

NETWORK

Defence Force Welfare Association
Queensland Branch Inc



August 2012 Edition

HOTLINE

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As you read my report, many will still be angry and disillusioned with the recent 0.1% CPI adjustment (I refuse to call it an increase!) This inadequate CPI pittance is just another example of why we in QLD Branch are heavily involved in supporting the ADSO Fair Go Campaign which has as one of its goals to right this wrong for all military superannuants.

Operation Aware was conducted over the period before and after ANZAC Day to increase media and Public awareness of our Fair Go Campaign and some of our Committee members were in it up to their necks. VP FNQ, Kel Ryan coordinated Queensland activity during the Operation, Warwick Reading worked hard to ensure that Treasurer Wayne Swan got the message in the Electorate of Lilley, and VP Ray Gibson (with his ADSO Director hat) planned and directed the overall Operation across Australia.

In ongoing activities VP Sunshine Coast, Win Fowles, has been promoting the campaign, meeting with his MP, Mr Slipper and making a significant contribution to the weight of written argument in support of fair indexation. I have continued with my involvement in Community Forums to increase awareness and support for the Campaign.

VP FNQ Kel Ryan is embarking on a journey to do his doctorate through James Cooks University Cairns to:

“Explore the manner in which the issues of the Defence Force Family will be addressed into the 21st Century.”

If anyone is interested in being on Kel's Mail List as he progressively drafts papers, formulates ideas and looks for constructive, critical comment he can be contacted at kel.ryan45@gmail.com or Ph. 0418 759 120.

Communication

We believe Op Aware was successful in bringing the issue of fair indexation to the attention of the wider population. Peter Criss has done an outstanding job representing our case on radio, TV and in the press. We have kept in touch with members on our email list with regular Fair Go Updates and encouraged them to make comment on the respective media blogs. One of the Pete Criss articles published online attracted over 600 comments.

Talking of emails, I need to mention that we are getting a lot of rejects from incorrect email addresses when we send our Updates. I am hoping this is as a result of people changing their service provider and not advising us, rather than a consequence of members passing on. Could I remind everyone that we can't stay in touch if we don't have a current email address for you, so if you change your service provider then please let us know so we can update our records. Maybe you could consider using a hotmail or g-mail account as with these accounts the service provider does not matter. I have had my hotmail account for 12 years and it has remained the same even though I have had multiple service providers.

The Future

One of the themes in this edition of Hotline is the future of DFWA, both nationally and locally. There are two main threats to the continued viability of volunteer organisations like DFWA :lack of funding and lack of willing volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee and support the work of the Branch.

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In this issue:

President's Message	1
Message Continued	2
Editorial	3
Gill's Birthday	3
Treasurer's Report	4
VP Sunshine Coast	5
Ray Gibson	5
So Another Scam	5
QLD Branch's Future	6
DFWA Advert	7
Clothing Store	8

Funding

As you would know, nothing comes free in this day and age and we do need funds to keep the Branch functioning and provide services to our members, as well as contributing to the wider battles we are fighting on your behalf and for current ADF members. Camaraderie, Hotline and other regular operating costs all eat into our available funds.

We have some 400 life members in Queensland Branch which is a significant percentage of our total membership, and a good number have been life members for a long time. We value their membership and respect the commitment they made when taking out life membership. The downside of a large Life Membership is that Branch annual income from membership fees is reduced.

Included with this edition of Camaraderie, is a personal letter from our National President, David Jamison to all DFWA Life Members. I simply ask all our Life Members to consider David's request. We have also received a bequest from one life member for which we are very grateful.

Other important income sources for Queensland Branch include the annual raffle, and the sale of merchandise such as *apparel*, and *entertainment books*. You will see that in this edition we have enclosed tickets for this year's raffle. Please support the raffle as it helps to make up the shortfall in our operating costs. We also have the Queensland editions of the Entertainment Book for sale. They are selling well and many of those who have brought a copy have provided very positive feedback on the savings available. The cost of the book is easily recouped within a month or two of occasional use and after that, genuine and significant savings start building. It is a win/win opportunity. Please support our Branch in this endeavour and buy a book. They cover all states in Australia. See enclosed brochure for details.

Volunteers

The other challenge facing our Branch is the serious lack of volunteers to serve on our Executive Committee. You will see further information about this in Hotline. If we do not refresh our Committee regularly, it is inevitable that we will fall by the wayside. We are not asking for a huge amount of time and we are flexible when it comes to attendance because so much can be done electronically. If you think you have some relevant skills or experience or are eager to learn, and you can spare some time to help out, we need to hear from you.

Rob Shortridge
President DFWA QLD Inc

From FNQ

From a Quarterly Publication of "The Rakkasans" - 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team Association, Inc.

WHY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN TO WAR YEARN TO REUNITE

"I now know why men and women who have been to war yearn to reunite.

Not to tell stories or look at old pictures.

Not to laugh or weep.

Comrades gather because they long to be with the people who once acted at their best;
who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military.

But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust.

They were willing to guard something more precious than life.

They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me.

It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another.

As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day,

I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades.

SUCH GOOD MEN"

(Written by a member of the Hawaii Old Soldiers Association)

Editorial

As legend has it, if you put a frog into a pan of hot water, it will immediately jump out. However, if you put it into cool water and slowly heat it, it will not respond and will quietly die as the water heats up.

Not a bad parallel to what has happened to our community since the mid-eighties. Keating's deduction of 2% from CPI as a budget saving measure was the start point. None of us believed that a government could treat us this badly and so our response was tempered, and when the 2% was restored three years later (without compensation for the cumulative loss) we tended to believe things were back on track. Not so of course, and when age pensioners realised that CPI had been recalibrated, they lobbied strongly. Their situation was fairly rapidly improved by the introduction of a new indexation model. They, of course were large in number, well organised and strongly represented.

At this time, we were still in the "let's have a chat with the brass" mode and the results are obvious by their absence. RDFWA was formed in 1959 to protect us from this sort of problem, although few could have foreseen the long term issues we would face. So, like the first frog, we sat still and hoped for improvement. Many accepted that the losses were small at that time and besides, we were not a militant rabble. Well, these attitudes were capitalised on and we all went backwards at an alarming rate, especially as wages throughout the rest of the country were in a period of rapid rise.

It has taken many years for our community to realise that we have a serious problem that affects our families as they are now and has even more impact on our surviving spouses. At last, we have a revitalised DFWA and active and skilled lobbying of government and information of the rest of the country through ADSO and the Fair Go Campaign. However, this government has dug in. Howard just said no, while Rudd promised a new deal and gained many of our votes on this assurance. It was hot air and we all know how his discredited Matthews Report has shown the true colours of this government. So, we need to change frogs and to a degree we have. We are more united, we are better organised and we are now using modern day 'weapons'.

Nonetheless, the article by Ray Gibson on page 6, reporting on the National Council Meeting makes clear the real issues we face in maintaining this campaign. We have also shown you a very dismal glimpse of the future if we are unable to attract more assistance from our members! DFWA has prepared well for its new role and our leaders are doing an amazing job. However, like any campaign we need two resources to keep the fight up: money and people.

We need money because for the first time in our history we are heading up a community wide fight and doing so on an absolute shoe string. No honoraria for **our** top team- unlike some other organisations in our community. Our leaders are also meeting much of their own costs. We also have been using free and discounted professional services of members of our community with specialised skills and who run successful businesses in Marketing, Communications or Lobbying. However, even our very economical activities are eating into our financial resources and this could easily bring campaign to a premature end – just what this government would like! So there is problem 1. We need your money in as big an amount as you can spare.

Our second need is one faced by most volunteer organisations – people! You will see our commercial on this most critical matter later in this issue of Hotline and it is **NOT** a joke in any way. We have been without a branch secretary for almost two years with Treasurer and Senior Advocate (and Wonderman), Wally Buldo filling the breach until we do find a new secretary. This matter could bring the work of our branch's very able and committed leadership to a halt, as we are an incorporated body.

So, again, how about it! We have a number of vacancies and there is sure to be one in which you could help us to help you! As the old RDFWA motto used to say "we need you because one day you will need us!" Today is that day for you and for us!

Gil's Western turns 90

Maj Gilbert Young-Western MC (Gil), was a very long serving secretary to this branch and is an absolute national treasure in our community. My wife Jan and I had lunch with Gil and his daughter and carer Glenda on the 3rd of May to celebrate his 90th birthday. Gil was born in India of British parents and in 1938, entered the Indian Army Academy. He graduated as a second lieutenant in 1942 and by 1943 was acting major in Burma (now Myanmar), commanding a company of Burmese guerrillas raised from the Chin people. Their job was to harass and impede the Japanese Army in its passage through Burma. Apart from occasional air drops, he lived off the land and waged a hit and run war for some three years. His troops inflicted the first defeat on the to-then invincible Japanese, which eventually stopped their drive south. He was awarded the Military Cross for one particularly noble stand over several days in this operation.

Happy birthday Gil!



A Few Words From The Treasurer And Advocate

In my little corner of the last Hotline I signalled the arrival of this year's raffle. The 2012 raffle tickets have arrived and are included with this Hotline.

I would like to make a few points clear:

1. Buying tickets is not compulsory, but it will help our finances if you do.
2. If you do not want the tickets, just throw them away.
3. When you do buy tickets, just return the part with your name, address, phone No and, most importantly the stubs with the ticket number on them.
4. And last but not least: GOOD LUCK, you got to be in it to win it

Enough commercials!

As the Advocate I get involved with all types of Welfare problems. I found from experience that quite a few Veterans and retired Defence personnel are still suffering in silence from medical conditions which very probably were caused by their service. I suggest if anyone is unsure as what to do, to go and talk to the local RSL Welfare section. If, by any chance, you don't like the RSL give me a ring on 0438327210 and I may be able to help you or at least point you in the right direction. By the way, I am also the "Membership Member" and I maintain the data base. Over the last few months our numbers have increased due to several serving members and a few retired one joining us. They are:

LCDR Kim Ellen COLEMAN

Mr Phillip John MARKEY

LAC Wiegand NICHOLAS

Mr Colin Glenmore COYNE

FSGT Rodney WARD

CAPT RAN (RTD) Jonathan Warren JONES AM

Mr Nicholas SANDERS ato(AS)

LAC Brenton Joel PHILLIPS

Cpl Jacob Anthony GOSSAGE

And last but not least:

Major B.J. Hayes. I received his money in April and I just received his details from National Office. I will be sending him his membership card in the very near future.

On behalf of the president, the Committee and the rest of the members: **WELCOME!**

On a sadder note we have lost the following members :

Mr BC Halliday

Mr JK Eggins

Mr JC Stein

Mr ST Donnelly

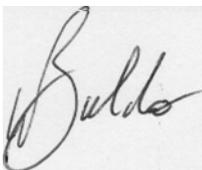
Mr JP Gehle

Mrs CS Howard

Mr PH Murray

Mr C Philp

Mrs CS Howard who was a War Widow and a Life member has left us a very generous bequest for which we are very grateful and which will be extremely helpful in our indexation fight.



From VP Sunshine Coast

I had a one hour interview on Noosa Community Radio on Fri 15 June 2012 representing DFWAQ and the discussion centred on fair indexation. The audience was probably small, but the feedback has been positive and it was another drop of water on the stone.

I have been in continuing correspondence on fair indexation with my local member, Peter Slipper despite his pre-occupation with other matters of late. He also invited me for another chat in his office on 15 June. Mr Slipper advised me that he has written twice to Minister Snowdon recently as a result of to our lobbying. However, I would not expect the minister to see the light any time soon.

I also attended a Veterans Forum at the Maroochy RSL sub-branch sponsored by a local LNP branch, and we may hear more shortly on the outcomes of this meeting.

I have also recently written to the PM, various ministers and others regarding the 0.1% rise in mil super pensions payable on 12 July. It was a personal letter and I have made a copy available to the branch in case others should find the format helpful.

Win Fowles DFWAQ

VP Sunshine Coast

Committee Bio: Vice President Ray Gibson AM Air Commodore (Retd)

Born and raised in Brisbane, Ray Gibson joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1966. After navigator training, he completed postings to 36 and 37 Squadrons flying the C130 Hercules, and a tour as an instructor at the School of Air Navigation. Later postings included three years in the UK doing post-graduate aerosystems and Staff College Courses and working on the Defence staff in the High Commission in London. Other highlights included Commanding Officer of the Air Force Recruit Training Unit, and attending the Joint Services Staff College in Canberra.



Ray's senior appointments included the Australian Defence Advisor in New Zealand, Director of Air Force Planning at Air Force Headquarters and Chief of Support at Headquarters Air Command at Glenbrook. Ray was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia for his leadership and performance in those roles.

In 1998, Ray returned to Canberra as the Director General Operations, in the Defence Signals Directorate. He later renewed his Queensland passport and retired to the Gold Coast in 2001 after more than 35 years of service.

He took up the role of Vice President DFWA (QLD) in 2010. In 2011, he took up the positions of Chair of the Queensland Forum of Ex-Service Organisations (QFE) and Co-Director of the ADSO Fair Go Campaign. Ray also serves on an Alumni Advisory Group to the Air Cadets National Council.

Ray is married to Sarah and has three adult daughters and nine grandchildren.

So Another SCAM

DVA is encouraging veterans to be wary of scammers requesting personal details in order to arrange payments under the Household Assistance Package. These offers are false and the Department is investigating the incidents.

There is no need for veterans to provide personal information, such as banking details or ATM pin numbers, over the phone in order to receive these payments. If you receive a call or a letter asking for personal information, please contact DVA to confirm its legitimacy – call 133 254 or, for non-metropolitan callers, 1800 555 254

So:

- 1. Do not provide your personal information to anyone on the phone or online without checking their legitimacy.** If DVA-related; decline to answer and telephone DVA on one of the numbers above to check! No genuine DVA caller will take exception to this approach
- 2. Do not use any different phone number given to you in an email or by the caller, they can be expected to be false.**
- 3. We all need to be aware of the potential scams and be vigilant about providing personal information over the phone.**

Does DFWA QLD Branch Have a Future?

The headline above may sound a little melodramatic, but I assure you it isn't.

I recently represented Queensland Branch at a National Executive Meeting in Canberra. Among the many important issues discussed was the funding of DFWA National Office activities. There is no question that National Office must have adequate funding to do the important work that it does on behalf of all our members around Australia. However, some of you may not realise that because National Office has no membership, it collects no membership fees and therefore has no regular income stream. It relies instead on donations, some sponsorship and financial support from the Branches.

From the papers tabled at the meeting, National Office is going backwards financially and it is clear that additional funding is required to sustain the excellent work of the National President and Executive Director in particular. We discussed this at length at the meeting, considered a number of options and agreed on some of them. For the immediate future, Branches will increase their financial contributions to keep National Office operating on a sound financial footing. But in the longer term, this is not a satisfactory solution because the Branches also have sustainability issues.

As a State based entities in their own right (incorporated associations), DFWA Branches could collapse for one of three reasons:

Failing membership

Lack of funds (which is in part related to the first point) or

Lack of volunteer support to perform the statutory functions of a committee of the association in accordance with its approved constitution.

At the National Executive meeting, most DFWA Branches reported having difficulties with one or more of the above factors.

I advised the meeting that Queensland Branch was experiencing particular difficulty with attracting volunteers to serve in executive positions on our committee. This would come as no surprise to regular readers of Hotline over the past twelve months. Despite placing ads and writing related articles in our Branch newsletter, we have been unable to attract any serious interest in the positions of Branch Secretary and other important Committee functions.

As other Branches are also facing problems affecting their longer term viability, I proposed that the National Executive consider possible alternative future structures for DFWA to ensure a sustainable organisation and role in the ESO Community in the years ahead. The proposal was accepted and a special meeting will be held later this year with executives from all Branches to develop options for 2014 and beyond.

However, our immediate problems in Queensland Branch remain. Given the age, health and other commitments of most of our long serving committee members, and the vacancies that already exist, there is an urgent need for an injection of new blood to sustain the work of the Branch Executive. See the ad in Hotline for further details of the Committee positions that need to be filled.

It is no exaggeration to say that the clock is ticking, and if the lack of interest and support from members continues, the most likely outcome is that the Branch will cease to function.

The future of your Branch is in your hands. Please think seriously about what you could do to help.

Ray Gibson

Vice President

DFWA QLD BRANCH TO CLOSE!

IS THIS THE HEADLINE YOU
WANT TO SEE IN OUR NEXT HOTLINE?

It could be... unless our members stop relying
on the same few to do all the work.

For more than 12 months we have been calling on our members to step forward and volunteer a little of their time to serve on our executive committee in important roles to keep the work of your Branch going.

We have had no serious responses
to our calls for Committee Volunteers.

We urgently need volunteers to fill the following positions:

- ◆ Branch Secretary
- ◆ Assistant Treasurer/Membership Member
- ◆ Special Projects Member (incl raffle coord, cadets and apparel)
 - ◆ Admin/IT Support Member
 - ◆ Assistant Editor

Many tasks can be completed from home with a computer and internet access, but as committee members, we would also hope that you would be able to join us most Fridays at the Office for a few hours to contribute to Committee discussions and decisions on the future work of the Branch. If you or someone you know has any relevant experience or skills in the above areas or are willing to learn, please ring our President Rob Shortridge in the first instance to find out more. You can reach Rob on 0412 503203.

YOUR BRANCH NEEDS YOU—PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN



DFWA QUEENSLAND BRANCH INC PRODUCT ORDER FORM

DFWA QLD INC

Victoria Barracks Brisbane

Phone: 07 3233 4480

Your Order Details

ENOGGERA QLD 4051

Email: qldbranch@dfwa.org.au

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

Address.....

Email:.....



Item	Size Code	Quantity	Postage	Unit Price	Total
Blue Shirt—Men's			XXXXXXXXXX	\$39.95	
Blue Shirt—Women's			XXXXXXXXXX	\$39.95	
DFWA Cap with	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		\$7.00	\$15.00	
DFWA Lapel Badge	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		\$2.00	\$5.00	
DFWA Tie	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		\$2.00	\$10.00	
Shirt Size Code:				Subtotal	\$
Extra Large = XL Large = L Medium = M Small = S				-----	
				Postage	\$

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.