



# The Capital Chit-Chat

Newsletter of the Defence Force Welfare Association -

ACT Branch Inc



December 2012

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>HAPPENINGS WITHIN THE BRANCH</b>	1
National Office	1
Branch Office and Equipment	2
<b>DWSG NEWS</b>	2
Here, There & Away	3
Into the Future	3
Vale	3
<b>REMEMBRANCE DAY REFLECTIONS</b>	3
<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	4

## Page

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12 Feb	DFWA-ACT Branch meeting 10.30 am, in the Burns Club, Kambah (subject to confirmation)
18 Mar	DWSG Lunch at the Southern Cross Club, Woden for Southside ladies, 12 noon.
21 Mar	Seniors Expo
25 Mar	DWSG Lunch at Café Injoy, Gold Creek, for Northside ladies, 12 noon.

### HAPPENINGS WITHIN THE BRANCH

The Annual General Meeting was held 9 October resulting in some new committee members and some changed responsibilities. We welcome Berry Jaugietis to the committee in her capacity as Vice President and, in doing so, absolve ourselves from any resulting family conflict in the Jaugietis household where husband Alf is the Executive Director at National.

We offer our absolute gratitude to David Clinch for his period as Vice President and advise that David continues on the committee as a general member. We also welcome Paul Threlfall (continuing the nautical balance of the committee, at least in the short term!). Whilst Paul comes onto the committee as a general member he has already had considerable involvement with the branch through his highly commendable efforts as assistant to the Fair Go Campaign.

We welcome back Les Bienkiewicz who, after a period as Executive Director followed by a hiatus travelling throughout Europe, has been elected to the committee as the Membership Registrar.

Trevor Goodhew continues his incredible and selfless devotion to DFWA but restricts his efforts to the branch committee as a general member.

Hilton Lenard has accepted an appointment as Assistant Secretary (offered outside committee meeting and will be confirmed at the next committee meeting). Hilton has successfully completed TIP training and is qualified to give welfare and pension advice to our members. We are also thankful that Peter Eveille has offered his services as a welfare officer.

To all those who have selflessly given their time, we express our deep gratitude and a real hope that we may have an enjoyable and productive workplace.

### National Office

The last big gathering of our chiefs took place at the end of November on the hill at Glenbrook. We finally got rid of them from Canberra...not so fast with the relief though...they're back here next year in May. I know they're a pain but we do get the news first. Of course, y'all know I'm only kidding! We love having DKJ, Ian, Ted, Richard, Jim et al here so we can show them just how to run a DFWA Branch.



Helen Jones, Dawn Laing and Maelyn Wishart, in contemplative mood at the DWSG commemorative service.

News is scarce as Alf, with the help of Annette, are writing up the minutes etc as we speak. We will be in a position to let you know the outcomes very soon.

### Branch Office and Equipment

It's finally happened. The ACT Branch has an office and some equipment to call our own. A new laser colour printer has just been installed, purchased by the ACT Branch. Located in Building 81 at RMC Duntroon, we'll be sharing it all with National but our name will also be on the door.

### .....and finally

Your president and committee would like to wish everyone the very best over Christmas and the New Year. We have plans for the New Year so don't forget to keep an eye out for advice of committee meetings. Come and get involved...we'll find something for you to do.

Until then, enjoy your family and friends and have a great festive season.

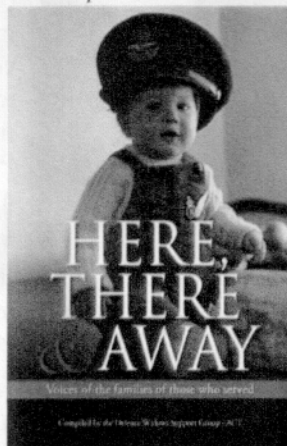
Bill Murray, courtesy of  
*Senator Gary Humphries,*  
is able to offer free personalised tours of  
*Parliament House*  
These tours will be designed to meet  
your groups requirements  
and will be personally conducted  
by Bill.

Bill Murray

### DWSG NEWS

Christmas is here again – all too quickly but it marks the end of another very busy and satisfying year for the DWSG.

Since last reporting to you, we have had a very successful formal lunch at the CIT and I hope you all saw our one-page spread in *The Canberra Times*. Jocelyn Plovits, from the National Arboretum gave an extremely entertaining presentation. We were delighted that General Hurley CDF attended along with Air Marshall Geoff Brown Chief of Air Force, Brig Paul Nothard representing Chief of Army, Cdre Peter Leavy representing Chief of Navy, RSM Dave Ashley and Chaplain Catie Inches-Ogden. For the first time we invited representatives from Defence Families and Defence Community Organisation as well as the other ESOs who support widows and families. We were absolutely delighted that they all accepted our invitation and they also agreed with our suggestion that we should look for opportunities to work together. This will definitely be on the agenda for 2013.



### Here, There & Away

Just in case you missed it, the DWSG not only found a publisher for our collection of stories but we now actually have the book! It looks absolutely great and we are looking forward to the next phase of promoting it to the wider public.

Talking about promoting, if you have any planned gatherings where such promotion would be appropriate, please let us know. There is scope for a little "entertainment" based upon particular stories. Also let us know if you have

Our only regret was that only two DFWA males attended - both called Peter and I am sure that they will both vouch for the fact that we are not a scary lot and that you all missed a tremendous opportunity to promote the workings of the DFWA to the invited guests.

Over 20 ladies attended our short but moving commemorative service at the War Memorial in early October. We would love to have more and remind you that it is open to all DFWA members, not just widows. This was the last time that Chaplain Catie Inches-Ogden participated in our special events as she has been posted to Sydney, on promotion. We thank her for her contribution over the last two years and wish her well. We will definitely miss her cams and boots. Catie kindly found a replacement for us and we look forward to getting to know Chaplain Sarah Gibson,

We have continued our most important task of contacting new widows in the local region. In the last 12 months we have contacted 56 new widows; 31 of whom have been added to our support list giving us a total of 361 widows/ widowers. We continue to do this over the Christmas New Year period as we appreciate that a death at a time when most are on holiday and in celebratory mood, is doubly difficult.

useful contacts for getting a promo into a newsletter, e-mail distribution list etc. The DFWA-ACT receives royalties on all sales so you are also contributing towards the work of the DWSG. If you can help, please contact:

Annette Sadler, [dws-g-act@dfwa.org.au](mailto:dws-g-act@dfwa.org.au)

Mobile: 0417 674 527.

Postal: PO Box 2272, CANBERRA ACT 2601.



We have made a bulk order for our ACT friends to save you the cost of postage, and it is not too late to order in time for Christmas. Please see the advertisement in *Camaraderie* or contact:

Dawn Laing, [dlaing@bigpond.com.au](mailto:dlaing@bigpond.com.au),  
Phone: 6253 0803 or Mobile: 0417 688 711.  
Postal Address for the project is:  
PO Box 3088, BELCONNEN BC ACT 2617

Cost is \$19.99. Orders can also be made through the Big Sky Publishing website: [www.bigskypublishing.com.au](http://www.bigskypublishing.com.au).

Postage of \$6.95 will be charged for one or two books ordered through the website or directly from Big Sky Publishing. However, for orders of \$50+, postage is free.

An electronic version is also available for purchase through iTunes (Apple) or eKindle (Amazon) for \$7.99.

#### Into the Future

In my last report I mentioned that the DWSG was going through a process of evaluating our activities with the aim of focusing on continuing to provide our most valued support within the limitations of reduced voluntary capacity. I am pleased to announce that we do have a plan and our aim is to have it in place by the end of 2013. Regrettably we will not be delivering chocolates this year but we will be ensuring that all our widows are still contacted in one way or another before Christmas. This is all being done with the assistance of our new admin support person, Peter Schilling. Peter has recently retired from full-time defence service and has volunteered to assist us. We thank Peter for taking up this challenge and to the DFWA-ACT Branch for supporting it.

If you are a widow or widower of an ex-service person and would like to know more about the DWSG activities, or if you know of someone in this category, please contact Annette Sadler.

Finally I would like to thank the members of the DWSG for their support during the year. I would also like to thank the DFWA-ACT Branch and DFWA National for their ongoing support of the Group . . . and I would like to wish all of you fortitude and friendship for the festive season.

Annette Sadler

#### World War II Widows

If your husband served during World War II, you are now eligible for Legacy Support even if he did not have operational service.

For more information contact:  
Ann Marshall at Legacy  
on 62851800.

#### Vale

Members of the DWSG are sad to report the passing of Marjery Gilmore on 7 November. Marjery was an active member of the DWSG for many years and was also a past President of the ACT War Widows' Guild. The Annual Field of Remembrance Ceremony, initially at St John's in Reid and now at Morshead Home, was one of her initiatives for which she will be fondly remembered. Our condolences go to her family.

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY REFLECTION

*This year I had the honour of being asked to conduct the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Jindalee Aged Care Residence, Narrabundah. Jindalee is the single largest aged care residence in Canberra and is the home to many veterans and families of veterans. It was a privilege to be amongst these people who still recall the bitterness of World War 2 and subsequent conflicts. It was also a privilege to share that special moment with such special people. The following is extracted from my address given on that day:*

There is no doubt that war is hell. We were reminded of the brutally dangerous conditions that confront our brave men and women only last week when we watched and listened to our Governor General present the Victoria Cross to Corporal Daniel Keighran for a conspicuous act of valour in the presence of the enemy whilst on duty in Afghanistan in 2010. Her Excellency, in presenting the award, read the following official citation:

*Corporal Keighran, with complete disregard for his own safety, broke cover on multiple occasions to draw intense and accurate enemy fire to identify enemy locations and direct return fire. During one of these occasions, when his patrol sustained a casualty, he again, on his own initiative and in an act of exceptional courage moved from his position of cover to deliberately draw fire away from the team who were treating the casualty. Corporal Keighran remained exposed to heavy fire in order to direct suppressing fire and then assist in the clearance of the landing zone to enable evacuation of the casualty. These deliberate acts of exceptional courage to repeatedly expose himself to accurate and intense enemy fire, thereby placing himself in grave danger, ultimately enabled the*

*identification and suppression of enemy firing positions.*

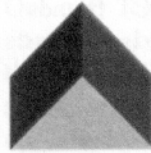
We can only wonder at just what was going through Corporal Keighran's mind as he left the safety of his position and deliberately made himself into a target so that he could locate the enemy and then have the enemy shoot at him so that a wounded soldier, his mate, could be extracted and brought to safety. Our wonder is now only matched by the fact that his wife back in Australia did not become aware of her husband's incomprehensible bravery for two years, when just three weeks ago she heard that he was to receive the Victoria Cross. Initially, far from being proud of her husband's bravery she became angry. She thought of the sleepless nights she endured wondering whether she would ever see her husband again. Knowing her husband though she assumed that he would realise his family responsibilities and take the necessary precautions to ensure he returned to care for his family. She soon realized though that the wounded soldier could have been her husband and someone else would have acted just as bravely to bring her husband to safety. Her muted anger gave way to natural pride in her husband's heroic deeds.

The point of my message is that today it is only right that we remember the incredible bravery of the members of the defence force, in particular those whose last breath is taken on foreign lands. Yet how often do we stop to think of the incredible acts of courage and personal sacrifice made every day by the families of these brave men and women remaining at home. Fully aware of the possible fate that awaits their partners and constantly consumed by the worry over their safety, wondering if they will ever see them again, these selfless men and women assume the unaided role of running a family, of caring for children, comforting them as they too worry for their parents performing acts of courage similar to that of Corporal Keighran.

*WR Murray JP*

*Answer to WHO AM I in the last issue:*

*Sir John Monash*



**Australian  
Men's Shed  
Association**  
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

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opportunity for you to  
meet and socialise  
with other men**

**For details of the closest shed  
telephone 1300 550 009 or  
Email [amsa@mensshed.net](mailto:amsa@mensshed.net)**

*An air force officer goes to heaven (STOP laughing...that is NOT the joke!) and at the gate St Peter asks what he has done to make him worthy of admittance. The officer flyboy replies, "I once went into a bar with four of my pilot*

*friends and saw two SAS soldiers harassing a young girl. Being a gentleman I went up to the biggest one and told him to leave this young lady alone. When he refused I told him again more forcefully. This time I slapped him across the face and told this sapper to report back to barracks". St Peter said this was a very good thing to do and asked when it happened. The pilot replied, "About 5 minutes ago. My friends should be here shortly".*

<b>Committee Structure (as at 9 October 2012)</b>	
President	Phil McGuire
V Pres	Berry Jaugietis
Secretary	Bill Murray JP
Treasurer	Paul Jones
Advocate	Kerry Mellor
Membership	Les Bienkiewicz
A Sec / Treas	Hilton Lenard
DWSG Rep	Annette Sadler
<b>General Members</b>	
	Marjanneke McGuire
	Trevor Goodhew
	David Clinch
	Peter Eveille
	Paul Threlfall



*You've run out of excuses  
She's said it's now or never  
It's time!*

*You need a  
MARRIAGE CELEBRANT*

Why not contact DFWA (ACT Branch)'s very own  
**Les Bienkiewicz**  
Ask Les for his special DFWA deal  
Tel 0411 444248.

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

##### **DFWA-ACT Branch:**

Telephone (message only) 02 6265 9496

E-mail: [actbranch@dfwa.org.au](mailto:actbranch@dfwa.org.au)

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