

NETWORK

Defence Force Welfare Association

Queensland Branch Inc



July 2011 Edition

HOTLINE

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National President's Visit

DFWA National President David Jamison AM visited Queensland recently to meet the DFWA Qld committee and local commanders and to address the QFE on Tues 19 July and RUSI on Wed 20 July.

David is without doubt the most influential person in the ex-service community in Australia today. He is a central figure in the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations' Fair Go Campaign which seeks fair indexation for military superannuants. He was also instrumental in the Opposition's change of heart on indexation. His address to the RUSI was on *Looking to the Future Wellbeing of Current and Former ADF members*. It was very well received by the audience, which included quite a number of DFWA members.

President's Corner

As expected, the start of the year has been very busy for the DFWA Qld committee. We are refining our e-mail and contact lists to make sure we can advise all our members of issues we feel will affect them. As always though, if you do not want to receive these e-mails (and we do NOT send jokes) let us know, and we will take you off the list.

Over the past couple of months, the major issue has been the **Fair Indexation Bill** before the Senate and of course the monthly update that is sent out by National Office. We have received some really positive comments from our members on the information we are distributing. This positive feedback does tend to energise those involved and is really appreciated.

Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO). You may be aware that the DFWA is now part of the ADSO. Other members are the RAR Corporation, the Navy Association, the RAAF Association and the SAS Association. When one looks at the numbers, we now speak for tens of thousands of people and even more when you consider families and friends. This number is enough to make the politicians sit up and listen, especially those in marginal electorates. Our voice is getting louder. Here at state level, we have associations

with the RAR Association, TPDSA Qld, RAEME Association, the Combat Support Association, Redlands Veterans Group and an RSL Sub Branch.

Political or Apolitical?

The DFWA is apolitical: that is, we treat all parties equally. Certainly we will lobby the party that promises the best deal for our members and other members of the Defence community, and there is no way we would be telling, suggesting or intimating which way our members should vote. Our aim is to provide sufficient, good, unbiased information for our members to make their own decisions.

Unfinancial members

We did an analysis of our membership and found that we had some 136 people unfinancial from 2009 or before. We sent out letters asking them to consider their membership and it is pleasing that we have a significant number responding. In many cases, it seems that the membership renewal 'fell through the cracks'. Thank you to those who responded. We need the numbers to help our voice to be heard when we are fighting for you for better conditions. Unfortunately, we did not get it 100% right and my apologies must go to those who received a letter and had already paid up.

Robert Shortridge

Interesting Websites

You might enjoy some of these, even if you never were a matelot!

- www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJz3nSfC13Y&feature=related - this is an array of new and current naval weapons
- www.flickr.com/photos/41311545@N05/ - this includes a collection of Navy photos
- www.gombiscc.com - this is a collection of useful tips on using a computer for enjoyment

Ipswich Veterans Expo

The Ipswich and Veterans Support Group run an annual expo at the Ipswich Services Club. A number of organisations that support veterans were in attendance. They included:

- * DEFCREDIT
- * Centre for Military and Veterans health
- * DVA
- * Pitstop – a men's health initiative
- * The Air Force's Combat Support Association
- * RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre
- * VVCS
- * Public trustee, and a lot more.

DFWA had a table and was ably represented by your President Rob Shortridge with Wal and Anita Buldo and Brian Allen.

It was quite a successful day and we were able to

raise the profile of DFWA in this forum.

For those in the Ipswich area keep an eye out for the Defence Expo next year, it is worthwhile dropping in and having a look.



President Rob visits the Combat Support Association stand and chats with Air Commodore Noddy Sawade

Air Cadets Alumni Association

Are you a former cadet or staff member of the Air Training Corps or AAFC?

If so, The AAFC WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU.

We are looking for at least 1000 supporters to register their interest in creating an Air Cadet Alumni Association.

The National Council of Australian Air Force Cadets, chaired by Air Vice Marshal Dave Dunlop (Rtd), has formed a Working Group to develop a proposal for an Alumni Association. This initiative has the support of the Chief of Air Force. It is a great opportunity for the air cadets and staff of yesterday to connect with and help the air-minded youth of today in a number of different ways.

If there is enough support for the proposal, an Alumni Association will be formed later this year in conjunction with other activities to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Air Force Cadets.

If you would like to know more or register your interest, please visit our website at

www.aafc.org.au/alumni

Wanted

Secretary DFWA Qld Branch Inc

We are seeking the services of an able and committed Branch Secretary. This is a mentally stimulating and hands-on job that would suit someone with a management or administrative background who enjoys working in a volunteer team environment.

The position needs you in the Office on Friday mornings with additional work from home using the internet/email. You will work with a fabulous bunch of people and contribute to a worthwhile organisation.

If you are interested, please contact Branch President Rob Shortridge on 0412 203 503.

QFE ?

If you have seen some new initials floating around over the last two years, could I suggest that you sit up and take notice. QFE is the acronym for the **Queensland Forum of Ex-Service Organisations**. QFE arose from the Kindred Organisations Committee of the RSL.

The RSL, and in particular, Queensland Deputy President of the day, Kel Ryan, provided strong support to the forum. However, it was soon realised that to demonstrate its independence from any particular ex-service organisation [ESO], the new forum had to stand alone.

This was agreed by all parties and in 2008, the QFE was formed with Kel Ryan as its inaugural Chairman. Kel continues in this position.

QFE sets out to identify the issues of greatest importance to its member organisations and to use its broad representation to take these issues to Government by the most appropriate means. QFE is a refreshing organisation with a pleasing culture of respect for one another's beliefs and values and a readiness to listen to the other person's point of view.

It also has links both through the national offices of its member organisations and through the Queensland Consultation Forum and other

government advisory bodies including the Prime Minister's Advisory Council (PMAC).

QFE meets bi-monthly and invites other interested ex-service organisations to attend as observers and if so required, to apply for membership.

QFE is proof positive that the ESOs are able and willing to work together on behalf of the broad Defence Family. No one ESO has all of the answers but working together we can achieve much.

The members of QFE are:

- Army Aviation Association of Australia
- Australian Naval Association
- Defence Force Welfare Association
- Legacy
- Partners of Veterans Association.
- Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association
- Returned and Services League
- Royal Australian Air Force Association
- Royal Australian Regiment Corporation
- Special Air Services Regiment Association
- Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers Association of Queensland
- Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Servicemen's Federation Association
- Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia
- Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia

Let us know what you think!

This is **your** publication as a Queensland Branch member of DFWA. We are keen to make hotline as interesting and interactive as possible.

We welcome your thoughts, comments or short articles on matters affecting this branch.

Simply send us a letter or email (see front page for details) and we will do the rest.

Computers can be fun!

Whether you believe this or not, there are around 3,000 very senior seniors on Bribie Island who have found to their delight that computers are fun! Computers can help you to do many things and grandkids will often want to help and will be impressed at what you can do!

To help, here is a link to a very well designed and written set of manuals or guide books on different uses of computers. The author is Geoff Cutts, a member of ours before he moved to South Australia. Geoff was the founder of Bribie Island Seniors' Computing Club, probably the most successful such organisation in the history of this country and now helping

Adelaide residents through his local RSL sub-branch. Geoff has developed a library of excellent resources over many years and the best ways to see what Geoff is about are the following. Have a look!

www.gombiscc.com The site of Geoff's SA club.

www.yudu.com/groups/items/121 has more interesting stuff.

EMAIL and the INTERNET

We have been able to send out a lot of current information to those on our e-mail list that we never have been able to before and this is important at this time. So, if you would like to join this service, let us know by sending an e-mail to qldbranch@dfwa.org.au and we will keep information flowing to you. Please, let us know if you change your email so that we do not lose contact with you.

Protect your privacy: protect your e-mail

Despite the rise of social networks and Twitter, email is still the way many of us communicate. But it can put a tremendous amount of your private data at risk. Here are some tips for minimising that risk.

Bad guys have a number of ways to compromise your account including

- brute force attacks (trying username/password combinations until they stumble on the right one),
- password resets, or
- intercepting login credentials sent in the clear.

The risk: If you're like most people, your email account contains old bank statements (or links to same), addresses, information about other accounts, maybe even credit card numbers or passwords: it's a treasure trove for an identity thief. If an attacker gains control of your email account, he can reset the passwords of other accounts. Finally, an attacker can harvest your friends' emails for spam or phishing attacks.

NEW ATO SCAM

The Tax Commissioner has warned the community to be aware of a particularly nasty fake email claiming to offer refunds from the ATO. The new type of scam pretending to be from the ATO contains a virus which is an attachment to the message.

Any email requesting personal and credit or debit card details before a tax refund can be released is a hoax.

Other scams reported to the ATO involve people being asked to provide financial or personal details via phone, email or face-to-face. The ATO advises us to always use ATO online services by visiting www.ato.gov.au.

The ATO urges the public to be diligent and alert to this and other scam behaviour.



ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL DFWA MEMBERS – 30 JUNE 2011

Members will be aware of our longstanding campaign to provide fair indexation to military superannuants. Recent events were not able to be included in this edition of *Camaraderie* and this note provides you with the latest information.

- The Fair Indexation Bill, introduced by the Opposition, was debated in the Senate on 16 June and was defeated. The vote was 34-34 and was lost by the negative votes of the Greens, Senator Xenophon - and the Labor Senators.
- Earlier, the House of Representatives passed a motion of support (introduced by the Opposition), for both the Bill and for Fair Indexation for military superannuants (as well as the concept of the Unique Nature of Military Service).

The Opposition will now defer further action on this matter, having had its Bill defeated. They have assured us (and we will continue to remind them) that Fair Indexation will see its light of day if it wins Government at the next election.

The Greens have previously indicated support for the concept of Fair Indexation but chose to vote against the Bill on 16 June. In the new Senate the Greens will hold the balance of power. We will continue our direct lobbying on your behalf. Senator Xenophon, whilst supporting Fair Indexation, was spooked by the costs and asked the Senate on 16 June to investigate how it can be afforded but in effect this did not happen. Again, we will continue lobbying him on your behalf.

Labor remain opposed to Fair Indexation, although some recent comments “.. they have a fair claim ..” offer us some hope.

WHY WE SUPPORTED A LIMITED BILL

The Fair Indexation Bill would have provided Fair Indexation only to those DFRDB / DFRB recipients aged 55 and over. Our position has always been that Fair Indexation must be provided to ALL military superannuants and we will continue to lobby for that. The Bill, if passed, would have been a welcome first step, but was exactly that – a first step. Had it passed, our battle would then have focussed on extending it more widely.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

The involvement of individuals is fundamental to the campaign and cannot be stressed enough. Elected representatives need to hear from their constituents and we ask your help keeping up the pressure with direct letters, emails and face-to-face meetings with LABOR, the GREENS and INDEPENDENT Members of Parliament and Senators.

The support for Fair Indexation by the LIBERAL / NATIONAL Coalition is well documented and public, and any approach to them ought to be one of thanks for supporting the concept of Fair Indexation; thanks for pursuing it into the Senate; and reminding them of their commitment to progress it into the next election and beyond.

WHAT WE WILL DO

DFWA and its partners will not be deterred and will continue its hard work into the next phase of the Fair Go! Campaign. See our website for further information as to how you can be involved

FINALLY DO NOT DESPAIR – WE HAVE ACHIEVED A LOT SO FAR!

Since embarking on this campaign we have had the matter debated in the Senate; we have released robust data to support our claims; all MPs and Senators are well aware of the issue; and the Opposition has a firm policy of support in place.

SO WE MUST NOT LESSEN OUR RESOLVE AND LET THESE RECENT SUCCESSES PASS US BY BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE OF THE FAIR INDEXATION BILL.

A BATTLE MAY HAVE BEEN LOST, BUT THE WAR WILL BE WON IF WE PERSERVERE.

PLEASE ALSO HELP US WITH YOUR PRIVATE LOBBYING, YOUR FINANCIAL DONATIONS

AND BY ENCOURAGING FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO LOBBY AND JOIN THE DFWA

www.dfwa.org.au DFWA National Office: PO BOX 4166, KINGSTON ACT 2604

Super Holiday Opportunity

Palm Cove Cairns Mangaloon Resort

4 persons \$145 p/n

2 persons \$125 p/n

Contact Paul or Lorraine McNamara

07 4059 0089

Tell them you are a member of DFWA

CAMARADERIE ADVERTISING

Camaraderie currently has very few **advertisements**. Our audience has many shared needs and interests. This is valuable to providers of goods and services that we all use. To advertise with DFWA, please contact Les Bienkiewicz,

Executive Director by email at national@dfwa.org.au on **02 6265 9530** or at

PO Box 4166 Kingston ACT 2604

HOTLINE SPONSORSHIP

We welcome offers of sponsorship for Hotline. For Queensland-based firms with products or services for the defence community, this is a very useful opportunity. Anyone with an interest in sponsoring or advertising in Hotline, please email the branch office on gldbranch@dfwa.org.au or telephone on **3233 4480**.

House Insurance

House insurance is a BBQ topic of late in Queensland and I got a surprise with the cost of the premium on my abode last month. The premium has increased by almost 50% over the last couple of years. First thought was of floods and cyclones pushing up the premiums of all insurance companies, but a close check of the bill showed some significant causes for alarm. First, the sum insured for the house was at least 30% more than rebuilding the same house in the same suburb. Secondly, the contents sum insured had more than doubled! The reason? Some insurance companies index (now there is a familiar word) the sum insured upwards each year (obviously not at CPI rates) and my insurance company is obviously mathematically generous. Next, a call to that TV-advertised insurance company that asks all the questions and, after a myriad of questions, they gave me a substantially reduced quote. The good bit was when I went back to the original company with the reduced, and now accurate sum insured, they also quoted a premium much closer to reality, but, when I mentioned whom I had been talking to, they knocked another \$100 off without a murmur. Premium now close to what it was five years ago.

Read the fine print

Ask the questions

It pays

You might also like to check out www.dsh.gov.au/insurance to see what Defence Service Housing Insurance is offering.

Plonking -

The latest craze for the young seems to be plonking! Our generation had a better solution many years ago called plonking. You take a glass of plonk lie down and have someone take your photograph. Better option by far!



Service News Papers

If you are interested in seeing the latest editions of the Service Newspapers and use the Internet, have a look at www.defence.gov.au. At the bottom right of the page there are links to the Service Newspapers. BUT be warned it is an acronym rich environment, ie, lots of initials.

Making our Information easier to find



In a significant step towards providing more easily discoverable information, Defence provides new pathways to information on our website through the Information Publication Scheme pages and documents released under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* which are now available online.



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AUSTRALIAN VETERANS' CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST LIMITED

ACN 008 609 032 / ABN 50 008 609 032

2012 Scholarships, Bursaries & Grants

The 2012 Applications open on 18 August, 2011.

The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) gives financial assistance to help selected children & grandchildren of the Australian Ex-Service Community with the costs of tertiary education. Selection is of the most deserving candidates of merit, who, without our help, would be unable to start or complete studies without financial difficulty. Applicants are considered for all schemes for which they are eligible.

For further information please see: www.avcat@dva.gov.au or call 02 9213 7999



DFWA QUEENSLAND BRANCH INC PRODUCT ORDER FORM

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 ENOGGERA QLD 4051 Email: qldbranch@dfwa.org.au

Your Order Details

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

Address.....

.....

Email:.....



Item	Size Code	Quantity	Postage	Unit Price	Total
	S M L XL				
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.