

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

E-Newsletter February 2025



Welcome to the February 2025 issue of the TPI NSW E-Newsletter

Our February E-Newsletter header features a photograph of Blue Mountains Botanic Garden at Mount Tomah. The garden is a showcase of local and imported cool climate plants and basalt cap forests, surrounded by UNESCO World Heritage Area wilderness. Visitors can enjoy the tranquillity on the walking trails, wander the plant displays, or take a pitstop at the restaurant with views of the scenic mountains.

This issue contains useful and interesting information for TPI NSW members including an invitation to a morning tea in Wollongong on Wednesday 5 March for members living in the Illawarra & Shoalhaven on page 2. Information about changes to the process of booking the TPI NSW

holiday unit at Coffs Harbour is found on page 3. A report on the TPI NSW Central Coast morning tea held in November 2024 appears on page 4.

An article about Operation Hammersley to coincide with the 2025 National Reunion of the 8th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (8 RAR) starts on page 6. 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@tpinsw.org.au



Invitation to Illawarra & Shoalhaven Morning Tea

Date: Wednesday 5 March 2025

Time: 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Venue: The Builders Club, The Loft Function Room, 61 Church St, Wollongong NSW 2500

Dear TPI NSW Member,

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

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

and new friends and have a nice time socialising with fellow TPIs.

We will be able to update you about some of the upcoming plans for the Association. We also plan to have speakers from DVA on hand to talk about veterans' matters and answer questions.

If you would like to join us on 5 March 2025, please email Kayleen Hoolihan, Wellbeing Officer at wellbeing@tpinsw.org.au no later than Tuesday 25 February 2025.

Please advise who will be accompanying you on the day. We look forward to seeing you (and your "plus one") on the day.

Best wishes,

John Szabo, CPA
CEO TPI NSW



Coffs Harbour Holiday Unit

We have changed the process for booking a stay at our holiday unit (Unit 5, 20 Boultonwood Street, Coffs Harbour).

- The accommodation fee has increased to \$80.00 per night.
- A minimum booking of two consecutive nights is required.
- Cleaning is included in the accommodation fee and does not have to be paid separately.
- All bookings should be made by calling the office on (02) 9235 1466, or by emailing office@tpinsw.org.au
- Access to the unit is now via keys contained in a lockbox at the unit. You will receive instructions to access the lockbox by email or SMS.
- If you do not have an email address or have difficulties sending and receiving text messages, please ask a family member, friend or neighbour to assist you.
- All enquiries during your stay should be directed to Coffs Coast Escapes phone: (02) 6652-8885.
- email: escapes@mcgrath.com.au



Central Coast Morning Tea

TPI NSW held a morning tea at Gosford RSL Club on Tuesday 12 November 2024. The free event was well attended by members and their guests. Attendees were welcomed by TPI NSW Association President Kevin Kelly, Association CEO John Szabo and NSW TPI Director John Hoban. Other TPI NSW directors in attendance were Stephen Emerson, OAM, JP, Ronald O'Connor, JP and Bill Roberts, OAM, JP. Addresses were delivered by TPI NSW Wellbeing Officer Kayleen Hoolihan and Sonia Gregory, DVA Deputy Commissioner NSW/ACT.

The morning tea was an opportunity for information sharing as well as for Central Coast members to connect with each other, TPI Directors and staff. Wellbeing Officer Kayleen Hoolihan advised that she can provide referrals to help ageing veterans remain in their own home. Kayleen can also advise of residential aged care facilities in a member's chosen region. Kayleen can be contacted by phone at the TPI NSW Office Monday

to Wednesday – Tel: (02) 9235 1466; Country Tel: 1800 649 216.

DVA Deputy Commissioner NSW/ACT Sonia Gregory was asked several detailed questions regarding veteran entitlements. The answers to these questions can be found [here](#).

The atmosphere of the event was lubricated by tea, coffee and light refreshments. Convivial social interaction led to fortuitous connections being made. Notably, TPI Director John Hoban had a surprise first-time meeting with his cousin Andy Hoban, who had also served in Vietnam. *Salute* features writer Alexandra Kaufman was introduced to Graham Munsell. In Vietnam, Graham commanded a Centurion tank that had survived a huge 1953 nuclear blast in Outback Australia. We look forward to telling the story of Graham's "Atomic Tank" Adventures in a future *Salute* – and to many more TPI NSW gatherings.



TPI Director John Hoban had a surprise first-time meeting with his cousin Andy Hoban, who had also served in Vietnam, at the Gosford morning tea on Tuesday 12 November 2024. Photographer: Alexandra Kaufman.

Operation Hammersley



Section Commander, Corporal Joe Danyluk of Port Kembla, NSW (right), and Aboriginal serviceman 1201998 Lance Corporal Richard Herbert "Dick" Bligh of Windsor, Qld, "take five" before commencing a search of a Viet Cong bunker system in the Long Hai Mountains during Operation Hammersley. With the enemy's whereabouts unknown, their weapons are never out of reach. Both soldiers are from B Company 8RAR which, together with other 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) units, fought an estimated company of hard-core Viet Cong (VC) entrenched in the mountains. The area was pounded by air strikes including a raid by giant B52 bomber aircraft, naval bombardment from HMAS Vendetta and artillery fire. Twenty-nine bodies of dead VC have been found. Photographer: Peter Ward. WAR/70/0106/VN.

On 28 February 1970 the Eighth Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (8RAR) was in the middle of a strategically important operation against enemy Vietnamese forces in Phước Tuy Province, South Vietnam. In terms of casualties this is a sad day in 8RAR's history, as it was on this day that 8RAR lost nine soldiers and two supporting arms soldiers, killed in action.

Operation Hammersley, now commonly referred

to as the Battle of The Long Hais, began on 10 February 1970 when C Company, with tank, APC and mortar support deployed to the western side of the Long Hai Hills to protect quarry operations being undertaken by 17 Construction Squadron. C Company established Fire Support Base Isa near the quarry site and ambushed likely enemy routes leading from the hills. Within days of the commencement of the operation the entire



An M125A1 Mortar Carrier, callsign 83Alpha, still burning after it was recovered from in front of an enemy defended position in the Long Hais. During the earlier attack, as part of Operation Hammersley, the vehicle was hit by three RPGs and soon after set on fire by a satchel charge. While the infantry passengers were able to be rescued, both the crew commander, Lance Corporal Barry Whiston and driver, Trooper Hugh Carlyle were killed in action. Those involved in rescuing the wounded infantry, Corporal Ron Macey (3 Cav) and Lance Corporal Barry Coe (8RAR), were each awarded the Military Medal (MM) for their bravery. Photographer: Robert Gardiner, 18 February 1970, AWM P01381.028. Image copyright: AWM.

battalion was, at various stages, deployed to the area and over the ensuing days there were numerous contacts and major conflicts with enemy forces. Notable amongst these major contacts were 9 Platoon C Company's ambush of approximately one hundred enemy on the night of 15 February and C Company's 18 February assault on a major enemy troop concentration of D445 Battalion.

It was during the 18 February conflict with D445 Battalion that a mortar carrier with infantry passengers was hit by an RPG round and caught

fire. A heavy battle followed and initial attempts to recover the mortar carrier failed; however, five of the seven mortar carrier occupants were rescued from the vehicle under heavy fire. For their part in this action, Corporal Barry Coe of C Company and Corporal Ronald Macey of B Squadron 3 Cavalry Regiment were each awarded the Military Medal. Sadly, both of these brave soldiers have since passed away.

During the ten days following 18 February numerous caches were discovered and more



Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam. March 1970. Soldiers of 8RAR prepare to move out from a night position in the rugged Long Hai mountains. They are heavily armed and are wearing helmets and flak-jackets in expectation of a clash with a Viet Cong (VC) company known to be in the area. AWM EKN/70/0038A/VN.

than 200 enemy bunkers destroyed. 4 Platoon B Company achieved notable results during this period when ten of an enemy party of eleven were killed by the platoon or by the enemy's own mines while attempting to escape. Many enemy dead, killed during earlier fighting in this protracted battle, were found unburied.

Casualties suffered by 8RAR during Operation Hammersley to this time were very light, however, that changed on 28 February when a platoon from A Company was involved in two mine incidents.

Prior to these incidents, the platoon had been moving at a rate of 100 metres per hour clearing a route to an ambush position. At 1100 hours an M26 grenade booby trap, with an anti-lifting device, was located. An engineer party moving to neutralize the booby trap triggered an M16 mine causing seven soldiers to be killed and 13 wounded. While guiding a helicopter into an area cleared of mines, a member of the platoon stepped out of the cleared area detonating a further M16 mine which killed one and wounded three soldiers. One of those



Kiwi Milk: When C Company 8RAR took a break, the attached New Zealand artillery forward observer party made a brew. From left to right, Gunners Wayne Radavanovich, Michael "Brutus" Brunton, Rodney Simpson and Lieutenant Angus Rivers surround a liberated tin of condensed milk found in an enemy cache. The milk had come from New Zealand and the Kiwis wasted no time in using it. Photographer: Rod Simpson.

wounded in each incident later died.

The Long Hai Hills had for many years been a stronghold from which enemy provincial forces had operated with relative impunity against major centres of civilian population. From this stronghold the enemy, defended by mines and booby traps, had inflicted heavy casualties on forces that had attempted to dislodge them. 8RAR's operations had proved that it was possible to force large enemy groups out of their mountain hides and with modern tactics and a high fighting spirit, the battalion continued operations to destroy the enemy's "Minh Dam Secret Zone", causing heavy casualties to the enemy and repelling them from their sanctuary as well as capturing significant quantities of weapons and equipment, so that the local population could live in security.

8RAR was awarded the Meritorious Unit

Commendation, including Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation, by the South Vietnamese government for its involvement in Hammersley. Casualties during Operation Hammersley were 11 killed and 59 wounded. Of this number, two of the dead and 19 of the wounded were from supporting arms.

And so, it is that 28 February has come to be known as Long Hai Day and has become a significant day of commemoration for 8RAR. It is on this day each year that 8RAR remembers their mates who were killed on that day in 1970, and others of the battalion who were killed or died whilst serving during 8RAR's tours of duty in Malaysia and Vietnam, and those who have died subsequently.

Lest We Forget

Reunions & Functions

The Eight Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (NSW Branch)

**8th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (8RAR)
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 8RAR Association web link below:

[https://www.8rarassociation.org/8rarassoc/reunion.
php](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@vvfagranville.org

Kevin Sullivan

Phone: 0416 262 924 or

Email: kevinsully1948@gmail.com

Thirtieth Anniversary of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) Reunion 21 – 26 April 2025



It's been 30 years since Australian Service Contingents 1 and 2 (ASC 1 and 2) were in Rwanda on Operation Tamar as part of UNAMIR II. The deployment of troops to Rwanda from 1994 to 1995 was a significant mission, with ASC 1 and 2 providing UN medical support.

A few members who served in Rwanda, with generous support from the Townsville RSL, have organised a reunion to commemorate this significant deployment and occasion. The reunion is for all UNAMIR contingents and will be held in Townsville, Queensland from 21 – 26 April 2025. This reunion invitation is extended to members of all UNAMIR contingents, not just 2/4RAR and 2RAR members. The culmination of the reunion will be the Townsville Anzac Day march at The Strand, where the Rwanda Reunion Contingent will be the lead veteran group. Townsville RSL are generously providing a specific banner for the Rwanda veterans to march under.

Support by the Townsville RSL has enabled the reunion to be a low-cost affair. The only cost will be for food at the reunion dinner on 23 April. There will be no facility, equipment hire or security costs to

attendees, as these have all been met by the Townsville RSL.

The reunion is being organised by President of the Townsville RSL Colin Mosch (ASC 1), Jason Martin (ASC 1), Terry "Irish" O'Halloran (ASC 2) and a couple of others to help with logistics. We aren't paid and are volunteers so please support us and come. We hope that you do make the

effort and renew friendships from long ago. We aim to make the reunion a relaxed affair with simple dress requirements and relaxed settings.

Reunion Program

Monday 21 April: Arrive at Townsville

Tuesday 22 April: Meet and greet

Wednesday 23 April: Kevin "Irish" O'Halloran book signing and talk at Townsville RSL and reunion dinner

Thursday 24: April: Free day

Friday 25 April: Anzac Day

Saturday 26 April: Recovery drinks and farewell in arvo.

If you would like to further information or would like to attend this "Back to Townsville" event, please contact me at: 2RAR Reunions

Jason Harrison: 0419 749 198

Email: 2RAR.Reunions@gmail.com

Please note: I am also the curator of the 2RAR Historical Collection. If you have any questions or photographs, please ring or email me. Thanks in advance for your cooperation and help.

Jason Harrison

DVA Media Release

Veterans to Better Access Hearing Support

Monday, 20 January 2025

More than 10,000 Australian veterans will this year be more empowered when it comes to hearing health, with significant improvements to how the government supports those with hearing impairment. Hearing loss and tinnitus are some of the most common conditions resulting from military service. These conditions affect individuals differently, at times it can be frustrating and isolating, affecting a person's overall health and wellbeing.

The government acknowledges those who have long advocated for improved hearing support for veterans, to improve their quality of life. Now, veterans experiencing hearing impairment will

have better access to a variety of hearing aids and supports through the Department of Veterans' Affairs' – Veteran Hearing Services Framework. With a renewed focus on supporting overall wellbeing and quality of life, the Framework considers the broader implications of hearing impairment for each individual – including for their health, social support and connection and employment and volunteer work, to ensure Australia's veterans receive the practical hearing support they need, when and how they need it. This will also speed up requests for complex hearing conditions while improving information available to veterans, families and service providers.

For more information, visit the [DVA website](#).

The Hon Matt Keogh, MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel



Defence Media Releases



Australia will begin the build of its fleet of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered SSN-AUKUS submarines at Osborne by the end of this decade. To facilitate the build of SSN-AUKUS, the Nuclear- Powered Submarine Construction Yard will enable Osborne to become one of the most advanced technological hubs in the world and help meet our long-term defence needs.

Public Invited to Comment on Osborne Submarine Construction Yard Strategic Assessment

3 February 2025

The public are invited to provide comment on the planned Nuclear-Powered Submarine Construction Yard Draft Strategic Impact Assessment Report for

Osborne, South Australia.

The public consultation period will run from 3 February to 17 March 2025.

Australia will begin the build of its fleet of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered SSN-AUKUS submarines at Osborne by the end of this decade. To facilitate the build of SSN-AUKUS, the Nuclear-Powered Submarine Construction Yard will enable Osborne to become one of the most advanced technological hubs in the world and help meet our long-term defence needs.



Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) moors at HMAS Stirling, Western Australia, as part of a scheduled port visit to perform a submarine tendered maintenance period (STMP) with the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39). Emory S. Land is in port at HMAS Stirling to conduct the STMP as part of AUKUS Pillar 1's effort to support Australia's acquisition of a sovereign conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability. Video by Commander Erick Wells, Submarine Force, US Pacific Fleet. Link to video [here](#).

The Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) has worked closely with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to progress a Strategic Assessment under Part 10 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, culminating in the development of this Draft Report. The Draft Report outlines measures to be taken to mitigate potential impacts on Protected Matters, as a result of the construction and operation of the Yard and includes findings from environmental assessments undertaken as part of the process.

Hard copies of the Draft Report are available for review at Port Adelaide Library (2-4 Church St, Port Adelaide) during the public consultation period. The Draft Report can also be viewed here:

www.asa.gov.au/projects/osborne-submarine-construction-yard

The ASA will review and consider submissions received via the ASA website, email or in-person at our community drop-in sessions as part of the Public Comment Period.

You can comment on the Draft Report:

- Online: Make a submission [here](#) (Opens in a new tab/window)
- Email: asa.osborne.enquiries@defence.gov.au
- Completing a hard copy form at any of the community drop-in sessions

You can view the How to Make a Submission Fact Sheet [here](#).

Please see the [video](#) to go with this item:



FOVA25 team and workshop leaders participating in a celebratory glass workshop at Glass Works.

Festival of Veterans Arts coming to Melbourne in March

28 January 2025

The Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM) has unveiled the official program for the second annual Festival of Veterans Arts (FOVA25). Following a successful debut in 2024, FOVA will offer an even wider selection of veteran and public events under this year's theme, "TOGETHER", highlighting creativity as a unifying force for veterans, families, and the community.

FOVA will run from 21 to 30 March 2025, in Melbourne's Southbank and Arts Precinct.

In 2024, FOVA's inaugural year welcomed 600 attendees and featured 109 veteran artists and contributors across 25 events. FOVA25 builds on that foundation, offering a broader, more inclusive program with a focus on fostering connection and sharing veterans' creative journeys with the public.

Key public events taking place include:

- FOVA Family Colour Parade – Instead of watching parades from the sidelines, the FOVA Family Colour Parade invites the community in full colour to be the parade led by a marching band.
- Art exhibitions – Including March to Art, Victoria Barracks art exhibition, Home Front and Veterans Public Arts Trail
- Variety performance and live music – Showcasing the talent and creativity of veterans through their own captivating stage performances and live music
- Live music and Last Post Service – Honouring those who served, with music and reflection.

There are also events only for the veteran community:

- Summit – Insightful panels and discussion on the arts and the veteran community
- Creative workshops – Opportunities to engage in visual arts, music, writing, and more, led by veteran artists and open exclusively to current and ex-ADF veterans and families.
- Open house at Waller House – A private

opportunity to explore the iconic home of Napier and Christian Waller, Victorian artists who created cultural landmarks across Melbourne.

Mervyn Napier Waller was seriously wounded in 1917 at fighting in Bullecourt. His right arm was amputated at the shoulder and, during his convalescence, he learned to draw and write with his left hand. He later established a reputation as a creator of large-scale murals and mosaics. He is honoured by the Napier Waller Art Prize, which is awarded every two years, and judged by art professionals from the Australian War Memorial.

For event registration and the full program, visit www.fova.org.au.

The Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM) invites veterans, families and the public to connect with and celebrate the powerful stories of veteran artists. Registration is now open for a three-hour tour of the Veterans Public Arts Trail on the morning of Sunday 18 May. You can book [here](#).

You can also visit the ANVAM website to find out more about what ANVAM has to offer: <https://www.anvam.org.au>



Prometheus by Mervyn Napier Waller 1967, located at 15 William St, Melbourne – one of the highlights of the Veterans Public Arts Trail. Napier Waller is well known for the mosaics and stained glass he created for the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial.

2025 Australia Day Honours

26 January 2025

ADF members from across the land, maritime, air, cyber and space domains have been recognised with military awards in the 2025 Australia Day honours list. The full list of 2025 Australia Day Military Awards can be seen [here](#).

Among the Australians honoured is Chief Petty Officer Matthew Lee Ostrowski, for meritorious achievement in support of the Collins Class Submarines. After heavy metals were detected seeping into drinking water aboard Collins Class submarines, Chief Petty Officer Matthew turned his office into a laboratory so he could quickly find a solution. He discovered a type of filter that could remove nickel and cadmium leaching from weld joints in the boat's pipes, eliminating the need to carry hundreds of litres of bottled drinking water on the already cramped submarines and potentially saving millions in repair costs.

It's what earned the UK-native a Conspicuous Service Medal as part of the 2025 Australia Day Honours. After creating a laboratory in the office where he could quickly test submarine water samples, he found a contractor who could supply filters to remove the heavy metals. Previously, there was a two-week wait to test water as it was sent off site. Chief Petty Officer Matthew and team then trialled different filters until he found one that worked, collecting and testing hundreds of samples along the way.

"We were looking at changing the pipe work because this contamination was coming from the welds throughout the pipes and tanks," Chief Petty Officer Matthew said.

"The remediation package would have been really intrusive, very expensive and it would have taken a lot of time. This was, you know, an easy, quick, simple fix in the end."



Chief Petty Officer Matthew with his wife and father after HMAS Waller berths alongside Diamantina Pier at Fleet Base West. He received a Conspicuous Service Medal during the 2025 Australia Day Honours. Photographer: Chief Petty Officer Damian Pawlenko.

It's Chief Petty Officer Matthew's 26th year of service, first with the Royal Navy and now the Royal Australian Navy. He said to be recognised and honoured in this way was a memorable personal achievement. "To get that sort of recognition after you dedicate your life to something is huge," Chief Petty Officer Matthew said. "But I'm cognisant of the fact it wasn't just me. I'm happy for the recognition for spearheading the concept but I wouldn't have been able to do it without the rest of the team."

Corporal Jacob Joseph and Defence News

Navy Leads Brumbies to Water

24 January 2025

Navy continues its support to elite Australian sporting teams, hosting the ACT Brumbies for a weeklong pre-season training camp at HMAS Creswell. HMAS Creswell physical training instructors (PTIs) led the Brumbies on teamwork and leadership challenges designed to test the physical and mental limits of the players.

Chief Petty Officer PTI Kristian Weldon said the focus was on building teamwork, resilience and trust within the team. "By engaging in hands-on tasks that require collaboration and mutual support, we've strengthened their ability to work together as a team," Chief Petty Officer Weldon said. "Encouraging everyone to rely on one another and



Able Seaman Joshua McPherson sets the pace for Austin Anderson, of the ACT Brumbies Super Rugby Pacific Squad, at HMAS Creswell gymnasium.

develop deeper connections has been invaluable.”

Chief Petty Officer Weldon also underscored the broader benefits of physical training and team building for the body and mind. “Team building and physical fitness play a crucial role in enhancing mental health and overall wellbeing,” he said. “Fostering stronger connections within our teams, promoting resilience and encouraging active lifestyles can significantly reduce stress, boost mood and improve mental clarity. This leads to a healthy mind-body balance and can enhance long-term wellbeing.”

This unique view of physical training and team building shines a light on the lesser known or sometimes overlooked benefits of exercise, like

improved cognitive function and general wellbeing.

Captain of the Men’s Super Rugby team, Allan Alaalatoa, said the camp was excellent.

“The PTIs ran some great team-building exercises that allowed us to strengthen our bonds and communication,” he said. “The facilities and location are next level. I thought it was a perfect way to start our year.”

The Brumbies weeklong training camp involved sessions on the picturesque HMAS Creswell quarterdeck, in the gym and pool, as well as training and recovery sessions on Hyams Beach.

Sub-Lieutenant Jake Badior

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

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

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

• Representation • Wellbeing • Camaraderie • Commemoration