

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

## E-Newsletter March 2026



### Welcome to the March 2026 issue of the TPI NSW E-Newsletter

Our March E-Newsletter header photograph shows Sydney's Victoria Barracks. The Australian Federal Government has proposed selling off national Defence assets, including Sydney's Victoria Barracks. Read more [here](#). (Photograph by **Nick D.**)

This E-Newsletter includes a booking form on page 2 for the TPI Veterans' NSW Winter Solstice Luncheon.

Starting on page 3 is information about *Courage & Compassion: The History of TPI NSW 1935–1925*, which Association members will receive in lieu of 2026 Autumn Salute. *Courage & Compassion* will be launched at the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney on 14 April 2026. On pages 5–6, TPI

NSW CEO Jenny-Jane Carpenter reports on recent developments at TPI NSW. Vanessa Campbell has been appointed full-time Wellbeing Facilitator.

Short biographies of new and continuing TPI NSW Board members begin on page 8. Details of upcoming regional NSW meetings and reunions begin on page 10.

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

**Victoria Dawson**

**Salute Editor & Designer**

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

# TPI Veterans' Association of NSW Winter Solstice Luncheon

The TPI Veterans' Association of NSW Winter Solstice Luncheon will be held at Club York, Level 1, 99 York Street, Sydney on Tuesday 28 July 2026 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. This invitation is extended to members and a guest, with a limit of two tickets per member. 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: Wednesday 1 July 2026. Mail: GPO Box 4429, Sydney NSW 2001 Email: [office@tpinsw.org.au](mailto: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: 025 402 663

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"/>	<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"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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CARDHOLDER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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# There will be no Autumn *Salute*

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**This is to advise that there will be no 2026 Autumn *Salute*. The *Salute* editorial team have been busy preparing *Courage & Compassion: The History of TPI NSW 1935–1925*.**

In lieu of 2026 Autumn *Salute*, Association members will receive a copy of *Courage & Compassion* in the post.

*Courage & Compassion* will be launched at the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney on 14 April 2026. All Association members will receive a copy of *Courage & Compassion* by post shortly after the launch.

Numbers for this event are limited so if you would like to attend, please RSVP by Thursday 26 March 2026.

**Phone: (02) 9235 1466**

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


## Correction

### Photograph of Australian military personnel in Korea in the 1950s

On page 25 of Summer *Salute*, a photograph supplied by Dr Rita Crews was incorrectly credited to Bill Crews.

This photograph should have been credited to Bert Crews.

The TPI Veterans Association of NSW apologises for this error.



The TPI Veterans' Association of NSW is pleased to invite you to celebrate the publication of

## Courage & Compassion

The History of the TPI Veterans' Association of NSW  
1935-2025  
by Allison O'Sullivan

To be launched by Kevin Humphreys DSC

**TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2026**  
**FROM 12 NOON**

The Anzac Memorial, Auditorium, Hyde Park South, Sydney  
Lunch and drinks will be served at 1pm

RSVP BY 26th March 2026  
(02) 9235 1466 | [wellbeing@tpinsw.org.au](mailto:wellbeing@tpinsw.org.au)



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# Courage & Compassion: The History of TPI NSW 1935–1925

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## Courage & Compassion

The History of the TPI Veterans' Association of New South Wales 1935 – 2025



ALLISON O'SULLIVAN

### **Courage & Compassion: The History of TPI NSW 1935–1925**

**By Allison O'Sullivan**

From the wards of Randwick Repatriation Hospital in 1935 to the challenges of a global pandemic and beyond, this is the story of men and women who refused to be forgotten. Born from the determination of disabled veterans of the First World War, the Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers' Association of NSW, later the TPI Veterans' Association of NSW, emerged because wounded soldiers needed more than charity. They needed

comradeship, dignity, and a collective voice. What began as a small band of veterans meeting in hospital grounds quickly grew into a statewide movement fighting for fair pensions, medical care for families, and recognition of sacrifice in a nation eager to move on from war.

Through the hardships of the Depression, the upheaval of the Second World War, and the social change of the post-war decades, the Association built not only campaigns but community. TPI House in Darlinghurst became a sanctuary; seaside holidays at Ettalong offered respite; social clubs, magazines, volunteer drivers and tireless auxiliaries wove fellowship into daily life. Behind the scenes relentless lobbying reshaped veterans' entitlements, even as pensions slipped behind the basic wage and new generations from wars in Korea, Vietnam and beyond arrived with new and complex injuries.

The late twentieth century brought financial strain, internal reform, and difficult decisions about property and governance. Yet each crisis became a catalyst for renewal. Under strong twenty-first-century leadership the Association rebuilt its finances, modernised its constitution, and recommitted to advocacy and welfare, growing its assets and strengthening its voice.

Spanning nearly a century, this is a story of resilience, reform and unwavering mateship – a testament to veterans who, honoured in war and determined in peace, built an organisation that continues to stand for representation, wellbeing, camaraderie and commemoration.

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# From the CEO's Desk

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In the last issue of *Salute*, I spoke about the positive changes underway at TPI NSW, including important updates to our Constitution that will guarantee our ongoing commitment to the wellbeing and advocacy of our members.

As part of that commitment, I am delighted to introduce Vanessa Campbell, who has recently joined TPI NSW as our new Wellbeing Facilitator. Vanessa is working fulltime to improve the lives of our members and brings with her a strong background in people centred service delivery, stakeholder engagement and program leadership across community, government and not for profit settings. Her professionalism and commitment to delivering respectful, high quality support align strongly with TPI Veterans' mission to enhance the wellbeing of all TPI veterans and their families. This expanded role attracted a strong and diverse field of experienced professionals, and Vanessa stood out for her practical and compassionate approach.

I am also proud to announce that TPI NSW has awarded its first organisational grant to a highly respected organisation doing vital work in regional communities. From January this year, and over the next three years, TPI NSW will be supporting the Partners of Veterans Association of Australia (PVAA) in their volunteer work supporting veterans and their families. This funding recognises the invaluable role partners play in veteran wellbeing and sits alongside our ongoing support for initiatives such as AVCAT, which continues to deliver lifechanging educational opportunities for the children and grandchildren of veterans.

In the short time I have been at the helm of TPI NSW, I have connected with a number of veteran and community organisations, including Legacy Australia, Families of Veterans Guild, Women Veterans Network Australia, Kintsugi Heroes, Invictus Australia and Mission Australia, with a

shared aim of exploring future collaborations that will deliver tangible benefits for our members.

With a future focus, the Board and I continue to undertake strategic discussions to ensure TPI NSW remains sustainable and well-positioned to support veterans and their families over the long term. As this work progresses, members will have the opportunity to consider and approve any proposed changes.

Looking ahead, I am also keen to expand the range of activities offered through TPI NSW, both from Head Office and in partnership with our Social and Welfare Clubs. Ideas currently being explored include art and cooking classes, motorbike tours, sailing and surfing lessons, and other activities that promote connection, wellbeing and enjoyment. I would very much like to hear from you about what activities interest you most.

Several members have already taken the time to email me, and I genuinely appreciate hearing your thoughts. Please continue to share your ideas and feedback, I am always happy to take these to the Board as we consider future initiatives and changes.

**Jenny-Jane Carpenter**

**TPI NSW Chief Executive Officer**

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



*TPI NSW CEO Jenny-Jane Carpenter. Photographer: Giselle Haber.*

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# From the Wellbeing Facilitator

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Hello, I am Vanessa Campbell and I am honoured to join TPI Veterans' NSW office as Wellbeing Facilitator this January.

I strongly align with placing people at the centre of an association, working for best possible outcomes for members and stakeholders. In the past I have worked in project and service delivery across community, government, and not for profit organisations, ranging from arts and media, and advocacy, to development. I am committed to delivering enthusiastic, quality support which aligns with TPI Veterans' mission to enhance the wellbeing of injured veterans and their families.

Together with TPI NSW leadership, I look forward to growing and expanding Association membership, as well as enhancing social and support opportunities for members and the clubs.

I look forward to meeting you. You can contact me on email or the phone in the office, where I am

available on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

**Vanessa Campbell**

**Wellbeing Facilitator**

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

**Phone: (02) 9235 1466**

**Country Phone: 1800 649 216**



*TPI NSW Wellbeing Facilitator Vanessa Campbell. Photographer: Giselle Haber.*



*TPI NSW Wellbeing Facilitator Vanessa Campbell (left) with members of the Blacktown Social & Welfare Club at their picnic at Plough & Harrow Park, Western Sydney Parkland, Abbotsbury on 10 February 2026.*

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# TPI NSW Board Members

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## Directors Elected at the AGM held on 28 October 2025

The Annual General Meeting of TPI NSW was held on 28 October 2025. In accordance with the Constitution, five positions on the Board were declared vacant. Five candidates nominated themselves for election and were declared elected unopposed.

We are pleased to announce the following members were elected as your directors:

**John Davison** – Joined RAN in 1964 as an apprentice. Served in Vietnam on HMAS *Sydney*, retired from service as a Warrant Officer in 1985.

Member of Blacktown TPI Social & Welfare Club, previously serving as Secretary. Currently holds the position of Blacktown TPI Social & Welfare Club Grants Officer, raising in excess of \$160,000 from Club Grants and other sources.

**John Hoban** – Enlisted as a private soldier in 1963, serving in the CMF with 1/15 Lancers and PNG Volunteer Rifles 1964–65. Joined the regular Army on 14 December 1965 and served 20 years including 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Pacific Islands Regiment (1PIR), South Vietnam as 2IC AFV Provost Unit March 1971–March 72, and various Australian command and staff appointments. Director, TPI



*TPI NSW Board of Directors, January 2026. Seated, left to right: Bill Roberts OAM, President Kevin Kelly, Vice President Harold Lowe, Alan Jones. Standing, left to right: Editorial Director John Hoban, Vice President Ronald O'Connor, John Davison JP, Philip Hurren. Absent: Les Vincent. Photographer: Giselle Haber.*

NSW since 2022. President, Peshurst RSL Sub-Branch. Committee member of Royal Humane Society of NSW.

**Alan Jones** – Australian Regular Army service for nine years. Toured Vietnam in 1969–1970. Member of Blacktown TPI Social & Welfare Club. Currently holds the position of Honorary Treasurer with the Blacktown TPI Social & Welfare Club.

**Ronald O'Connor JP** – National Secretary, Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia. Secretary and Life Member, Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association (NSW branch). Secretary, 8 RAR Association (NSW Branch). Director, TPI NSW since 2022. Along with Harry Lowe, current TPI NSW Vice President. Career experience in strategic planning, change management and infrastructure development. Justice of the Peace.

**William Roberts OAM** – Australian Regular Army 1963-71, served with 4RAR Malaya/Borneo 1965-67, Vietnam (4RAR/NZ) 1968–69. State President, Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association (NSW branch). National President Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia. Director, TPI NSW since 1999. Director, Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT).

The Board and management team warmly congratulate the incoming Directors and thank them for their commitment to serve.

In addition, your Directors who were not up for re-election in 2025 and who remain in office until the 2026 AGM are Phil Hurren, Kevin Kelly, Harry Lowe, and Les Vincent.

**Phil Hurren** – Conscripted through the National Service scheme in September 1966 and served until September 1968. Served with the Corps Royal Australian Engineers (RAE), including a posting to 17 Construction Regiment RAE in South Vietnam in 1968. After discharge, went on to further studies,

initially supported by a DVA program, firstly studying electronics at the Amalgamated Wireless Australia (AWA) college and then Production Engineering at TAFE. Worked with AWA at Ashfield and was involved with the first AWA colour TV production facility. Sustained substantial hearing loss and was granted TPI status in 1999. Has been on the board of TPI NSW most of the time since then. Also, an active member of his RSL sub-branch. RAE Corps Museum volunteer for 25 years.

**Kevin Kelly** – Served eight years RAAF, two years in Vietnam with 9SQN as gunner crewman mainly on gunships. Following RAAF service was a sales rep selling diesel engines, ABS plastic pipe. Lived in Karratha WA for two years, then Melbourne for two years. Member of Peshurst RSL Sub-Branch, Kevin has been a TPI NSW Board member for several years and has served as Association Vice President. In 2023 he became the President of TPI NSW and still serves in that role.

**Harry Lowe** – National Service 1966 to 1968, Vietnam 1967. Ran his own automotive repairs and service station company for 25 years and was on the board of a parts company for over five years. Joined TPI NSW in 2004 and has been on the TPI NSW Board of Directors for the past six years. Current TPI NSW Vice President, along with Ronald O'Connor JP.

**Les Vincent** – Roles as President Sutherland District TPI S&W Club. Represented TPI NSW on the Veterans' Children's Education Board (VCEB) for a number of years. Served as TPI Federation Director for many years. Headed the project team charged with investigating TPI NSW units at Belmore, sale thereof and inspection, along with Pat Bright, of potential alternative accommodation for Belmore residents. Has been on the TPI NSW Board of Directors for several years, and previously served as both President and Vice President of TPI NSW.

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# Join Us in Orange

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## Shape the Future of TPI NSW

**Tuesday 5 May, 7:30pm**

**Wednesday 6 May, 10am**

**Venue: Greenhouse Function Room**

**Orange Ex-Services' Club**

TPI Veterans NSW is coming to Orange for two special information sessions as we launch our refreshed Constitution and new membership model. Join us for social drinks and a short,

engaging presentation about the future of your local Veteran community. Hear directly from Scott Jeffrey (TPI Federation President), Jenny-Jane Carpenter (CEO), Kevin Kelly (NSW Club President), Phil Hurren (Association Board member), and a DVA representative who will explain the upcoming VETS Act changes commencing 1 July 2026.

Have your say. Stay informed. Help shape TPI's future.

**RSVP: [wellbeing@tpinsw.org.au](mailto:wellbeing@tpinsw.org.au) | 02 9235 1466**



*Orange Ex-Services' Club.*

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# TPI Veterans NSW is Coming to Wagga Wagga

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Dear Members,

The TPI Veterans NSW President, Kevin Kelly, and CEO, Jenny Jane Carpenter, will be in Wagga Wagga on Thursday 16 April for the Pro Patria Centre dinner.

While we're in town, we would love the opportunity to meet with our local members and share some important updates about the future direction of TPI Veterans NSW.

**Please join us at the Pro Patria Centre on Friday 17 April at 10:00am for a relaxed catch up over tea, coffee, and snacks.**

We also hope to be joined by a DVA representative who will provide an overview of the upcoming Vets Act reforms coming into effect on 1 July 2026.

This will be a great chance to connect, hear your views, answer your questions, and discuss how we continue supporting our veteran community.

You're very welcome to bring your partners, mates, or any younger veterans who may be interested in learning about the benefits of joining TPI NSW.

To help us plan, please RSVP:

**wellbeing@tpinsw.org.au or 02 9235 1466**

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Jenny-Jane Carpenter**

**TPI NSW Chief Executive Officer**

**Email: ceo@tpinsw.org.au**



## Honouring Service, Building Futures: Pro Patria Centre Dinner

Thursday 16 April 2026 - 6pm-10pm  
Magpies Nest Restaurant, Wagga Wagga  
Cocktail attire  
Tickets: \$160

Enjoy complimentary drinks on arrival, three course dinner, musical entertainment by the Australian Army Band Kapooka & guest speaker Peter Jennings AO PSM.

All proceeds from this fundraiser go to Pro Patria Centre, to continue supporting our veterans and first responders.

The Military History Society of NSW presents

# THE AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY COMPANIES OF THE WESTERN FRONT, 1916-1918



**Public Lecture by Lt-Col David Deasey (retd)**

**10:30AM Saturday 4 April 2026**

**Anzac Memorial Hyde Park, Sydney CBD**

Charles Bean mentions Australia's railway units in perhaps half a dozen places in his Official History of Australians in the Great War and then mainly in footnotes. They were never part of the initial offer by Australia to Britain in 1914. Yet by 1918, Australia had effectively deployed a railway regiment of about 1,500 soldiers operating in France. So how and why did they get there and how did a group, which despite contradicting Australian policy and initially not legally part of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), end up being very much part of the AIF? What role did they play, and as a side issue, how did ten New South Wales Government Railways designed locomotives end up wandering about France?

#### **TIME AND VENUE:**

**10:30AM Saturday 4 April 2026 at  
The Auditorium, Anzac Memorial Hyde Park,  
Hyde Park South, corner Elizabeth and Liverpool  
Streets, Sydney CBD.**

**Admission is free of charge but a donation  
would be appreciated. For info call 0419 698 783  
or email: [president@militaryhistorynsw.com.au](mailto:president@militaryhistorynsw.com.au)**

#### **Speaker – Lieutenant Colonel (retd) David Deasey RFD OAM**

Lieutenant Colonel (retd) David Deasey RFD OAM served in the Australian Army Reserve for 33 years before retiring, and between 1995 and 1997 in the capacity of Commanding Officer of the University



*Anzac Memorial Hyde Park, corner of Elizabeth and Liverpool Streets, Sydney.*

of NSW Regiment. He is the co-author of *The History of the University of NSW Regiment 1952–2006* (2009). David is also a retired teacher having taught English and history at various schools for 37 years. In 2019 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) “for service to community history” particularly in connection with his work as chair of the National Boer War Memorial Association’s NSW Committee. He is a member of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) for Defence and Security Studies, New South Wales. He has spoken and written widely about military history.



### **Our Venue**

The venue for The Military History Society of NSW lecture program is the Auditorium on the lower level of Anzac Memorial Hyde Park, corner of Elizabeth and Liverpool Streets, Sydney CBD. Numerous bus services stop at the location and Museum railway station is only 160 metres away. The venue opens its doors at around 10:00AM.

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# Reunions & Functions

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**HEADQUARTERS  
1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE  
SOUTH VIETNAM 1966 - 1972**

## **60th Anniversary HQ1ATF Association Reunion 16 – 20 November 2026**

**Tiona Holiday Park (THP)  
4451 The Lakes Way, Tiona, NSW 2428  
Phone: 02 6554 0291  
Email: [stay@tiona.com.au](mailto:stay@tiona.com.au)  
Web: [www.tiona.com.au](http://www.tiona.com.au)**

The 2026 HQ1ATF Association reunion will be held at Tiona Holiday Park, 16 – 20 November and will remember 60 years since we first marched into Nui Dat. This five-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 reunion plays a significant role.

There will be ample time for members and families to spend time together over the period of the reunion. On Tuesday 17 November a boat cruise will be undertaken on Wallis Lake – lunch included.

The Commemorative Dinner will be held on Wednesday 18 November 2026 at the Palms Pavilion at Tiona. The dinner will be preceded by a Dedication Service at the Tiona Green Cathedral. The service will commence at 6pm.

The informal farewell dinner will be held at the Recky Pacific Palms Recreation Club on Thursday 19 November.

For details contact:

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

**Phone: 0437 212 121**

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

**[www.hq1atf.org](http://www.hq1atf.org)**



*Sunset over Seven Mile Beach, Mid North Coast, New South Wales.*

## Headquarter & Headquarter Company 1st Australian Logistic Support Group (1 ALSG) ex- Vietnam reunion for 2026

Wednesday 14 to Monday 19 October 2026  
(5 days). To be held in Wodonga, Victoria

For accommodation and reunion details contact

**Tony Brown**

Phone: 0428 852 736

Email: [tony11raye13@gmail.com](mailto:tony11raye13@gmail.com)



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# Defence Media Releases

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## Australia to Accelerate Counter-Drone Research with DroneShield

**25 February 2026**

Defence is accelerating the development of counter-drone technology across the innovation, science and technology ecosystem by partnering with DroneShield to share vital research. Under a three-year bilateral collaborative research agreement, Defence, through the Defence Science and Technology Group, and DroneShield will share data on emerging drone technologies as well as access to test articles, ranges and facilities.

Research and development are the cornerstone of advancing next-generation defence capabilities, which are essential if Australia is to obtain a decisive edge in complex operational environments.

Working together with industry to share

counter-drone research delivers significant benefits for national security, helps drive innovation within the domestic defence sector and helps ensure sovereign capability in an increasingly contested technological environment.

Chief Defence Scientist Professor Tanya Monro stated, "Defence is pleased to partner with DroneShield on development and data of emerging drone technologies. We know that counter-drone technology continues to evolve rapidly, by working together we can stay ahead of emerging threats and deliver innovative solutions that protect Australia's interests. Counter-drone technology is critical to keeping our ADF members safe, and that's why Defence is committed to working with industry so that we can ensure our soldiers, sailors and aviators are provided with the most advanced technology available."

**Defence Media**



*DroneShield's DroneGun Tactical, a long-range counter-drone system. Image supplied by Defence Media.*

## **‘Our Service, Our Pride’: Defence Celebrates Another Year of Inclusion and Pride at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras**

**28 February 2026**

Marching under the banner of ‘Our Service, Our Pride’, Defence joined thousands of participants celebrating diversity, inclusion and equality at the 2026 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras on Saturday 28 February 2026.

Defence is proud to continue honouring those who paved the way for greater inclusion, and those who continue to light the way for future

generations. One hundred and twenty participants from the Defence LGBTIQ+ Information Service (DEFGLIS), the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Defence’s Australian Public Service staff marched in the official parade, demonstrating Defence’s support for an inclusive culture where people can serve authentically and with pride.

Participation reflects Defence’s values and promotes an inclusive workforce that represents the community we serve. It reinforces Defence’s commitment to excellence in service and to fostering a culture where everyone can contribute fully in support of Australia’s national interests.

Head Military Personnel Division and ADF LGBTQIA+ Champion, Rear Admiral Letitia van Stralen, AM, CSC, RAN stated, “The Mardi Gras Parade is a celebration of inclusion, progress and pride. Defence members marching in the Mardi Gras Parade shows the diversity of our workforce,



*Australian Defence Force personnel pose for a group photo at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, prior to marching in the 2026 Sydney Mardi Gras parade, led by Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Chris Smith, AM, CSM, RAN, and Chief Petty Officer Anita Van Der Meer, on Saturday 28 February 2026. Photographer: Petty Officer Imagery Specialist (POIS) David Cox.*

and that our Defence people are reflective of our society.

The identities of our people are honoured through wearing their uniforms, representing the ADF, and celebrating who they are as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Wherever you work in Defence, know your efforts directly contribute to the security of our nation and you are valued. Be proud of who you are and what you represent. I am immensely proud of our people.”

#### **Defence Media**

## **Australian Navy and Army Celebrate 125 Years of Service**

**1 March 2026**

The Australian Navy and Australian Army are commemorating 125 years of service, recognising the generations of sailors and soldiers who have served the nation with distinction. This milestone celebrates the enduring values that define Australia’s service personnel and acknowledges the vital role both organisations continue to play in safeguarding Australia’s security, prosperity and national identity.

The Australian Navy and Australian Army formed



*Rear Admiral Sir George Patey and Captain of HMAS Australia (I), c. 1913–1914, aboard flagship during fleet formation. Photograph courtesy Australian Navy Archives.*

on 1 March 1901, when the Australian colonial forces amalgamated following Federation. At the time, they were known as the Commonwealth Naval Forces and Commonwealth Military Forces. Their current titles were officially granted in 1911 and 1980, respectively.

Since their establishment in 1901, Navy and Army have demonstrated exemplary service – protecting Australia’s borders, representing our national interests in peacetime, competition and war, and supporting communities at home in times of need while safeguarding Australia’s national security and regional prosperity.

This milestone recognises the generations of Australians who have answered the call to serve their nation – service made possible by the

unwavering support of their families.

Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AO, RAN stated, “As we mark 125 years of our proud naval history, this is an opportunity to honour the thousands of Australians who have chosen to serve.” Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, AO, DSC noted that the Australian Army has been a trusted national institution, deeply connected to communities and committed to protecting Australia.” Lieutenant General Simon Stuart went on to say, “I am incredibly proud of the work our soldiers do every day in the service of our nation.”

#### **Defence Media**

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# Partners of Veterans Association Blacktown

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**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. Click **here** for more information about ADSO.

## **For further information contact:**

**Patricia Ross**

**Phone: 0410 519 063**

**Email: [pwross70@outlook.com](mailto: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.



*TPI NSW CEO Jenny-Jane Carpenter with members of the Blacktown Social & Welfare Club at their picnic at Plough & Harrow Park, Western Sydney Parkland, Abbotsbury on 10 February 2026.*

# 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:**

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Sydney NSW 2001**

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

**Phone: (02) 9235 1466**

**Free Call: 1800 649 216**

**Website: [www.tpinsw.org.au](http://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***