

NETWORK

Defence Force Welfare Association
Queensland Branch Inc



LINE



November 2011 Edition

HOT

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As President I have to write a report for Camaraderie and then double up for Hotline. The challenge is to keep them both interesting and relevant without duplication. So please bear with me and read this in conjunction with the President's Report in Camaraderie.

There was disappointment when the Senate did not pass the Fair indexation bill but that doesn't mean that we will be stopping our efforts. We must keep the issue alive and in front of the politicians as if we do not, they will forget us. The Fair Go! Campaign is doing this and I would urge everyone to support the campaign. Indexation is not the only issue. The Fair Go! Campaign is also looking at other superannuation issues (especially the MSBS MBL limits), veterans' disability pensions, military compensation and veterans' health care. The Fair Go! Campaign is a campaign run by volunteers and while ideally the desire would be to pursue all issues simply put there are insufficient resources so indexation of military superannuation pensions was chosen as the prime issue. It was the Liberal Party that placed the caveat of only for those in DFRDB over 55 but on the basis of, this was a start, it was supported. Have a look at the web site www.standto.org for more information on the Fair Go! Campaign.

We need you to help us so if you hear anything or see anything that is relevant to our activities let us know and we will forward it on to the Fair Go! Campaign, or you can advise them direct through their web site. Some people are doing this and it is great to get the feedback. The issue we are finding is that the general public does not have a clue about what we are on about so we must educate them. You can help by raising it with friends, family and members of any associations, clubs and groups you may belong to. Don't be shy about mentioning it at RSLs as we are finding many sub branches are supportive; it is just RSL National we have to convince. We have been sending out flyers (the Ian Stenlake and WHY? flyers) and they need to get up on notice boards everywhere. Of interest, once we

have started asking for more member involvement. the Peter Criss videos have had over a thousand hits, which is a great effort. If you want to have a look at these videos go to the DFWA web site (www.dfw.org.au) and click on the 'you tube' icon. If the video does not come up, click on the left panel with *uploads* and then see *all* and scroll down to the Peter Criss videos. The other way you can help is to write letters to the papers and you local members, ring up TV and radio stations if you see anything in regard to indexation and put comments on newspaper blogs. If you don't want to, you don't have to say too much; just support the cause.

Kel Ryan has moved to Cairns and has been appointed as the Vice President Far North Queensland. He has been very active already, as you will see from his report on page 2. If you reside in the Cairns area and haven't heard from Kel yet, please get in touch with him. His e-mail is kel.ryan45@gmail.com or his mobile is: 0418 759 120.

DFWA put in a submission to the Tax summit. We argued that Commonwealth pensions should be treated as Taxed and therefore the pension would be received tax free. The problem is the tax treatment of the pensions that make it more difficult to access means-tested Commonwealth benefits such as the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. For the full submission go to: www.dfw.org.au/images/submissions/DFWA%20Submission%20toTax%20Summit.pdf

Thanks to all those who brought raffle tickets. Unfortunately, this time no winning tickets came from Qld, but thanks to all for their support.

I would like to wish all of our members a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Rob Shortridge
President
DFWA Qld Branch Inc



DFWA Qld Branch Inc

Victoria Barracks Brisbane
ENOGGERA QLD 4051

Email: qldbranch@dfwa.org.au

Tel: 07 3233 4480

Fax: 07 3233 4547

In this issue:

President's Message	1
FNQ News	2
Treasurer's news	3
Fair Go Campaign	3
Useful Email Advice	4
Members Email Addresses	5
Raffle	5
Secretary Wanted	6
Remembrance Day Brisbane	7
Clothing Store	8

Five Pearls of Scottish Wisdom

1. Money can't buy happiness but it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes than on a bike.
2. Forgive your enemy but never forget his name.
3. Help a man who is in trouble and he will be back when he is in trouble again.
4. Many people are alive only because it's illegal to shoot them.
5. Alcohol does not solve any problems but then neither does milk.

News from the Far North

Moving back to Cairns recently was taking a step back in time. Old friends, familiar places and great weather [at the moment] and two children with three grandchildren - what more could an old soldier [and his wife] want?

The good burghers of Brisbane i.e. Rob Shortridge and his merry band have bestowed on me the grand title of "Vice President Far North Queensland" or "VP FNQ" so I feel obligated to do more than simply strut around the village of Cairns revelling in such an impressive name tag. President Rob Shortridge's directive to me as I got the last train to Cairns before they closed the Border Gates at Cardwell was, "Go north and create young man!"

So we have:

- a. gathered the known members and others up here onto a FNQ DFWA discrete e-mail list and are sending them information as it comes from the South
- b. started sending Letters to the Editor of the Cairns Post with one success to date
- c. distributed the "WHY?" flyer around the place. Mike Patterson of Yungaburra has bracketed [Army term] the Tablelands with the same and he reports a noticeable level of interest and none appear to have been taken down - well done Mike!
- d. met with the Commander of HMAS Cairns, Commander Wendy Bullen, and the CO of 51 FNQR, Lt Col Steven Brain, who have been most supportive. Wendy Bullen has indicated that I am okay to address her Heads of Department at a date to be agreed, and
- e. conducted a first meeting on Saturday 19 November 2011 to assess the level of interest to promote both DFWA and the Fair Go Campaign. The numbers attending were somewhat disappointing, but the attendees were the *ideas* and *focused* people I was looking for. We sent out Media Releases for the meeting to six local media outlets which were repeated in the week leading up to the meeting though with no coverage seems to have resulted yet.

Outcomes agreed were:

1. It was 'a suck it and see' meeting.
2. A strategy for the future was outlined.
3. To tick-tack on names and ESO connections for a major meeting in February 2012.
4. To invite the various, relevant parliamentary leaders to address the February meeting.

I am by nature an optimist, so the future for DFWA and ADSO is bright here in FNQ.

Cairns is a Navy town with an increasing number of navy retirees here. Interestingly enough both the current CO and 2IC of 51 FNQR are also retiring here. Their presence will add a fine balance to the ex-service mix up here.

Should any of you have friends or contacts here tell them that DFWA is alive and well in FNQ, so now is the time to join.

Take care,

Kel Ryan
VP FNQ

A FEW LINES FROM THE TREASURER

I would like to thank all the members who participated in the latest raffle and offer my apologies and thanks to those who really did not want tickets but still helped with donations.

At the risk of seeming to make excuses; the raffle is a very labour intensive operation.

There are very stringent rules that must be followed. The rules require 100% accurate recording of all tickets sold by our Branch and by the main sponsor 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 buying the tickets, but there is no obligation to do this.

I will make sure that next year's tickets are accompanied by as clear instructions as possible.

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

Wally Buldo

FAIR GO CAMPAIGN

The rejection of the Fair Indexation Bill in the Senate only served to reenergise our campaign efforts to get the deplorable injustice of inadequate pension indexation rectified. We have widened our campaign from a focus on the Government and Federal politicians to now include the general public. We recognise that many in the wider community are ill-informed about military life and Service conditions, and even more so about military superannuation.

We need to do more to correct the false perception held by many that Defence families are all well looked after in retirement. We are doing this through a public awareness strategy that includes radio interviews, further use of printed media and more effective use of social media, including YouTube and facebook. We believe that with increased public awareness will come increased public support for change which will lead to further pressure on Parliament to right the wrong of unfair indexation.

The AVM Peter Criss series of videos has been very successful in exposing the flaws in the Government position on indexation, and the video of Sue's story has touched many of you with the courage and grace she displayed. These videos have been viewed well over 1700 times on YouTube and are helping to get our message out. Peter's series of videos continues to expand so keep following them.

In the last two months, we have also had articles and letters printed in newspapers, successful public information meetings have been held in South East Queensland, Brigadier Neil Weekes (ABC), and Peter Criss (4BC) have also been interviewed on radio and we have placed paid advertisements in selected newspapers.

We have also prepared and widely distributed the **WHY?** Flyer, and we have written and circulated a detailed rebuttal of the pathetic propaganda "**fact**" sheet sent by many Labor MPs in response to your letters.

Finally, we ran a bumper sticker competition for a design that could be used to promote the Fair Go Campaign. A design has now been selected and finalised and the stickers will be available shortly.

Despite all this activity, the Fair Go Team remains thin on the ground and we can't do everything by ourselves.

We need your help!

Please go to the ADSO website www.standto.org and register your details as a supporter and see what you can do to help in your local area. You will also find a wealth of useful information about the Campaign on the website. Whether you register as a supporter of the Campaign or not, one important thing all of us can do is help spread the word. Simply by passing on the information you receive (emails, flyers, video links) to all of your contacts, both military and civilian, you will be helping to increase public awareness which is so important to building our support base.

Ray Gibson

SOME USEFUL E-MAIL ADVICE

How do you react when you receive an email telling you some amazing story? For many people, especially those who are new to email; there is only one answer: send it straight on to all of your friends.

WRONG! This is a wrong move for several reasons outlined below. However, it is not only new emailers who fall for this trap, some of us much more experienced users still make this mistake!

As the e-world becomes more evil, it is good sense to never open emails from people that you do not know. It is unlikely that you will miss anything important but it **is** likely that there will be some form of tracker if nothing more sinister. In particular do not open attachments from people you don't know or for which you have not asked.

Never just send on an email that you have received without checking it AND removing all of the previous addresses that might be shown. Then, if you must send it on, do so using BCC so that you are not sending out a nice clean list of fresh addresses for all the world to see.

Checking the facts

There are too many reasons why people send false information to look at them here. The point is that if the story is untrue, there is no point in sending it on. So, how do you check if it is true?

The most popular site to check facts is www.snopes.com. On the opening page is a window into which to type the subject of your query. You will often be surprised to see that the same story has been circulating for many years and yet has no truth to it. There is no point in sending that one on!

So, especially with the current spate of war stories, check them before thinking about passing them on.

Hidden Agendas

One of the reasons for someone sending around false stories is to get gullible people to send the message on. Why do that? The reason often is that there is a sneaky email tracker included that collects email addresses so that people can send you ads that you don't want.

So, step number 2 is if snopes says it is true, lift the information out of the message you received using cut or copy and then paste it into a new blank message. This will usually leave all the email tracker stuff behind.

One trick for getting you to send things on is to provide beautiful or endearing photos or a very important message which may or may not be true (hence snopes). A second part of this is to encourage you to send the message to your entire address book or to ten people or suffer bad luck or... These are often just tricks to boost the circulation of the message and you won't be able to tell the difference, so if in doubt DON'T! The originators will do anything to play with your conscience to get you to do this work for them. Remember your email address is useful for telemarketers or spammers and they will use every trick they know to get it.

Email Petitions

In brief, these come in several types and all of them are of little or no value, or just a con! Do not get involved unless you know and respect the organisers.

Email Rules

So the steps are:

1. Do not open 'strange' emails and **never open attachments** in them.
2. When you receive an email with interesting-looking information, put the subject to snopes to check the facts.
3. If you want to send it on: lift the content with *cut* or *copy* and paste into a new message.
4. Do not put your addressees in To: or CC: but instead put them in BCC: so that you are not sharing your friends' addresses with the world.

MEMBERS' E-MAIL ADDRESSES

We live in very busy times in which information emerges and changes quickly. This means that information in Camaraderie and even Hotline can be several months out of date or even irrelevant by the time that you receive it.

DFWA National Office produces an electronic newsheet called Update on a monthly basis. Electronic updates are also sent out every fortnight about the Fair Go campaign and Standto.org and we are also happy to forward these to members, **but no jokes or other trivia**; we will just give you important issues.

If you would like to receive these publications by email address as they are released, just send a message to gldbranch@dfwa.org.au and:

In the subject line type: *email address*. Show your name and preferably your postcode; in case of local information being available

We are now also able to send you Camaraderie and Hotline by email rather than in hard copy. So if you would also like to receive these publications electronically please also include *Camaraderie and Hotline* in the subject line for the email.

Duplicate Issues of Camaraderie

Last mail out, we received a number of comments in regard to duplicate issues of Camaraderie. We apologise for this hiccup. Don't quite know what happened, but we hope it will not happen again. For those inconveniences we apologise. We will make every endeavour to ensure this does not happen again.

RAFFLE

Thanks to all who supported our raffle and thanks to those who added an additional donation. The funds the raffle brings in help us in our work for you. On our mail-out in the last Camaraderie we did say that if you don't want to receive tickets in the future please advise and some of you did. The problem is that recording exceptions is very difficult to do using our Excel-based system so, in the future, if you do receive tickets and do **not** wish to participate, please **just dispose of them**, or, just send a donation. Only sold tickets and stubs need to be accounted for.

Members' Concerns

A little while ago, a lady called the office because she was concerned that the army in its infinite wisdom was sending both of her sons to Afghanistan at the same time; one had already been once. Our enquiries showed that this had become common practice, and that there were twins from Darwin serving in the same location as we spoke. We gave her what reassurance we could and put her onto the Defence Community Organisation as the only course of action open to us. Today, a soldier accompanied his brother home, and we are just hoping it was not the lady who rang.

MATELOTS—YANK OR AUSSIE

Wal-Mart in the US has a greeting service run by retiree volunteers. Charlie was a new greeter who could never seem to get to work on time, every day he was five or ten minutes late. However, he was always well-presented, courteous, helpful and a real credit to the system once he got there.

For some reason this was not good enough for the boss who called him into the office for a 'chat'. "Charlie," he said, "you have a great work ethic and are doing a terrific job, but you are always late." Charlie explained that he recognized the problem and that he was working on it and would try harder. Still puzzled, the boss added: "I know you are ex-military, so what did they say if you turned up late?" The old man looked down at the floor, then smiled. He chuckled quietly, then said with a grin, "They usually saluted and said, 'Good morning, Admiral, can I get your coffee, sir?'"

DFWA QLD BRANCH SUPPORTS LOCAL CADET UNITS

As well as our active pursuit of indexation goals, the Qld branch has also been active in supporting the activities of cadet units in the Brisbane area. While we have provided support to Army Cadets in the recent past, this time it was Air Force cadet units.

Donations of \$1000 were made to the Commanding Officers of 224 AAFC at Amberley and to 230 AAFC at Springfield in recent weeks. In both cases the donations will be used for the purchase of field equipment which is pivotal to their missions as well as adding greatly to the authenticity of the experience that the units can provide to their members.

The CO of 224 Squadron (AAFC), Flight Lieutenant Peter Meehan said that the generous donation from DFWA would improve safety by allowing them to buy reliable two way UHF radios to replace older and broken equipment. The CO of 230 Sqn FTLT Jennine Holliday said that they would also be purchasing much needed field equipment including map covers and backpacks. Shades of former years when the parent service took on these obligations for cadets.

QLd Branch President Rob Shortridge said that DFWA sees the cadet experience as invaluable in developing the life skills of our youth, whether or not they go on to join the Services. Providing assistance to the cadets that focuses on their wellbeing also fits with the broad charter of DFWA which is to look after the welfare of the Defence community.

The photo shows Qld Branch President Rob Shortridge (right) and Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) Peter Meehan at the 224 Squadron parade where the cheque was presented.



WANTED

Secretary, DFWA QLD Branch Inc

How would you like to become a key member of the management team of this Branch?

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

The position requires a physical presence in the Office on Fridays and some additional work from home using the internet/email. Rewards are those that come from working with a great bunch of people and making an important contribution to a worthwhile organisation.

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

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2011 - BRISBANE CENOTAPH



Our branch was represented at the Brisbane Cenotaph on Remembrance Day by Secretary/Treasurer/Senior Advocate and pillar of the branch for almost twenty years, Wally Buldo. Be very proud of him! While he isn't the subject of too many pictures, he has arguably done more for this branch than any other person in its history.





DFWA QUEENSLAND BRANCH INC PRODUCT ORDER FORM

DFWA QLD INC

Phone: 07 3233 4480

Victoria Barracks Brisbane

Fax: 07 3233 4547

ENOGGERA QLD 4051

Email: qldbranch@dfwa.org.au

Your Order Details

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

Address.....

Email:.....



Item	Size Code	Quantity	Postage	Unit Price	Total
Blue Shirt—Men's			XXXXXXXXXX	\$39.95	
Blue Shirt—Women's			XXXXXXXXXX	\$39.95	
DFWA Cap with	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		\$7.00	\$15.00	
DFWA Lapel Badge	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		\$2.00	\$5.00	
DFWA Tie	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		\$2.00	\$10.00	
Shirt Size Code: Extra Large = XL Large = L Medium = M Small = S Shirts with long sleeves and in other colours are available on request				Subtotal	\$

				Postage	\$

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.