



Capital Chit-Chat

Newsletter of the Defence Force Welfare Association -
ACT Branch Inc



March 2014

POSITION VACANT

The National Office of the Defence Force Welfare Association is seeking to employ an Administrative Assistant to assist with general office duties in their office located in Duntroon. Hours will be approximately ten per week and times are flexible. Data entry and word processing skills are essential.

For more information or to lodge an expression of interest, contact Alf Jaugietis, Executive Director: Tel – (02) 6265 9530; Mob – 0438 282 284 or Email – national@dfwa.org.au

DEFENCE WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP (DWSG) NEWS

The DWSG has had its first meeting for the year and plans are underway for our first activity – the two March lunches. The Southside ladies are reminded that their lunch at the Woden Southern Cross Club will be on **Sunday the 23rd of March**, commencing 12.00 noon. For the ladies on the Northside, your lunch will again be at Café Injoy in the Gold Creek Village, on **Monday the 24th of March** commencing 12.00 noon. Café Injoy has indicated that they will provide us with an option of a limited seniors' menu, ensuring smaller servings. Should you wish, at both lunches you can also pay your DFWA subscription in cash.

Your Support Friend will contact you prior to the lunch. However, making contact can sometimes prove difficult so, if you have not heard from anyone and you would like to attend, please leave a message (including name and telephone number) on the DFWA telephone number: 6265 9496. Be aware that this is a message service - messages are checked regularly but your call may not be returned immediately.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Christmas Card mailout. Particular thanks goes to Peter Schilling who worked on rationalizing our mailing list over the last 12 months. The outcome of this exercise was a considerably reduced number of "Return to Sender" envelopes. Also a special thank you also goes to Marjanneke McGuire who has left the group after a number of years of assistance as a non-widow. Thank you Marjanneke and enjoy your travels!

Our new Convenor. Christine Lamb has agreed to be the new Convenor of the ACT DWSG. Thank you Christine and we look forward to your guidance and know you have the support of us All.

CAN YOU HELP ? The DWSG again puts out a call for volunteers to join our band of 'merry widows' as a Support Friend. In the last 12 months we have simplified commitments for our Support Friends so it is not an onerous task. The group meets 10.30 am on the second Monday of the even months at the Jamison Southern Cross Club and most stay for lunch after the meeting. However, attendance at these meetings, whilst desirable and enjoyable, is not compulsory.

Support Friends are allocated a number of widows in their area and are asked to contact their widows twice a year, in March and in July, about the lunches. They are also asked to assist with the Christmas mailout to the ladies on their list. Requests for welfare-type assistance are very rare and any received are referred on to our welfare advisers with no expectations being placed upon the Support Friends.

If you think you can help, we would love to hear from you. Leave a message on the DFWA message service or, talk to your Support Friend when she calls about the March lunch. Perhaps you might prefer to attend a few of our meetings to get a feel for the group before committing – everything is open for negotiation!

ERRATA – CAMARADERIE

References to the Workplace Remuneration Agreement on pages 7 and 8 in this edition of Camaraderie should read ... Workplace Remuneration *Arrangement*.

YOUR DFWA SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

Your ordinary DFWA subscription (subs) runs for a calendar year ending in December. If you are not sure if your subs are due, then the answer is on the **address label** on this mail-out. The label has the following information:

Member No: 1234	Expires: Dec 2013
S/C L J PODMORE	
Bldg A 81 Harrison Rd	
DUNTROON ACT 2600	

Your subs expiry date is shown in the **top right hand corner** of the label. 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.

If you are in any doubt about your membership status ... contact Trevor, our Membership Secretary on 0407313585 or email him at actbranch@dfwa.org.au

A MYSTERY SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENT ! On **12 Dec 14** somebody paid a \$40 subscription to our account by EFT, unfortunately the bank did not include any payee details on our notification. If you paid your subs by EFT on or about **12 Dec 14** please advise the ACT office so that we can credit your account !

HELP ! WE NEED NEW BLOOD!

As we age, re-locate , become ill or infirm our capacity to assist an organisation such as DFWA becomes somewhat reduced. It is obvious that the old adage “many hands make light work” is abundantly true for volunteer organisations and we have a great volunteer basis in our Management Committee which is maintaining a strong, committed membership. However, overall our Branch numbers are slowly dwindling - down to 666 at Feb 14 from a high of 800+ a couple of years ago. An organisation without a strong membership base to support it financially and emotionally soon fades away and becomes ineffective, as we have seen with some other ESOs who have been reduced to literally nothing by attrition.

The Committee wants to halt the slide in the ACT Branch and is embarking on a recruiting drive. This started last year with visits to a number of ADF bases to “show the flag” and sell a few raffle tickets. The pleasing thing was that most serving personnel have now heard of us and heard about our efforts for conditions of service, superannuation and so on. Sadly, this effort did not result in many new members But at least helped spread the word about the good work the Association does.

We think it is time to mobilise the membership of the Branch to assist with recruiting. We ask you to think about your serving and ex-service friends who are not members, explain to them the benefits of membership and ask them to join the continuing campaign for better conditions for serving and ex-Defence personnel. How about you set a goal to tap on at least five shoulders this year to see if they want to join us?

Membership application forms are available in *Camaraderie*, on the DFWA website and we can send out brochures with application forms and also spare copies of *Camaraderie* to anyone who needs them.

We hope that you will accept this challenge and help to maintain DFWA ACT as a strong and effective Branch. Please contact the Branch if you need further information.