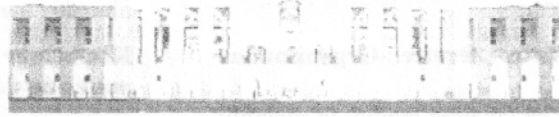




The Capital Chit-Chat

Newsletter of the Defence Force Welfare Association -

ACT Branch Inc



August 2012

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| 20 Sept | DWSG Lunch at the Reid CIT Restaurant (see enclosed proforma) |
| 2 Oct | DWSG Poppy Laying Ceremony at the Hall of Memory, Australian War Memorial |
| 9 Oct | DFWA-ACT Branch Annual General Meeting at the Burns Club, Kambah. Commences at 1030 followed by the first meeting of the new Committee. Members are invited to stay for lunch at the Club following the meeting. |

HAPPENINGS WITHIN THE BRANCH

National Executive

Life has been as hectic as any period I have experienced since being involved with the ACT Branch. It is almost impossible to believe however, that we had three executive directors at National in a period of less than four weeks. Without fanning the flames of service rivalry we can safely say that the moment the RAAF assumed the cockpit, in the form of WGCdr (Ret'd) Alf Jaugietis, normal life was resumed. Rumours of pending arson attacks arising from Alf's previous RAAF service proved just that...rumours! Just in case, at the direction of the National President (who had obviously heard of Alf's penchant for pyrotechnic displays), matches and other incendiary devices have been banned from Building 81, RMC.

As a branch we can be enormously proud of the work done by many of our members who literally

held the National office together during the transition phase. Other branches may think that they have influence...the ACT Branch knows just who is in control.

National Executive Meeting

Enormous thanks are due to all the staff who assisted with NATEX which this year was held at ADFA for the first time. Huge thanks to Commodore Bruce Kaffer and Lt Col Mike Prunty who helped make this a professional event of the highest standing. For logistical reasons the next NATEX will be held at Glenbrook with NATEX returning to the ACT (almost certainly ADFA) in 2013.

Raffle

Those who attended the NATEX will be aware how complex our financial situation is. This year we have increased our order to 1500 raffle books selling for \$10 each. Every member requesting raffle books has been sent three books which will

retail for a total of \$30. PLEASE, PLEASE sell as many books as you can, and ask for more if you feel you can help.

We understand that there will be some who will have difficulty in selling their quota of books. If so, please return unsold books ASAP so that we can redistribute them.

Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO)

ADSO events will be covered mainly in monthly updates because it has national interest. However, we have an urgent need to recruit a new ACT Group Leader due to Bill Murray feeling he had a political conflict of interest with an election always on the horizon. If you would like to reinvent your university hippy days and get back into activism on behalf of the defence family please contact either Alf Jaugietis or Bill Murray.

Members

We have had extraordinary success in bringing our message of a Fair Go to the community's attention. However, our influence is directly proportional to the number of people we represent. We just have to get more members.

Please, can every member try and recruit just one additional member before Christmas. *New members* are not only a financial resource, they contribute ideas, and also become another resource to obtain new members. Hopefully, they will also contribute articles to *Capital Chit-Chat* because long standing members (see, I didn't refer to you as 'old members', so be grateful!) are most reluctant to contribute.

Trips and Excursions

If there are any members who would like a trip or an excursion please write to the secretary (or email wrmurray@tpg.com.au) and we'll see if something can be arranged. Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and give an organising hand.



Some ideas...a winery, ADFA, maybe a mid week race meeting, personalised tour of Parliament House (the parts that the public don't see!!).

Feedback

We really want feedback...criticism is expressly requested provided it is positive. The secretary is already aware of his questionable parentage!!

Remember this is YOUR ASSOCIATION (and your newsletter!)

Bill Murray

DEFENCE WIDOWS' SUPPORT GROUP

Our widows' list continues to grow with 16 new widows being added in the first six months of this year. We have held four lunches, all much appreciated and well attended. Our traditional loose-change collection yielded \$200 from our March lunches and this was used to subsidise 10 care packs sent to the troops in Afghanistan. We also collected \$400 at our recent July lunches and this will be given to Carmen Webb, the Veterans' Liaison Officer at the Canberra Hospital to go towards the purchase of a simple, safe and secure coffee-making machine for their Veterans' room.

DWSG 31ST ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE.

Members of the DFWA-ACT branch are invited to join the Defence Widows' Support Group for a Poppy Laying Ceremony in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, commencing 2 pm on Tuesday 2 October. This will be preceded by lunch in the AWM restaurant, commencing at 12 noon.

The restaurant and the AWM require numbers so please advise Annette Sadler by 3 September if you would like to attend the ceremony and/or the lunch. asadler@grapevine.com.au or 6247 8458.



In the first six months DWSG members have tried to visit all organizations/groups which support partners and/or widows within the veteran community. Annette Sadler is photographed with Bev Murray, Pat Quiggan and Dee Graham at the Northside Laurel Club.

This was specifically to promote the Collection of Stories Project but it was also an excellent opportunity to promote the work of the DWSG.

Canberra is certainly well endowed with groups supporting widows but we all share the problem of reduced number of volunteers as well as ageing volunteers. The DWSG is currently going through a process of evaluating what we do and identifying what adjustments we need to make in order to ensure that we can continue to provide our most valued support, despite these challenges.

Collection of Stories Project

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the DWSG 30th Anniversary Project to collect stories from family members of ex-servicemen. We have over 130 stories from over 70 contributors. The three project co-ordinators, Annette Sadler, Dawn Laing, and Judy Rule are currently working on the compilation of these stories into a book and are extremely excited with how it is looking. The aim is to launch the book some time later this year. If you would like to reserve a copy/copies, please contact the DWSG dws-g-act@dfwa.org.au, or Dawn Laing on 6253 0803.

What to do with Service Medals

Recently a widow asked me what she could do with her husband's service medals. There are no children and she was reluctant to pass them on to extended family members as she feared they would not be respected. We agreed that the Australian War Memorial probably would not be interested as they would have so many and I promised to ask around for suggestions.

One of the first persons I approached pointed out that the AWM should not be discounted as most medals are kept within the family. I reported this back to the widow and she immediately contacted the AWM. Within a very short time, the medals together with some other items of interest were handed over to the memorial. The widow was extremely pleased with the outcome. The items will be archived and full details will be added to the AWM database. When this is completed, she will be informed as to how this information can be accessed. She is now content that they are in a safe place and will

be accessible to any family member who might be interested.

Annette Sadler

WHO AM I?

Ok, here's one for you smart members (that's everyone). Note that there are eleven statements. Be honest...when were you able to determine 'who I am'. First prize is lunch with Kerry Mellor and David Clinch after a committee meeting...*you pay!* (By the way 'I am' a famous member of the Australian defence family).

- 1 My father was born in Europe, came to Australia before returning to marry my mother in 1863 in Dramburg.
- 2 I was born in 1865 and spent many of my early years in Jerilderie.
- 3 My mother took me to Melbourne to complete my schooling. My father followed five years later.
- 4 I sang in my church choir having originally learned to play the piano at age 5.
- 5 I matriculated from Scotch College at age 14 before returning the following year during which I wrote a prize winning essay on Macbeth. I was equal dux in 1881.
- 6 I attended Melbourne University, graduating with a BA in 1887. I was to complete many more years studying.
- 7 I joined the University Company, was made a Lieutenant in 1895, a Major in 1897 and in 1906 became a LTCOL in the Intelligence Corps.
- 8 At the outbreak of WW1 I became the Chief Censor of Australia.
- 9 When the AIF was formed I was made Commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade, taking part in the Gallipoli campaign.
- 10 As a Major General I was to become Commander of the Australian 3rd Division.
- 11 I am

(Answer in the next edition of the *Capital Chit-Chat*)

**Answers for the Word Puzzle in
Capital Chit-Chat Vol 1**

Adjutant, ambush, Anzac, batman, battalion, battle, bayonet, beret, bomber, bullet, cavalry, chaplain, code, command, courtmartial, dormitory, espionage, garrison, greatcoat, grenade, mercenary, missile, nurse, paradeground, pistol, rations, recruit, reveille, rifle, squadron, submarine, tank, tent, torpedo, trenches, volunteer.

As explained additional words will be accepted at Kerry Mellor's discretion.



REUNIONS

Anyone who served at No 2 Stores Depot Regents Park, including 2SDD Dubbo and 2SD GEMS, or who was accommodated at either Chester Hill or Bankstown, is invited to a Reunion at Rosnay Gold Club on 10 November commencing at 1830. Cost is \$25 per person (includes finger food and entertainment) with drinks at own cost. Contact Bill Murray to organize payment wrmurray@tpg.com.au

CARNIVAL AUSTRALIA'S OFFER TO MEMBERS OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

Carnival Australia has introduced a program to pay tribute to serving and former members of the ADF. Under the program, all Defence Force personnel including discharged and retired servicemen will receive an onboard credit of up to \$250 when booking a cruise with P&O Cruises Australia, Princess Cruises or Cunard. The program is eligible to all three branches of the Defence Force.

To receive the benefit, servicemen simply need to provide documentation at the time of booking, demonstrating their service in the ADF.

- a Serving personnel by providing their PM KeyS number, Regiment number or Service Number, and
- b Ex-serving personnel, including discharged and retired personnel, by providing relevant documentation which shows evidence of having served in the ADF such as military superannuation/pension statement from the MilitarySuper scheme, the DFRDB scheme, the DFRB scheme, and/or Certificate of Service.

Once booking has been made through a travel agent, on our website or via our contact centre, the name, booking number, ship and sailing date, with proof of eligibility as outlined above, should be emailed to defencebenefits@carnivalaustralia.com no later than two weeks prior to sailing.

WHAT DO YOU WANT IT TO BE?

British or American...you decide which one you want to believe.

How did the term *the whole 9 Yards* originate:

British Version

British Frigates of the 19th Century had 27' masts. The ship's speed was controlled by the amount of



sail raised. To achieve full speed, the '*whole nine yards*' was hoisted. This usage of the word is in the QM's book from one of the few ships that fought at Trafalgar and the Nile - pre-dating WW2 by 150 years.

American Version

The term *the whole 9 yards* came from WW II fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 calibre machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got *the whole 9 yards*.

So who is correct? Me...I've got barbed wire cuts between my legs!!!

HAVE YOU HAD DIFFICULTY WITH DVA TRANSPORT?

The Department of Veterans' Affairs encourages users of their sponsored travel under the booked car scheme to lodge formal complaints when the system fails (rather than just grumbling about it). Canberra Legacy is monitoring transport performance and is in regular contact with DVA. Widows are asked to report any difficulties to Canberra Legacy on 6285 1800. All that is required is a name, the date of travel and the nature of the complaint.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

Annette Sadler and Bill Murray would appreciate any feedback about this Newsletter. At the moment we are limited by lack of appropriate technology but hopefully this will soon be rectified. If you have not registered your email address with the branch, please do so and you will be sent an electronic version, in full colour.

The next Newsletter will be mailed with the December edition of *Camaraderie*. Items for inclusion in that Newsletter should be forwarded to Bill Murray by 30 November.

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actbranch@dfwa.org.au

Images of "Ladies who Love to Lunch!"

Parliament House image provided courtesy of Parliament House website