

NETWORK

Defence Force Welfare Association
Queensland Branch Inc

December 2010 Edition



HOTLINE

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New Look *Hotline*

This edition of *Hotline* takes on a new look which hopefully readers will find more enjoyable and informative. We would like to know what you think about the new *Hotline* or any other Defence welfare issues of concern to you. Why not drop us a line or send us a quick email to give us your feedback. Your opinion matters to us.

DFWA Apparel

As a reminder for our members, we have a range of items for sale that any DFWA member would feel proud to wear. If you would like to know more, check out the details at page 5.

SCAMS

There have been reports of attempts to scam DVA clients. In one case, a War Widow received an unsolicited phone call from a person claiming to be from DVA and requesting that their DVA client numbers and bank account details be confirmed as there were some problems with them. Another scam was purportedly from one of the major banks stating that there was an old term deposit that was maturing and they needed bank account details so the term deposit and interest could be transferred.

Both of these activities are scams.

We advise our members to **NEVER** provide any personal details, especially bank account and credit card numbers to anyone as a result of unsolicited phone calls. The safest option is to hang up. If there is concern that the call may be genuine, simply ring the organisation/financial institution concerned and confirm with them. With you initiating the call, it is more likely that any information gained will be accurate.

From the Branch Executive...

We begin this edition of *Hotline* with some final pearls of wisdom from our recently retired Branch President, an introduction from our current President and a few words from our even newer Vice President.

Reflection

Rob has kindly let me pen a few words to finish my time as president of this branch. So, for the last time you get my rambling as well. Nonetheless, I wouldn't put it past him to sneak in a PS at least to apologize for some of the more outlandish comments.

Firstly, I want to pay the most earnest tribute to the small but dedicated group that has kept this branch going for the last dozen or so years. I refer particularly to Kevin Casey, Gil Western and Wally Buldo who were here then and are still here now. Without your dedication to the essentials of running a branch we would no longer be here. I cannot thank you all enough. John Knowles would be in this esteemed group if it had not been for the reaper. Just how much John did as a matter of course only became clear when we so sadly lost him last year. Brian Allen may have joined us a little later, but his unswerving efforts on behalf of us all have been as valuable as any one's!

So, my sincere thanks to you magnificent men and I am sure all of our members join me in this vote of thanks.

Time is moving on and all organisations must move with it or perish. Our generational change began with the arrival of a rather large and hirsute biker one week. We were somewhat taken aback, even though I am a biker myself. However, we quickly learned that this one's bite was non-existent and

we welcomed Rob Shortridge to our midst. Rob was able to connect us with a number of serving and more recently separated(?) members and all of a sudden we had new ideas, new energy and we were starting to play a more important role in the national organisation than we had been able to for some time.

We were also able to attract Kel Ryan at about this time, Win Fowles also was able to come down from the Sunshine Coast more often, Warwick Reading joined us on a regular basis, and we were away.

Before we lost John Knowles, he introduced us to Grantley Kemble who also became a regular and took over as Secretary when Brian Allen headed overseas for a while. And our new team was born! More recent additions of Andrea Josephs and Sharyn Hughes has given us more new skills and experiences and added to the landscape as well as bringing a little more dignity to our environment. Even more recently, we have been able to lure Gold Coast member Ray Gibson on to the train from hell and our team was complete.

So, all that was needed was to replace the old head on this increasingly able shoulders with one that was younger and better connected to the serving ADF. I was very happy to recognize this need and albeit with quite some sadness, stood down as president at the last AGM.

Well, enough is enough. Thank you all again for your support for so many years. I have really enjoyed my time as president and consider the work we have done to be some of the most important in my life. I will continue to do what I can for the Branch and for DFWA nationally, but thankfully will no longer have to face up to Ms Bligh's train every week! Finally, I wish the new executive all of the success in the world and offer them all the support I can give.

Ken Railton, OAM

From The Executive Cont...

New President's Intro

I joined the RDFWA way back in 1973 when my Warrant Officer said to me 'Son my job is to get you promoted, you need to do what I say and oh by the way here is an application for the RDFWA and I suggest you join.' Being a good junior officer, I did as I was told, joined the RDFWA and got promoted. A win win situation.

I retired in 2006 after 36 years as a Logistics Officer in the RAAF. While I did all the 'Logistics Stuff' over my career the last ten years or so was focused on Combat Support. I had the opportunity to deploy to East Timor, Kyrgyzstan and Baghdad and ended my career at Headquarters Air Command looking after Air Force support to operations and exercises. Since leaving the Air Force I have been doing some contract work and spending a lot of time working with DFWA.

Where to from here? Firstly I would like to thank the 'old' President for his work over the past ten years.

Under his guidance I believe DFWA QLD Inc has taken the lead in so many matters and provided critical moral and research support to DFWA National. I would like to continue in this vein and provide every assistance to National Office to further our goals. I think it absolutely critical that we continue working with other like minded organisations because united, we are a force to be reckoned with.

I would also like to make more effort to ensure that our members are in the loop when it comes to the information flow and to serve this purpose we are developing a comprehensive e-mail list so that important information can be distributed promptly (rest assured no one will be inundated with jokes from DFWA).

I am looking forward to the next year and the challenges to keep the DFWA growing and building on its reputation within the Defence service community and government.

Rob Shortridge

A New Vice President Joins the Team

I must have enjoyed my Air Force career because 35+ years disappeared in a flash. My early years were spent flying with 36 and 37 Squadrons, but the officer posting machine decided I was having too much fun and my career then progressed through all manner of obscure staff and management jobs. Even my command of the Air Force Recruit Training Unit was 'out of the box' for a GD aircrew type.

Most of my more senior years were spent further removed from the Air Force I joined. Deep within the mystical world of Defence, I became embroiled in the vagaries of Defence Policy and Planning, the intrigue of Attaché life and finally, the fascination of Defence Intelligence. I retired in 2001 and returned to my home state of Queensland where I now live at the Gold Coast with my wife Sarah.

I have been actively pursuing the injustices with DFRDB for many years and I joined the DFWA because I became convinced it was the only Defence Service Organisation (DSO) with a coherent approach and credible voice on Defence superannuation issues.

When I was approached to take up the Vice President's role in DFWA QLD, I was happy to contribute to the work of what I believe is a first class DSO. I look forward to assisting Rob Shortridge and working with Committee members across a range of Defence welfare issues of concern to current and former ADF members and their families.

Ray Gibson, AM

DSOs & ESOs – What's it all About?

The term **Ex-Service Organisation** or **ESO** has been in use for many years. However, DFWA and a number of other Service Associations support the interests of serving ADF members as well as former members. To recognise this broader role, we have agreed to replace ESO with **DSO** or **Defence Service Organisation**.

TIP Topics

The Training & Information Program (TIP) is a partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and Ex Service Organisations (ESO). It operates a platform of Welfare and Compensation training for ESO practitioners (volunteers & paid) in all states. Training is complemented by ESO's providing on-the-job training and mentoring after every course to ensure competency of their authorised practitioners.

All TIP policy, protocols, training modules & core knowledge are the responsibility of a National TIP committee of management, which has ESO and DVA representation from all States and a small co-ordinating team based in Canberra.

In each state, responsibility for the management and supervision of the program is vested in Training and Consultative Groups (TCG). These are made up of training orientated members of ESO's that provide compensation and welfare services to the ADF & Veteran community and DVA staff from appropriate areas. TCG members act as a contact point for all communications between their ESO and TIP in Queensland. Where an ESO does not have representation on the TCG, TIP information is available on the DVA website and communication dealing with their members undertaking training is through the state office of that ESO.

In Queensland, a team of ESO and DVA trainers prepare and deliver the training, supported by a TCG executive. The executive is responsible to the TCG and carries out the day to day management of TIP operations.

The 'Building Excellence in Support and Training' (BEST) program is integral to TIP training in that to assist in obtaining grants, ESO welfare and pension practitioners should be TIP trained. TIP nationally has three streams of training:

- a. Compensation entitlement and update courses
- b. Welfare courses, and
- c. Information Seminars

Compensation training progresses through four levels, from basic through advanced to advocacy and on to tribunal advocacy. Welfare training progresses from basic to advanced.

TIP recommends regular updating of training, mentoring and on job training by the ESO to maintain competency of welfare and compensation

practitioners. VITA insurance for professional indemnity will be jeopardised if these recommendations are ignored. This insurance and the TIP "Code of Ethics" is vital in ensuring the welfare and/or compensation claims assistance provided for ESO members and their dependants is an accountable process so that in the unlikely event that an error is made or incorrect advice given resulting in financial loss by the recipient of that assistance he or she can have some recourse on the practitioner.

Dennis J Roles OAM

Chairman, Training & Information Program
Queensland

DFWA Raffle

We participated in NSW's long standing raffle for the first time this year and we were delighted with our members' response. We raised in excess of \$7,000 including some very generous donations which will be put to good use in our ongoing program of work for our members.

We can also report that lucky Queensland Branch members managed to win two of the four prizes in the raffle. Congratulations to the winners.

Our sincere thanks to all members who participated in the raffle or provided donations and we look forward to your support again in next year's raffle which helps fund the valuable work that we are doing on your behalf.

Did You Know?

We need your help! The workload of your Committee is increasing as we continue to grow the organisation and support our members in an increasingly complex world. If you could spare a few hours a week or if you would be interested in a more challenging role on the Committee, we would love to hear from you. Like to know more? Just give us a call with your details or email us expressing your interest, and either Rob or Ray will get back to you.

Support For Army Cadet Unit

For those who attended our soiree in the middle of the year, you will have noticed a number of very smart young people in Disruptive Pattern Camouflage Uniform (DPCU) assisting in the serving of soft drinks and food. These young people were members of the 161 Army Cadet Unit Aviation and they did themselves proud.

By way of thanks DFWA donated some money to them to help with their cadet activities. LT(AAC) Rendic wrote back and here is some of the text of her letter:

I would sincerely like to thank the DFWA for the opportunity to assist in the stewarding, as the cadets had an excellent time. A huge thank you also, for the donation made towards the unit which has been earmarked for two items - Firstly a model helicopter to assist in lessons, and for us to conduct a 'fly over' during our end of year parade; Secondly to go towards our prospective trip to the war memorial in Canberra during 2011.

We believe the cadets are a worthy cause and our support to them enables the DFWA Qld Inc to further build the profile of our organisation in the wider Defence Community.

Are you good with Minutes?

We are looking for assistance from one of our members to act as **Minute Secretary**. This member would be an ex officio member of the Committee. The duties will involve attending monthly meetings (AGM, Committee Meetings or Affiliates meetings), taking the minutes of meeting and forwarding them to the Secretary and Chair of the meeting (normally the President) for dispatch within 10 days of the meeting. The meetings are held on the last Friday of each month between 0900 and 1200. It would be preferable if you live in the Brisbane area, but as long as you are willing to commit to one Friday a month your location isn't that important. The committee does a lot of work by e-mail so computer access is essential. If you are interested in joining our team in this important role, please e-mail us on qldbranch@dfwa.org.au and title the e-mail MINUTE SECRETARY.

DFWA Apparel

Attractive, practical and affordable are the words that best describe the current range of DFWA apparel items we have for sale. The products are designed to increase awareness of our organisation and it is great to see so many members promoting DFWA by taking advantage of the offers available.

High quality double pocket blue Bisley shirts are available in Ladies' and Mens' sizes. Long sleeve shirts and other colours are available on request.

The DFWA baseball cap is also of excellent quality and looks great with the white border of the embroidered crest contrasting smartly against the dark navy background. The cap is attractively finished with a subtle gold edge trim. An easy adjustment band at the back of the cap allows one size to fit all.

And of course, no self-respecting DFWA member's wardrobe would be complete without an impressive DFWA Lapel badge. The badge is approximately 20mm in size and re-creates the coloured DFWA crest with elegance and style. The badge comes with a single pin and retaining clasp.

We also have DFWA ties in navy blue with the Tri-Service emblem of eagle, anchor and crossed swords embroidered in gold. Stocks are limited, so if you are keen to own a fine quality DFWA tie at a great price, be early with your order.

If you would like to place an order for any of these items simply complete the order form on the last page of *Hotline* and return it with your payment to the address shown on the form. Turnaround of orders is normally completed within two weeks, but they will be processed as quickly as possible. Alternatively, if you would like further information just email Queensland Branch at qldbranch@dfwa.org.au or call 0732334480.

Did you know?

The Australian Defence Budget this year is three times as large (in today's dollars) as the Defence budget at the end of the Vietnam War.

Bereavement Support

DVA is developing a service model for support to Dependants of Deceased ADF Members. This is a complex issue given the numbers of players on the field and teams in the competition. Defence has the initial response through the Defence Community Organisation but at some time, DVA may get involved and that relationship may last for 50 – 60 years. There is a further complexity in that not all deaths in service will mean that the Dependants will have a DVA entitlement.

This is a very important initiative by DVA and it will ultimately help those dependants of deceased members especially those who have given their lives for the country whilst on operations. We will provide further advice when available.

DFWA has also updated its webpage on bereavement issues at:

http://www.dfw.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=16

The webpage addresses three issues:

- What you can do NOW to make it easier, and includes issues such as wills, powers of attorney, maintaining a record of where all the family financial data is held and attempts to debunk some urban myths regarding joint bank accounts and credit cards
- What happens if an ADF member dies in service, and addresses such issues as removals, MQ, Boards and possible DVA and COMSUPER entitlements
- What happens if a former ADF member dies while in receipt of a COMSUPER or DVA pension.

TPI Transport Entitlements

TransLink is developing a new free travel pass for TPI holders in South East QLD. The pass details are still being developed, but our information at the time of printing is:

- The pass will allow free travel across all modes of transport – rail, bus and ferry.
- The pass will supersede the current warrant system for Citytrain travel, but will not replace the intrastate travel warrant system.
- The pass will initially be a flash pass that holders will show staff on entry to service and this will be replaced with a free fare smart card over time
- Passes will have a photo of the card holder on the pass.
- Applications will be available from the TransLink website to post in with a suitable passport photo.
- It is expected that the pass will be available at the end of 2010.

As mentioned earlier, details are still being worked through and TransLink Marketing is currently designing the pass and application form etc. We will provide further details of the new TPI Transport Pass when they become available.

(The information above was provided by David Taschke, Senior Product Officer, TransLink Transit Authority)

Did you know?

That of the 101,155 people that make up the Australian Defence Work Force today, 43% are either Reservists or civilians

2011 Social Gathering

As Ken mentioned in the President's report, the Branch hosted a successful function for the visit to Queensland by our National President, David Jamison. We are working on another visit by David next year, and with that in mind, your Committee has started thinking about a social gathering in 2011, perhaps in the first half of the calendar year, where David could meet and speak with as many members as possible. There are several options we could consider but before getting too far into planning a function, we thought it would be helpful to canvass the views of our members regarding the type of function, location, cost and whether they would support the activity.

We would welcome your comments on this, and to make it easier, you might like to email us at gldbranch@dfwa.org.au or drop us a line with your preference from the following options. Of course, if you have another preference not listed, we would still love to hear from you. However, we ask that you respond only if you would genuinely support the option selected with the intention of attending the function, subject to your availability on the selected date:

Option 1. Cocktail Party similar to the last function we held – free to those attending

Option 2. A low cost sit down lunch at a Services Club or similar - small cost to those attending

Option 3. An informal BBQ at Victoria Barracks Brisbane – small or no cost to those attending

Option 4. Any other preference – please provide brief details

Could you also indicate which locations you would be willing to travel to for the preferred function:

[Brisbane](#)

[SunshineCoast](#)

[Gold Coast](#)

[Other \(Please specify\)](#)

The Committee values your input and we will do our best to satisfy the preferences of the majority of our members. We would appreciate your responses by the end of December 2010.

Letters

Dear Sirs,

As my only service was in the wartime WAAAF I was initially unable to become a member of your Association, but I have been a life member since the death of my late husband, Wing Commander Bernard Joseph Ryan.

His invalidity caused his quality of life to be almost zero but he always enjoyed having me read Camaraderie to him. He regretted being unable to assist in your attempts at improving conditions for members of the Services and their families.

Our first married quarter in an unlined hut at Williamstown in 1946 was a real eye opener neither of us ever forgot. Your achievements in raising the standard of housing are commendable, and I hope, appreciated as are your efforts in regard to pay and conditions for serving and retired members.

Yours faithfully

J E Marguerite Ryan



VALE LTCOL(R) G W H Thompson

RAASC and Australian Instructional Corps

Passed away 15 May 2010

Born in England, migrated to Australia gave 38 years of service to his adopted country.

George was involved in the early beginning of RDFWA, a life member until his death. Post retirement work with the Red Cross Blood Bank for 11 years. A mason and a lay reader for some forty years George passed away at the Masonic Care Sandgate aged 98 years.

NOTE His Father was a British WW1 soldier

His three brothers were all fulltime soldiers

As was his son, in the British and Australian Armies

Howard Thompson

Son (Ex WO1)



DFWA QUEENSLAND BRANCH INC PRODUCT ORDER FORM

DFWA QLD INC Phone: 07 32334480
 Victoria Barracks Brisbane Fax: 07 32334480
 ENOGGERA QLD 4051 Email: qldbranch@dfwa.org.au

Your Order Details

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

Address.....

.....

.....

Email.....



Item	Size Code S M L XL	Quantity	Postage	Unit Price	Total
Blue Shirt—Men's Short Sleeve			xxxxxxxx	\$39.95 Incl postage	
Blue Shirt—Women's Short Sleeve			xxxxxxxx	\$39.95 Incl postage	
DFWA Cap with Embroidered Badge	xxxxxxxxxxxx		\$7.00	\$15.00	
DFWA Lapel Badge	xxxxxxxxxxxx		\$2.00	\$5.00	
DFWA Tie (Limited Stock)	xxxxxxxxxxxx		\$2.00	\$10.00	
Shirt Size Code:				Subtotal	\$
Extra Large = XL Large = L Medium = M Small = S				Postage	\$
Shirts with long sleeves and other colours are available on request				Balance Due	\$

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.