



Capital Chit-Chat

Newsletter of the Defence Force Welfare Association -
ACT Branch Inc

July 2017

2017 AGM – CHANGE OF DATE !

The AGM for the Branch will be held at the Burns Club, Kambah at **7.30pm Tuesday 17 October 2017** – NOT 10 October as is written in the edition of *Camaraderie*.

All members are invited to attend. Agenda will include reports from the Branch President, Defence Widows Group and Financial Reports as well as appointment of the next Management Committee.

Should you wish to nominate for any position on the Management Committee please let the Secretary know by email on actbranch@dfwa.org.au or phone 62659530.

YOUR DFWA SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

If you are an Annual subscriber (or a 5 year subscriber which ended in Dec 2016) then your subscription renewal is now due. The rates are \$40 full membership, \$20 spouses, widow/ers per year.

Your subscription renewal date is at the top right hand corner of the address label used to deliver your *Camaraderie*. 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.

The DFWA recently changed its subscription dates to end with the Financial Year (30 June) rather than the Calendar Year (31 December). The Branch decided to extend the 2016 subscription from Dec 16 to Jun 17 at no cost to members so many subscriptions are now due.

Please note that 5 year subscriptions are no longer available as a separate subscription category; however, you can pay in multiples of annual subscriptions if you would like to, for example pay three years subs in one payment.

Subscriptions can be paid by:

1. Cheque and renewal notice to GPO Box 2272, CANBERRA, ACT 2601
2. Direct deposit to DFWA ACT Br, BSB 032 713, Account 770220 with first initial and surname as identifier.
3. Cash and **renewal notice** handed personally to a Committee member at a meeting – **do not send cash by post**.

If you have any questions please contact Trevor Goodhew, Membership Secretary on Ph 02 6291 4491 or at goodhew@homemail.com.au

DEFENCE WIDOWS GROUP SPRING LUNCH

You are all invited to join members of the Defence Widows Group and the DFWA ACT Branch Committee for their annual spring lunch at the Yowani Golf Club on **Thursday 21 September**.

As is our tradition, our Patron Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove, the four Defence Chiefs and the three Warrant Officers of the three services will also be invited.

We are delighted that Pam Brown, the CEO of Kookaburra Kids has agreed to be the Guest Speaker. Kookaburra Kids supports children in families affected by mental health and this year they have extended their services to ADF and Veteran families in the ACT. This will be an excellent opportunity for all of us to learn more about how they operate and what they do.

Please find enclosed a registration form for the lunch and feel free to extend the invitation to anyone you know who may also be interested.

ANNUAL RAFFLE 2017 NSW, ACT, QLD, SA, VIC & WA BRANCHES [DFWA (NSW Branch) Charitable No: CM 13501115]

The Defence Force Welfare Association will soon be running its annual raffle. Revenue from the Annual Raffle assists with meeting the administrative costs of participating Branches and the National Office.

Two books of ten (10) tickets each – ie \$20.00 per book – will be sent by Branches to most members shortly. Additional books are available on request from you Branch.

Should you not wish to purchase and/or sell tickets in the raffle, would you please consider a \$40.00 (or more !) tax deductible donation in lieu ? Receipts will be issued. A donation form is on page 38 of this edition of *Camaraderie*.

We hope you can support this important fund-raiser again in 2017.

PROJECT LIGHT HOUSE DVA change to the Veteran Centric Services

DFWA ACT Branch Entitlements Advocate, Hilton Lenard, attended the the Claims Management Forum held late June. It was a national forum convened to investigate ways to improve the claims process for veterans. The Claims Management Forman is intended help improve the service to veterans provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

Attendees included representatives from the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL), War Widows' Guild of Australia, Defence Families Australia, Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, TPI Federation Australia, Australian Special Air Service Association, Defence Force Welfare Association, Legacy Australia, Naval Association of Australia, Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia, Royal Australian Air Force Association, Royal Australian Regiment Corporation, Department of Defence, Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation and DVA.

Project LIGHT HOUSE is the DVA mission name for this process and has several phases to achieve the aim. The first phase of a direct simplified claims process has gone live and trailed for those Veterans who enlisted post June 2004. Further reports will follow in subsequent editions of *Camaraderie*

