



DEBRIEF

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



HONOUR THE DEAD, But Fight like Hell for the Living

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

As we come to the end of another year I have noted that the intensity of what we do and experience as veterans does not decrease.

In some cases the expectations on volunteers by those they try and help increases, "I need it now" even though it may have taken years to get to the start of the actual need.

In the administration of our association this is an increasing concern because at times when we say "I need it now" means just that and the need is for information and decision making that has an effect on our legal operations, currently we are preparing our paperwork for our insurance cover for next year and any delay has an ongoing effect.

The administration of our volunteer advocates will also increase the need for administrative action. I have been asked "why do we need to re-apply for authorisation every year?" the answer is simple membership of the V.V.A.A. is a condition of authorisation, membership is an annual event and authorisation is in part based on confirmation of membership renewal.

There is no indication of an early response by government to the Productivity Commission Report and that leads to a degree of uncertainty in future activities by DVA and in consequence the ex service community, while that uncertainty exists you can be assured we are not slowing our efforts or representation on behalf of our veteran community.

May I take this opportunity to thank my wife for her support and understanding over the past year, to thank members of the National Executive and their families for their efforts and support during 2019 and the members at all levels of our association for their ongoing efforts and commitment. May 2020 be kind to you all and I encourage everyone to take time over the Christmas break to recharge their health and enthusiasm for a new year that looks to be just as action filled and involved as the last.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Ken Foster OAM JP

National President



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KEEPING THE RECORDS

IF IN DOUBT DO NOT THROW IT OUT!

Mr Kel Robertson, a Canberra based post-graduate student at the University of New South Wales, and an experienced writer, has begun research into the origins and activities of the Association.

The first phase of his project will include an examination of the many Association documents held by the Australian War Memorial and the Australian National Library and, once some university procedures have been completed, interviews with members. Later, there will be a focus on State Branches and Sub-Branches.

Meanwhile, Branches and Sub-Branches are reminded of the importance of storing and maintaining their official records, including and especially newsletters, as the basis of future research by Kel and, in the longer term, other historians.

Kel will make some comments in a future edition of Debrief; at this time any queries should be asked of National Vice-President Max Ball, via email on maxball@iinet.net.au.



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Australian War Memorial Development Project

Official plans for the nine-year Australian War Memorial Development Project have been unveiled, outlining how the contemporary story of service and sacrifice will be told to future generations.

The Prime Minister said the Australian War Memorial told key stories of our nation.

“This Project is about ensuring the stories of an entire new generation of service are told and remembered alongside those that inspired their own sacrifice and to do the same for future generations,” the Prime Minister said.

“This is the most significant reinvestment in our War Memorial since it was established after World War One and ultimately completed following the Second World War. I am pleased our Government is making this overdue investment.

“Recent stories, like the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, the peacekeeping missions, all need to be told to a new generation and to the almost 1.1 million people who visit the Memorial each year.

“As well as telling the stories of our veterans, our priority is delivering more than \$11 billion each year to support them and their families for their mental and physical wellness now and into the future. This is the memorial to the living that the sacrifice of those who lost all on our behalf demands.

“I want to thank Dr Brendan Nelson who, through his seven years as Director, has elevated the Memorial by listening to those who have served, their families, and ensured their stories are told in a solemn and respectful way.”

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said the Australian War Memorial was a sacred cultural institution of international standing and aside from ad-hoc additions to the original building, the Memorial has not seen a major precinct-wide expansion since it first opened its doors.

“The Australian War Memorial is one of the key institutions that ensure our veterans’ service is appropriately acknowledged — it embodies our nation’s promise to never forget. It’s a place for all generations of Australians to come to honour, learn and heal,” Mr Chester said.

“This project will benefit veterans from more recent conflicts by greatly enhancing the Memorial’s capacity to tell their stories in the same way it does the First and Second World Wars, Korea and Vietnam, and will create, for the first time, a permanent display dedicated to showing what our nation does to prevent war in the first place through peacekeeping.

“I would like to echo the Prime Minister’s thanks to Dr Nelson, who has ensured that the stories of what young Australians have given for our country in war and peace over the past thirty years will be told through additional gallery space.”

As part of community awareness, The Memorial has established an on-site information gallery where the detailed plans can be viewed, and where people can learn more about the Memorial’s continuing story. The information gallery is located outside Poppy’s Café, open daily from 8.15am – 4.30pm.

The Memorial has submitted a referral under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (Cth), including a Heritage Impact Assessment, to determine if the plans require formal assessment and approval. The submission will soon be published on the Department of Environment and Energy’s website for public consultation.

During the consultation phases, the Memorial has invited members of the public to provide feedback on the plans to the Department of Environment and Energy’s website. Early works construction to extend the underground car parking facilities on the eastern side of the precinct have begun. It is expected work on the new Anzac Hall will begin in the second half of 2020, with work on the southern entrance commencing the following year.

Work on the project began in 2018, and it is anticipated it will be complete by 2027.

More information about the plans is available on the Memorial’s website.

Please contact Minister Chester’s office for renders of the designs.

APPOINTMENT TO MILITARY REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION COMMISSION

CURRENT Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Comcare, Sue Weston PSM, has today been appointed as a part-time member of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (MRCC) for a five-year term.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said Ms Weston had an impressive record of public sector experience and strong leadership.

"I congratulate Ms Weston on her appointment. I am confident she will make a significant contribution to the work of the Commission," Mr Chester said.

"Ms Weston was appointed as the CEO of Comcare in April this year. The roles and responsibilities of the CEO of Comcare complement those of the Commission, which administers benefits under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) and Part XI of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRCA)."

Ms Weston's previous roles include Deputy Secretary and Head of Industry and Small Business Policy at the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, and Head of the Office of Small Business at the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. She also holds professional qualifications in Science, Accounting, and Arbitration and Mediation.

Mr Chester said Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations, Christian Porter, nominated Ms Weston for the Commission.

"I look forward to working with Ms Weston and the other members of the Commission to provide rehabilitation, compensation and other benefits to current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their dependants."

More information about the MRCC and its functions can be found online.



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Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant

The Oath is a declaration on behalf of the Australian people recognising the valuable contribution that current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families make and have made for our country. It can be read aloud at commemorative events as a sign of respect and support.



The Veteran Card helps Australians, including businesses, organisations, community groups and service providers to identify veterans and offer respect to them and their family.

The Lapel Pin provides the opportunity for veterans to be easily identified when not wearing their medals or uniforms.



Visit **recognition.dva.gov.au** for more information on how to apply for and support the Covenant.

Respect and recognition for Australian Veterans

Australian Defence Force veterans will be able to access thousands of special discounts as businesses across the nation say ‘thank you for your service’.

The new Veteran Card released by the Morrison Government will be available to all veterans as a practical demonstration of respect and recognition for their service.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester officially launched the Veteran Card which gives Australian business owners the opportunity to practically demonstrate thanks and respect for those who have served.

The Prime Minister said Australians had a great deal of respect for those who have served our nation in the uniforms of the Navy, Army and Air Force, and through the Veteran Card, veterans would have access to more than 10,000 offers from around 500 businesses, both over the counter and online.

“Much like the lapel pin gives every day Australians the opportunity to recognise veterans and thank them for their service, the offers available through the veteran card allow the business community to show its thanks,” the Prime Minister said.

“The broader recognition package we’ve developed which includes the Veterans Covenant, the lapel pin and card is a way each and every one of us, including the business community, can say to our veterans ‘thank you for your service’.”

More than 33,000 veterans and reservists have already applied and will begin receiving their covenant packs in the coming days.

“Our Government is committed to putting veterans and their families first and we provide more than \$11 billion every year in support for veterans and their families,” Mr Chester said.

“Bringing corporate Australia on board will be a tangible benefit to the veteran community, with the card providing access to services and benefits for eligible veterans.

“We are proud to be partnering with APOD — an organisation founded and run by veteran families for veteran families — to ensure veterans can easily find local businesses in their area that are showing that respect and recognition of their service.

“There are a wide range of businesses already participating, from retailers with hundreds of outlets Australia-wide through to veteran-owned and operated small businesses.

Editors Note.

APOD = Australian Partners of Defence.

continued

Respect and recognition continued.

“There is no set criteria for how businesses choose to show that respect and recognition, but I have no doubt we will see the numbers grow with more businesses supporting the covenant and veterans and their families have made.

“I encourage all businesses to get on board with the Australian Defence Veterans’ Covenant and show their respect and recognition for those who have served to defend our nation.”

Businesses honouring the Veteran Card include retailers, travel and tourism operators, accommodation and car hire, entertainment, hospitality, restaurants, as well as service and trade industries such as gyms to automotive mechanics. Offers are generally discounts on goods, gift cards and services, and range from 2.5 per cent to 40 per cent off. For more information on the offers available to Veteran Card holders, visit www.apod.com.au

The Covenant encourages better recognition of the unique nature of military service and helps veterans and their families connect with the broader Australian community. More information on how to apply for and support the Covenant is available at www.recognition.dva.gov.au

Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling, provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Free and confidential help is available 24/7. Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 1800 011 046 or +61 8 8241 4546) or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au

Certificates of Appreciation

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) provides Certificates of Appreciation to certain people under the Australian Government's *Saluting Their Service* Commemorations program.

Overview

Certificates of Appreciation are available under the Australian Government's *Saluting Their Service* Commemorations program. They are a way of expressing the nation's gratitude to those who served in the defence forces or on the home front in the Second World War or in wars, conflicts and peace operations overseas since. They do not confer any eligibility for entitlements under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* or the *Safety, Rehabilitation or Compensation Act 1988*.

For information on applying for a certificate please contact your Federal MP office



Participants needed to help assess online tool for prostate cancer

Men recently diagnosed with low risk prostate cancer are needed to take part in a study assessing a new online tool designed to help navigate their treatment.

Low-risk prostate cancer often grows very slowly or not at all, yet men faced with this diagnosis report more difficulty making a treatment decision than any other cancer clinical group.

This is largely due to the variety of management options including Active Surveillance (close monitoring) versus active treatment such as radiotherapy or surgery.

Consultant Urologist Declan Murphy said it can be somewhat challenging for men to consider which option is best for them when confronted with a cancer diagnosis.

"We like patients to feel well informed about their options and ensure men are armed with the best knowledge," A/Prof Murphy says.

"Comparing management options and watching the Navigate videos from men who have been in the same position can be very reassuring and really aid the decision making process."

The Navigate website has been developed by a team of experts and men with first-hand experience of prostate cancer. Men and their partners can access the decision-making exercise to help them arrive at a treatment decision. Included are over 40 videos of men, partners, oncologists, urologists and specialist prostate nurses to provide a range of perspectives and personal experiences.

The Navigate team, led by Professor Penelope Schofield, is now recruiting participants from around Australia for a randomised study to collect data on the potential benefits of the website.

Like the flip of a coin, some participants will be given access to the Navigate tool while others will receive the best conventional support currently available.

This Swinburne University funded project is recruiting both online and from Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Cabrini Health, Austin Health, Alfred Health and Western Health.

Men and their partners can register their interest to participate at www.navigateprostate.com.au For more information, please contact Project Manager Natalie Richards on 03 8559 7453 or email navigate@petermac.org



OUR MILITARY HISTORY

17 December 1967 HMAS Perth (D38) comes under fire off Dong Hoi, Vietnam.

During September 1967-April 1968; September 1968-April 1969 and September 1970-April 1971, Perth (II) served as a unit of the US Seventh Fleet operating off the coast of Vietnam providing naval gunfire support to land forces. The ship was awarded the United States Navy Unit Commendation following her first deployment, and the United States Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation after her second deployment.

31 December 1967 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment arrives in South Vietnam The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, sailed to Vietnam on HMAS Sydney

3 RAR served two tours in South Vietnam, the first during 1967 and 1968 saw the battalion stationed in Phuoc Tuy Province. The battalion took part in several operations and was involved in mine clearing, counter mortar and rocket tasks and reconnaissance in force operations. As the ready reaction force at the 1ATF base 'A' Company 3 RAR was responsible for clearing and securing the nearby provincial capital of Ba Ria (Phuoc Le) during the Tet Offensive of February 1968. The battalion was then committed to Operation Coburg in February and March. During 26–28 May 1968, 3 RAR, while stationed at FSB Balmoral in a battalion defensive position, withstood two determined assaults by regimental sized units of the North Vietnamese Army during the Battle of Coral–Balmoral. During its first tour of Vietnam the battalion lost 24 killed and 93 wounded. In 1971 the battalion returned to Phuoc Tuy Province. During the second tour the battalion took part in several actions before returning to Australia by the end of 1971 after an eight-month tour. During these operations 3 RAR lost four killed and 27 wounded.

‘Australia’s Vietnam War’ Website.
University of New South Wales Canberra
Vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au



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VISITING VIETNAM

Hi I would like to bring to your notice a Veterans fund we run in Vung Tau conducting tours to the Aust Battle-ground's. With the funds earned we build houses for the poor families who have children we mainly operate in the Phuoc Tuy province, we also fund surgery for needy children .

Can you please make mention of us to your association .

VTVFCF.org

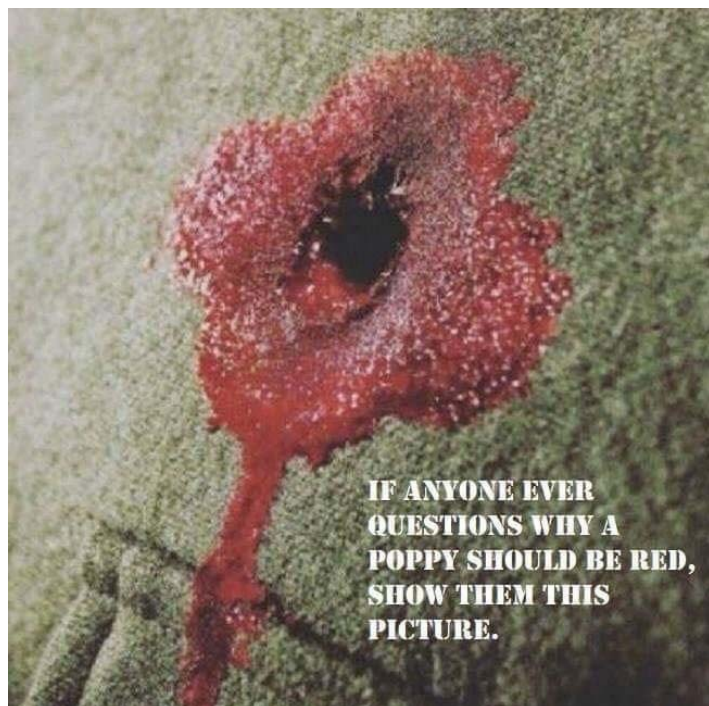
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<https://vtvfcf.org>

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YOUR ACTIVITIES REPORTED IN DEBRIEF

States and sub branches are encouraged to contribute reports on their activities, particularly an opportunity to let others know what is happening in your area.

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Events at NVVM 2020

Sat 22 Feb—Australian Army Band performs 'Back to Nam Again'

Sat 4 April—Sisters & Mistery

Sat 25 April - ANZAC DAY Debra Byrne & Dion Hirini

Sat 9 May – Rock Away in May

Saturday 30 May – The Spooky Men's Chorale

Sunday 7 June – Antiques Fair

Sunday 21 June – The City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band

Sunday 5 July – Locals Free Open Day

Saturday 15 August—Forgotten Heroes

Sunday 16 August—Art Exhibition opening 'Lest We Forget - Vietnam'

Sunday 13 September – Big Boys Toys

Saturday 3 October – Rock Away in Spring

Watch this space for dates and any changes.

National Vietnam Veterans Museum
25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven, 3925

Enquiries: sales@vietnamvetsmuseum.org
www.vietnamvetsmuseum.org



REUNIONS

WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

VETERAN FRIENDLY RETREATS

Future listing of these facilities should be available on the various VVAA State branch web sites and these can be accessed through the web site www.vvaa.org.au



THE VIETNAMESE MUSEUM- AUSTRALIA



For more information and to see a visual concept of the project go to;
www.vietnamesemuseum.com.au

If you would prefer to have this publication emailed directly to you please forward your email address to the National Secretary at secretary@vvaa.org.au.

ADVOCACY CORNER.



Advocacy Training and
Development Program

An extract from a recent ATDP Update newsletter.

Over the past few issues we've talked about what continuing professional development (CPD) is and why advocates should be doing CPD. We've also mentioned that CPD only applies to advocates that are not currently on a learning pathway. Of course, for those on the learning pathway that's exactly what they are doing 'learning'. However, for accredited advocates this is the way you stay up to date with any changes to your areas of expertise while not formally learning, and as you know there are constant changes to legislation, policies and directions. A quick update on the statistics as at end October 2019 shows there are:

- ▣ 521 advocates with a CPD Obligation
- ▣ Only 29 have already met their annual CPD Obligation of 15 points
- ▣ 117 advocates have started CPD but not yet achieved 15 points
- ▣ 375 advocates have not yet started CPD

Whilst there has been an increase of 23 (since September) advocates with a CPD obligation the concern remains with the 375 who haven't started their CPD yet. Until recently we haven't had much clarity about why so many advocates are slow to commence CPD. To assist our understanding, and as part of administering the program, we decided to contact advocates by phone to remind them of the requirement to maintain CPD. It was clear from the phone calls that the main reasons some advocates are not completing CPD is:

- ▣ They have forgotten
- ▣ They have left it till the last minute (but appreciated the call) and will be commencing soon; and
- ▣ they were not aware of their CPD requirement or don't want to do CPD at all

The ATDP can't make advocates do CPD, that's not our objective or want, we can only encourage it. Our role is to ensure there are interesting CPD options available that are regularly updated, and that they are as relevant to your professional development objectives as possible

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HAVE YOUR SAY— LETTERS TO DEBRIEF ARE WELCOME

The subject matter should be generally of interest to Vietnam Veterans and their families. Brief, to the point letters have a better chance of publication. Photographs should be of good colour, quality and subject matter, in jpg or similar format. Text should be submitted in Word format with minimum formatting. Vietnam Veteran writers must identify themselves by name, state, Vietnam Unit and Tour dates. Email: debrief@vvaa.org.au

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THE WAR WIDOWS GUILD OF AUSTRALIA

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A strong part of the Guilds History is the origins of its Logo.

The kookaburra was adopted as the Guilds Logo from its early inception and remains today.

The Kookaburra is also present on all War Widows' Guild Badges.