



DFWA SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH



INSERT FOR CAMARADERIE MARCH 2015

EDITORIAL

Regeneration

In the Defence Force Welfare Association Monthly Update information below some recent 'wins' by our Association are advised. These results have been achieved through considerable effort and effective lobbying by our National Office led by David Jamison AM, the National President, and the continued hard work of all our volunteers throughout Australia. The DFWA as the lead organisation in the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) is an effective professional association for serving and ex-serving members of the ADF. We are a powerful voice of the Defence Community. Unfortunately, and frustratingly, present and past members of the ADF cannot rely on our employer, the Commonwealth Government, to always do the right thing, whether it is in terms of remuneration, superannuation, conditions of service, or indexing increases in Disability Support payments and War Widows' pensions to maintain purchasing power. Therefore we need to ensure that the DFWA remains effective and viable. To achieve this we must ensure that our membership is regenerated.

Our South Australia Branch now has 100 effective members (thanks to Peter Jackman who has prepared the Membership Roll). The age profile of our membership indicates that we will cease to be viable unless we enrol new, younger members faster than we lose our elders. 38% of our members hold Life Membership which means that our income, necessary to enable us to pay the costs of doing business, is severely limited. These two facts alone reveal the critical requirement for us to feed in new, younger members to balance the large number of existing members of the Vietnam War era.

If you are already a member, I appeal to you to spread the word about the value of DFWA membership and encourage at least one person to become a member of our Branch. If you know serving members of the ADF, please urge them to join. They may not feel the need for a professional association now, but, as we found out to our cost, representation became essential once we packed our uniforms away. We must not forget our Reserve brothers and sisters. The DFWA represents Reserve members so if you know someone who is a member of the RAN, Army or Air Force Reserves, please urge them to join. Advise them to look up www.dfw.org.au and join.

If you are reading this and are not a member of DFWA, please consider joining. You ask yourself, "What's in it for me?" The answer is a voice on your behalf with government and the ADF, all the way up to the CDF. You don't have to attend meetings, but your membership will help fund our efforts.

Regeneration must be our main focus now and into the future. Some ex-service organisations have a natural shelf life, but the DFWA needs to continue to represent those serving and those who have served. It just needs each and every one of us to make a small effort and encourage at least one person to join. There is an Application form in this 3edition of *Camaraderie*.

John Wilson, President, South Australia Branch

DFWA Monthly Update

As advised to those members with email, the DFWA Monthly Update for Jan/Feb 2015 was quickly followed by some welcome news. Firstly, the federal government announced a decision to increase the ADF Pay to 2.0%. We welcome the government's announcement as it comes after considerable representation on behalf of our serving members by the DFWA together with the ESOs who are members of ADSO. Through the ADSO Stand To campaign, representation by the RSL and of course the Tony Dagger petition on Change.org, as well as numerous letters from members of the ADF, pressure on the government to do the right thing has produced a result.

Secondly the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) decided against the inappropriate release of personal records of former ADF members still living. David Jamison reported as follows:

"It has been a good few days for both serving and former ADF members with the PM's pay decision plus real and positive ongoing dialogue with the Government on the proposed ADF Super scheme. Now we have a decision by the AAT which should prevent the further inappropriate release to the general public of personal information held by the National Archives about former ADF members.

This particular topic about the privacy of former ADF personnel's sensitive personal information might have been spearheaded by DFWA but I think we can all take satisfaction from the success of our collective work under the ADSO banner that is now producing some good results."

