



Capital Chit-Chat

Newsletter of the Defence Force Welfare Association -



July 2018

MEMBERS' LUNCH – 29 AUGUST 2018

Your Committee recently discussed the introduction of regular members' lunches.

Following responses received, we have decided to hold a “meet and greet” for Branch members and the Branch Committee from **12 noon** on **Wednesday 29 August** at the **Southern Cross Club Jamison**. The lunch will be informal, at the bistro area, on a pay as you go basis.

To assist with numbers / nametags, please let us know if you plan to attend, by telephone (answering machine): 02 6265 9496 or Email: actbranch@dfwa.org.au

If possible, please RSVP by Wed 8 Aug 2018. We hope to see as many of you on the day.

BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Dates for Committee meetings are published on the ACT Branch page of the DFWA website. Members are always invited to attend... if possible, drop us a line prior to confirm. Our next meeting is scheduled for **1030hrs** on **Tuesday 14 August 2018** at **The Burns Club, Kambah**.

BRANCH AGM

The 2018 AGM will be held at **1900hrs** on **Tuesday 9 October 2018** at **The Burns Club Kambah**. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

After the change to **annual** subscriptions falling due in July to align with the Financial Year, subs for FY 2018/19 are now due. These can be paid by:

1. Cheque and Renewal Notice (see *Camaraderie*) to DFWA ACT Br, GPO Box 2272, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601.
2. Electronic Funds Transfer to BSB 032 713, Acct No 770220, Acct Name DFWA ACT Br – please use your initial and surname to identify the payment.
3. Cash and Renewal Notice (see *Camaraderie*) personally delivered to a Committee Member.

If you are unsure of your membership status due to the recent changes please check your *Camaraderie* mailing label or contact the membership secretary, Trevor Goodhew, by email at goodhew@home.com.au or leave a message on the Branch answering machine at 02 6265 9496. Replies may take a few days.

HAVE YOU ANY UNWANTED ADF BUTTONS ?



In 2011 the daughter of a DFWA Life Member researched her family history and her grandfather's time as a PoW in Stalag 18A during WW2. Following the success of a recent Poppies Campaign, she started crocheting poppies onto 2'sq shade cloth pieces, donating them to retirement homes and local libraries.

To date, some 1000's of poppies have been made by her and her helpers, and many more are needed.

She would like to put an ADF button (or any Armed Forces button) on the poppies, but the cost is prohibitive.

If you have any unwanted buttons can you donate them to this good cause ? If so, simply pop them into an envelope and send them to "Buttons" at 22/26 Archibald Street, Lyneham ACT 2602. Should you wish to discuss please call Maelyn on 02-62572907.

THANK YOU ANNETTE !

Annette Sadler's recent resignation as the Defence Widow's Group (DWG) Convenor was recently received. Annette has been our guiding light for almost a decade, giving generously of her time and she has broadened the awareness and appreciation for the role of the DWG in many ways. Among her initiatives has been the introduction of coffee mornings for new widows, to enable them to meet some of us in a more intimate way rather than coming to a lunch and not seeing a familiar face

When the thirtieth anniversary of the group was approaching in 2011, Annette was keen to mark it in a meaningful way. She initiated the idea of writing stories of life as a service wife or husband and encouraged members to each write a story. While reluctant at first, when one intrepid member read out her story, it had quite an effect - amusing on the one hand and it also made us realise that we all had experiences we could write about. It was the catalyst we needed. Over the next eighteen months Annette together with Dawn Laing & Judy Rule formed a team which oversaw the collection of more than 120 stories by authors from around Australia. The team compiled a book of those stories and organized it's successful publication under the title *Here, there & away*.

The upcoming thirtieth anniversary also saw Annette negotiating with the Australian War Memorial for us to have a commemorative service there in October 2011. This was her initiative and continued until the War Memorial's increased commemorative load from 2014-18 forced a change to incorporation into a Last Post service. It has been wonderful to have these ceremonies especially those dedicated to relatives of some of our members.

Annette has also been responsible for our newsletters which keep us informed of the group's activities and has also served on the National Executive Committee of the Defence Force Welfare Association as Vice President (Widows) for a number of years. Early in June when the National Executive met she was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the DFWA in recognition of her significant contribution to the Association (see photo in this edition of *Camaraderie*) and for her work as an advocate assisting veterans and their families.

Thank you, Annette, and we trust that with more time on your hands, you will be able to spend more time enjoying your artistic and other interests.