



# Capital Chit-Chat

Newsletter of the Defence Force Welfare Association -



March 2016

## **WELFARE AND DVA PENSION SUPPORT**

The ACT Branch has a small dedicated volunteer team who assist members with welfare and DVA pension questions and problems. These facilities are available to ACT Branch members and service and ex-service members including families. Should you have any questions or need some assistance to get the answers and/or assistance you require, then please use the contact details below.

The Branch Committee is also interested in any members who may have a little spare time to assist others with service welfare and pension issues. Full professional DVA sponsored training is available and each new volunteer will be mentored through their training by an experienced branch member and pension officer.

Contact the ACT Branch via email at [actbranch@dfwa.org.au](mailto:actbranch@dfwa.org.au), leave a message on the Branch answering service 02 62659596 or contact our Welfare and Pensions coordinator Hilton Lenard on 0418 695345 or email [hiltonlenard@hotmail.com](mailto:hiltonlenard@hotmail.com) and include DFWA in the subject line.

## **YOUR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ACT BRANCH**

Members are reminded that we are about to move to a Financial Year membership and the Branch is extending paid memberships by six months to move memberships to this new arrangement. This means that if you have recently paid an Annual subscription, your membership will now run until Jun 2017 (not Dec 2016). Five year subscriptions will continue until June in the following year at the end of the 5 year period. Unfortunately, the address label on this edition of Camaraderie will not yet reflect this change due to limitations with the current membership database. We expect to have a better system in place when the new membership system is implemented in July this year.

Your patience on this matter is appreciated. If you have any queries on your membership please contact Trevor Goodhew our Membership Secretary on 02 6291 4491 or by email to the Branch at any time.

## **DEFENCE WIDOWS GROUP**

The Defence Widows Group has had its first meeting for 2016 and plans are underway for our March 21 lunch at Café Injoy and April 3 lunch at the Burns Club.

More details are provided in the Group's Newsletter which will be mailed separately to all our Defence Widows.

If you miss out on receiving a Newsletter, this can be remedied by contacting the group: leave a message on 6265 9496 or email: [dwsg-act@dfwa.org.au](mailto:dwsg-act@dfwa.org.au)

### **THE BOOTS N' ALL CHOIR - TOGETHER IN SONG**

Have you always wanted to join a Choir? Well here is your opportunity - The Boots N' All Choir is singing out for new members. We Want You !!

The Boots N' All Choir aims to bring Veterans and their Supporters together in song, to create an uplifting community of amateur singers - no singing experience is necessary, just a love of music and song is all that is required.

The Choir will provide its members the opportunity to express themselves with likeminded people in a safe, friendly and supportive environment, to demonstrate the social and health benefits of singing and music.

So come on, give it a go! There will be no auditions, and it is accessible and inclusive to people of all abilities and ages living in and around the ACT region.

If you would like more information on the Boots N' All Choir at Soldier On, please contact the ACT team on [ACT@soldieron.org.au](mailto:ACT@soldieron.org.au), or 02 6188 6140.

### **CANBERRA'S FLEXIBLE BUS SERVICE**

The ACT Government's flexible bus service trial is exceeding expectations. It currently operates in five zones – Inner Belconnen, Northern Belconnen, Inner South, Woden/Weston and Tuggeranong. It is hoped this service will soon extend to the inner North and Gungahlin.

The service is designed for the aged and disabled. It is free, picking up from home and delivering to local shopping centres and hospitals. However, it can also be used for one-off appointments and recreational activities. Carers who hold a valid carer's card are permitted to accompany. Buses are wheelchair accessible and operated by a member of the Special Needs Transport team. Pickups commence at 9.30 am and return trips at 1.30 pm.

The service operates 2-3 days in each zone and it is essential to book two days prior to travel. Bookings can be made by phoning 6205 3555 between 9 am and 4 pm, Monday to Friday; OR via email: [flexiblebussevice@act.gov.au](mailto:flexiblebussevice@act.gov.au) .

More information can be found at [www.transport.act.gov.au](http://www.transport.act.gov.au)

### **BULKY WASTE COLLECTION**

The ACT Government has extended its bulky waste household collection service to at least 30 June 2016. To be eligible for the free service, a resident of a dwelling must hold a current Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card; an ACTION Gold Concession Card; OR a Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card.

One free collection is permitted per dwelling during the trial.

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For more information phone 6249 7974 or email: [bulkygoods@gmail.com](mailto:bulkygoods@gmail.com)