

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

E-Newsletter November 2024



Welcome to the November 2024 Issue of the TPI NSW E-Newsletter

Our November E-Newsletter header features a photograph of His Majesty King Charles III inspecting Australia's Federation Guard at Parliament House in Canberra on 21 October 2024 (courtesy Defence Media).

This issue contains useful information including an article on page 5 about the National Centre for Veterans Health Care at Concord hospital, where veterans and their families can access a range of specialist services for no cost. "Transitioning to a Residential Aged Care Facility" appears on page 7. On page 20 you can read about the Veterans' and

Families' Hubs in NSW. A eulogy for Raymond Davis, late President of Hornsby & Northern District TPI Veterans Club is found on page 4. Reunions start on page 14 and media releases from Defence and DVA start on page 16.

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

Victoria Dawson

Salute Editor & Designer

Email: editor@tpinw.org.au

TPI Association of NSW Christmas Luncheon

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

Tuesday 10 December 2024 at 12 noon for 12.30pm

A three-course meal and drinks will be served.

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

If you need a special meal please let us know.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PAYMENT METHOD (Tick Box)

INTERNET TRANSFER CHEQUE MONEY ORDER VISA MASTERCARD

BSB: 082 001

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 025402663

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

CARD NO.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
EXPIRY DATE	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
CVV NO.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

CARDHOLDER NAME: _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____ SIGNATURE _____



Her Majesty the Queen inspecting members of the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police as part of the Royal Honour Guard. (Courtesy Defence Media).

Royal Visit to Australia

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. Read more [here](#).

(Courtesy Defence Media)

Vale Raymond Davis

President, Hornsby & Northern District TPI Veterans Club



Ray Davis, late President of Hornsby & Northern District TPI Veterans Club

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

National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare

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 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.

Partners of Veterans Association Blacktown

**Meet at Club Blacktown (RSL)
Second Ave Blacktown
Third Monday of the Month at 10:30 am
All Welcome**

About our association

The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc. (P.V.A. Australia Inc.) is a not-for-profit, non-government, voluntary organisation – we do not have any paid workers, all are volunteers. P.V.A. is not funded by government – our funding is derived from membership fees, applying for grants, donations and fundraising.

P.V.A. believes that there is a great need for support for all partners/carers, widows/widowers and families of Australian veterans, both now and in the future, as our defence forces continue to be deployed to areas of conflict throughout the world. Our aim is not only to support the partners of our generation, but also to consider the needs of all future generations and to have in place a support network that was not available when many of our veterans returned from their war service.

Our vision

A community where all partners of past and present members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), their Allies and their families are recognised and their wellbeing is vital in achieving healthy members of Society.

Our mission

As the national body, voice and focus for all partners of past and present members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), their allies and their families, we are committed to providing every support and assistance practicable for their welfare, health and special needs. This is achieved by our key role of providing leadership and advocacy for

health and welfare promoting strategies, policy and program development that assists partners and their dependants and descendants.

Our alliance in the Defence family

P.V.A. Australia Inc. is a member of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO), which comprises many of Australia's major military ex-service organisations (ESO). The Alliance represents a significant number of members of Australia's Defence Family on national advocacy and representative matters to the Australian Parliament and all political parties. Its aim is to promote and protect the conditions and well-being of the Defence Family that embraces over three million people.

For further information contact:

Patricia Ross

Phone: 0410 519 063

Email: pwross70@outlook.com

P.V.A. national website: <https://www.pva.org.au/>

P.V.A. NSW branch: <https://www.pva.org.au/p-v-a-state-branches/nsw-branch>



Supported by the Blacktown RSL Sub-Branch

Transitioning to a Residential Aged Care Facility

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>.

Reforms to the Retirement Villages Act

Retirement villages and “Over 55 Lifestyle Estates” are becoming popular post-retirement living arrangements among the Australian ageing population. While these communities offer unique lifestyles, it is crucial to consider the potential complexities and issues which may arise in respect of post-retirement living arrangements.

The establishment, operation and management of retirement villages and retirement village contracts are subject to the Retirement Villages Act (NSW) 1999 (the ‘Act’). In 2021, significant changes were introduced to the Act to safeguard certain rights of residents.

Priority of debt

In the landmark 2021 NSW Supreme Court case of *Goyal v West* [2021] NSWSC 526, Ward CJ in Equity ruled that the return of ingoing contributions made by residents and former occupants of a retirement village should take precedence over a secured debt. The court’s decision hinged on the interpretation of section 182G of the Act, which was deemed to operate in favour of safeguarding the ingoing contributions of all residents over the interest of secured creditors, meaning all unregistered statutory charges of the residents should be prioritised over any registered and/or unregistered mortgages.

This ruling substantially protects residents if the retirement village operator were to become insolvent and/or liquidated. Determining the priority of each party entitled to a payout under such circumstances is of paramount importance, and the court’s decision ensures that residents’ interests are prioritised.

However, under the Act, there are some circumstances where this protection is not

applicable to registered interest holder of retirement village. A person is the registered interest holder with respect to residential premises in a retirement village if a residence contract is in the form of a **registered long-term lease** (i.e. with a minimum term of at least 50 years) and includes a provision that entitles the resident to at least 50% of any capital gain. This is because a lease of this nature is regarded as being more beneficial than, for example, a licence agreement for a shorter term.

Access to exit entitlement money

When you decide to permanently vacate your retirement village premises, some contracts may require you to:

1. “resell” the premises prior to accessing your exit entitlement money; or
2. if you fail to find a new resident the operator may set a specific time frame such as five years from the termination date within which you can receive the exit fee

These arrangements may pose certain risks for residents. As the incoming contribution is often paid to the operator in the form of a loan with no interest, the operator may not have a strong incentive to actively seek a new resident for your property.

The changes to the Act introduced specific provisions to allow residents in the Sydney metropolitan area, including Blue Mountains, Wollongong, and Newcastle, a period of 6 months to apply for payment of the exit entitlement fee. For residents in all other areas, the prescribed period is extended to 12 months.

If you make an application to the Secretary, the village operator must satisfy the Secretary that they have not ‘unreasonably delayed’ the sale of the

property. If the operator fails to provide sufficient evidence, the Secretary may issue an order to the operator to pay you the exit entitlement money within 30 days of the date of the order, whether or not the sale of your property is finalised.

However, only residents can apply for an exit entitlement order, a resident's estate cannot make an application to the Secretary.

Recurrent charges when vacating

Village operators may only charge residents for up to 42 days for general services (gardening, administration, cleaning, etc.) after the resident has permanently left the property. This new provision only applies to residents whose contract is in the form of a long-term registered lease that entitles them to at least 50 per cent of any capital gain.

Key takeaways

The 2021 changes to the Act:

1. protects resident's rights to access exit entitlement payments with a reasonable time and promotes a fair and transparent process; and
2. offers added financial security to residents who have permanently left the property by capping recurrent charges.

Further, the judiciary's interpretation of section 182G of the Act prioritises resident's interests over the interest of secured debtors.

While the above offers greater protection to resident's rights, seeking independent legal advice before entering into residential village contracts is crucial to safeguarding your rights and interests in retirement village living.

For further information please contact one of our property lawyers on 9635 7966 or through the various contact us options on our website www.matthewsfolbigg.com.au

Disclaimer:

This article is provided to clients and readers for their general information and on a complimentary basis. It contains a brief summary only and should not be relied upon or used as a definitive or complete statement of the relevant law or advice in any way.

Terry Doust

Principal, Matthews Folbigg Lawyers – Specialist in Property Law, Wills and Estate Planning

Email: terryd@matthewsfolbigg.com.au

Phone: (02) 9806 7420



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

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



Yarramundi Veterans Shed

Veterans, first responders, friends and families gathered at Yarramundi NSW on Saturday 19 October 2024 to celebrate the official opening of the Yarramundi Veterans Shed.

Founding member, Secretary and Treasurer of the Yarramundi Veterans Shed Mr Anthony Eddie welcomed a large number of dignitaries and guests.

The idea to establish an inclusive Yarramundi Veterans Shed was based upon a Rick Porter light bulb moment, supported by his partner Megan Vicary. They invited Anthony Eddie to discuss the idea over coffee and it was agreed that it would be a very worthwhile cause, previously unseen in Western Sydney. That night, a Facebook Page was created and shortly after a registered not for profit charity was established, intended to support all Military and Emergency Service Veterans, regardless of age, sex, race, religion or service rendered, their backgrounds or circumstances.

Life, after a service commitment, can be difficult for many. The Yarramundi Veterans Shed founders know that people can struggle when away from their team environment upon a transition to civilian life, at times in another location away from friends and colleagues. The Shed founders hope to reestablish a team environment that can provide friendships and opportunities to socialise with like-minded humans.

The Yarramundi Veterans Shed is located on a beautiful 25-acre property, overlooking the Nepean River, and is open every Thursday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Everyone is invited, including Veteran families and friends. Shed visitors can socialise over a brew, get into a hobby, fix something from home, tinker on our Series IIA Land Rover, go fishing, camping, or help out around the farm. For further details please visit the Shed Facebook page [here](#) or contact Anthony on 0401417497.

Reunions & Functions

The Eight Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (NSW Branch)

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

Sydney 26 – 28 February 2025

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

Program:

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

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

Friday 28: Memorial Service & Commemorative
Dinner

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

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

See 8 RAR Association web link below:

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



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

Mick Carter, OAM

NSW Branch President

Phone: 0432 500 632 or

Email: cartercm@optusnet.com.au

Ron O'Connor

NSW Branch Secretary

Phone: 0413 008 025

Email: secretary@vfvfagranville.org

Kevin Sullivan

Phone: 0416 262 924 or

Email: kevinsully1948@gmail.com



HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE SOUTH VIETNAM 1966 - 1972

HQ1ATF Association 2024 and D & E Platoon Reunion

Hahndorf, South Australia

21 November to 25 November 2024

Discovery Hahndorf Resort

145A Mount Barker Road, Hahndorf, SA 5245

Phone: 1 300 763 836

Email: hahndorf@discoveryparks.com.au

Website: discoveryholidayparks.com.au

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

Each two years HQ1ATF Association holds a reunion and 2024 will remember 53 years since we closed the gates of Núi Đất. The four-day event is an important part of the Association's efforts in the healing process which is achieved through the continual networking of members and also, importantly, their partners and carers. With objectives to improve health and well-being and to reduce social isolation, the biennial reunion plays a significant role.

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

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

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

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

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

For further information contact:

John Verhelst, JP

**HQ1ATF 2024 Reunion Committee President,
Red Rat Editor**

PO Box 328, Gladesville, 1675

Telephone: 0437 212 121

Email: jeverhelst@gmail.com

Defence Media Releases



Marine engineers from HMAS Brisbane toured the South-West Regional Maintenance Centre (SWRMC) in San Diego, United States.

Marine Engineers Harness 3D Technologies

25 October 2024

Marine engineers from HMAS Brisbane toured the South-West Regional Maintenance Centre (SWRMC) in San Diego, United States, as part of a scheduled maintenance period to upgrade the ship's systems. Read more [here](#).



Uncrewed surface vessels are used as part of the training for Navy personnel in Tasmania.

The Cutting Edge of Autonomous Technology

25 October 2024

The latest graduation of Navy's Autonomous Maritime Systems Course marked an important milestone in preparing naval personnel to deliver future-focused capability. On 4 October 2024, the Mission Controller Course session 14 marked the 100th course delivered by the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania. Since partnering with the Australian Maritime College in 2020, Navy has expanded the training to include eight autonomous maritime systems courses for the provision of operator and technical training for autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and uncrewed surface vessels (USVs). Read more [here](#).



Lieutenant Vaoafi Hart, centre, at the Pasifika Women's Alliance 'Women's Day' luncheon on March 7, 2020, with Regina Taua and Theresa Sao.

Cultural Reconnection with Community

25 October 2024

This is Lieutenant Vaoafi Hart's story.

After leaving full-time service in the Navy in 2018, I felt lost, searching for a sense of purpose and direction. I decided to reconnect with my Samoan roots, and through this journey I met Regina Taua, a remarkable Samoan woman who became my bridge to the Pacific community in southeast Queensland. Although I was initially shy, she encouraged me to join a Samoan dance group. Read more [here](#).

Goose Creek, South Carolina (7 July 2023) The Naval Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC) Colour Guard parade the colours during a United States Naval Nuclear Power School (NPS) graduation ceremony at NNPTC, 7 July 2023. Three Royal Australian Navy (RAN) officers graduated NPS, marking a significant step in Australia's goal to operate conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs). US Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Dart D. De La Garza.



Seven Royal Australian Navy Enlisted Sailors Graduate Nuclear Power School in an AUKUS First

14 October 2024

In another significant milestone for the Australia, United Kingdom, United States (AUKUS) enhanced trilateral security partnership, the first seven Royal Australian Navy (RAN) enlisted sailors graduated the United States Navy Nuclear Power School. Read more [here](#).



Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment supported by callsigns from the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment and 8th/12th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, conducted a live fire assault on a feature located in the Mount Bunday Training Area, Northern Territory, as part of Exercise Predators Run 2024. See video of Exercise Predators Run 2024 [here](#).

US Marines Head Home After Six Months Down Under

23 October 2024

On 4 August 2024, soldiers from the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment supported by callsigns from the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment and 8th/12th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, conducted a live fire assault on a feature located in the Mount Bunday Training Area, Northern Territory, as part of Exercise Predators Run 2024. Exercise Predator's Run 2024 is the Australian Army 1st Brigade's multilateral combined arms littoral exercise held in the Northern Territory, serving as the largest and most significant Littoral Manoeuvre

Training event for Army in 2024. Soldiers from the Australian Army, United States Marine Corps' Marine Rotational Force – Darwin, the United Kingdom's Royal Marine Commandos and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) conducted operations over 1000km of the Northern Territory from Nhulunbuy to Timber Creek, in littoral, field and urban environments. See video of Exercise Predators Run 2024 [here](#).

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. Read more [here](#).

DVA Media Releases

Remembering the Largest Naval Battle of the Second World War

25 October 2024

In October 1944, a large combined United States and Allied fleet, also including Royal Australian Navy vessels, launched an assault to begin liberating the Philippines from Japanese occupation. The fleet, in excess of 600 vessels, was about to prevail in the largest naval battle of the Second World War, the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Read more [here](#).



HMAS Australia after her return from the allied invasion of the Philippine Islands. The Australia suffered damage and losses at the landing at Leyte Island in 1944-10, and at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, in 1945-01.

ESO Advocates Don't Just Help Veterans, They Help Families Too

28 October 2024

Ex-service organisation (ESO) advocates can play an important role in connecting veterans and family members with DVA services and support for wellbeing and claims assistance. Importantly, the services ESO advocates provide are free. There is no need for veterans or family members to pay or give up a portion of their entitlements when an advocate provides advice or helps them to submit a claim to DVA.



Veterans' and Families' Hubs

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](#).



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

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

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

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

This invitation stands for our general meetings.

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

If attending a meeting contact Ian Brady

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

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

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

Contact and Feedback

We value your feedback!

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

By Post:

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

Email: editor@tpinsw.org.au

Phone: (02) 9235 1466

Free Call: 1800 649 216

Website: www.tpinsw.org.au

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

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

TPI NSW is a not-for-profit organisation limited by guarantee. ABN 90 002 296 988

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

• Representation • Wellbeing • Camaraderie • Commemoration