



Capital Chit-Chat

Newsletter of the Defence Force Welfare Association -



July 2016

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are invited to attend the AGM of the ACT Branch DFWA at The Burns Club, Kambah at 7.30pm on Tuesday night, 4 October. The agenda will include presentation of the annual financial reports, reports on Branch activities and election of office bearers for the year. All members are encouraged to attend.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ACT BRANCH

Members are reminded that we have moved to a Financial Year membership and the Branch has extended paid memberships by six months to move memberships to this new arrangement. This means that if you have recently paid an Annual subscription, your membership will now run until Jun 2017 (not Dec 2016).

Unfortunately, the address label on this edition of *Camaraderie* will not yet reflect this change due to limitations with the current membership database. We expect to have a better system in place when a new membership system is implemented later this year.

Your patience on this matter is appreciated. If you have any queries on your membership please contact Trevor Goodhew our Membership Secretary on 02 6291 4491 or by email to the Branch at any time.

WELFARE AND DVA PENSION SUPPORT

Members are reminded that the ACT Branch has a small dedicated volunteer team who assist members with welfare and DVA pension questions and problems. These facilities are available to ACT Branch members and service and ex-service members including families. Should you have any questions or need some assistance to get the answers and/or assistance you require, then please use the contact details below.

The Branch Committee is also interested in any members who may have a little spare time to assist others with service welfare and pension issues. Full professional DVA sponsored training is available and each new volunteer will be mentored through their training by an experienced branch member and pension officer.

Contact the ACT Branch via email at actbranch@dfwa.org.au, leave a message on the Branch answering service 02 62659596 or contact our Welfare and Pensions coordinator Hilton Lenard on 0418 695345 or email hiltonlenard@hotmail.com and include DFWA in the subject line.

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS..... PLEASE ?

If you have an email address but do NOT receive emails from the ACT Branch DFWA, then that's because we don't have your email address on our records ! If you would like to be kept informed of DFWA matters by occasional emails from the Branch, please drop us a line at actbranch@dfwa.org.au and we will add you to our list.

DEFENCE WIDOWS GROUP

The Defence Widows Group continues its activities and more details are provided in the Group's Newsletter which was recently mailed to all our Defence Widows. If you miss out on receiving the Newsletter, this can be remedied by contacting the Group: leave a message on 6265 9496 or email: dws-g-act@dfwa.org.au

The popular **annual luncheon** will be held on 15 September 2016 at the Yowani Golf Club. Details are in the separate flyer included with this edition of *Camaraderie*. The Guest speaker will be Ms Pat McCabe OAM, National President of the Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-service Men and Women. The topic of Pat's talk will be 'The Female Veteran in the Contemporary World'.

If you require further information or have misplaced the flyer, please contact Annette Sadler on 6247 8458 or mobile 0417 674 527. All members and friends are most welcome to attend.

DEFENCE WIDOWS GROUP - LAST POST CEREMONY

Plans are in place for the DWG to be the principal attendees (incl laying of wreaths etc) at the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on Thursday 27 October. The Ceremony is held every day at the AWM at 4.55pm (best to arrive by 4.45pm) and is a most impressive and moving ceremony, honouring a different fallen serviceman or servicewoman, each day.

VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK

Veterans' Health Week (VHW) this year will be held from Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th October 2016. The week is an opportunity for veterans, war widows, widowers, current and ex-Australian Defence Force members and their families to participate, connect and influence the health and wellbeing of themselves and their friends. For further information please check www.dva.gov.au

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SINGAPORE

The 75th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore will be commemorated with a national service to be held on Wednesday, 15 February 2017 at the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat. DVA invites nominations from Australian Second World War veterans of the Fall of Singapore, i.e. *Australian veterans who served in the Malayan Campaign between 8 December 1941 and the Fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942, or in adjacent waters at approximately the same time*, to attend this commemoration in Ballarat.

The above mentioned veterans who wish to attend this commemoration will need to nominate their interest in attending with DVA. Nomination forms are available on DVA's website (www.dva.gov.au). In view of the logistical requirements in arranging veteran and carer attendance at these commemorations, it will be necessary to receive all veteran nominations by no later than 1700 hrs AEST Friday, 26 August 2016.

CALLING WW2 RAAF VETERANS

The British High Commission is looking for WW2 RAAF veterans in Canberra for this year's Battle of Britain function in September. If you are, or know of any WW2 Air Force veteran, please contact Bob Weight, President AFC & RAAF Association (ACT Division) either by Email: bob.weight@bigpond.com or phone 0412 427 346