



# Capital Chit-Chat

Newsletter of the Defence Force Welfare Association -



March 2018

## **MEMBERS' LUNCHESES - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Your Committee recently discussed the introduction of regular members' lunches. It is envisaged that these will be held mid-week at suitable venues around Canberra, three to four times per year. The purpose of the lunches is to encourage the dissemination of information and providing greater social inter-action between our members. Would you please let us know if you would like to participate by the **end of March** and organisation of the lunches will proceed if there is enough interest. Please express your interest by replying to this notice at:

- Telephone (answering machine): 02 6265 9496
- Email: [actbranch@dfwa.org.au](mailto:actbranch@dfwa.org.au)
- Post: GPO Box 2272, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

## **DO YOU HAVE A DVA WHITE CARD AND ALSO PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE ?**

If so, you may be entitled to a reduction in your Private Health insurance premium. In the case of Defence Health, the writer was given a reduction of \$15.50 a month in the Top Cover premium. Maybe other Private Health insurance companies offer the same. To apply to Defence Health, contact them directly with details of your DVA White Card (phone 1800 335425 or [info@defencehealth.com.au](mailto:info@defencehealth.com.au)).

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AND SECRETARIAT ASSISTANCE TO THE DFWA NATIONAL OFFICE**

In addition to the general and ongoing secretarial support by the DFWA National office (see page 33 in this edition of Camaraderie) the Office is also seeking either a paid or volunteer assistance, twice a year, to prepare, distribute and manage the formal minutes of meetings of the DFWA National Executive and AGM.

These meetings are held twice a year (usually May and November). Tasks would include assistance in preparation and distribution of agenda papers; writing up the minutes of the meetings; and managing follow up actions. This would involve approx. two weeks prior and two weeks after each meeting.

If you wish to offer your services, please contact the DFWA as detailed on the notice on page 33.

## **MEMBERSHIP DATABASE**

Updating member data from that uploaded to the new system is taking longer than anticipated because it is a manual process and each member record has to be accessed individually. The work is progressing and members with a valid email address will be notified shortly on how to obtain their user ID and temporary password.

## **2018 DFWA RAFFLE**

The annual DFWA Raffle is nearly upon us, and members will be receiving their tickets soon. Thank you for your support and generosity in supporting this single fund raising activity for the Association. Should you not wish to participate in the raffle, your donation (tax deductible) will always be welcome.

This year we hope to increase Raffle Ticket sales by selling tickets at Defence sites in Canberra, the sites chosen are Duntroon café, ADFA café, Russell café and Campbell Park café. This will entail setting up a stall at one site per week on a Wednesday in Apr/May to sell tickets over the lunch period (1100-1300). To make this possible we would like volunteers from our members to join a roster for ticket sales. If you can help please notify Trevor Goodhew at Telephone: 02 6291 4491 or Email: [goodhew@home.com.au](mailto:goodhew@home.com.au)

You will be notified of the details when the roster is developed.

## **BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Dates for Committee meetings for 2018 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 Tuesday 10 April 2018 at The Burns Club, Kambah.**

## **DEFENCE WIDOWS GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR 2018**

The Defence Widows Group's activities for 2018 are now in place and DWG members will receive their Events Calendar and Autumn Newsletter in early March. Both are also now available on the DFWA website. If you believe you are not on their mailing list and would like to be added to it, please leave a message on their telephone message service: **62659776** or send an email to: **dwg-act@dfwa.org.au**

## **THE ACT VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Kathryn Spurling represents ACT Defence widows on the ACT Veterans Advisory Council. We thank her for this report on their February meeting:

“We have set ourselves high aims this year to support the veteran community in all aspects of their lives and their families. Social inclusion is a high priority as is recognition within the wider ACT community to feature the service and sacrifice made by ADF personnel and families. From public acknowledgement; to special access and enclosures at public events; to an ACT Veteran Family Day; to the more important issues of medical care and ACT Government concessions; there is much to do and we have already made a great start on all of these. The VAC Council with the assistance of the ACT Government will conduct public forums from May to elicit from ACT residents with a direct connection with serving ADF and Veterans, what can be done to improve their lives.”

## **THE DFWA WEBSITE**

The DFWA website ([www.dfwa.org.au](http://www.dfwa.org.au)) is regularly updated with current DFWA matters, and members are urged to check the site every week or two. Recent posts on the site include matters relating to Defence Housing charges; Senator Jim Molan; and the Royal Commission into Banking and Superannuation. There is also an ACT Branch page which also includes Defence Widows Group (DWG) information.

If you are “into” Facebook, the DFWA also has a Facebook site .. simply search for Defence Force Welfare Association.