Ho Trung Loi's family had initially fled Vietnam for multiple reasons. They had been facing discrimination due to their Catholic faith, the State had seized their land, and they had lost their livelihood from fishing due to Chinese incursions into fishing territory. A second attempt by the family to leave Vietnam in 2017 was further fuelled by the threat that Mrs Loan would be imprisoned on the release of her husband from jail.

On their 2017 attempt to flee Vietnam, the family became part of a group whose boat started to sink in Indonesian waters. The eight adults and 12 children on the sinking boat were

rescued by local fishermen. Had the rescue taken place in Australian waters, the group would have been forcibly returned by Australia to Vietnam. Indonesian authorities initially threatened to forcibly return the group to Vietnam, but the group were instead detained for an extended period in Indonesia.

Indonesian immigration detention was like a jail, says Shira. "Women and children were in one padlocked cell with bars across the entrance, men and older boys in another cell opposite, and the real criminals in a cell at the end of the corridor." Detainees were forced to sleep on mattresses on the floor and to dry laundry on a line strung up in the cell.

The asylum seekers in Indonesian detention, threatened with deportation to Vietnam, said that death would be preferable. Those deemed to be orchestrating a second escape from Vietnam were

subject, as “repeat offenders”, to jail sentences up to 15 years. Mrs Loan and another mother in this asylum seeker group, Tran Thi Lua, told their lawyer that they would rather commit suicide than face such prison sentences. Mrs Loan stated to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Indonesian authorities:

If you want to send us back, you'd better shoot all of us. We'd rather die here. The Australian government once sent us home with a promise that we wouldn't face punishment. But we were sentenced and jailed.

The asylum seeker families had been recognised as refugees by the UNHCR, but they needed to secure a country for resettlement. With Australia unwilling to accept these families, they were fortunate to be welcomed by Canada. Resettlement in Canada was facilitated by Queensland Vietnamese community fundraising and the volunteer advocacy group VOICE Canada. The contrast between Canada and Australia in their treatment of asylum seekers is notable.

Shira's book offers an insight into the ordeals of those who are compelled to escape oppression, and into the motivations of those who advocate for them. This thoughtful and well researched account stands in counterpoint to the often melodramatic rhetoric surrounding refugee issues. *Vietnam's Modern Day Boat People* is, ultimately, an inspiring story of how heart and determination can uplift humanity to work together for a brighter future.

***Vietnam's Modern Day Boat People: Bridging Borders for Freedom***

**Shira Sebban, OAM**

McFarland & Company, Jefferson, North Carolina, 2024

Available online through several booksellers including at <https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/vietnams-modern-day-boat-people/>

A Kindle version is available at [https://www.amazon.com.au/Vietnams-Modern-Day-Boat-People-ebook/dp/B0CNNNZ437/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=](https://www.amazon.com.au/Vietnams-Modern-Day-Boat-People-ebook/dp/B0CNNNZ437/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=)

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# Spotlight on Shira Sebban

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**In 2022 Shira was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the Jewish community in a range of roles.**

Prior to writing *Vietnam's Modern Day Boat People*, Shira Sebban had been thinking for a long time about helping refugees. Shira credits her desire to help refugees to her Jewish faith. She recalls regularly attending Emanuel Synagogue in Sydney and being particularly inspired by Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins, OAM, speaking about the oft repeated ideas from the Torah: “Be good to the

stranger for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt. Treat your neighbour as you would like to be treated yourself.” Shira also mentions Rabbi Danny Siegal's emphasis on the concept of tikkun olam – improving the world. She observes that Jewish people were the original refugees after WWII, and that the Jewish refugee situation foregrounded the drafting of the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the 1951 *Refugee Convention*.

In 2016, Shira was on the Board of Emanuel School. The same year, Shira became aware of a



*Shira Sebban.*

group called Supporting Asylum Seekers Sydney (SASS), which was co-founded by a member of the Emanuel School community. "A lot of people in SASS would visit Villawood Detention Centre every Thursday afternoon to assist detainees," says

**And there'd be nuns  
– 85-year-old nuns  
with walkers who  
would be stopped for  
drug testing**

Shira. I'll try this group and see what it's like, she thought. Shira remembers thinking, What do I bring? I've never actually met a recent arrival. Yes, we can mostly say our families go back to when we were refugees three generations ago. But what about now? What's happening now? So I thought, well, if I go out to Villawood, I'll actually be able to meet a refugee or an asylum seeker. Shira recounts that other groups and people from all walks of life would also visit the detention centre to help the inmates. Visitors to the centre included people of all religions, young students, retirees, doctors and lawyers.

"So I went to Villawood," says Shira. "I remember going and buying a huge plate of Persian food, because I'd heard that a lot of Iranian people were in the detention centre, a lot of Iraqi people. But there were also a lot of South Asians, Sri Lankans, Afghan Hazaras and Rohingya from Myanmar – who are one of the most persecuted people in the world today." Shira says that an important part of groups visiting the immigration detention centre was giving the detainees increased human contact. The group from SASS would assist detainees in practical ways too – from helping with contacting a lawyer, to getting a phone card or bringing a jumper to keep warm. From her first Thursday afternoon visit, Shira decided that this was something she really wanted to do. Soon she started bringing students from Emanuel School to



*Access to outdoor courtyard, Blaxland compound, Villawood Immigration Detention Centre. <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/photos-2011-immigration-detention-villawood>*

the centre to teach them about life in immigration detention. Shira also arranged for former immigration detainees to visit Emanuel School as guest speakers.

Gradually the detention centre authorities became stricter about food that was being brought in because there was a concern that drugs were being smuggled in through food. So they had drug testing. "We would often come at the same time as the Catholic group," said Shira. "And there'd be nuns – 85-year-old nuns with walkers who would be stopped for drug testing. And they'd be sent home because they tested positive to heroin" (due to a faulty drug testing machine). Shira describes a "ludicrous" scenario of petty power in action – where a small amount of power goes to officials' heads so that they would sometimes send visitors home without even allowing them into the centre.

When Covid hit, visits to the centre by outsiders were banned.

It was against the backdrop of Shira's visits to Villawood Immigration Centre that the situation of Vietnamese asylum seekers came to her attention, eventually leading to the publication of *Vietnam's Modern Day Boat People*. Shira is a member of the group Supporting Asylum Seekers Sydney (SASS). She is volunteer guide at the Sydney Jewish Museum, combining her commitment to social justice with commemoration of the Holocaust. Recently, Shira undertook postgraduate study to become a registered migration agent. In 2022 Shira received an OAM for service to the Jewish community.

**Alexandra Kaufman**

**Salute Subeditor & Features Writer**

**Email: [subeditor@tpinsw.org.au](mailto:subeditor@tpinsw.org.au)**

## 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](http://www.naa.gov.au) Tel: 6212 3600 Email: [archives@naa.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.dva.gov.au) Tel: 13 32 54 or 1800 555 254

Email: [GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au)

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# Defence Media Releases

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

9 September 2024

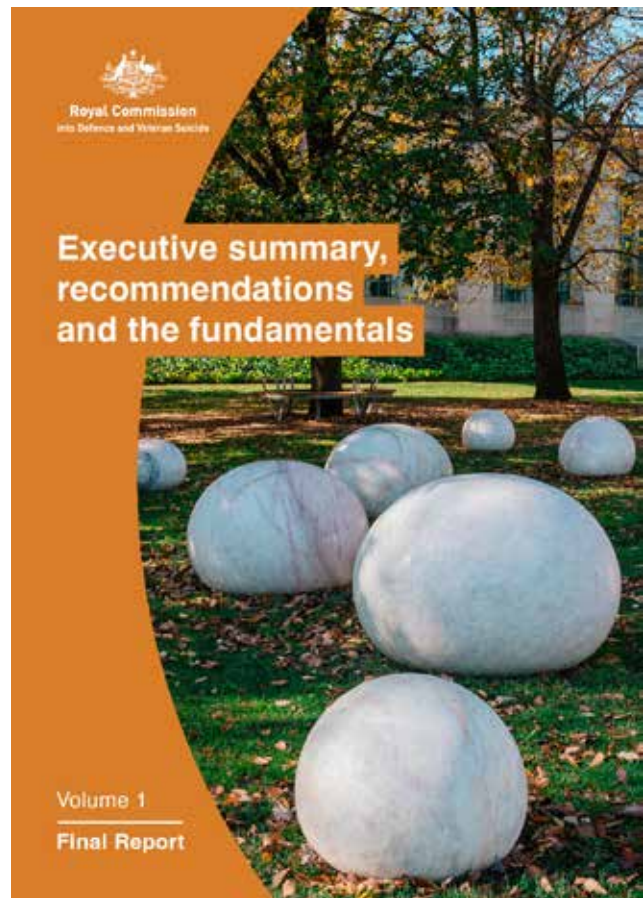
Today, we acknowledge the release of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Final Report. The death by suicide of any person is a tragedy – for their family, their friends, their colleagues and their community.

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.](#)





*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.*

## **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.

Director-General Future Land Warfare, Brigadier James Davis, said the Australian Army is committed to developing capabilities that exploit new and emerging technologies.

"Placing this equipment in the hands of the end

users such as RFSG allows us to learn by doing with all the challenges of tasks and the environment" Brigadier Davis said.

Army's 13th Engineer Regiment has trialled GUS under a variety of conditions, including deployment on Exercise Talisman Sabre in 2023.

GUS can detect moving objects and can then transmit this information to a remote operator. GUS has potential to remove soldiers from harsh environmental conditions and expand the surveillance area. Australian Army and industry partner Outlook Industries have worked together to develop GUS.

Research and development is taking place in the Victorian town of Yinnar. The use of locally sourced materials and creation of new jobs has brought a welcome economic boost to the Gippsland community. "Working with sovereign industry unlocks novel ideas and strengthens Australia's industrial base. Project GUS demonstrates what can be achieved locally," Brigadier Davis said.



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

## **\$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 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. The ADF will use the quantum clock to test and evaluate timing in critical defence hardware, like communication and navigation systems, to determine operational resilience in global positioning systems (GPS) degraded environments.

Under AUKUS Pillar II, Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom are accelerating the delivery of quantum technologies. Chief Defence Scientist Professor Tanya Monro said investing in next generation atomic clocks supports the commitment of Defence to innovation priorities outlined in the National Defence Strategy. "Defence will increasingly leverage emerging disruptive technologies such as quantum to provide a capability edge for the warfighter," Professor Monro said.

The state-of-the-art portable atomic clocks are the result of over seven years of research and development, initially at the Institute of Photonics and Advanced Sensing at The University



Members from Japan's *JS Ariake*, Indonesia's *KRI I Gusti Ngurah Rai*, and Singapore's *RSS Supreme* spent a day on board the *Anzac-class frigate* as part of a personnel exchange program during *Exercise Kakadu*.

of Adelaide, in close partnership with Defence. "This is the first sale for QuantX Labs and a prime example of the collaborative relationships needed to transition leading-edge sovereign research into advanced operational capabilities for the Australian Defence Force", Professor Monro said.

## Navy's Largest Biennial Exercise Concludes in the Top End

22 September 2024

The 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

International visitors got a taste of life on board *HMAS Warramunga*, complete with helicopter

landings, jet flybys and an adrenaline-pumping gun-firing exercise.

Members from Japan's *JS Ariake*, Indonesia's *KRI I Gusti Ngurah Rai*, and Singapore's *RSS Supreme* spent a day on board the *Anzac-class frigate* as part of a personnel exchange program during *Exercise Kakadu*. The participants enjoyed the crew's hospitality and several activities while on board, including a ship tour, watching an MH-60R helicopter land and take off from the flight deck, and a Lear jet fly-past.

But the highlight of the day for the visitors and crew was the force protection exercise.

Boatswains Mate Chief Petty Officer Luke Horsburgh said the aim of the exercise was to target hostile fast-attack craft threatening the ship and approaching at high speed.

"It's an effective activity to show our international friends that *Warramunga* is battle-ready and also to give them a chance to integrate with the weapons crew," Chief Petty Officer Horsburgh said. The international visitors, and sailors from the ADF Gap Year program, fired F89 Minimi and EF88 Austeyr rifles and .50 calibre machine guns.



Japanese helicopter pilot Sub-Lieutenant Hiroaki Ozaki, who was in Australia for the first time, said he enjoyed touring *Warramunga* and working alongside the crew during the force protection exercise. “Today, on the ship, I had a lot of fun and my favourite part was operating the guns,” Sub-Lieutenant Ozaki said. He was also keen to give a shout-out to the talented chefs. “I enjoyed lunch very much, it was very, very tasty,” he said.

For Ensign Jalaas Lovryan, of the Indonesian Navy, firing the flare during the simulated attack was his favourite part of the day.

**Lieutenant Marie Davies**

## **US Marines Head Home After Six Months Down Under**

23 October 2024

The 2024 Marine Rotational Force – Darwin (MRF-D) has this week departed Australia, concluding the

13th annual rotation of United States Marine Corps (USMC) to Northern Australia. The Australia–US alliance is our most important defence relationship and is central to Australia’s strategic and security arrangements. The MRF-D deployment helps maintain a secure and resilient region, strengthens interoperability between the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the USMC, and provides a platform for regional engagement.

During this year’s deployment, approximately 2,500 US military personnel conducted a comprehensive range of training activities with the ADF and regional partners, including humanitarian assistance, security operations and high-end, live-fire exercises.

Commander Headquarters Northern Command, Captain Mitchell Livingstone, said this iteration was an outstanding success in terms of the number of collective aims met.

“The time the USMC spends in the Top End is an extremely busy period in terms of the number of complex and challenging exercises they participate in,” Captain Livingstone said. 2024 was no exception and as we farewell this rotation of Marines, we

look forward to welcoming the next rotation when it arrives in early 2025. Through MRF-D, and the various other US Force Posture Initiatives, the ADF and our partner nations continue to contribute to peace, prosperity, and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.”

MRF-D participation in exercises such as Southern Jackaroo, Bhakti Kanyini AusIndo, Super Garuda Shield, Pitch Black and Operation Render Safe, demonstrate military interoperability between the USMC and ADF, as well as with regional partners.

Commanding Officer MRF-D, Colonel Brian Mulvihill, said the time marines and sailors spent in Darwin was rewarding both professionally and personally. “The Australian people have welcomed us like family, and our training with the Australian

Defence Force has been tough and realistic, which has enhanced our unit readiness,” Colonel Mulvihill said. “The bond with our Australian Defence Force brothers and sisters is as strong as it has ever been. “Through interoperability with the Australian Defence Force, their professionalism and expertise have made our units more ready to contribute to regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.”

The USMC will return to the Northern Territory in early 2025 for the 14th MRF-D rotation, as part of the 25-year commitment established by the United States Force Posture Initiatives.

More information is [available here](https://www.defence.gov.au/defence-activities/programs-initiatives/united-states-force-posture-initiatives/marine-rotational-force-darwin-initiative). (https://www.defence.gov.au/defence-activities/programs-initiatives/united-states-force-posture-initiatives/marine-rotational-force-darwin-initiative)

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## Veterans’ and Families’ Hubs

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In 2019, funds were committed to expand a network of Veterans’ and Families’ Hubs (formerly known as Veteran Wellbeing Centres) across Australia. The hubs are part of partnerships with ex-service organisations and state and territory governments.

Veterans’ and Families’ Hubs deliver integrated support and improve access to local services which may include wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, social connection and physical and mental health services. Veterans’ and Families’ Hubs are open to all current and former serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members, including reservists and their families.

There are already established Veterans’ and Families’ Hubs in NSW at the Central Coast, Hunter region, Northern Beaches, Nowra and the Riverina region. There is also a hub just across the NSW border with Victoria in Wodonga. Some of these hubs have Facebook pages.

In addition to the hubs already available to

NSW veterans and their families, four new hubs are to be established in NSW. These hubs will be located in the Hawkesbury, Tweed/North Coast and Queanbeyan.

Find out more [here](https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/work-and-social-life-programs/work-and-social-support/veterans-and-families-hubs). (https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/work-and-social-life-programs/work-and-social-support/veterans-and-families-hubs)



*A bowling outing with members of the Nowra/Shoalhaven Veterans' Hub Community.*

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# Welfare Officers

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## **ACT/Queanbeyan and surrounding districts**

Pat McCabe, OAM .....0417 291 546

## **Albion Park/Dapto/Gerringong/Kiama/ Shellharbour**

Dinos Potonides .....4296 5538

## **Batemans Bay**

Michael Scrase, JP.....0418 461 066

## **Bega/Eden**

Tony Toussain .....6495 1693

Kevin Webb .....6495 6975

## **Blacktown**

Phil Hincks .....0414 761 032

Ian Brady .....9626 8823

## **Blaxland**

Kevin A Ley, JP .....4739 4978

## **Byron Shire**

John Hawes, OAM, JP .....6676 2411

## **Coffs Harbour and Districts**

Brian Orr .....0419 476 362

## **Casino/Kyogle**

Bruce McKenzie, OAM .....0427 617 404

## **Forster/Tuncurry/Taree areas**

Kerry Redman .....0488 785 477

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

## **Grafton/Maclean/Clarence Valley**

Eric Lynn .....6642 6786

## **Hornsby**

Phil Loomes .....0451 838 237

## **Inverell and District**

Philip Hogan .....0488 423 497

## **Maitland**

Basil D Stemp, JP .....4932 8008

## **Milton-Ulladulla (South)**

Ross Johnson, JP .....4455 4882

## **Nowra**

Ernie Payne .....0410 415 668

## **Port Macquarie**

Bob Metcalfe .....0409 822 272

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

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

## **St George District**

John A Graham, JP ..... 9718 2583 / 0411 809 936

## **Wollongong Area**

Dinos Potonides .....4296 5538

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* on pages 61 – 62.

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# Social & Welfare Clubs

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## Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club

President:	Malcolm Botfield	9872 2594	<a href="mailto:malbotfield@hotmail.com">malbotfield@hotmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President:	Ron Blakely	0411 131 849	<a href="mailto:rjb176@hotmail.com">rjb176@hotmail.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:	Ian Brady	9626 8823	<a href="mailto:ibrady@bigpond.net.au">ibrady@bigpond.net.au</a>
Honorary Secretary:	Kaye Shannon	0408 714 667	<a href="mailto:kandkshannon@bigpond.com">kandkshannon@bigpond.com</a>
Assistant Secretary:	Dianne Botfield	9872 2594	<a href="mailto:malbotfield@hotmail.com">malbotfield@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	Alan Jones	9837 6885	<a href="mailto:alanejones3@yahoo.com">alanejones3@yahoo.com</a>
Assistant Treasurer:	Lynne Northey	0411 982 584	<a href="mailto:lanceandlynne@gmail.com">lanceandlynne@gmail.com</a>
Welfare Officer:	Steven Penman	0451 016 906	<a href="mailto:spenmanjp@yahoo.com.au">spenmanjp@yahoo.com.au</a>
Assistant Welfare Officer:	Phil Hincks	0414 761 032	<a href="mailto:phil.hincks@gmail.com">phil.hincks@gmail.com</a>
Assistant Welfare Officer:	Ian Brady	9626 8823	<a href="mailto:ibrady@bigpond.net.au">ibrady@bigpond.net.au</a>
Social Secretary:	Lynne Northey	0411 982 584	<a href="mailto:lanceandlynne@gmail.com">lanceandlynne@gmail.com</a>
Grants Officer:	John Davison	9636 7279	<a href="mailto:davoddg38@gmail.com">davoddg38@gmail.com</a>
Committee Member:	Ted Cooper	4739 3074	<a href="mailto:ked46@bigpond.com.au">ked46@bigpond.com.au</a>
Committee Member:	Ken Ward	0427 278 495	<a href="mailto:kennethbettyward@bigpond.com">kennethbettyward@bigpond.com</a>

The Club meets on the first Thursday of each month at 1.00pm at Blacktown RSL Club, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Blacktown. New members are welcome.

## Hornsby & Northern District TPI Veterans Club

President & Secretary:	Rod White, AM, RFD	0419 477 179	<a href="mailto:rdw1788@gmail.com">rdw1788@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	Dave Coleman	9499 9976	
Welfare Officer:	Phil Loomes	0451 838 237	

The Club meets on the first Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October & December at 1.00pm within the Hornsby War Memorial Hall, 2 High Street Hornsby. Founded in 1985, we cover Sydney Northern, from the Harbour to the Hawkesbury & the Northern Beaches Region.

## 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:	Dinos Potonides	4296 5538

The Club meets on the third Monday of each month at 11.00 am at the Illawarra Leagues Club, "Collies", 97 – 99 Church Street, Wollongong.

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# Social & Welfare Clubs

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## Nowra & District TPI Social & Welfare Club

President:	Ernie Payne	0410 415 668
Vice-President:	John Carney	0408 213 248
Secretary:	Leanne Wehmeier	0419 464 313
Treasurer:	Mick Carden	0402 444 315
Welfare Officer:	Ernie Payne	0410 415 668
Social Secretary:	Leanne Wehmeier	0419 464 313
Publicity Officer:	Simon Carr	0418 354 343

The Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 11.00am at Nowra Veterans Wellbeing Centre, 124 Wallace Street, Nowra.

## South Western Sydney TPI Social & Welfare Club

President:	Keith Gorsuch, JP	0403 157 938
Vice-President:	Lindsey Hobden	0475 114 360
Secretary:	Maria Scragg	0417 442 830
Treasurer:	Alan Graham	0435 084 246
Social Secretary:	Ann Graham	0416 772 775
Welfare Officer:	Rodney Hoult	4647 8010 / 0419 168 074

The Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1pm at Ingleburn RSL, Chester Rd, Ingleburn.



**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](mailto:office@tpinsw.org.au)**

*Members of the Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club on their outing to Barefoot Bowls at Hills Bowling Club.*





*Members of the Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club on their outing to Barefoot Bowls at Hills Bowling Club.*

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# Social & Welfare Club Reports

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

We decided to do a Rookwood War Graves tour in August and when we arrived the guide stayed on the coach and took us on a two-hour tour of most of Rookwood Cemetery, which was an extra bonus for our crowd.

September was our AGM and lunch in Club Blacktown – seniors' meals are always good there and then we sat around chatting for a few hours.

Once again, Compass Tours did their magic with our three-day trip to Port Macquarie in September, it seemed to be like a foodie's delight. I am sure we ate from the time we left St Marys to the time we arrived back three days later. We always have good accommodation and this time we were right on the water. We did a two-hour river cruise and saw so many places in the area, with perfect weather to complete our trip. Our crowd are always eager to attend the three-day trips – they know they eat

well, and we try to see a different place each year.

We ventured to Grace's Place in Doonside during October. It was built in memory of Anita Cobby's family and is in aid of Domestic Violence situations. It is a very interesting place, and people are always free to wander around and perhaps make a donation towards their hard work.

Barefoot Bowls at Hills Bowling Club is next on the list for the end of October so there will be some competition happening between the members and then soon it will be the end of 2024 and Santa Claus will appear once more.

We wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing some new and old members in 2025.

Take care during the holidays

**Lynne and Lance Northey**

**Email: [lanceandlynne@gmail.com](mailto:lanceandlynne@gmail.com)**



*Members of the Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club on their outing to Barefoot Bowls at Hills Bowling Club.*

### **Nowra & District TPI Social & Welfare Club**

Hello everyone.

I hope this issue finds you well and in good spirits.

In September we held a morning tea at the Shoalhaven Veterans and Family Hub with the eye to bringing in new members to the club. We had great help from TPI NSW who sent out emails to all the TPI members in the area letting them know of the morning tea. We had a fair bit of interest from TPI members and had a good turn out on the day. We managed to sign up six more members to our club, with a couple more showing interest who may join up in the near future. This has brought in new life and really reinvigorated the club.

In October we went without our usual meeting, and instead had a lunch at the Worrigeer Sports Club. We had over twenty members and spouses turn up for the event, and the event allowed the newer members to mix with and meet the older members. The lunch was a great success with great food and conversations flowing. It was a good way for everyone to meet and get to know each other.

Well, that is all I have for this issue. I hope everyone stays safe during this time and, also, keep an eye on our fellow members to ensure that they are all coping well.

**Simon Carr**  
**Publicity Officer**



*Members of the Nowra & District TPI Social & Welfare Club at their lunch at the Worrigeer Sports Club.*



*Members of the Nowra & District TPI Social & Welfare Club at their morning tea at the Shoalhaven Veterans and Family Hub.*

## **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**

**Committee man**

**Mobile: 0411 737 446 or**

**Email: [davoddg38@gmail.com](mailto:davoddg38@gmail.com)**

## **Hornsby & Northern District TPI Veterans Club**

Founded in 1985 as the Hornsby & District TPI Social & Welfare Club, TPI Veterans throughout the Sydney Northern District and across to the Northern Beaches, are encouraged to participate in our various activities.

We meet in the Hornsby War Memorial Hall, adjoining the Hornsby RSL Club & close to the rail station at 1.00pm, on the first Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October & December.

Partners are most welcome, especially to our occasional luncheons, social outings and commemorative events.

The success of our TPI Veterans club for nearly forty years is that it is the ideal forum for veterans enjoying others company, in a friendly and mutually respected environment.

For further details, please contact

**Rod White**

**President & Secretary**

**Mobile: 0419 477 179**

### **Illawarra TPI Social and Welfare Club**

**ABN 26 063 065 721**

#### **Patron**

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

#### **President**

J. Kiley

The club meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Illawarra Leagues Club, "Collies", 97 – 99 Church Street, Wollongong at 11:00am, unless otherwise notified. No meeting is held in January.

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

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

If you need further information you can contact me.

**John Kiley**

**President**

**Phone: 0450 588 257**

### **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, 124 Wallace Street, Nowra, on the third Tuesday of each month at 11am as well as having social outings and lunches.

For more information contact

**Leanne Wehmeier**

**Secretary**

**Mobile: 0419 464 313.**



*Banner of the Hornsby District TPI Veterans Club.  
Photograph supplied by Raymond Davis.*

# Open Arms Group Program Schedule

## January to March 2025

### BEATING THE BLUES

#### Two Day Program

**Wagga Wagga** – Thursday 20 and Friday 21

February

Time: 09:00 – 16:30

### RECOVERY FROM TRAUMA

#### Online – 2 x 90 minutes sessions

Wednesday 26 and Friday 28 February

Time: 13:00 – 14:30

#### Two Day Program

**ACT** – Thursday 20 and Friday 21 March

Time: 09:30 – 16:30

### SLEEPING BETTER

#### Two Day Program

**ACT** – Thursday 27 February and Friday 28

February

Time: 09:30 – 16:30

### STEPPING OUT

#### Two Day Program

**Wagga Wagga** – Thursday 13 and Friday 14

March

Time: 09:30 – 16:30

### UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY

#### Two Day Program

**ACT** – Thursday 27 and Friday 28 March

Time: 09:30 – 16:30

## GROUP PROGRAMS

### BEATING THE BLUES

A skills-based group program to help understand the situations and thinking patterns that contribute

to depression, and identify strategies to help manage symptoms.

### BUILDING BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

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

### DOING ANGER DIFFERENTLY

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

### MANAGING PAIN

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

### RECOVERY FROM TRAUMA

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

### RELAXATION AND STRESS MANAGEMENT

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

### SLEEPING BETTER

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

### STEPPING OUT

A two day program for ADF members and their



1800 011 046  
OpenArms.gov.au



partners who are about to, or have recently separated from the military.

### UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY

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

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

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

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

*Free and confidential help is available 24/7.*

**Phone: 1800 011 046**

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



*For Every Drop Shed in Anguish, a sculpture commemorating suffering caused by war and military service, was dedicated at the Australian War Memorial in February 2024. Created by artist Alex Seton. Photographer: Alexandra Kaufman.*

