



The Bosun's Call



Vol 29 No 8

Once Navy, Always Navy

September 2024

HMAS Canberra (I) Memorial Service



We gathered today (9 August 2024) on the 82nd anniversary of the loss of HMAS Canberra, to honour the 84 men of the Royal Australian, Royal and United States Navies, and the Royal Australian Air Force who were killed in action or subsequently died of their wounds. We also remember more than 1,200 American casualties in the United States Navy ships in the Battle of Savo Island.

Events coming up

- 3 Sep Last Post Ceremony 85th Anniversary WWII start and the Battle for Australia
- 5 Sep Last Post Ceremony AB G. Rosevear HMAS Sydney II
- 14 Sep Last Post Ceremony 110th Anniversary Loss of AE1, ERA3 JA Fettes Wreath Pauline Gribble
- 23 Oct Last Post Ceremony 80th Anniversary Battle of Leyte Gulf
- 29 Oct Last Post Ceremony Stoker Duncan c.s. McDonald HMAS Torrens Wreath Joe Slaats



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the
Naval Association of Australia

Hardcopy printed by CopyQik Civic

Naval Association of Australia

ACT Section

Founded 1 July 1944

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

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General Meetings Dates and Locations Programme

2024

5 Sep Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
3 Oct Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
7 Nov Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330

2025

6 Feb Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
6 Mar Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
3 Apr Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330

Tables are normally booked for drinks and lunch in the host club from 1200 prior to the meeting.

If you need assistance getting to the meeting and/or functions, call Alan Masters on 6281 5630 who will try to organise transport for you.

Legal Aid Briefing 5 Sep 24

The Defence and Veterans Legal Service (DAVLS) was a national organisation established to provide established to assist veterans and their families in drafting submissions to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. When requested by veterans DAVLS lawyers would also accompany the veteran or the veteran's family in face to face meeting with members of the Royal Commission. DAVLS also provided some first line assistance to veterans who were dealing with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

The Royal Commission has now closed and its final report is due to be released in September 2024. With the end of the Royal Commission, DAVLS is also ceasing to exist.

However, DAVLS did identify a significant need in addition to volunteer advocates, for an organisation consisting of lawyers to help veterans in their dealings with DVA. The legal assistance was provided free of charge.

In the ACT, ACT Legal Aid is continuing to help veterans in their dealings with DVA and is staffed by a small group of lawyers who have considerable experience in dealing with DVA and other government bodies.

At our meeting, on 5 September 2024

Allan Joyce, will give an update on the progress of the 'Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024' which is currently before the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee. **It is important that members be aware of this draft legislation because it will direct veterans' entitlements for many years to come.**

Allan will then outline the legal services offered, free of charge, by Legal Aid ACT

Editor

**Committee meeting
Eastlakes Gungahlin
1100 Thursday 5 September 2024**

Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committees cover the following portfolios: Defence (including Veterans' Affairs), Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions]

Submissions received by the Committee

On 4 July 2024, the Senate referred the Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by **3 October 2024**.

Submissions were sought by 31 July 2024. In response to the requests of submitters, the committee has agreed to extend the submission due date to **10 September 2024**.

Submission Number	Submitter (to 24 August 2024)
1	Australian Lawyers Alliance (PDF 453 KB)
2	Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Ltd (PDF
3	TPI Federation of Australia (PDF 491 KB)
4	Families of Veterans Guild (PDF 95 KB)
5	Australian War Widows Inc. (PDF 176 KB) Attachment 1 (PDF 116 KB)
6	Community and Public Sector Union (PDF 155 KB)
7	Slater and Gordon Lawyers (PDF 319 KB)
8	Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Inc (PDF 254 KB)
9	Legacy Australia Incorporated (PDF 214 KB)
10	Veteran Family Advocate Commissioner (PDF 215 KB)
11	RSL Australia (PDF 780 KB)
12	Mr John Miklavcic (PDF 1084 KB)
13	Mr Barry Aldcroft (PDF 22 KB)
14	Mr Michael Carlon (PDF 140 KB)
15	Department of Veterans' Affairs (PDF 11720 KB)
16	Mr Nicholas Hannay (PDF 222 KB) Attachment 1 (PDF 2563 KB)
17	Name Withheld (PDF 66 KB)
18	Royal Australian Armoured Corps Corporation (PDF 534 KB) Attachment
19	Naval Association of Australia (PDF 451 KB)
20	Department of Defence (PDF 727 KB)
21	Productivity Commission (PDF 414 KB)
22	Defence Force Welfare Association (PDF 488 KB)
23	Mr Alan Huggins (PDF 662 KB)
24	Name Withheld (PDF 36 KB)
25	Name Withheld (PDF 29 KB)

The Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen & Women Ltd
(Incorporated in the ACT)

TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE & TRADE REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Inquiry into the Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation Bill 2024)

Opening Statement

Senators

Thank you for this opportunity to address any questions you may have regarding the presentation of our submission to this Inquiry.

Senators, my name is Pat McCabe, National President of the TPI Federation of Australia.

The TPI Federation wishes to advise you of its disappointment of having to rush this most important opportunity to address the many, many issues that this Bill should be trying to address. This urgency meant that there was a mere 3 weeks in which to construct a submission for this Inquiry, which included research and construction of the submission. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to seek wrongs to be righted.

The TPI Federation was most concerned that the Department of Veterans' Affairs Minister, Mr Matt Keogh MP, emphatically stated that no discussion or consideration of the 'Offsetting' issue would be discussed as part of the legislation review. This is so that just one Compensation Act remains for the Department and the Government to be concerned about. To deny the Veteran Community the ability to discuss offsetting makes the consultation process for this legislation disingenuous and deceptive.

One example of such offsetting arrangements is attached to this statement and shows that a lump sum payment of \$171,000, where offsetting began in 2001 and remains for the Veterans lifetime, states the Veteran has already paid over \$300,000 and in another 10 years will have paid in excess of \$500,000.

The TPI Federation has presented submissions to Government on numerous occasions, as is described in the annex of our submission, with extremely limited results. The results usually arrive when it suited the Department to assist with their bureaucratic processes and procedures, or the Government with its election needs, and not as matter of 'right' or 'wrong'. This proposed Act is no different.

It is incredulous that this Act does not actually address the issues that cause suicides and suicidal ideation which in many cases are influenced by the Veteran's financial situation. To introduce an Act that will cost Government a mere \$125m in the initial year, with no other forward estimates required, shows that the process is merely for the benefit of the Department and the Government and that the Veteran Community will receive little,

if any, relief with the proposed change.

The TPI Federation has throughout the consultation process, tried to ascertain if the grandparenting of the Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986 can or cannot proceed after this Bill is passed. Will this Bill mean that the 13 year campaign for justice in maintaining the value of the VEA TPI and the MRCA SRDP payments to at least the tax-adjusted minimum wage can still be addressed? So far there are 50% saying it can and 50% saying it can't. Perhaps the Senators will be able to determine this.

As the current ~26,000 VEA TPIs age and the younger MRCA SRDP become older, they will possibly have no opportunity to request an improvement in the compensation except through the general indexation method. This will mean that the 70 years of decline (i.e. since the 1950s) of the TPI compensation will never be addressed.

The TPI Federation would appreciate it if this Inquiry could ascertain, with certainty, if it will be possible to address the inadequacies of the TPI compensation payment after this grandparenting process within this Act is legislated.

If the VEA cannot be changed after it is grandparented, where does that leave the most disabled Veterans in our community? If it cannot be changed, they will be left with a Compensation payment, for never being able to work again, in the 1970s income sphere. This Inquiry needs to note that the MRCA SRDP payment is merely a reference to VEA 24(4). The MRCA SRDP was supposed to be a safety-net for those most disabled Veterans but has been diminished so dramatically that it is almost irrelevant.

In 2013 the TPI Economic Loss Compensation (which was then 65% of the tax-adjusted minimum wage), was \$8,332 less than the tax-adjusted minimum wage. Today, even following the generous additional payment of \$1,000 per year (i.e. 0.04% increase) from the last election, the deficit is now \$11,150 (which is 59% of the tax adjusted minimum wage). The gap widens further each year.

Senators, the least that any Veteran could have expected to earn, had they been able to work, is the minimum wage. Yet by ignoring this deficit, the Government is stating that a Veteran's compensation for never being able to work should only be 59% of the tax-adjusted minimum wage. The TPI Federation has only ever asked that the 'Economic Loss' compensation be restored from the eroded compensa-

(Continued on page 5)

TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA—OPENING STATEMENT

(Continued from page 4)

tion back to a level commensurate with the Parliament's original intent, and to again be equal to a reaffirmed benchmark of the tax-adjusted minimum wage.

Does this Act before us mean that the TPI/SRDP guaranteed fortnightly compensation payments will cease, as lump sum payments take over and become the 'preferred' method of compensation? Is this truly the most responsible method of providing compensation for those who have served this country to the detriment of their quality of life and livelihood.

Following the Vietnam War the VEA TPI cohort was of the tens of thousands in number. Ask yourself why there are a mere 40+ MRCA SRDPs since 2004 following our longest war – the Afghanistan War. The main reason for the demise of the SRDP is that it is 'offset' again the CSC Invalidity Pension they receive, whereas the VEA TPI is not. As a general rule this offsetting means the SRDP on offer is usually \$0. Therefore, the only compensation available to most Veterans under MRCA is a lump sum payment or Incapacity Payments that are also offset by the CSC Invalidity Pension.

Why do Veterans have to accept that their own paid-for superannuation subsidises their compensation? The 'offsetting' process used by the Government is obfuscating their responsibility to the Veteran community by enabling this to continue into the future with this Bill. The Government states that the Veteran is 'double-dipping' on Government payments but in actual fact the Government is 'double-dipping' (or more if you include taxation) on the Veterans fully

paid-for and owned superannuation.

Senators, you have an opportunity here to ensure that this major issue is at a minimum addressed by Government and to stop Government ignoring the subject of offsetting.

The TPI Federation is most concerned that should a VEA TPI pass away, his Widow will be given a 'choice' of utilising the VEA War Widow entitlements, or utilising the MRCA Widow entitlements. Again, as more Widows 'choose' the lump sum payments, they will be left without a regular income in their old age and also will have to prove that they are 'financially dependent' on the Veteran in order to be eligible.

The War Widow's payment is actually a compensation payment for the Widow, in legislation under VEA, for having cared for a disabled Veteran. The MRCA 'harmonised' legislation will enable a Widow to have an entitlement only if they are 'financially dependent' on the Veteran. The compensation concept is being removed.

The TPI Federation asks that the Senators seek to protect the War Widow's entitlements in the new Act and stop the Government taking the easy way out with lump sum payments for War Widows and Veterans alike.

The TPI Federation thanks the Senate for this Inquiry and welcomes any questions you may have on our submission.

Ms Pat McCabe OAM

National President

16th August 2024

The Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen & Women Ltd
(Incorporated in the ACT)

TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

"Disabled in our Service, United in our Cause"

Recent Example of Offsetting Unfairness

A Vietnam Veteran received a lump sum payment from DVA of \$171,000, and since 2001 his TPI Compensation payments have had an offset imposed on him for this.

Upon enquiring as to how much he has paid since that time, it was discovered that his total repayments of this lump sum payment up to an including 8 August 2024 is now \$322,023.43.

Fortnightly offsetting Payments	From	To	Paid
	12/07/2001	8/05/2008 -	\$90,210.20
	22/05/2008	27/12/2012	\$163,114.36
DVA advised as at 8/8/2024	10/01/2013	30/05/2013	\$168,715.69
offsetting paid to date was	13/06/2013	8/08/2013 -	\$171,068.69
	-\$322,023.43	8/08/2013	\$346,229.01
		9/01/2025	\$364,013.01

Should this Vietnam Veteran live for another 10 years he will have paid approximately \$550,000 is offsetting penalties for his meagre \$171,000 lump sum payment.

This is legal in accordance with the legislation but it remains totally immoral to continue to deduct this offsetting penalty as are all offsetting arrangements that have this 'lifetime' limitation on it.



**HMAS Canberra (I)
Memorial Service
9 August 2024**

Left: Brendon Smyth, Commissioner for International Engagement ACT, former MLA ACT, CAPT Jake Hutchison RAN former CO HMAS Canberra (III)., RAAF Representative and Alan Masters Coordinator

Below: At lectern, Master of Ceremonies, David Manolas NAA ACT Section President (also National President)P



Right Alaric O'Neill, Tiger Lyons, Alan Masters, Alex McGown, Graeme Quinn, Pauline Gribble and David Manolas with Joe Slaats inserted

Photos Kathie Master Including Page One with Chaplain Jeffrey Newton RAN, MC and HMAS Harman's Catafalque Party

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Right: CAPT Brett Westcott RAN Former XO HMAS Canberra (II) WO NK, UK Defence Attache LtCol Olly Gray RM and NZ Naval Attache CMDR Mike Collinson RNZN

Bottom: HMAS Harman's Catalque Party awaiting the order to mount



MyWay+ Card—New Generation

Get ready for MyWay+

It's time to get ready for our new next generation ticketing system. MyWay+ is expected to commence in November 2024.

You can start to prepare now by registering your existing MyWay card. This will ensure a smooth transition, making it easier to transfer your balance* on your current MyWay card over to your new MyWay+ account when the time comes.

Register your current MyWay card

Between now and 'go live', keep using your MyWay card or a paper ticket from a ticket vending machine to pay for travel on Transport Canberra bus and light rail services.

*ACT Senior MyWay cards are pre-registered as part of the online application process.

Changeover status

Setting it up is well underway and is on track to be implemented in November 2024. Bringing MyWay+ to life represents a change in the way Canberrans use public transport. To stay up-to-date [sign up to our weekly e-news](#), connect with us on [social media](#) or visit a [MyWay+ pop-up information stall](#).

Canberrans are strongly encouraged to register their current MyWay cards as we get ready for our new ticketing system MyWay+.

This will support the transfer of funds from existing MyWay accounts onto the new MyWay+ system which is expected to be operational in November this year.

If you do not register your MyWay card prior to MyWay being switched off, it will be more difficult to transfer credits or arrange a refund as Transport Canberra will not have a record of who the card belongs to.

It will be much easier for registered card holders to refund and transfer credits when MyWay+ is here. Transfers and refunds will be able to be processed in a timely way and allow a smoother transition to MyWay+.

Registering your MyWay card takes 2 minutes and can be done online or by calling 13 17 10.

Register your current MyWay card now

User testing

We've reached a major milestone in the MyWay+ project. More than 200 people will soon to be recruited to take part in user testing for the new system.

In September 2024, a six-week user testing period will begin. This critical testing period will provide valuable insight from a customer experience perspective.

Participants will have an early hands-on experi-

ence using the MyWay+ services. This includes testing the web portal, mobile app and new equipment on board buses and at light rail stops.

We will engage with a range of user groups to participate in the user testing process. This includes members of our workforce, the Transport Canberra and City Services Accessibility Reference Group, students, public transport advocates, First Nations people and older Canberrans.

Details on how the community can get involved in MyWay+ users testing will be release in coming weeks.

Further information

Visit MyWay+ for more information. You can also come and chat with our team at an upcoming MyWay+ pop-up information stall or call 13 17 10.

MyWay for seniors

COTA ACT manages Seniors Cards in the ACT, which are combined with Transport Canberra MyWay cards. One card allows for public transport access, and a range of Seniors Card discounts and services.

Canberrans aged 60 and over, who meet eligibility requirements, will be entitled to an ACT Seniors Card. Before you apply for a card you can check your eligibility and what documentation will be required by visiting the COTA website.

The ACT Seniors MyWay Card is a dual card that allows seniors access to free off peak travel on Transport Canberra services. You can load your ACT Seniors MyWay with travel credit at a MyWay agent or at a ticket vending machine. The ticket vending machine will also show you your current balance.

Interstate Seniors MyWay Card

Seniors Card holders from other states and territories in Australia can apply for an Interstate Seniors MyWay travel card using the Interstate Online Seniors MyWay Card application form. It is best to apply prior travelling to the ACT as you will need to allow 10 days for postage of your card. Seniors MyWay cards are registered as a part of the online application process.

Interstate Senior MyWay card holders receive the same concession fare as ACT Seniors and MyWay pension card holders and are able to travel for free during off peak times as part of an ACT Government trial. Interstate card holders are not eligible for the over 70s free travel.

Interstate Seniors Card holders already in Canberra, can obtain a MyWay travel card from the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre, National Exhibition Centre, Regatta Point. You will be required to show you Seniors Card from your state of residence. Please remember to register your card to make it easier to refund or transfer credits.

Transport Canberra can only process refunds and

(Continued on page 9)

MyWay+ Card—New Generation

(Continued from page 8)

transfer credits for registered MyWay cards.

Interstate Seniors Card holders can also purchase a cash concession fare ticket from a ticket vending machine located at all major bus interchanges and on the light rail platforms. You will need to show your seniors card from your state of residence, if requested.

For further information or for MyWay enquiries please call the MyWay Administration Office (02) 6207 7711 during business hours.

Free off-peak MyWay travel trial

As part of an off-peak trial, eligible senior and concession MyWay card holders travel for free between 9 am and 4:30 pm and after 6 pm weekdays, plus all day Saturday, Sunday and on public holidays.

Free travel

The following passengers may be eligible for free travel on Transport Canberra services:

- children aged 5 and under not attending school
- ACT Seniors aged 70 and over

- Department of Veterans Affairs TPI or EDA Gold Card holders and their companion
- passengers with a visual impairment
- approved Student Transport Program concession holders
- companions travelling with a Companion Card holder

As part of a off peak trial, the following card holders travel for free on weekdays from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm and after 6:00 pm. They also travel for free all day on weekends and public holidays:

- Health Care Card or Pension Card issued by the Australian Government
- ACT Services Access Card
- DVA Gold Card
- ACT and Interstate Seniors Card

Proof of concession

The below images describe concession cards which are eligible for free travel or reduced fares on Transport Canberra services. .

ELIGIBLE CONCESSIONS FOR TRAVEL ON BUSES & LIGHT RAIL ☑



DVA GOLD CARD

Concession fares apply to the card holder at all times. **Cards marked with TPI or EDA are entitled to free travel. Their companion or carer also travels free.**



HEALTH CARE CARD

Concession fares apply to the primary card holder at all times.



COMPANION CARD

Concession fares apply to the card holder at all time. Companion or carer travels free.



SENIORS CARD

Concession fares apply to ACT or interstate seniors card holders at all times. ACT card holders over the age of 70 travel free.



TRAVEL PASSES

PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT AND TPI TRAVEL PASSES
Free travel entitlement applies to card holder at all times, including free travel for an attendant if required.



ACT SERVICES ACCESS CARD

Concession fares apply to the card holder at all times.

DIGITAL CONCESSION CARD

Pension & Health Care Cards displayed on mobile devices provide concession eligibility for the primary card holder listed.



PENSION CARD

Concession fares apply to the primary card holder at all times.

Why cheques are checking out

National Seniors Newsletter August 2024

In Australia, and around the world, paper cheques are going the way of the dodo. Is that a good thing?

Join our Keep Cash campaign

2 August 2024

They were once a mainstay of the banking system, but cheques have been slowly disappearing in recent years.

Their demise in Australia has been hastened by a Federal Government decision that the system will wind down "no later than 2030". The government itself will stop issuing cheques by 2028.

Federal Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, said in June last year that the government will "manage this transition in an orderly and planned way".

He noted that only 0.2% of non-cash retail payments in Australia were made by cheque, which seems like compelling evidence to shut the system down.

But is it a case of customers having no option? Many Australians have already been weaned off cheques by their banks.

Among the "big four":

- Commonwealth Bank is advising customers to "cheque out", taking away access to some customers.
- NAB cheque books are no longer available for new personal banking accounts or for existing accounts that don't already have a cheque book.
- Westpac has begun diverting customers to other kinds of payment.
- From 16 June 2024, ANZ stopped issuing cheque books to customers who have never had them before, as part of a planned phasing out.

Suncorp, Bank Australia, People First Bank, Rabobank, Credit Union Australia, and Teachers Mutual Bank have already stopped accepting cheques, with Macquarie and AMP to follow suit in November. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank has stopped issuing new cheque books and begun phasing out cheque accounts for many customers.

"The move towards a 'cashless society' is disproportionately impacting seniors who struggle with technology and online banking, highlighting concerns about digital exclusion.

Many seniors are not comfortable transacting online because they're not tech savvy, and they're concerned about online and credit card scams. In many cases, cash is all they're familiar with, and is their only way to make purchases.

Although online facilities are convenient for many of us, digital systems also pose risks during outages and natural disasters, highlighting the importance of cash being an option during emergencies

Older Australians and First Nations communities, in particular, are also the most vulnerable to scams.

How you can help

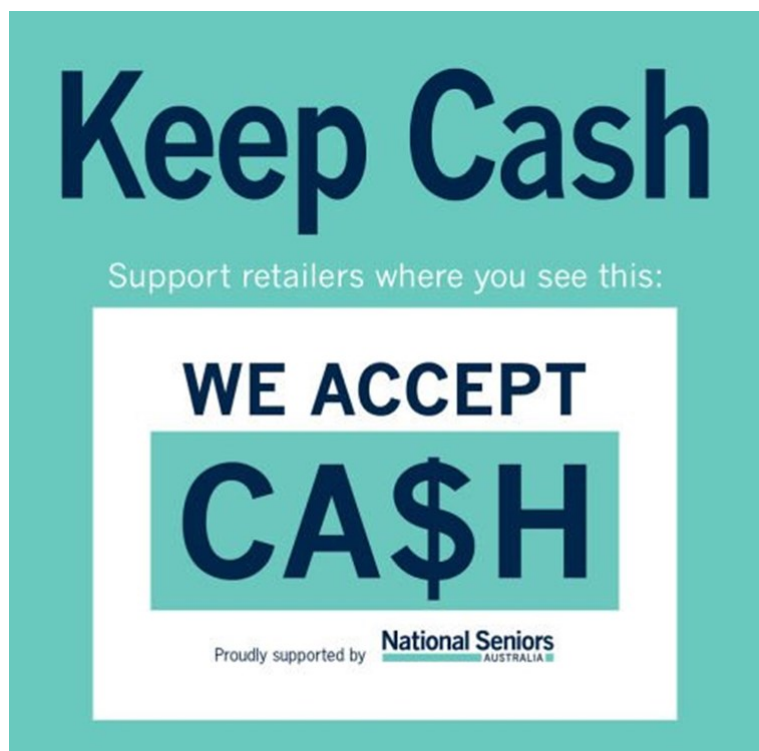
Use more cash: There needs to be more cash transactions in the system for the government, banks, and retailers to take notice and understand that cash is important, especially for the older cohort.

Subscribe to National Seniors Connect Newsletter: To keep updated on our advocacy efforts to keep cash as a valid form of currency, slow down the closure of physical branches, and ensure there is appropriate training to support seniors with digital platforms.

Follow National Seniors on Facebook and LinkedIn: In addition, share our posts to show your support and keep this important message in front of policy advisors and decision makers.

As a crucial part of our 'Keep Cash' campaign, we are encouraging retailers who accept cash to display our 'WE ACCEPT CASH' sticker. We are also calling on community members to distribute stickers to local participating retailers.

In addition, we are encouraging supporters to display our 'Keep Cash' bumper stickers.



Minutes of NAA (ACT) General Meeting held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 1 August 2024

Meeting started at 1330 with the Odes recited by David Manolas.

Present: 12 members as per attendance book. The President gave a special welcome to Life Member Kel Jurd who was attending his first meeting with us. Kel was previously made an NAA Life Member by the Albury Sub-section but on its demise he transferred to the ACT Section. Kel resides in Albury.

Apologies: J Small, M. Hardwick, R. Ridgeway, W. Lissing, A. McGown, J. Wolford

Minute of Last Meeting. The minutes of the General meeting on 6 June 2024 appeared in the July 2024 edition of the Bosun's Call. It was considered there was no outstanding business from that meeting.

Motion: The minutes of the General Meeting held on 6 July 2024 be accepted.

Unanimously Carried.

Reports.

President The President outlined the progress made with the NAA submission to the Senate Committee working on the "harmonisation" of the existing Bills that provide benefits to Veterans. Allan Joyce is preparing an NAA submission and it will be forwarded to the Senate committee by 14 August.

Vice President Nil report due to VP's absence .

Secretary Business as usual but with a focus on finalising the arrangements for the HMAS Canberra commemorative service.

Treasurer Connection has been made with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) following the new direction the ATO is taking in dealing with not for profit organisations. Our funds remain in a healthy state.

Membership The membership remains steady.

Motion The Reports be received.

Moved: Dennis Lyons Secoded: Darren Rush Carried

General Business

Last Post opportunities. See the opportunities to lay a wreath in the BC section, Events Coming Up. VP Alex McGown would be grateful for volunteers, please contact him if available.

Next Meeting Next General Meeting will be held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Cub on Thursday, 5 September 2024 starting at 1330.

Close of Meeting There being no other business the President closed the meeting at 1400.

Alan F Masters
Secretary
NAA (ACT)

Notes from the Committee Meeting 1 August 2024

Present: David Manolas, Peter Cooke-Russell, Alaric O'Neill, Alan Masters, Dennis Lyons.

Apology: Alex McGown

The President invited Allan Joyce to discuss progress on the NAA input to the Senate committee re the forthcoming proposed harmonisation of the existing Bills that define veterans' benefits. The committee endorsed his approach to endorsing the work of the Royal Australian Armoured Corp Corporation by including some of their input to our submission. As the deadline was short he departed quickly to recommence his input. The committee was informed that the RAN Sydney Band would not be part of our HMAS Canberra Commemorative service and accordingly we would omit the singing components of the Order of Service.

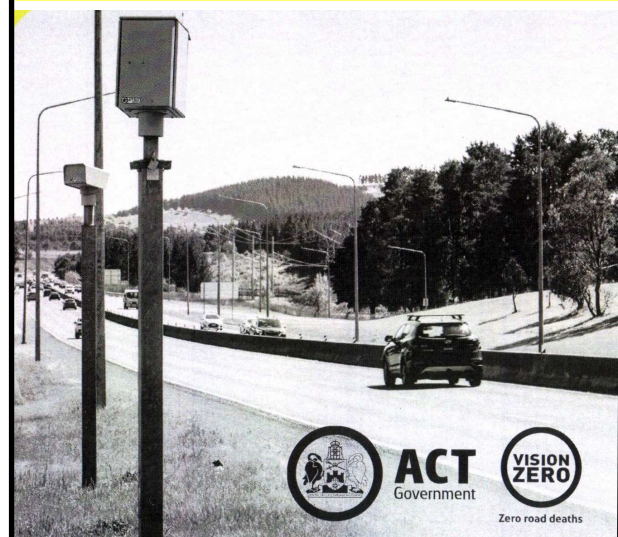
Next Meeting. The next meeting will be at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 5 September 2024 at 1100.

Alan Masters
Secretary
NAA (ACT)

Support Road Safety

From August 2024, drivers detected committing road offences by the road safety camera network will have their vehicle details checked to make sure their registration is up to date.

An infringement for driving an unregistered vehicle is \$700 and an infringement for driving an uninsured vehicle is **an additional \$1009.**



Emails to the Editor

Sun Aug 11

Peter,

Pat McCabe from KOC provided this.

You might like to put it in the Bosun's Call.

Regards,

Alex

"Congratulations and appreciation is extended to the DVA Secretary, Ms Alison Frame, for standing by her commitment to ensure that Veterans hearing aids needs would be provided for in the Federal Budget. It is most pleasing that this commitment came to fruition in the 2024-25 Federal Budget with funding being provided for the provision of all the Veterans and War Widows hearing needs. Where there is a clinical need for greater than the basic hearing aid, DVA will now be able to provide this.

There is a new Hearing Aid Prior Approval Form required for the Audiologist to complete and, if you can, download the form and give it to your Audiologist. You may need to convince them that things have changed and to try again with DVA to gain an approval. The form - d9398 - Hearing Aid Prior Approval Form - can be googled and printed .

The TPI Federation will now attempt to gain access to the Tinnitus program for all Veterans. The Department of Health Hearing Services Program

website states that 'tinnitus assessment and treatment' is not included in the Hearing Services Program yet the DVA website states 'we may provide you with a range of tinnitus treatments' for Gold Card holders. This anomaly has caused conversion for Veterans as well as Audiologist Providers.

Sat Aug 10

Peter,

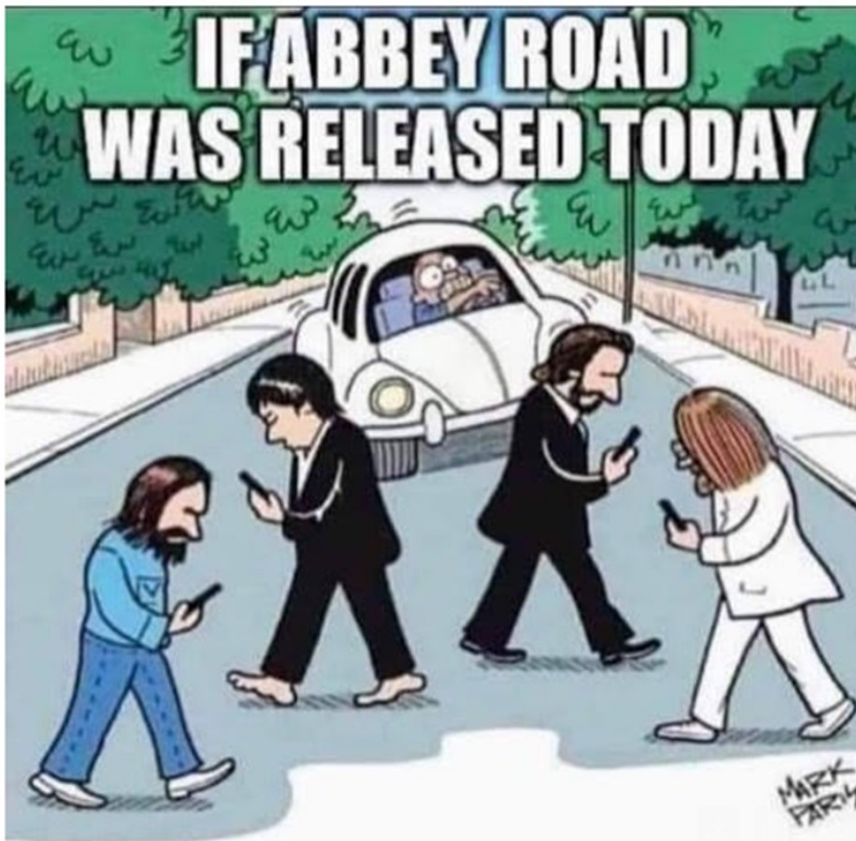
Good morning.

I trust "you and yours" are all travelling well on this beautiful tropical morning in the nation's capital, as am I.

As you probably remember, I am involved with CBR Legacy. I came back onboard "Active" last September after a break of about 2 years. One of the issues we face is initiating initial contact with the spouse/partner of a deceased veteran.

At Welfare Committee earlier this week, it was highlighted that DVA have decided to no longer provide to Legacy details of the family of a deceased veteran. This decision by DVA hit us like a freight train.

That said, amongst other initiatives, we are looking to ask our contacts around town if they become aware of a deceased (or terminally ill) veteran, to let the NOK /family etc know that Legacy may be able to assist them.



The advice distributed out to our Canberra Legatee cohort on the way ahead in this matter was promulgated in our Weekly Update of Friday 9 and is copied (in full) below - FYI.

Accordingly, in your 'association' with the ACT Sub-section, could I just ask that being aware of DVA's decision, could you act as outlined below. Feel free to come back through me if you can't get in touch with Legacy House easily. Any assistance in this regard will be very much appreciated at Canberra Legacy.

Anecdotally, I do understand DVA is being approached to reverse their decision on this matter.

Havagoodone.

With thanks,

Michael Doyle 😊

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

\$40 for 2025

Action to renew membership for 2025 can now undertaken in a number of different ways. The following, in order of preference for the Treasurer, are listed below, but any of them can be utilised.

The use of e-banking provides for ease of payment and your bank records act as your receipt. The annual subscription for 2024 is \$40

- 1. Direct transfer of funds to the NAA (ACT Section).** Using e-bank facilities, transfer funds to Naval Association of Australia –ACT Section Account **BSB: 633 000 . Account Number 162 834 097** *Please ensure you have identified yourself as the payer in order that the Treasurer can correctly credit your payment.*
- 2. Payment using the mail system.** Please do not send cash through the mail system. Cheques can be forwarded to Membership Registrar, 4 McEachern Crescent, MELBA ACT 2615. Receipts will NOT be mailed to payers.
- 3. Direct payment to Treasurer.** The Treasurer will gladly accept cheques or cash from members at General Meetings. A receipt will be given to payers.

IF YOU HAVE CHANGED ANY OF YOUR CONTACT DETAILS SUCH AS HOME ADDRESS, E-MAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBERS PLEASE ADVISE THE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR.

Social Program

Fish 'n Chips is on the program, Snapper has reopened . Sun will shine.

2024

- 5 Sep Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 12-00
- 19 Sep Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 3 Oct Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 12-00
- 17 Oct Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 7 Nov Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 12-00
- 21 Nov Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 5 Dec Christmas Lunch 1200

Bev Joce

Social Secretary

DVA CONTACTS

Information on health services may be obtained from DVA. The contact numbers for health care providers requiring further information or prior financial authorisation for all States & Territories are listed below:

PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:
[1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](tel:1800838372)

International callers:

[+61 2 6289 1133](tel:+61262891133)

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES: D

Health Approvals & Home Care Section Department of Veterans' Affairs
GPO Box 9998
BRISBANE QLD 4001

DVA WEBSITE:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-healthprofessionals>

DVA email for prior financial authorisation:
health.approval@dva.gov.au

The appropriate prior approval request form can be found at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/servicesrequiring-prior-approval>

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

For information about claims for payment visit:
www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim



**A Happy Birthday to you
September 2024**

- Mike Hardwick
- Kieran McLaughlin
- Rex Kendall
- Steve Youll
- John Combe
- Harry Beardsell
- Mike Taylor
- Ian Holmes



If undeliverable return to
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26 Nelson Place
CURTIN ACT 2605

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