

NETWORK

Defence Force Welfare Association

Queensland Branch Inc



December 2012 Edition

HOTLINE

DFWA Qld Branch Inc

Victoria Barracks Brisbane
ENOGGERA QLD 4051

Email :
qldbranch@dfwa.org.au

Tel: 07 3233 4480

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Branch President's Report

Branch Committee

We held our AGM on 28 September 2012 and I am pleased to inform you that I have again been elected as your President for the next 12 months. Not surprisingly, almost all of the same old hands have also been re-elected to your Committee. Trying to find people who have the time **and** are willing to help is an ongoing challenge. We pleaded for more support in our last Hotline and I'm pleased to say we did get a couple of volunteers. We welcome John Lewis to the Committee where he will bring a fresh focus on membership issues. We also welcome Russell Linwood who has agreed to be assistant editor for Hotline. It remains a concern however, that we continue to operate without a dedicated Branch Secretary.

Northern Services Courier

We have been very fortunate in that the NSC, based in Townsville has given us an occasional free full page for advertising Fair Go!/DFWA issues. This has given us some exposure to the serving members in North Queensland and we have noticed spikes on visits to DFWA/Fair Go! sites immediately after the NSC is published. We aim to continue our relationship with the NSC. So for those members in the Townsville area where the NSC is published, please look for our future ads.

Defence Funding

Severe Defence budget cuts are causing concern. We are particularly worried about the effect on ADF personnel and that is something we are keeping an eye on, specifically when it comes to entitlements and conditions of service. (Cont P2)

A recent example was the free travel to Next of Kin which has been overturned after strong representations from DFWA and others. The out-sourcing of ADF medical care and the effect of funding cuts on the provision of DVA services are other areas where we will be watching closely.

NATEX

Ray Gibson and I attended NATEX at Glenbrook 19 - 21 Nov. The first part was a planning session to determine how we are to cope in the environment we expect in 2020. You will be pleased to note that the DFWA vision and purpose will remain the same but we are facing a challenging environment with fewer funds, fewer volunteers, a different client base and some changing roles of the government departments supporting veterans. To survive in this environment we will need a strong national office supported by the States, using technology to its fullest and being able to make professional representation to government. The challenge will now be to determine the structure that will best suit our aim and then working to implement it.

Membership

We are having a members' draw and this has led to some of the people in arrears renewing their membership. I can understand how subscription renewals sometimes get lost in the pile and it is pleasing to see our gentle reminder is achieving some success.

For those who have not renewed their subscription since 2010 this will be the last Camaraderie and Hotline but we will attempt to contact all of you just to make sure the subscription has not fallen through the cracks.

Serving Personnel

We continue to try and gain exposure to serving personnel. From my time in the Air Force Reserve this year, the average serving person does not understand the issues with COMSUPER and DVA and how to seek help if there are problems. I can understand this because for most of them it is something way out there in the future, when they are retired or are considering discharging from the ADF and moving to greener pastures. However, there are issues serving members need to know about if they are considering discharging and I am not sure that the transition process is all that effective in providing them with all the tools and information they need.

The ADF recently had a mental health week and I attended some of the lectures. They were very good but focussed on those still serving. Very little was said about accessing help after discharge. Unfortunately, some of the issues manifest themselves long after a member has left the ADF and the challenge will then be for the ESOs and the families to identify and assist them.

Raffle.

From the QLD Branch perspective, the annual raffle was once again a success, and my thanks to all those who bought tickets or made donations. Our thanks must also go to NSW Branch for organising the event.

A Final Word

My sincere thanks to all our members who have supported our activities throughout the year and provided feedback in one form or another. It is very much appreciated.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Rob Shortridge

President

DFWA Qld Branch

Editorial

If there has ever been a busier period for our organisation, I must have missed it! The dogged determination of this government to deny us the legitimate indexation of our superannuation is one of the main reasons. The formation of ADSO as the spearhead of our campaign has meant that so many of our leaders have had little if any time to themselves for too many years now.

This project is hugely different from traditional DFWA work and calls for marketing and promotion which we have traditionally not understood – and some in our community still don't! Government attitudes which have recently been made clear by the PM and Minister Smith demonstrate that traditional cap-in-hand approaches by our community no longer work. We are a bit like old and formerly valued farm dogs relying on the ethics of their owners after their working life. In our case, the ethics of the owners have changed and instead of the dignified retirement we were promised and earned, just look what we have!

Some appreciation! Some respect! In their place we get obfuscation followed by Clayton's efforts whose aim is only to deflect public opinion. ADSO realises this and has moved quickly to adopt strategies and techniques that such people understand, as we attack their basic survival need – being elected. The big disappointment is that not all the ESO have banded together to present a united front to Government but at least all the ESOs have the same aim - Fair Indexation. It is just that some other ESOs have chosen to pursue fair indexation in their way. This makes ADSO's job even more difficult as it has the potential to divide and conquer!

There are also some in our community who believe that abusing the government and behaving aggressively advances our cause. However, the usual result is that the credibility of our reasoned and temperately argued case suffers by association. We need a united front and one that is strategic and convincing. We are extremely well represented by ADSO and Fair Go even though their work gets the criticism of some small picture thinkers in our midst.

I would like you to pause for a minute to think how proud we all should be of this dedicated group – and tell them! David Jamison for one has been head down and flat out on this campaign for nearly seven years now at great expense to his family and at great personal sacrifice. David has led this campaign. Moreover, he has done this with dignity, humility and reason and provided a clear and articulate expression of our position and our reasonable demands. For the last three of these years, since the formation of ADSO, we have seen David's efforts increased, but supported and indeed complemented by the ADSO partners, the Fair Go! Campaign directors and a number of talented and dedicated individual DFWA members.

Without these people we would be no where, so if you have a minute or so of free time and you feel passionate about the issues please help.

Go to the newly released Fair Go! Website (<http://standto.org/cms/>)

have a look and register your interest. Without your help we will not achieve good outcomes for our community.

Ken Railton

A Few words from the Treasurer/Secretary/Advocate.

I would like to thank all the members that participated in the latest raffle and extend my apologies and heartfelt thanks those who really did not want tickets but still helped with donations. At the risk of appearing like making excuses, the raffle is a very labour intensive operation. There are very stringent rules that must be followed. The rules require 100% accurate recording by our Branch and by the main initiator of the raffle, the NSW Branch.

I apologise to those members who have asked to be removed from the raffle distribution list, but I found this (removing from the list that is) to be impossible for me to do. So, in future **if you don't want the tickets, just throw them away**; a donation would be welcome in lieu of the tickets, but you are not obliged to do this. I will endeavour to accompany next year's tickets with as clear instructions as possible.

I have included in this issue of Camaraderie a renewal notice for those who are non financial for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012. Should those financial for year 2013 and beyond find a renewal notice: please disregard it and accept my apologies, oversights can happen in working bees!

I seem to do a lot of apologising this time, and unfortunately I have another apology; the membership fees have been increased for 2013. I am led to believe inflation had a lot to do with this. You will find further details in Camaraderie itself.

I realise that some of you do not have a cheque account as I see quite a few postal notes, even cash in an envelope.

Postal notes are expensive and loose notes are easily lost. Could I suggest that you call at a **Bank of Queensland** Branch and deposit your subscription or donation in the branch account for which the details are: **Account name:** Defence Force Welfare Association; **Account No** 10480398; **BSB** 124-076. The Bank of Queensland will not charge you for the transaction.

Now with my advocate hat on, I would like to bring to your attention a few things:

DVA will now provide treatment for a number of conditions that they may not accept as being service caused.

These include all types of cancers, all types of nervous conditions and tuberculosis. Smoking has also been accepted as a cause of prostate cancer.

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal has also recently decided in favour of a War Widow whose husband died of a heart condition. The AAT determined that the condition was causally related to his service in New Guinea during WW2.

So if you or any of your mates have been knocked back or were not aware of the above, contact the nearest RSL or give me a ring on 0438327210.

And finally for now, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

Wally Buldo

Tired of Changing Your e-Mail address ?

It can be a bit of a pain, letting all your contacts know your changed e-mail address when you switch your internet service provider – Telstra <> Optus <> one of the many smaller and cheaper providers. If you have a free web-based account, e.g., Gmail from Google or Hotmail from Microsoft, there is no need to change.

- You can keep it no matter which internet service provider you use.
- You can access your email on any computer connected to the internet.

Setting Up An Account

To get a **Gmail Account** – go to <http://mail.google.com/mail/help/open.html> and follow the instructions. Make sure you note your Gmail address and Password.

To set up a **Hotmail Account** - go to www.hotmail.com and follow the instructions for creating a New Account. Make sure you note your Hotmail address and Password.

Don't Like the Way Gmail or Hotmail looks and Works?

Personally, I don't like using either – I don't like how they look or how they work, so I've set them both up to work in Outlook – something I am familiar with. This is what they look like in Outlook.

Step by step instructions on how to set this up are at:

For Gmail, go to:

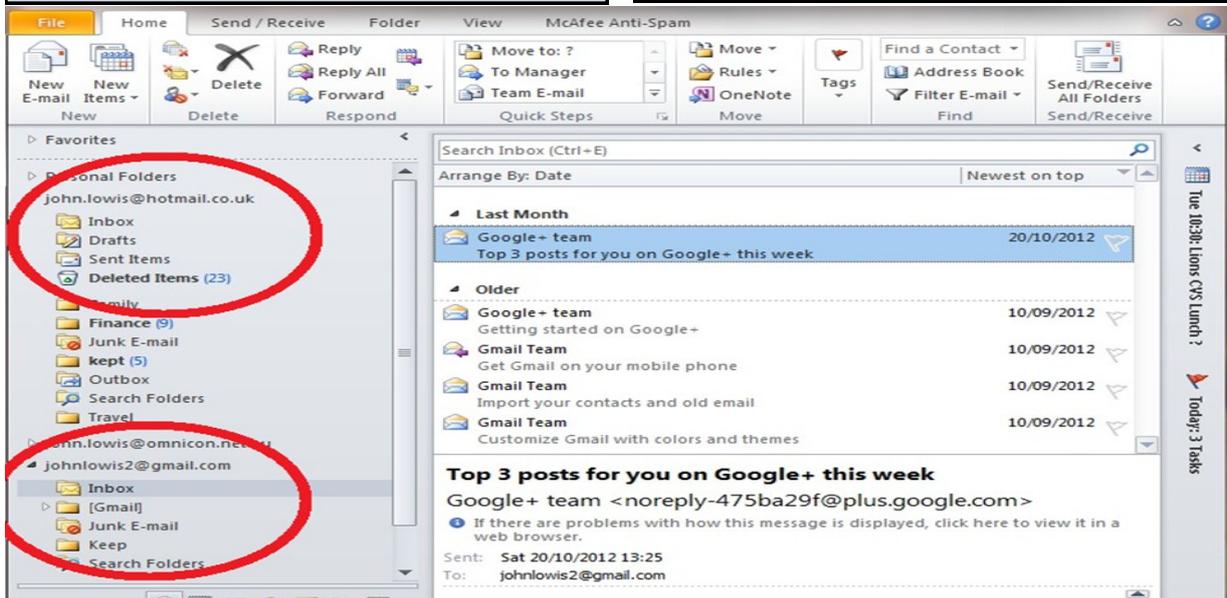
<http://www.emailaddressmanager.com/tips/outlook-gmail.html>

For Hotmail, go to:

[http://email.about.com/od/outlooktips/qt/Access Live Hotmail in Outlook.htm](http://email.about.com/od/outlooktips/qt/Access_Live_Hotmail_in_Outlook.htm)

However, the simplest way to get this all set up is to get your kids or grandkids to do it while you supervise with a tinny or glass of wine!

John Lewis



If you are looking for good information on anything relating to the use of computers, have a look at <http://free.yudu.com/groups/items/121/>

A list of guides by our former member Geoff Cutts (now in SA), covers calendars and cards, desktop publishing, difficult letters, digital publishing, email, ergonomics, getting started, housekeeping, internet recipes, introduction to computers, making sense in English, printers, scanning, skills manual and word processing. Let me know how you find these free guides.



DFWA National Executive Meeting

DFWA National Executive Met at RAAF Glenbrook on 19-21 November. I thought you might like to see our leaders in action.

From left:

Jim Barry (Army), VP Reserves; Ted Radford (RAAF), Pres Vic Branch; Annette Sadler, VP Defence Widows; Alf Jaugietis (RAAF) Exec Dir; Rob Shortridge (RAAF), Pres Qld Branch; Richard Usher (RAN) Pres WA Branch; Kerry Mellor (Army) Deputy Pres and VP Advocacy; Ray Gibson (RAAF), Exec VP Qld Branch; Les Bienkiewicz (Army), Cam Editor and VP Pay and Conditions of Service; David Jamieson (Army), National President; Phil McGuire (RAN), ACT Branch Pres; Ian Scott (RAAF), Pres NSW Branch.

OPERATION MUSTER

MATES HELPING MATES

One of the principles of war is **concentration of force**. For ADSO, our current forces are too thinly spread and we need to increase our active forces in all States of the Commonwealth.

We call on **YOU** to recruit more supporters to help spread the ADSO message Australia wide.

Our Challenge...

To at least triple ADSO/standto membership by **31 December 2012.**

Your Mission...

Get at least **5 mates** to sign up to www.standto.org

How? Call or email your Intake mates, squadron/unit/ship mates, classmates, family and friends and even your local politicians!... Rope in your mates in the RSL or other ESOs!

Apart from the personal satisfaction you will feel from a job well done, ADSO is offering a great prize to an existing supporter who 'signs up' the highest number of recruits.

**BIO: Kel Ryan,
Vice President Far North
Queensland**

Kel was called up for National Service in 1965 and stayed on for 24 years. He was commissioned from OCS Portsea after service with 5 RAR on its first tour of Vietnam. He served a second tour of Vietnam as ADC to the Australian Commander, Major General D.B. Dunstan.

His postings included time as an instructor at the Officer Training Unit Scheyville training national servicemen, three years with 1 PIR in PNG, four years with the SAS Regiment, 2 IC of 1 RAR and was the first CO of 51 FNQR when it was rerolled as a regional forces surveillance unit based in Cairns. If he was to nominate highlights in his career they would be the SASR and 51 FNQR – great people and great soldiering.

He is a Graduate of the Army Staff College and is now the Honorary Colonel of 51 FNQR.

In retirement Kel has been an active member of a number of ESOs including RSL Queensland where he has held office at sub-branch, club, District and State level including State Deputy President. He is a Life Member of the RSL. He recently stood down as the Queensland President of the RAR Association but remains Vice President [FNQ] DFWA.

He has also worked in the non-profit sector with the P & F organisation at school and state levels. To prove that his right brain works he was also President of the Cairns Art Society for three years.

Kel completed his Master's Degree in 2006 and his thesis reported on **“Why there are so many ESOs in Australia?”**

This research and developments since have prompted him to undertake his PhD into: **The Australian Defence Force Family and ways for advocacy in the 21st Century, specifically, “To explore possible ways to advocate the issues confronting the Australian Defence Force Family into the 21st Century.”**

Kel's experience also tells him that while there is reluctance from younger ADF leavers to accept the relevance of or even join ESOs there no question that there is a continuing need for our work. The adage that 'they won't need us until they need us' remains as true today as it has been in the past.

Kel Ryan's driving philosophy is that the Australian Defence Force Family will be best served by all the ESOs working together. We are now at a time when the percentage of Australian families with a connection to the Defence force is the lowest it has ever been. The ESOs must work together for the benefit of all in the Family and not for sectional interests.



Kel Ryan –
Walking the Camino Santiago de Compostella -
or strolling across Spain.

New Polo Shirt Available!

We have introduced a new DFWA Polo Shirt with the DFWA Logo. It is an excellent quality shirt and looks great. Help promote DFWA by ordering a shirt and wearing it with pride. Check out the Order Form on the next Page.



DFWA QUEENSLAND BRANCH INC PRODUCT ORDER FORM

DFWA QLD INC

Victoria Barracks Brisbane

Phone: 07 3233 4480

ENOGGERA QLD 4051

Email: qldbranch@dfwa.org.au

Your Order Details

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

Address:

.....

Email:



Item	Size Code	Quantity	Postage	Unit Price	Total
Bisley Blue Shirt—Men's	XL, L, M, S		XXXXXXXXXX	\$39.95	
Bisley Blue Shirt—Women's	XL, L, M, S		XXXXXXXXXX	\$39.95	
DFWA Cap with Embroidered Badge	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		\$7.00	\$15.00	
DFWA Lapel Badge	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		\$2.00	\$5.00	
JB's Wear DFWA Polo Shirt	XXL, XL, L, M, S		\$5.00	\$30.00	
Shirt Size Code:				Subtotal	\$
Extra Extra Large = XXL Extra Large = XL Large = L Medium = M Small = S				-----	
Shirts with long sleeves and other colours are available on request				Postage	\$

				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: Bisley Shirt prices include postage and handling. If ordering other items with shirts, no additional postage required. If ordering a cap together with a badge, cap postage only is required.

P.B.