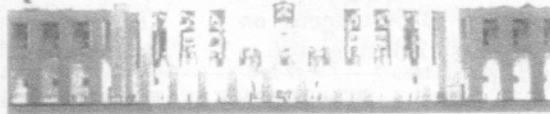




The Capital Chit-Chat

Newsletter of the Defence Force Welfare Association -

ACT Branch Inc



March 2013

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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.
- 9 April DFWA-ACT Branch meeting 10.30 am, in the Burns Club, Kambah

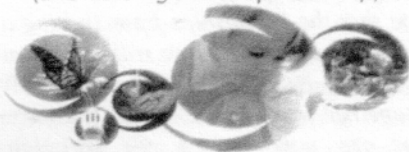
HAPPENINGS WITHIN THE BRANCH

It is with regret that we inform our members of the resignation of Phil McGuire as President of our Branch, and of Marjanneke as a Committee Member. Marjanneke and Phil are about to fly off into the sunrise for a well-earned break and we wish them both safe travel.

We are delighted to inform you that at the Branch meeting of 12 March, Les Bienkiewicz was elected as the new President. Les brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position as he has had a long association with the DFWA both at local and National level and we are excited about working with him.

Volunteers are required to distribute a few copies of *Camaraderie* and/or *Capital Chit Chat* to organisations close by your home. Email or phone the Secretary if you can help - 6294 8225

Invocare Funeral Homes (a rewarding DFWA sponsorship)



Over the next few months you will hear more about a significant sponsorship deal DFWA have arranged with Invocare. Whilst you've probably not heard of Invocare as a company you would have heard of their subsidiary companies in the

ACT, White Lady Funerals and Tobin Brothers.

Apart from a genuine \$500 discount on actual costs which are passed on to the consumer. Invocare has made a generous up front donation to DFWA. Remember that the discount also applies to any of your family members as well.

DFWA places enormous value on our sponsoring companies. Without them we would not be able to provide a service on your behalf without imposing a far greater impost on our members. In the near future we will have a **special contact** at these companies for ease in making your funeral arrangement. Pending advice of the contact, please contact the secretary, Bill Murray, who will arrange an introduction for you. And remember to specify in your will that you want an Invocare Company to conduct your funeral. If you wish, ask your family member / executor to contact your DFWA Branch for assistance.

Keep watching for some very good news about exciting funeral plans, or contact the secretary for advice.

PENSIONS / WELFARE ADVICE

One of the criticisms often levied against your branch is its failure to be sufficiently involved in

the provision of advice on pensions and welfare matters. Rather than create a section and expand it to meet the demands of our members we have chosen to seek co-operative programmes with other ESOs and then assist these ESOs with resources. As a start we have arranged for our newly appointed assistant secretary, Hilton Lenard, to receive specialist DVA training, on pension and welfare courses. Hilton is also a member of the Woden RSL. Another of our committee, Peter Eveille is the Vice President of the ACT RSL. Accordingly, your committee is looking at options to co-operate with Woden; however, in the meantime you may contact either Hilton or Peter through the secretary.

DWSG NEWS

We are gearing up for our first round of lunches – check the dates in Dates for your Diary. If you have not passed on your rsvp, please contact your Support Friend or leave a message on 6265 9496 or e-mail dws-g-act@dfwa.org.au

Also make sure you have in your diary, our July lunches: Silk Road, Isaacs, 12 noon Sunday 21 July for the Southside ladies and Nth Lyneham China Tea club, 12 noon Sunday 28 July for the Northside ladies.

CAN YOU HELP

We are thrilled to welcome two new Support Friends to the Defence Widows Support Group – Beryl Stewart and Sue Collins. Welcome aboard ladies – we really appreciate your assistance. However, we are looking for more helpers. Initially you will assist an existing Support Friend while you become familiar with our work. You can then choose to stay working as a group or you can elect to be given your own list of ladies. You don't need to be able to drive or to attend meetings – just to be willing to contribute. We are extremely flexible and can always work within any limitations. If you would like to assist in any way, please contact Annette Sadler

We welcome the services of Peter Eveille (Welfare Adviser) and Hilton Lenard (Pension Adviser). They will provide advice on welfare and pension issues to the members of the DWSG to ensure we are up-to-date with any developments. They will also be available to advise widows regarding their entitlements and this will be of particular value to those who do not qualify for Legacy Support. Traditionally we have worked closely with Legacy and this will continue.

Here There & Away

We have had our first reported sighting of the book in a bookshop – in Manly. National promotion by the publishers has so far resulted in a radio interview by Chris Isley, 6PR Perth with Dawn Laing and a 2/3 page spread including article and pictures in the Defence Section of the Townsville Bulletin, featuring Annette Sadler and her time in Townsville and Peter Finlay and his

Flight to Disaster story. The latter has thrown up an amazing connection with the Townsville Hospital which is organizing a pilgrimage to the site of the crash, Mt. Superbus on 7-8 April to commemorate Nurse Mafalda Grey who was killed in the

crash. The Defence Reporter recognized the connection between Peter's story and this pilgrimage and put the Finlays in contact with the hospital. As a consequence, Peter's nephew, Paul, is going to join the pilgrimage and this will be his first visit to the site.

We are delighted with the feedback we have received, particularly the three which follow – a very fitting endorsement for all the contributors as well as those involved with its production.

From Linda Hurley

"Here, There and Away" was a book I didn't want to put down. There is nothing better than hearing people's stories. When I finished a story I just wanted to read the next one. It was fun to read how couples met and I admired the honesty and openness of each writer. I could relate to the house stories, removals, the packing and I recalled the number of times I had left my children at the door of yet another new classroom.

Over the thirty six years that I have been a Defence wife some things have changed. Families still face the same challenges but the quality of housing and communicating with our partners on deployment is so much better. We also have support organisations to assist families in a variety of ways.

I hope that the friendships from sharing a unique and common way of life are still as special as they have always been to Defence families. When we get together with our Defence friends, most of whom are now retired, we still laugh and reminisce.

Thank you to all the people who contributed to this book and those who worked so hard to make it a reality. It is a wonderful thing to share these

PENSION/ WELFARE SERVICES

The DFWA-ACT now has the services of **accredited Pension and Welfare Officers**. Any member/widow requiring advice, please contact :
the Secretary, DFWA **6265 9496**
or for Widows,
the Convenor, DWSG 6247 8458

experiences with Defence families and the wider community.

From Marlana Jeffrey

The great thing about being a service wife was that there was always someone whose experiences mirrored your own and, more than often, bettered them. If you were waving your beloved off to Vietnam with your three little boys still under two years of age, there was bound to be a younger wife beside you with four little ones and another on the way. If the removal truck arrived at your new posting with half your things missing, some other family just back from Papua New Guinea would discover a fork-lift in their container instead of their precious belongings. You were either squeezing your furniture into a tiny married quarter or spreading it out to fill an unexpectedly large house; driving yourself in an old car bulging with children, luggage and pets hundreds of miles to a new posting, or luxuriating on the deck of a P&O ship on your way to a posting in England.

No two postings were the same. What was a constant factor however were the wonderful people who shared your bizarre, funny, challenging, heartbreaking life-style. They became your "service family" and went on to become your lifelong friends.

"Here, There & Away" captures so much of what makes life for families in the services swing between positively dreadful and wonderfully rewarding. For those of us who have lived the life, the stories in this engaging book will bring our own memories very much into focus again. And for other readers, these very personal and entertaining stories will give an insight into the lives of those who support the wonderful men and women of our Australian Defence Force.

From Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston AC, AFC (Ret'd)

"Here, There & Away" is a wonderful collection of stories about the trials, tribulations, opportunities and joy of being a family member of someone in the military. During my 41-year career in the ADF, my wife Liz and I experienced most of the unique challenges that Defence families face. From the packing up and relocating every couple of years, the long periods of separation, to the wonderful, lasting friendships created and the rare opportunities afforded. As a nation we ask a lot of our ADF personnel but we also ask a lot of their families. Without the love and support provided by Defence families and the sacrifices they make, those in the Defence Force would not be able to perform as well as they do. I

congratulate and thank the contributors for sharing their personal stories. It gives us all a greater appreciation of the agony and ecstasy involved in being a loved one of those who serve."

Changes to Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Services - Australian Capital Territory

The ACT Government recently went to tender for the Provision of a Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT) Centralised Booking System for the Dispatching, Monitoring & Management of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Services in the ACT.

CellTrack Systems were successful tenderers and DVA will now allocate all WAT bookings to CellTrack in the ACT rather than through Canberra Elite Taxis (CE). Where pre-booked WAT journeys have already been allocated to CE, they will transfer these on our behalf to CellTrack. There will be no change to the operational procedure for standard taxis and hire cars in the ACT.

Additionally, Canberra Elite Taxis no longer have a WAT vehicle to service Queanbeyan & Captains Flat regions in NSW. Consequently, Queanbeyan Taxis have now been direct sourced to cover this shortfall.



Men, at last we have a web site especially for you; a site which include interesting items for discussion including mens health, hobbies and general items of interest. Visit the site at <http://www.theshedonline.org.au/>.

We at Capital Chit Chat would be delighted to hear about your experiences on the site.

the **Shed** online is an initiative of the following organisations



CONTACT DETAILS

DFWA-ACT Branch:

Telephone (message only) 02 6265 9496

E-mail: actbranch@dfwa.org.au

Postal: PO Box 2272, CANBERRA ACT 2601

DWSG-ACT:

Telephone (message only) 02 6265 9496

E-mail: dwsg-act@dfwa.org.au

Postal: PO Box 2272, CANBERRA ACT 2601

POWER OF ATTORNEY

One of the complex and least understood factors in life is the role of the Power of Attorney. Many people assume that they aren't old enough to have a power of attorney or, worse still, they will always have the legal capacity to make their own decisions. This article, prepared from publicly available material and with advice from the Vice President, attempts to de-mystify Power of Attorney administration. It also assists you in obtaining the necessary forms.

What is a Power of Attorney?

A Power of Attorney is a legal document that gives a trusted person, the legal authority to act for you, and to make legally binding decisions on your behalf.

Why have a Power of Attorney?

In case of accident, sudden illness, planned or unexpected absence, or when you just can't cope, you may need someone to manage your financial affairs.

A Power of Attorney is particularly useful to relieve yourself of the day to day demands of financial paperwork and record keeping; as a safety net when travelling or to allow someone to handle your affairs in your absence; to avoid burdening family or friends with the responsibility of looking after your affairs; or if you are unable to manage your prosperity or financial affairs.

Types of Powers of Attorney include *General Power of Attorney* and *Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA)*.

A **General Power of Attorney** is usually drawn up for a specific purpose with specific or general powers; is only valid while you have legal capacity and you do not want the authority to continue should you lose legal capacity; and is useful if you are for going away for an extended period. **A General Power of Attorney form can be downloaded from <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/af/2007-54/default.asp>**

An **Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA)** continues to be valid even if you lose legal capacity due to disability or illness; may empower your attorney to make financial, property, lifestyle and health decisions; may be activated when required or upon loss of legal capacity; and allows your attorney to commence or to continue to manage your affairs even though you have become unable to give lawful instructions. **An Enduring Power of Attorney Form can be downloaded from <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/af/2007-52/default.asp>**

Alternatively the secretary can email you the respective form.

'Legal capacity' relates to a person's ability to fully understand the nature and implication of the document they are signing. It may relate to a person's state of

mind or to their legal age (over 18 years). Should any doubt arise about legal capacity, a **medical report** may be obtained confirming the person's ability to conduct his or her own financial affairs.

When does a Power of Attorney become effective?

You may wish to appoint an attorney now but delay activation. In this way the documentation is prepared, signed and held, pending further advice. You may also place the responsibility of activating your power of attorney with your doctor, should illness or disability prevent you from giving instructions. In this instance your doctor would contact your appointed attorney.

Everyone with legal capacity is encouraged to have an Enduring Power of Attorney in place. Once you no longer have legal capacity you are prevented by law from appointing a Power of Attorney.

If you have not appointed an attorney, and you lose legal capacity, the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) may appoint a Financial Manager for you. This can be the Public Trustee or some other individual or organisation. A Financial Manager will act in a similar way to an attorney and is required to report at regular intervals to ACAT and to the Public Trustee.

Justice of the Peace

The secretary, Bill Murray, is prepared to assist members who have any need for a JP. Bill makes himself available at his home each afternoon between 1600-1700. Alternatively, if you belong to another organisation and would like to have a JP attend and provide JP services Bill can oblige. He can also attend hospitals and / or aged care residences if required. Bill can be contacted on 62948225 or by email wrmurray@tpq.com.au

You may cancel your Power of Attorney in writing at any time, provided you have the legal capacity to do so.

When choosing an attorney you should ensure that the person you choose has the skills to manage your affairs properly. An ideal attorney **should** have integrity; be willing to act in that capacity; have competence in areas of relevance; be able to act in a

business-like manner; be able to spare the time necessary for the task; live in the locality in which he/she is to act; be agreeable to respecting the confidentiality of the donor's affairs; and be impartial and have no known conflict of interest.

An **Alternate Attorney** may be appointed to act in place of an attorney who becomes unable or unwilling to continue. The Alternate Attorney may either be named in the Power of Attorney document or may be appointed by your attorney after loss of capacity of the donor.

Each Australian State and Territory has separate Powers of Attorney legislation. Most states and territories have mutual recognition provisions in their power of attorney legislation, which permit the portability of powers within Australia.

Our Membership Secretary would like to remind members to inform the DFWA or DWSG asap, of any change of address.