



DEBRIEF

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HONOUR THE DEAD, But Fight like Hell for the Living

NATIONAL PRESIDENTS REPORT

Another year has passed and 2018 is now behind us, filled with memories, some good, some not so good, but all now set in our individual and joint histories.



We should look back for inspirations and hopefully to learn from the experiences we have had, hindsight is a great leveller and should be treated as a teaching aid rather than as a lesson.

As we move into 2019 we need to address, in the short term, two matters that can have a profound effect on us as individuals, and as an association.

Firstly is the Governments Productivity Commission draft report into Compensation and Rehabilitation of Veterans, we will be lodging a submission by 11 February and I would encourage any member with opinions and suggestions to pass them to me through their Sub Branch and State Branch network by the end of January.

Secondly we will have the report on the DVA sponsored Veterans Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study which is due to be released during January. This will have, I am sure, an effect on our future advocacy operations and administration, again I ask all those with an interest in this work to make their thoughts known.

During February and March Sub Branches and States review their past operations and appoint executives to represent their views, I thank them for their service and wish all new executives good luck and fair winds.

In May we have the meeting of the National Council followed by the National Congress, now is the time to consider what direction we take into the future and the composition of our National executive team.

Ken Foster OAM JP

National President



A SERVICE FOUNDED BY VIETNAM VETERANS

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Veteran Card - Information for card holders and applicants

The Veteran Card will make it easier for Australians to recognise and respect the contribution that veterans have made to Australia and for our veterans to connect with the broader Australian community.

Eligibility for the card

The card will be made available to anyone who has served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) with one day of continuous full-time service. Therefore, anyone who is eligible for a DVA Gold, White or Orange card will be eligible for the card, including veterans who are transitioning or have transitioned from the ADF.

Eligible Reservists, including those engaged in Disaster Relief Service, Border Protection Service, or involved in a serious service-related training accident, will also be able to access the new card.

The Veteran Card will support up to 600,000 veterans in Australia.

Benefits of the card

The Government is working with Australian businesses and community organisations to discuss tangible recognition and services for card holders. Organisations may wish to provide special offers, support or concessions to holders of the card. This will be at the discretion of the participating business or organisation.

Information about participating organisations will be made available in the coming months.

There will be no changes to DVA services and entitlements.

How to apply

Veterans and their families will be able to use their existing DVA Gold, White or Orange Card to gain access to benefits provided by businesses and community organisations until the new-look Veteran Card is issued.

Individuals applying for non-liability health care or for liability for service related conditions through MyService are currently automatically issued with the appropriate DVA card if their claim is accepted.

DVA systems are being updated to that you will soon be able to apply for the Veteran Card through your existing MyService logon or by creating an account at MyService.

All existing application processes will be supported.

If you do not already have one, you can also apply for a White Card via MyService.

Veterans and their families with existing digital versions of their DVA card will notice a change in how their cards look in MyService as the new-look Veteran Card is rolled out.

The following poem was written by an 11 year old Brisbane girl, Hannah Mitchell, for the Centenary of Armistice, 11th November 2018. I thought it was so good that it should be shared by as many as possible. Australia's future is in good hands with the likes of Hannah.

Gerald O'Dea.

V.V.A.A. Tasmania

Remember

*At 11 o'clock on the 11th November the bugle calls,
To summon you to silence and think about the mighty war.*

Remembrance Day when I stand with pride.

A day we commemorate the soldiers that died.

Calling themselves a digger

Some unwillingly pulling the trigger

Though the soldiers had to find

The happiness that they left behind.

*Few can remember back 100 years ago,
When soldiers risked their lives to protect Australia from the foe.*

And had to suffer the conditions of the trenches,

And the constant building of tension.

The rats, scorpions, and trench foot was just a part,

That went along with the broken heart.

An armistice was signed to bring the war to an end,

And family members had to bring their hearts to mend,

But still they shed their tears

When found a friend had disappeared.

Rosemary is the resemblance,

Of loyalty and remembrance.

The poppies that grew where the soldiers still lay

Coloured from the blood of the soldiers decay.

The soldiers are remembered by the poems that are told,

That lives within our hearts never to grow old.

So when I stand for 1 minute silence on Remembrance Day.

I think of the price the soldiers had to pay.

Having to leave behind family and friends,

Waiting for the war to come to an end.

Some volunteered, the others were made,

I shall never let the memories fade.

Lest We Forget

OUR MILITARY HISTORY

9 January 1966 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in Operation Crimp The operation became the scene of a major action against a Viet Cong tunnel complex.

24 January 1967 First contact at Bien Hoa, South Vietnam Fighting at Bien Hoa involved a series of contacts between units of the 1st Australian Task Force and communist forces in the area of the Bien Hoa - Long Binh complex near Saigon. Australian and American units sought to dominate the area and prevent enemy rocket attacks on nearby military bases and installations.

30 January 1968 Tet offensive begins in Vietnam While the Tet Offensive, named for Tet, the Vietnamese lunar new year holiday period over which the attacks occurred, was a military defeat for the Communist forces it proved to be a propaganda victory accelerating the American public's growing opposition to the war and causing United States military planners to question whether victory was possible.

January 1969 Vietnam Australian military commitment to Vietnam reaches a peak of 8,300 service personnel.

11 January 1973 Cessation of hostilities in Vietnam by Australian forces The proclamation by the Governor-General, Sir Paul Hasluck, ended 11 years of Australian involvement in Vietnam, the longest duration of any war in Australia's history.

27 January 1973 Conclusion of hostilities in Vietnam by United States forces The United States government announced a policy of 'Vietnamisation' whereby the burden of fighting the war against the communists would be borne entirely by the South Vietnamese.

1 January 1975 Office of Australian War Graves established The Office is responsible for the maintenance of the graves of Australia's war dead in 78 countries around the world and in 76 war cemeteries within Australia.



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

OUR MILITARY HISTORY

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War began with a small commitment of 30 military advisors in 1962, and increased over the following decade to a peak of 7,672 Australian personnel following the Menzies Government's April 1965 decision to upgrade its military commitment to South Vietnam's security.

By the time the last Australian personnel were withdrawn in 1972, the Vietnam War had become Australia's longest war, and was only recently surpassed by Australia's long term commitment of combat forces to the War in Afghanistan.

It remains Australia's largest force contribution to a foreign conflict since the Second World War and was also the most controversial in Australian society since the conscription controversy during the First World War.

Although initially enjoying broad support due to concerns about the spread of communism in South-east Asia, a vocal anti-war movement developed in response to Australia's programme of conscription.

The withdrawal of Australia's forces from South Vietnam began in November 1970, under the Gorton Government, when 8 RAR completed its tour of duty and was not replaced.

A phased withdrawal followed, and by 11 January 1973 Australian involvement in hostilities in Vietnam had ceased.

Nevertheless, Australian troops from the Australian Embassy Platoon remained deployed in the country until 1 July 1973, and Australian forces were deployed briefly in April 1975, during the Fall of Saigon, to evacuate personnel from the Australian embassy.

Approximately 60,000 Australians served in the war; 521 were killed and more than 3,000 were wounded.



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PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION DRAFT REPORT INTO COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION FOR VETERANS

MINISTER for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Darren Chester has welcomed the Productivity Commission draft report of its inquiry into compensation and rehabilitation for veterans.

"The report reinforces a commitment to putting the wellbeing of veterans and their families first, it outlines the importance of a whole-of-life focus and it acknowledges the key role of families," Mr Chester said.

"These are all central components of the Government's efforts to provide the high-quality support and assistance our veterans and their families want and deserve.

"I welcome the draft report and as a Government we will carefully consider the recommendations put forward and respond once the final report has been completed."

"A number of significant recommendations have been proposed- — none of these have been accepted or rejected at this stage.

"This report will also help to start a conversation amongst the veteran community on the future of the military compensation and rehabilitation system in Australia, and I look forward to hearing those views. I will be conducting a series of roundtables to receive direct feedback early in 2019.

"The Department of Veterans' Affairs is already changing for the better – under our Government."

The Productivity Commission operates independently, and its findings and recommendations are based on its own analyses and judgments.

The coming months will give the Government and the Commission the opportunity to hear the views from the veteran community and other stakeholders before the Commission finalises its report in June 2019.

"Our Government is committed to putting veterans and their families first and we will continue to work with the Productivity Commission and the wider veteran community over the coming months to address key issues," Mr Chester said.

"I acknowledge the support that the Productivity Commission demonstrated in the draft report for the Department of Veterans' Affairs' transformation, under the Veteran Centric Reform program.

"This transformation has seen a number of new programs and initiatives established, including the very successful MyService platform, the digitisation of records project and general improvements with our processing systems. I am confident that we are on the right path with our transformation journey."

Individuals wishing to view the report, or put forward their views, can do so at www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/veterans#draft

Editors notes.

As National President I took the initiative to extract the Productivity Commission recommendations, added what I saw as major objections, and circulated to all National Executive and State Branches for comment and input to a submission in reply that is due by 11 February 2019.

I would appreciate members contributions to our submission, through their sub branches and branches by the end of January so we can finalise a draft for final approval.

Gold Card for Doctors and Nurses from the Vietnam war

Members of the Australian civilian surgical and medical teams that provided medical aid, training and treatment to local Vietnamese people during the Vietnam War will be eligible for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Gold Card.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester today commended this group of men and women who will be eligible for the DVA Gold Card from 1 July 2020. This will provide them with access to medical treatment for all conditions.

"It may have taken nearly 50 years, but today justice is being done as a group of brave Australian doctors and nurses are duly recognised for their selfless contribution as members of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) surgical civilian medical teams that served in Vietnam," Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said.

"Just like our soldiers, these medical personnel are Australian heroes, and it is so pleasing to see their campaign for justice be successful."

Minister Chester said that while these medical teams were not a part of the Australian Defence Force at the time, the Government has listened to their concerns relating to their time in Vietnam.

"We have determined that it is appropriate to provide them with the DVA Gold Card which will ensure they receive the support they need," Mr Chester said.

"The doctors and nurses of the civilian surgical and medical teams provided medical aid and support to the Vietnamese people, often in situations of great hazard and personal peril during the Vietnam War.

"They volunteered, in the great Australian tradition, putting their lives and careers on hold to administer aid to civilians during a conflict in which more than 500 Australians lost their lives in combat."

During the Vietnam War, about 240 doctors and 210 nurses worked in Vietnam under contract with the Department of External Affairs as part of Australia's contribution to a SEATO aid program in South Vietnam between 1964 and 1972. The program aimed to provide medical aid in Vietnamese civilian hospitals and training to local medical staff.

The measure coming into effect is dependent on the introduction and passing of legislation. DVA is aware there are approximately 200 surgical and medical team members that will benefit from this measure.

Editors note.

Much, if not all, of the work by the V.V.A.A. in support of the S.E.A.T.O. Medical teams has been by the Victorian branch who must be congratulated for their efforts and tenacity in pursuing this to such a conclusion. Well done.

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.

INVESTMENT PAYS ON CLAIMS PROCESSING TIMES

- Overall satisfaction of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) services remains above 80 per cent and satisfaction among clients aged 45-and-under is improving.
- Improvements at DVA mean around 85 per cent of rehabilitation and compensation claims are processed in one system and in reduced timeframes.
- The goal to improve the quality of service to veterans and their families by reducing claim processing times is being achieved.

MODERNISATION of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) processes, systems and technology aimed at putting the needs of the veterans and their families first is continuing to deliver results with overall satisfaction of the DVA's services remaining above 80 per cent.

The 2018 Client Satisfaction Survey of more than 3000 randomly selected DVA clients, including veterans, war widows/ers, carers and dependants, found an overall satisfaction rating of 81 per cent for DVA services.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the survey results illustrate DVA's Transformation program continues to show positive results for veterans and their families, but that there is still much more to do.

"Satisfaction for DVA clients aged 45 years-and-under is up from 49 per cent in 2016 to 56 per cent in 2018, and dissatisfaction of this group has more than halved from 31 per cent to 15 per cent for the same period," Mr Chester said

"It also showed for clients aged 45–64 years, satisfaction has improved from 69 per cent to 72 per cent from 2016 to 2018.

"Change takes time and there may be small disruptions to services for clients, however, tracking the ongoing satisfaction of DVA's clients through the survey is one important way to gauge the outcomes and benefits of system improvements."

The Transformation program has an ongoing commitment and investment from Government, including more than \$166 million in 2017–18 and more than \$111.9 million in 2018–19.

Recently, DVA completed the Improved Processing System (IPS) project, which was a two-year \$23.9 million project improving the claims processing services and putting needs of veterans and their families first. As a result, veterans have seen significant improvements in the median time taken to process Permanent Impairment claims under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) and the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related claims) Act 1988* (DRCA).

"The IPS project incorporated improvements as part of DVA's ongoing transformation and now around 85 per cent of DVA rehabilitation and compensation claims are processed in one system and in reduced timeframes," Mr Chester said.

"The target processing time for Permanent Impairment claims under the MRCA and DRCA is 100 days. I am pleased to report that processing times have dropped from a median of 152 and 137 days in the 2016–17 financial year to 78 and 71 days respectively for the last financial year," Mr Chester said.

"This program of work, in-line with DVA's overall transformation program, has contributed significantly to the Government's goals to improve the quality of service to veterans and their families by reducing claim processing times.

"These results reinforce key Government budget initiatives to support DVA's ongoing transformation, including: support for the Veteran Payment, Provisional Access to Medical Treatment, Streamlined Incapacity, Enhanced Family Support and the extension of non-liability health care for all mental health conditions and be available to eligible reservists who may not have had permanent ADF service.

"DVA, through its Transformation program, will make sure veterans and their families will benefit from simplified access to services and support."

Results from the 2018 survey are available on the [DVA website](#).



Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust



What we do

AVCAT is a national independent charity dedicated to providing tertiary education bursaries and scholarships to children and grandchildren of veterans who are in situations of hardship and financial need.

How we do it

AVCAT has awarded over 2500 scholarships since it was founded in 2003. Scholarships are funded through effective and ongoing partnerships with ex-service organisations, the Federal Government and individual donors.

Success

AVCAT is proud to say that 86% of sponsored scholarship recipients have graduated in the past five years. This is far above the national average of 64%*.

(*Australian Government Department of Education and Training, 2018)



OUR VISION

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COUNCIL FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES UNITED BY DEFENCE SERVICE

A new council for women and families is set to provide direct policy advice to the Federal Government.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester has launched the Council for Women and Families United by Defence Service, and said it would provide a forum for women and families to have a direct voice into his office on issues for Defence Members and families.

"Our Government is committed to putting veterans and their families first and it is important that we know what impact defence service has on these groups and they are represented by a united voice," Mr Chester said.

"Service within the Australian Defence Force (ADF) has impacts beyond the serving member – families are the primary support network for members through their ADF service and beyond.

"The women who wear our nation's uniform, are also mothers, partners, sisters and daughters. This brings with it its own set of unique challenges."

The Council will comprise representatives from across Australia, and reflect the broadest definition of 'family'. Mrs Rhondda Vanzella OAM, current President of the NSW War Widows' Guild will act as interim chair, while the council is established.

Mrs Vanzella will be joined by a broad range of members including female veterans, partners, mothers, extended family, and widows. It will include Gwen Cherne, a widow and also a member of the NSW War Widows' Guild who attended the launch.

"I am delighted to be a part of this Council," Ms Cherne said.

"Something I feel very passionate about is ensuring that women and families, who in some way have a connection to our defence force, are supported and that the government hears our voices."

Mr Chester said the Council will work closely with other stakeholders, from ex-service organisations to individuals with an interest in the matters it is advocating for, and then to advise the Government.

"The Council goes further than traditional advisory bodies, investigating matters of concern and developing cohesive solutions with Government for the benefit of all women and families affected by Defence service," Mr Chester said.

"The Council will meet regularly throughout the year and will provide informed advice to Government, drive coherent policy outcomes and advocate on behalf of women and families united by defence service."

The first meeting of the Council will take place in early 2019. Full membership details are being finalised.

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.

Email text in Word or photos in JPG to the editor at www.debrief@vvaa.org.au

The Case for the amendment of DFRDB Act 1973 and the restoration of Unindexed Benefits

The indexation of Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) age retirement pay or invalidity pay has been the subject of a long-running complaint by DFRDB recipient members.

In **April 2001** a Senate Select Committee on Superannuation and Financial Services recommended that;

“the Government examine the feasibility of adopting an indexation method other than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Commonwealth public sector and defence force superannuation schemes, to more adequately reflect the actual increases in the cost of living.”

Finally, in **July 2014**, the Abbott Government acted on that recommendation, after a long-running campaign spearheaded by the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) and Alliance of Defence Service Organizations (ADSO). But it applied the change in the method of indexation **only for recipients aged 55 and over**.

Regarding the DFRDB scheme, neither the Senate Select Committee report nor the DFWA/ADSO campaign indicated any awareness of the fact that, since the commencement of the scheme in 1973, indexation increases have not been applied to the full amount of DFRDB benefits. A fact that was discovered only recently, in a Submission to Cabinet underlying Cabinet Amended Decision No. 1991, dated 8 December 1976.

In response to a projected Budget deficit, that submission recommended that member contributions to the DFRDB scheme should not be indexed. While there was no record of member contributions, the submission equated members' contributions to their entitlement to commutation, that is, a pre-payment of a portion of future benefits, in exchange for a lifetime reduction of those benefits based on their 1960-1962 life expectancy.

Life expectancy has increased steadily since 1960-1962 and differs with age, resulting in indexation increases being applied, typically, to only 60% to 90% of DFRDB benefits, depending on recipients' gender, age on retirement and date of retirement.

Aside from the fact that this grossly exceeds members' contributions to the scheme, those contributions were paid directly into Consolidated Revenue where they earned no income.

The failure to apply indexation increases to the full amount of DFRDB benefits makes unfair indexation based on the CPI pale into insignificance.

It is an abuse of Government power and exploitation of DFRDB members' vulnerability that their superannuation benefits have been appropriated to meet budgetary shortfalls which differs little from an unscrupulous business using its employees' benefits to prop up its operation.

It is time for DFRDB recipients and their ex-service organizations to stand up and be counted.

For more information, please visit:

Australian Defence Force Retirees Association

We act on behalf of Defence Force retirees and represent their Military Superannuation grievances

Visit <https://www.adfra.org/> or email admin@adfra.org.



ADVOCACY CORNER.**V.V.A.A. ADMINISTRATION HANDBOOK****POLICY AP 001****ADVOCACY TRAINING –****AUTHORISATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

The V.V.A.A. Advocacy Training and Development Program Co-ordinator is appointed by the VVAA National Council to ensure the V.V.A.A. is not exposed to unnecessary risk of litigation by the action of welfare and/ or compensation advocates acting on VVAA authorisation, and that all training and future development is appropriate to VVAA needs.

The co-ordinator is to ensure:

- All advocates currently operating under Training and Information Program (TIP) training are given the opportunity to undertake recognition of prior learning assessment under the ATDP protocols.
- That advocates not yet assessed under ATDP protocols have their currency under TIP training and/or refresher training assessed for currency of training. (A three year period is accepted as current).
- The co-ordinator is to assist states in arranging recognition of prior learning, or, new training under ATDP programs.
- The co-ordinator is to assist states in identifying the most suitable advocates, mentors and assessors for the V.V.A.A. future needs.
- The co-ordinator is to be available to assist and advise advocates with a goal of producing the most effective and efficient advocates possible.
- The co-ordinator is to liaise with VITA regarding professional indemnity insurance matters and protocols.
- The V.V.A.A. Advocacy Co-ordinator is to act as the V.V.A.A. Advocacy Registrar.
- The V.V.A.A. Advocacy Registrar is to provide annual certificates of authorisation and maintain

Professional indemnity insurance is provided through membership of the Veterans' Indemnity and Training Association (VITA). VITA requires that member organisations subscribe to the principles of a recognised Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP), do not charge a fee for service (other than a small administrative charge), and formally authorise advocates to act on behalf of the association.

Continued

**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

ADVOCACY CORNER Continued.

The VVAA subscribes to the principles of a recognised Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP), and actively supports the program throughout Australia. The purpose of the instruction is twofold. The first is to protect and maintain the good name of the VVAA, the second, to protect individuals acting, in good faith, on behalf of the Association and veterans. All actions taken under this policy must support these principles.

- To ensure professional indemnity insurance is current Welfare and Compensation advocates are to be registered by a National VVAA registrar (appointed by the National Executive) annually.
- Authorising Officers are the VVAA National President and National Secretary. Applications for authorisation are to be lodged annually, with the Advocacy Registrar.
- The VVAA Advocacy Registrar is to maintain a list of authorised advocates, available to the Veterans Indemnity and Training Association on demand; and; Authorisation may be revoked or reinstated, without notice, by means of a written direction of the National Executive.

V.V.A.A. Advocacy Registry, Authorising officer.

All practicing and potential advocates both Welfare/ Wellbeing and Compensation should be aware of this policy, Advocates and their sponsoring V.V.A.A. Branches and Sub Branches should be aware of the risk taken by not operating within the agreed policy,

Professional indemnity insurance through VITA may not apply if authorisation is not current and issued by the agreed authorising officers. (see below)

Branches and Sub Branches issuing local authorisations should consider taking out separate professional indemnity insurance cover for themselves and their advocates.



An extract from the current VITA Brochure

WHO IS NOT COVERED?

VITA's professional indemnity insurance policy does not cover:

- advocates who belong to ESOs that are not VITA members, even if the advocate has ATDP accreditation.
- advocates who do not hold a letter of authority from their ESO to act on its behalf.
- advocates who charge a fee to their client*, and
- advocates who provide legal or financial advice.

* VITA permits the recovery of administrative costs up to \$50.

REUNIONS

HEADQUARTER COY, 1ST AUSTRALIAN LOGISTIC SUPPORT GROUP and it is held in BALLARAT,

from the meet and greet on the 8TH NOVEMBER
2019 till the 11TH NOVEMBER 2019

for ACCOMMODATION AND REUNION DETAILS
contact TONY BROWN on 0428852736 or
email on tony11raye13@bigpond.com.

30 Terminal Sqn Reunion Townsville 2019

16-18 Aug 19

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together in a fun and relaxed atmosphere to
share the trials and tribulations of being a ter-
mite (and possibly some tall tales)

Craig Ingram
Unit 5 28 lowth St Rosslea Qld 4812
0407173321
craingram@westnet.com.au

HMAS Duchess Reunion 2019

Notice, Venue and Dates

Registrations are now called for the 9th reunion of HMAS Duchess Crew, to be held at Hotel Grand Chancellor, Ade-
laide, over the weekend 29th to 31st March, 2019.

Full cost will be \$200.00, which includes Friday night light meal or cocktail service (yet to be decided), Saturday night
dinner and Sunday brunch, with a certain amount of dry till Friday and Saturday night. Deposit of \$50.00/head for
prospective attendees to be paid 31st December 2018, balance of payment by 15th February, 2019. Phone or email
for registration form and details to Bruce Bowmaker Ph **0403243795**, or email littlefish.in@bigpond.com.

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



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THE WAR WIDOWS GUILD OF AUSTRALIA

"We all belong to each other. We all need each other. It is in serving each other and in sacrificing for our common good that we are finding our true life."



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.