

NETWORK

Defence Force Welfare Association
Queensland Branch Inc



March 2011 Edition

HOTLINE

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I SAY AGAIN! HELP!!!!!!

We really need your help! The workload of our committee is growing in an increasingly complex world! Whether you could help out around the office, serve on the Committee, assist with this year's raffle, or if you have particular skills in areas such as marketing, graphics, writing or editing, we would love to hear from you. If you would like to help, please email us or leave a message on 3233 4480 and Rob or Ray will get back to you asap.

DFWA Apparel

As a reminder to our members, we have a range of items for sale that any DFWA member would feel proud to wear. If you would like to know more, check out the details at page 8.

Flood and Cyclone Assistance for Affected DFWA Members



Following the devastating floods and cyclone in Queensland, the Committee decided to try and contact as many members as possible thought to be living in the affected areas to see if we could help them with advice or financial assistance from the DFWA Relief Trust Fund.

We have used phone, email and letters to contact members and we have received a number of grateful replies thanking us for the Committee's concern. Fortunately, it appears that most members in these areas have managed to escape the worst of nature's wrath. However, we may have missed some of our members.

if anyone knows of a member who has suffered badly in the floods or cyclone, Could you please encourage them to contact our office.

From the President

Mother Nature has given Queensland a torrid time over the past two months. Our thoughts go out to any DFWA members who suffered as a result of these events.

I attended the DVA Queensland Consultation Forum in December. This is a high level forum that gives the Ex-Service Community an opportunity to hear of DVA's latest initiatives and also to raise significant issues with DVA. Later on in Hotline there is an article on DVA Service Provision which seeks feedback on your experiences. It is through meetings such as the DVA Queensland Consultation forum that we can convey both bouquets and brickbats to DVA, and they do listen.

Over Christmas, VP, Past President and I produced a draft business plan for Queensland Branch. The Management Committee has endorsed the plan which provides a road map for us to pursue clearly identified and high priority goals over the next two years. Those who have been involved in business know these plans are vital to their growth and success in terms of meeting the overall objectives of the organisation. There are many things we, as an association, want to do but as a volunteer organisation we have limited resources and a plan such as this ensures we focus our activities on what is achievable and for the benefit of the association and its members.

Membership is our life blood. Without numbers our ability to influence Government is diminished. Part of our business plan is to grow numbers by 500 by 2012. This may seem a big ask but when you consider the families involved, it means we can go to government saying we represent another 2000 or so constituents and that is important. So, if you know anyone out there who is interested in the work we are doing and is not a member, please encourage them to join.

We are updating the Queensland Branch portion of the web site at www.dfw.org.au. Currently, it is somewhat bland and our intent is to make it interesting and include information that will be relevant to our Queensland members. We hope to have some changes made by the time you receive this edition of Hotline, so check it out and let us know what you think.

Finally there are four important issues before Government as I write this report:

- **Review of Military Compensation.** The Minister has advised the Review will be released for comment by mid March with responses required by the end of June .

- **Review of Military Superannuation .** This has been with government since 2007 and if there is to be a new military superannuation scheme then this report will be the genesis of the scheme.
- **Amalgamation of Commonwealth Superannuation Boards.** Minister Snowden has advised all of our concerns have finally been accepted and that the legislation will be redrafted to acknowledge the *unique nature of military service*. This will include formalising of a Defence Force Assessment Panel and a requirement to consult on Board appointments. We now await the redrafted legislation. If it lives up to expectations, it will represent a significant victory as it would be the first time the *uniqueness of military service* is enshrined in legislation that is not Defence specific.
- **Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment (Fair indexation) Bill 2010.** This bill is before the Senate and recommends indexation for those on DFRB and DFRDB pensions over 55 be the same as the age pension. It is not everything we want but it is a start. When these matters are progressed by Government, we will be supporting National Office and advising our members in more detail of any, further action necessary.

Rob Shortridge

Wanted - Urgent!

The Queensland Branch urgently needs a volunteer to co-ordinate the Qld part in the DFWA Annual Raffle.

The raffle enables us to do a great deal more for our members than we ever could before.

The job entails liaising with NSW Branch for provision of tickets and ensuring that tickets go out with Camaraderie. The co-ordinator then receives returned money and tickets and provides the moneys to Treasurer and the sales information to NSW Branch.

This is a once a year job that does not require frequent attendance at the Branch Office.

**For further information contact:
Rob Shortridge on 3223 4480**

DFWA National Executive Meeting - Canberra November 2010

A very successful National Executive Meeting (NATEX) was held in Canberra in November 2010.

With President Rob Shortridge unavailable with work commitments, the branch was represented by VP Ray Gibson and Kel Ryan, and for a last occasion, Ken Railton.

A major focus of the meeting was on the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO), and the Fair Go Campaign which will continue in 2011.

While DFWA has a wide range of affiliates including such key groups as Defence Families Association and the Reserves Association, as well as very close links with TPIs and Vietnam Veterans, the Alliance is a closer knit group with a focus on specific, high level efforts centred on Military Superannuation matters in particular. The Alliance members are:

- The Naval Association of Australia
- The Royal Australian Regiment Corporation (RARAC),
- The Royal Australian Air Force Association (RAAFA),
- The Special Air Services Regiment Association (SASRA), and DFWA

You will find more information on these issues in Camaraderie.

Queensland Branch presented a final version of the DFWA Strategic Plan and after some minor adjustments, it was endorsed by the meeting and has now been issued to all branches. The next step is for branches to prepare their own business plans that align with the national direction. Thanks to the hard work of President Rob and VP Ray, we have now finalised the Queensland Branch Plan.

Regional Groups

As a follow up to NATEX discussions and In line with national commitments to increase the range and quality of DFWA services, we are also working to introduce regional groups within the Branch, especially in Far North Queensland. If any members in northern Queensland have the interest and time to commit to this important project, please contact President Rob Shortridge on 3223 4480.

First Business Review Meeting of 2011.

If you think that this branch runs itself, it is time for a reality check. We have repeatedly invited even cajoled members to share some of this load, and just to show you what a highly professional, eager and able group you would be working with, here is some of the team hard at work at the first Business Review meeting of 2011.



We have, (Clockwise from the top): Rob Shortridge, Sharyn Hughes, Gil Western, Ken Railton, Brian Allen and Wally Buldo. Photographer is Ray Gibson.

Andrea Josephs, Kel Ryan, Warwick Reading, Denis Roles and Grantley Kemble were unavailable on this occasion.

TIP Training

DFWA provides ADF members, their families and veterans with advice and assistance with their entitlements with respect to benefits, services and compensation as a result of ADF service.

This amenity is provided by volunteers who receive their training from the Training and Information Program (TIP). The courses are designed primarily for volunteer ESO and DSO members wishing to do more for our Defence Force family. TIP training covers welfare and a four step structured program in presenting claims to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

TIP is a national partnership between DVA and DSOs/ESOs, to present the training for new volunteers as well as practising caseworkers needing to update and maintain currency.

DFWA can sponsor members who are interested volunteers to do this training and become accredited welfare and/or compensation practitioners. The courses are not difficult and ensure the information passed to claimants is accurate and up to date.

If you are interested in this training please call or email the office with your contact information.

Denis J Roles, OAM

Chairman, TIP Program Queensland

DVA Service Provision

DVA provides a very useful range of services to eligible veterans and their fact sheets tell you what is available. If you are a computer user, go to the DVA website (www.dva.gov.au), and click on the Benefits and Services tab on the opening page. If you do not use computers, go to your local VAN office and ask for information on available services.

We owe it to DVA to ensure that we both get the best value for money from the services they provide. We are keen to hear members' views on the quality of the services that they have received. DVA should know when their contractors are providing high quality service and the rare occasions when they are not. By telling us, we can see patterns emerging and make sure that DVA is aware of any areas worthy of congratulations or which are cause for concern.

If you have any comment to make on services you receive, call the branch office on 3233 4480 or email us at gldbranch@dfwa.org.au leave your name and address and ask for a Service Report Form to complete and send back to us.

Changed Your Email Address?

During the recent flood and cyclone disasters, we used email addresses to contact those we thought may have been affected. Some of the emails bounced because the member had changed their provider or email address.

If you have given us your email address, please advise us by email whenever you change your email details. This will allow us to keep our database updated.

If you haven't yet provided us with your email address, please do so, as it is a great way of keeping you in touch between editions of Camaraderie.

HMAS VOYAGER

10th February 2011 was the 47th anniversary of the loss of HMAS VOYAGER, with 82 crew: the greatest peacetime disaster the RAN has ever suffered.

On that night in 1964 VOYAGER, in company with the Carrier HMAS MELBOURNE was preparing for night flying exercises some 20 miles off Jervis Bay NSW. VOYAGER was plane guard, in case an aircraft ditched in the ocean. She had practiced this manoeuvre with the Carrier many times in the past including that day, so what happened and why it happened can never be fully explained.

Developing your Computer Skills

If you want a simple and free way to learn how to do more things better, then here is a very useful suggestion. There are quite a few very good people who are committed to helping us all get the best out of this technology. One of them is Geoff Cutts, former naval officer and member of ours who now lives in Adelaide.

Geoff has formed a seniors computer club in Adelaide with help from his local RSL sub-branch, following the incredible success of his Bribie Island Seniors Computer Club (www.biscc.com), when he was living there.

He shares his knowledge willingly! Go to www.gombiscc.com and have a browse.

I would particularly recommend:

<http://www.gombiscc.com/emailtips.html> and

<http://www.gombiscc.com/bewarenasties.html>. These pages are worth checking on a regular basis.

Further useful information is available using his link to the YUDU site. You can also download Geoff's very helpful (and free) guides which cover most computer topics.

In particular, read Geoff's words of wisdom on how to, and how not to, forward emails AND FOLLOW THEM! It can save you and your friends a lot of grief!

If you are too clever for this, Geoff could always use a hand!

Something for All Computer Users

Those Inflammatory Emails!

Most of us have probably received and sometimes believed angry or evocative emails, usually in bright colours and bold lettering. They tell stories of injustices or something similar and often make us angry enough to forward them. Not all are US stories, nor hastily translated Australian versions. There are many where the subject line and the content varies each week, and some are good looking CBA or NAB alleged documents.

The main point to stress here is: **never, ever** open any attachment, **from anyone**, unless you are **convinced** it is safe to do so.

Australia has the third highest number of **botnets** - computers which have been compromised without the owners knowing of it - and then used for nefarious purposes by people in far flung places.

We do ourselves and our friends no favours when we send this rubbish on without checking it out. Equally importantly, we put our own computers at risk when we do other than delete suspicious messages on receipt.

How do you tell if a story is genuine? The best option is to go to www.snopes.com.au and search the subject of the email. This site is an excellent and authoritative resource that reveals the truth behind most of the malicious stories doing the rounds on the internet.

The information on this site can be trusted.

An Interesting Website

Virtual Airplane Museum

<http://www.aviastar.org/index2.html>

A Photo Story From the Brisbane Floods.

Committee member Andrea Josephs certainly understands the meaning of community. Here we see Andrea and her family with neighbours providing drinks to volunteers on Brisbane Terrace. She also convinced the Lipton Tea volunteers that they and her group could work together. They all did a splendid job in providing some respite for the many volunteers. Well done Andrea and team!



Andrea's girls passing out drinks to military volunteers



The Negotiator at work!



Andrea's girls and their friends thanking the Lipton Tea volunteers for working with them.

More Support for Cadets

We believe that Army, Navy and Air Force Cadet Units play a constructive and effective role in helping many of Australia's teenagers to transition into adulthood with essential life skills.

Following our successful cooperation and assistance with 161 Army Aviation Cadet Unit last year, the Committee decided to expand our assistance program to also include Navy and Air Force Cadet Units. This program is now underway and an offer of assistance has been made to the Air Force Cadet Units in the Amberley/Ipswich area, through the Officer Commanding the cadet squadrons in Southern Queensland. The Committee will consider the bids received and select a winner.

After this round of assistance a similar offer will be made to a Navy cadet unit in South East Queensland.



In Appreciation: to 161 ACU

President Rob hands over a \$1,000 cheque to Capt Richard Leahey of 161 Army Aviation Cadet Unit; half of it in appreciation of assistance provided at our reception for the National President in August 2010 and half to support their ongoing activities.

As you read this edition of Hotline, ANZAC Day is once again almost with us, and we thought it fitting to include the following tribute.

THE LEGACY OF ANZAC

FROM THE MISERY OF GALLIPOLI
TO THE KILLING FIELDS OF FRANCE,
THE ANZACS SHOWED THEIR COURAGE
AND DETERMINATION IN THEIR STANCE.

FROM THE RAT HOLES OF TOBRUK,
TO THE HORRENDOUS KOKODA TRACK,
AND THE BLACKENED SKIES OF EUROPE
BURSTING WITH DEADLY FLAK;
THEY SHOWED A FIGHTING SPIRIT
THAT THE ENEMY COULDN'T BLIGHT,
AND AN IRREVERANT SENSE OF HUMOUR
SAW THEM TROUGH THEIR WRETCHED
PLIGHT.

FROM MALAYA TO THE CORAL SEA;
KOREA, VIETNAM;
FROM PEACEKEEPING TO IRAQ;
THE TERROR OF AFGHANASTAN;
THE ANZAC SPIRIT TRIUMPHED
WITH MATESHIP AT ITS CORE.
THESE VALUES DEFINE OUR NATION,
WE ARE STRONG, AND FREE AND SURE.

AUSTRALIA, THE LUCKY COUNTRY
WE OFTEN HEAR IT SAID;
YET VETERANS ARE NOT SO LUCKY,
MANY WOUNDED, MANY DEAD.
AND MANY CARRYING SCARS UNSEEN
FROM HORRORS THEY CAN'T FORGET;
THEIR SHATTERED LIVES FORGOTTEN
BY A NATION DEEPLY IN THEIR DEBT.

YES, AUSTRALIA IS A LUCKY COUNTRY,
BUT IT'S LUCK HAS BORNE A COST;
SO SPARE A THOUGHT THIS SPECIAL MORN
FOR THE CREAM FOREVER LOST.

Ray Gibson

Letters

Having just received the December 2010 Edition of HOTLINE I wish to congratulate you and your team. The new HOTLINE is great.
Ross Clelland AM

I have just finished my first reading of Cameraderie and the Qld Branch insert. My congratulations to DFWA on a good year in service for the Defence community; I look forward to 2011. I wish you and your Committee best wishes in taking us forward in 2011. While my circumstances don't permit an active role, I will participate where time allows. My subs renewal is in the mail today to the Secretary.

Kind regards
Andy Kilgour, AM

Please pass on my congratulations to all concerned regarding the new "Hotline" - it looks great and is very informative. Well done!

Kind regards,
Robert McCredie

I have just received a letter in the mail offering assistance if required. I would like to say thank you for your thoughts and reaching out to the members in North Queensland. I am in good position and have been lucky enough to assist others.

From my family and me thank you for caring.
Dean Bell
North Queensland

VALE

Colonel Norm Hicks-Hall, a life member of DFWA, lost his life in a fire at his Currumbin home on the evening of 14 February 2011. His wife Patricia (Trish), also a life member, was rescued and taken to John Flynn hospital where she is recovering.

Norm joined RMC in 1949 and completed his Engineering degree in Adelaide in 1954. He had extensive service in the UK and overseas before being posted to Vietnam to raise 106 Field Workshop. He went on to several diplomatic postings before retiring in the rank of Colonel.



DFWA QUEENSLAND BRANCH INC PRODUCT ORDER FORM

DFWA QLD INC Phone: 07 32334480
 Victoria Barracks Brisbane Fax: 07 32334480
 ENOGGERA QLD 4051 Email: qldbranch@dfwa.org.au

Your Order Details

Title.....Initials.....Surname.....

Address.....

.....

Email:.....



Item	Size Code S M L XL	Quantity	Postage	Unit Price	Total
Blue Shirt—Men's Short Sleeve			xxxxxxxx	\$39.95 Incl postage	
Blue Shirt—Women's Short Sleeve			xxxxxxxx	\$39.95 Incl postage	
DFWA Cap with Embroidered Badge	xxxxxxxxxxxx		\$7.00	\$15.00	
DFWA Lapel Badge	xxxxxxxxxxxx		\$2.00	\$5.00	
DFWA Tie (Limited Stock)	xxxxxxxxxxxx		\$2.00	\$10.00	
Shirt Size Code:				Subtotal	\$
Extra Large = XL Large = L Medium = M Small = S				Postage	\$
Shirts with long sleeves and other colours are available on request				Balance Due	\$

Payment:

Internet Banking/Direct Debit: Bank of QLD BSB 124 076 Account: 10 480 398
 OR

Enclose Cheque/Money Order: \$..... Signature:.....Date:...../...../.....

Notes:

Sizes: Bisley Shirt sizes are generally one size larger than most other brands. For example, if you normally take a Large size, this would be similar to a Medium in the Bisley shirt range. If in doubt, check the Bisley size at your local retailer.

Postage: Shirt prices include postage and handling. If ordering other items with shirts, no additional postage required. If ordering a cap together with a badge and/or tie, cap postage only is required.