



Capital Chit-Chat

Newsletter of the Defence Force Welfare Association -

ACT Branch Inc

July 2014

DEFENCE WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP (DWSG) NEWS

Our Patron. We are very pleased advise that Lady Cosgrove has agreed to be Patron of the Defence Widows Support Group, and has also agreed to attend the DWSG Annual Lunch on 25 September, as guest speaker.

Recent Lunches. The DWSG held two pleasant lunches in March, with thirty two ladies lunching at the Woden Southern Cross Club and thirty six northside ladies lunching at the Café Injoy at Gold Creek Village. At these gatherings small change collections raised \$200 with the aim of providing CD players for audio books for veterans spending time in our hospitals. The ACT DFWA has kindly offered to subsidise these collections this dollar for dollar.

Next Lunches. Our next lunches will be at the China Tea House, Erindale, on Tuesday, 22nd July for those ladies who live on the southside; and the China Tea Club, North Lyneham, on Sunday 28th July for the northside ladies. Both lunches are at 12 noon. It would be most helpful if ladies could phone their Support Friend by 14th July to indicate their attendance or leave a message (including name and telephone number) on the ACT DFWA telephone – 6265 9496. This is a message service and although the messages are checked regularly your call may not be returned immediately. Your Support Friend will contact you prior to the lunches if she has not heard from you.

Recent Other Activities. We were represented at the Field of Remembrance at Moreshead Home in April by our Convenor, Christine Lamb. Elaine Pennock, one of our Support Friends, is the very busy President of the War Widows Guild, and she and her helpers did an excellent job at organising this annual event.

Australian War Memorial Service. We will again conduct a commemorative service at the Australian War Memorial in October and we would be delighted if could join us. Details will be advised nearer the time.

Volunteers. We are always looking for volunteers to join our ranks of Support Friends. The duties are not onerous. The group meets at 10.30 am on the second Monday of the even months at the Jamison Southern Cross Club, and most stay for lunch afterwards. Although attendance at these meetings is desirable we appreciate that many of us have other commitments also. Support Friends are allocated a number of widows in their area and are asked to contact them about the lunches and also to assist in the Christmas mailout. We would love to hear from you if you would like to help – either through your Support Friend or leaving a message on the DFWA telephone (6265 9496). You are most welcome to attend our meetings before making a commitment.

We have become aware that sometimes people with mobility limitations have difficulties when they have ordered a taxi. To avoid the possibility of a bus with high steps arriving as your transportation, please state 'not a bus' when making your phone call.

Annual Luncheon. As is customary we will have our annual lunch at the CIT – this year on 25th September. The CIT have assured us that every effort will be made to ensure this year's lunch will be a success. As advised above, the guest speaker will be our Parton, Her Excellency Lay Cosgrove.

All members of DFWA are most welcome to join us on this day. If you wish to register your interest to attend the luncheon (with no commitment at this time), please phone Christine Lamb on 62864617 or email lamb@netspeed.com.au and we will advise you of further details closer to the date.

YOUR DFWA SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

Your annual DFWA subscription (subs) runs for a calendar year ending in December. If you are not sure if your subs are due, then the answer is on the **address label** on the envelope your *Camaraderie* was posted. The label has the following information:

Member No: 1234	Expires: Dec 2013
S/C L J PODMORE	
Bldg A 81 Harrison Rd	
DUNTROON ACT 2600	

Your subs expiry date is shown in the **top right hand corner** of the label. If you are a life or honorary member, then only **LS** (meaning Life Subscription) is shown, and **no subs are payable**.

If the year date is prior to the current year, then your subs are overdue. If the year date is after this year, then you have paid in advance.

If you are in any doubt about your membership status ... contact Trevor, our Membership Secretary on 0407313585 or email him at actbranch@dfwa.org.au

NSW TRANSPORT PASS – EX MEMBER OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

We have been advised that ACT residents will no longer be eligible to receive the above transport pass that is issued by the NSW Government. The passes provide for free transport on NSW trains, buses and ferries to those eligible by virtue of having a disability recognised by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

However, we also understand that those ACT residents currently in receipt of the pass will continue to be eligible for the pass, and will continue to receive renewal cards each year.

MARRIAGE CELEBRANT

The ACT Branch President moonlights as a Marriage Celebrant, and would be pleased to assist any member who may need that service ! Les can be contacted on 0411 444248 or bienk@grapevine.com.au. Note however Les is overseas until 20 August.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO OUR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS !

You will read in the edition of *Camaraderie* that a SA Branch has been established. Over the next few months the ACT Branch we will be transferring SA members to that Branch, along with the financial subscriptions the ACT Branch has received.

If you would prefer to remain a member of the ACT Branch, please let our membership Secretary know. Trevor can be contacted on 0407313585 or email him at actbranch@dfwa.org.au

A MESSAGE FROM THE SA BRANCH PRESIDENT, JOHN WILSON:

SA Branch now has a Secretary ! We are very pleased to advise that Mrs Maria Barclay (an Army veteran) has agreed to act as Secretary of the South Australian Branch of the DFWA. Maria has a long history of RSL service and is a contributor to the Women Veterans group. Maria also made a significant contribution to the Fair Go Campaign in SA. Maria will of course submit herself for election at the next AGM, but in the meantime, please welcome Maria to this challenging post and afford her all the cooperation and assistance that our great Association accepts as the norm.

Momentum in re-establishing the SA Branch is developing well ! Some of our recent activities include:

- Visit to the Peter Badcoe VC Centre at Edinburgh. The VVAA in conjunction with Helping Hand are providing excellent support to some of our most at-risk veterans, including a number who have recently transitioned from the ADF. The work of Ian (Patch) Campbell and his wonderful volunteers is well worth seeing. They demonstrate how veterans continue to help their veteran mates. It was a humbling experience to see the great work being done by Patch and his band.
- Visit to 7RAR battle group, Edinburgh. Laurie Lewis and John Wilson visited the 7RAR battle group last month. The clear message that we are receiving from ADF members in SA is that the steady erosion of conditions of service is one of their main concerns. Officers and Sergeants messes will now receive only buffet service, a removal of an important condition of service. Also members involved in a removal on reposting will now not be paid mileage allowance for transporting their private vehicle to the new posting. Instead they will be paid only the cost of a single air fare. With discount air fares it is obvious that the cost of removing from Adelaide to Townsville, for example, will be borne by the member. Another erosion of conditions of service.
- Presentation to the RAAF Association, Mitcham. John Wilson, accompanied by Maria Barclay, presented a briefing to the monthly meeting of the RAAF Association, Mitcham, SA. Branch President, Dr Robert Black and past-President Bob MacIntosh made us feel most welcome and the briefing was appreciated by members present.
- Visit to 10/27 Royal South Australian Regiment. John Wilson made a brief visit to 10/27 RSAR this month and presented the details of the new branch. RSM Adrian Hodges appreciated our visit and promised to raise our Association's reestablishment with the Battalion CO and key staff.

Our main need is for new members. With the Budget 2014 proposals in relation to Service Pensions, Disability Pensions, new ADF Super Scheme and other changes to means testing and income thresholds, it is vital that we are resourced to continue to provide an effective voice for the Defence Community, including serving and past-serving members, reservists and our women veterans. We also need financial resources. If you can manage even a small donation, contributions will be gratefully received.

Feel free to contact me at any time ... see contact details on page 4 of this edition of *Camaraderie*.

John Wilson

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