



Capital Chit-Chat

Newsletter of the Defence Force Welfare Association -



July 2015

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.

Contact the ACT Branch via email at 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 him at hiltonlenard@hotmail.com. When emailing please include 'DFWA' in the subject line.

CALLING FOR WW2 EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN / WIDOWS / WIDOWERS

DFWA is seeking assistance in identifying WWII ex-service men and women in the ACT, along with WWI or WWII widows or widowers of ex-service men and women in the ACT. The Chief Minister of the ACT will be hosting a reception for WWII veterans in late August 2015 as part of the local Anzac Centenary commemorations. Depending on the number of personnel preference will be given to ex-service personnel first, followed by widows or widowers.

Please pass the name and postal address (or email where applicable) of such people to the Branch Secretary as soon as possible so we can pass this information onto the Chief Minister.

FLEXIBLE BUS SERVICE IN CANBERRA

A Flexible Bus Service is available to Canberra residents who have limited access to public transport options. It is a basic bus service which is localised to particular zones.

Designed specifically for residents such as the aged or people with a disability, the Flexible Bus Service is a free service which operates off a basic timetable, picking up residents from their home and taking them to local community service providers such as local shopping centres and hospitals. The fleet of minibuses are all wheelchair accessible.

The service is assessed on a case by case basis. To qualify, you may be asked if you comply with the following criteria:

- seniors card holders with mobility issues
- seniors card holders aged 70 or over
- living in a nursing home and/or retirement village
- impacted by a permanent or temporary disability that prevents you from accessing regular route services
- holders of a Vision Impaired (VIP), or Total and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) travel pass.

Carers with a valid carer's card are welcome to travel. If you are a carer or need your carer to accompany you on the bus please let the operator know at the time of booking

The Community Transport Coordination Centre is a central point where residents can access alternative public transport options, including the newly developed Flexible Bus Service. If you require assistance with community public transport, please call the Coordination Centre on (02) 6205 3555. The Centre is open Monday – Friday, 9.00am – 4.00pm.

DEFENCE WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP

Unfortunately Chris Lamb has had to relinquish her position as Convenor of the DWSG and Annette Sadler has resumed that role, effecting a seamless transfer and business has continued as usual.

The July lunches have probably already happened by receipt of this newsletter and thanks go to Chris Lamb for organising the Southside lunch and to Maelyn Wishart for organising the Northside lunch. There are two remaining events for this year to enter into your diary:

1. The DWSG Annual lunch at the CIT Restaurant on Thursday, 24 September. Please find the Return Proforma plus details of this function with this Newsletter. If you have driven along Constitution Avenue recently, you will be aware that major roadworks are happening in front of the CIT. Don't panic (we've already done sufficient of that for all of you!!!), but be assured that we have checked and there is plenty of parking available behind the screens. There is also limited parking, including disabled, next to the restaurant building. We will be monitoring the situation and, if necessary, will have 'traffic controllers' strategically placed to direct you on the day.

We are delighted to have Mr Tim Sullivan, an Assistant Director of the Australian War Memorial and the Branch Head of the National Collection as our guest speaker. This will be an opportunity for you to hear about some of the interesting items in their collection as well as the sort of items they are interested in adding to their collection and what happens to them once they have been handed into their care. Hopefully there will be an opportunity for you to ask a question about a particular item you might have – come prepared!

2. The Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on Thursday 29 October. You are all invited to join the Defence Widows' Support Group for the Last Post Ceremony on 29 October. The ceremony commences at 4.55 pm and usually finishes no later than 5.15 pm. Participants are asked to assemble in the Commemorative Area no later than 4.45 pm. The DWSG will be laying a wreath and there will also be an opportunity for individuals to lay a wreath or bouquet of flowers (no single flowers or poppies are permitted). However, if you do wish to lay a wreath or bouquet, you must make yourself known to front-of-house staff in the Orientation Gallery no later than 4 pm on the day of the ceremony. You will be required to complete a commemorative card which will be catalogued and archived by the Memorial and kept in perpetuity.

More information for DWSG ladies will be provided in their Newsletter which will be mailed out in August.

WHEN HALL ANSWERED THE CALL:

An Anzac Centenary Exhibition by the Friends of the Hall School Museum

When the call went out for volunteers to serve in the Australian Imperial Force, the men of the Hall district responded in numbers. Where possible, this exhibition funded by an Anzac Commemorative Grant, puts the stories of those who went in the context of the wider issues of the time. It also acknowledges the families that waited and the community organisations that welcomed them back.

The Hall School Museum is located in the Village of Hall and is open from 10 am until 12 noon every Thursday; from 12 noon until 3 pm on Hall Market Days (first Sunday of the month); and also by appointment for groups by contacting the Honorary Curator - email museum@hall.act.au . Visit their website at <http://museum.hall.act.au> for more information .

BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND BRANCH AGM

The next Committee meeting for 2015 is scheduled to be held at Veterans Support Centre at Philip on Tuesday 11 August 2015 at 1030am. Members are always invited to attend... if possible, drop us a line prior to confirm.

The 2015 AGM is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 13 October 2015. We are always looking for new Committee members and nominations for election to the Committee, which consists of Branch President, Branch Vice President, Hon Secretary, Assistant Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and Assistant Hon Treasurer. In addition up to twelve other Committee Members may be elected.

Nominations for these positions shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the nomination form). Nominations shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Association at least ten days before the date fixed for the holding of the Annual General Meeting. Please contact the Branch if you require further information, including nomination forms.