



President's Message

Anzac Day this year was like no other in our remembered history, in our Newsletter this month we have included some photographs that had been taken around the Scenic Rim on this Memorable Day 25th April 2020. I would like to acknowledge Mrs. Kim Williams who as many of you have noticed painted the poles around Beaudesert, with the Anzac theme. Kim came and spoke to me to ask if our Sub-Branch would like some poles to be painted outside some Veterans homes. Kim has painted approximately 12 poles concerning the Anzac theme and for many of our Veterans, one was either in their street or near to their homes. Each pole took 5 hours to complete, and the weather during this time was very warm, we thank Kim sincerely for her dedication to this project. Kim has a family with Military history, so she has an understanding of the significance of being a Veteran.

On your behalf the "Ode" was spoken and the Last Post Played and the Flag lowered at 4.28am on the morning of 25th April 2020. Some of our Members have spoken about standing at the end of their driveway and neighbours coming to speak with them about their service and how lovely it was to know they had a Veteran living in their street, a recognition that may have gone unnoticed in previous years.

We have tried to contact all of our members during the last few weeks to see if any assistance has been required, most of you have family that are being supportive, however we are still operating and if you require assistance please ring the office 5541 3720.

Your Sub-Branch has continued to transport patients to their important medical appointments during this time, some of you that access this service are Veterans not covered by DVA. We sincerely thank all our volunteers that provide this service.

We have liaised with Rev. David Hawke (a Veteran himself), to provide some care packages for the Aged and vulnerable within our community. We have also offered the Meals on Wheels assistance with transport to deliver meals to those socially isolated in our Community.

We have been receiving some positive feedback from our Members and Community for our professional handling of the restrictions that are in place during the Covid-19 implications, making sure that all our premises and busses are hygienically cleaned with industrial solutions, and we are strictly keeping the Social Distancing intact to keep the virus at bay, and to make sure our wonderful staff and Volunteers keep safe.

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Noel V Parker

Although our Advocate has not been available in the office, he has been working on behalf of the Veterans needing assistance with DVA claims from home, and we thank him for his dedication as he is also home schooling his young children. Thank you Jay.

Our Senior Vice President Errol has been in hospital for a few weeks recovering from a major operation, we are pleased to hear that he is now in rehab and should be home in the near future, we wish him better health in the future.

Wish all our Members and their families in keeping safe and look forward to the Social Isolation being rescinded so we can all get back together again to resume a normal life.

Carol Castles

President

Museum – Harry’s Haunt

Due to COVID-19, Harry’s Haunt will be closed until restrictions lifted.

Beauesert RSL Museum Co Ordinator

PAWS/Wellbeing

PAWS office is closed due to COVID-19 restrictions for clients.

Welfare Officer is working from home and can be available on email or

Please call the Office.

Please call on Ph: 5541 3720 or email: welfare@beauesertslsubbranch.com.au

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS)

A free and confidential counselling service for Australian veterans, peacekeepers and their families.

For more information on VVCS services and eligibility, please visit the VVCS website (www.vvcs.gov.au) or phone 1800 011 046.

PAWS TEAM



LEST WE FORGET

We remember the following Sub-Branch Members who have sadly passed away this year 2020.

♦ Barney McCabe ♦ Desmond Biss ♦ Robert Campbell

Members General Meeting
(Wife/Husband/Partners most welcome to attend)

➤ Future dates to be confirmed

♦ We hope you can attend for your input and support to the Sub Branch ♦

Calendar of Coming events - 2020

BEAUDESERT SUB BRANCH

**** Due to COVID-19 Social Distancing Restrictions - All Events are Pending ****

25 th July 2020	Presidents Luncheon
18 th August 2020	Vietnam Veterans (Long Tan) Day
14 th September 2020	Peace Keepers Day
11 th November 2020	Remembrance Day

SUB BRANCH NEWS

BEAUDESERT SOCIAL GOLF CLUB

The Beaudesert Social Golf Club was established in 2007. Half a dozen or so Golf playing Veterans from the Sub-Branch got together and founded the Social Golf Club. They play at Beaudesert Golf Club the second Monday of the month. It costs \$5 per year to join the Social Golf Club and \$10 per game. There is no requirement to be a member of the Beaudesert Golf Club, however, they would love to see more ex-Military and Veterans in their ranks. It is a great day with 18 holes of Golf, Morning Tea, BBQ lunch and prizes in excess of \$100. There are also full Bar facilities. They have players of all skill levels, but the main aim of the day is to have fun, enjoy yourself and meet some likeminded people. They have our own Handicap System so everyone regardless of ability has a fair chance to win Prizes. There are plenty of members that have motorised Carts and only too willing to give a fellow player a lift. Why not come along and have a game??
For more information contact the Beaudesert Golf Club.

Birthday Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge the following members who have had their Birthdays in March, April and May, 2020



March 2020

Grahame B. ♦ Errol. B ♦ Barry C. ♦ Russell H. ♦ Byron P. ♦ Donald P. ♦ Ross R. ♦ Robert S. ♦ Jeanette R. ♦ Leslie L.
♦ Errol S. ♦ Matthew W.

April 2020

Roy A. ♦ Paul B. ♦ Kevin B. ♦ Jerry G. ♦ Peter H. ♦ Larry H. ♦ Michael I. ♦ Robyn J. ♦ Maurice M. ♦ Allan M. ♦ Ian S.
♦ Alwyn T. ♦ Bevan W. ♦ David W. ♦ Stephen R. ♦ Peter W.

May 2020

Herbert B. ♦ John D. ♦ Anthony H. ♦ David H. ♦ William H. ♦ Richard M. ♦ Bruno M. ♦ Ian M. ♦ Andrew M. ♦ Dale Q.
♦ Tim S. ♦ Ronald S. ♦ Scott S. ♦ Brian B. ♦ Patrick O. ♦ Roger R. ♦ Jay C.

POEM

WHEN DAWN BREAKS

I was told of a plan by some far wiser than me
History is to be made this ANZAC dawn, for all to see
No virus can kill our spirit, or blind our eyes to a very special day
No parades or cheering crowds, yet all as one, we will do it our way

In early dawn, there will be lights, candles and torches, row upon row
In front of family homes, they will flicker and glow
Beloved national flags on show from windows, fences and lawns
All to be readily seen by the ghosts of our Fallen, in the light of dawn

Their long columns will march on the streets, unseen and with no sound
Imagine them as it once was, so young with dreams abound
Marching to war, heads held high and never looking down
In that special dawn, on parade again in every street of every town

When the sun rises high, and families are back behind closed doors
The columns will be gone, and the streets empty once more
Surely you heard the echoes of their footsteps as they marched away?
To a camp where they sleep, until bugles call for the next ANZAC Day

OTHER NEWS

The Department has been working closely with a number of supermarket chains to ensure vulnerable veterans can access a range of priority assistance services from supermarkets when purchasing online or shopping in-store. While the Gold Card is not a concession card, it does identify our most vulnerable veterans, and war widows, of which there are over 120,000 across Australia.

From today, Gold Card holders are eligible to access the priority services offered by Coles, IGA, Foodworks and Woolworths. The services being offered include priority online ordering, home delivery, in-store collection and access to a range of boxed basic grocery items which is delivered by Australia Post.

More detail on the offerings from each supermarket can be found at the following links:

Coles	https://www.coles.com.au/customernotice/onlinepriorityservice .
Foodworks	https://foodworks.com.au/homedelivery
IGA	https://igashop.com.au/
Woolworths	https://www.woolworths.com.au/shop/discover/priorityassistance

While Gold Cards may not be identified on landing pages (as we are waiting for updates to the websites), the DVA Gold card is listed or can be included when completing the online registration process.

DVA health and wellbeing news



Veterans and their families can now get anonymous counselling support with new **Safe Zone Support**. It's a free, anonymous counselling line for vulnerable veterans and their families who are reluctant to seek mental health care due to concerns about remaining anonymous. This support line will provide mental health care and assist with managing stress, trauma or significant life challenges, with a particular focus on the special forces community. Veterans and their families can reach it by calling 1800 142 072 - more information on the new service is available [online](#). Safe Zone Support is in addition to the existing Open Arms 24/7 Counselling Line which can be reached on 1800 011 046.

Coping with Trauma

Five new booklets have been developed to support veterans and their families who are **Coping with Trauma**. These books aim to provide practical information and are designed to provide practical help to veterans and family members who are living with the effects of trauma.

The five booklets are free to download via the At Ease website www.at-ease.dva.gov.au/resources/coping-trauma-military-family

The National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention

The veteran community has welcomed the recent announcement of a powerful new independent body which will be created to investigate all suspected veteran and Australian Defence Force (ADF) suicides and causes to help save lives. The National Commissioner will have the enduring power, scope and resources to investigate suicides and related issues as they arise, rather than being restricted by a one-off review looking at past practices. The National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention will be empowered to perform two roles:

- The Commissioner will be an independent and permanent public accountability body, with the same powers of a Royal Commission to compel the production of evidence and summon witnesses and make findings and recommendations to Government.
- The Commissioner will also provide an ongoing investigative function of individual cases of suicide, working with each state and territory coronial office, making recommendations to Government.

The Defence Service Homes Insurance Scheme - can be contacted on **1300 552 662** (24 hours or emergencies) or email **insurance@dva.gov.au** (email response during normal business hours). Clients should provide their name, policy number and brief details of the damage.

Veterans, their families and clients of DVA requiring emergency counselling support can receive this through the Open Arms by calling **1800 011 046 (24hrs)**.

Veterans may also apply for DVA Crisis Payments - <https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-is121-crisis-payments> - dependent on eligibility, or access Lump Sum Advance Payments from their pensions.

Other support services include: Disaster Welfare Assistance Line - **1800 018 444**



DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

13 March 2020

MEDIA STATEMENT

JUSTICE FOR DISABLED VETERANS INCORRECTLY TAXED

Some Veterans medically discharged from the ADF and receiving Invalidity Benefits from their DFRDB¹ superannuation had some good news today, when Justice Logan handed down his decision at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal² in Brisbane. Justice Logan was quite scathing about the treatment of veterans “broken by age and war” in this encounter with the taxation and military superannuation regimes.

Quite a few Veterans leave the ADF with unrecognized medical conditions, especially mental health issues. They should have been medically discharged and received an Invalidity Benefit. When this medical condition is eventually recognized, sometimes many years later, the Veterans can be granted a retrospective medical discharge backdated to the date of leaving the ADF.

Unfortunately, when doing the calculations of backdated payments, the ATO and the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation got it wrong. Veterans appealed.

This was a recognized Test Case setting a precedent for all affected Veterans. The Veteran’s appeal was upheld. DFWA calls on the government to do the right thing:

- Respect the judgement. Don’t stress Veterans more by appealing the decision;
- Pay back what is owed to all affected Veterans and do it promptly; and
- No spin. No retrospective changes to the law. No technical limitations restricting refunds just to those disabled Veterans who managed to lodge an appeal.

No silly games, and in the words of the Covenant, “be sensitive to any physical or mental injury or disease they may have suffered and respect their military service.”

DFWA pays tribute to those veterans and their families who are enduring the stresses, uncertainties and personal costs of being Test Cases for your mates. DFWA also extends thanks to the legal team, both ADF veterans, who went above and beyond. WFD.

Contacts		
National President: Kel Ryan (0418) 759 120	www.dfwa.org.au	Queensland President: John Lewis (0439) 192 574

¹ Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits scheme.

² Wayne Douglas vs Commissioner of Taxation. Brisbane AAT 2016/6964 and 6965

Sent in by a Member

THE OIL PATCH WARRIORS OF WORLD WAR II

Seventy-six years ago, a Band of Roughnecks went abroad on a top-secret mission into Robin Hood's stomping grounds to punch oil wells to help fuel England's war machines.

It is a story that should make any oilman or woman proud.

The year was 1943 and England was mired in World War II. U-boats attacked supply vessels, choking off badly needed supplies to the island nation. But oil was the commodity they needed the most as they warred with Germany.

A book "The Secret of Sherwood Forest: Oil Production in England During World War II" written by Guy Woodward and Grace Steele Woodward was published in 1973, and tells the obscure story of the American oil men who went to England to bore wells in a top secret mission in March 1943.

England had but one oil field, in Sherwood Forest of all places. Its meager output of 300 barrels a day was literally a drop in the bucket of their requirement of 150,000 barrels a day to fuel their war machines.

Then a top-secret plan was devised: to send some Americans and their expertise to assist in developing the field.

Oklahoma based Noble Drilling Company, along with Fain-Porter signed a one-year contract to drill 100 wells for England, merely for costs and expenses.

42 drillers and roughnecks from Texas and Oklahoma, most in their teens and early twenties volunteered for the mission to go abroad. The hands embarked for England in March 1943 aboard the HMS Queen Elizabeth. Four National 50 drilling rigs were loaded onto ships but only three of them made landfall; the Nazi U-boats sank one of the rigs en route to the UK.

The Brits' jaws dropped as the Yanks began punching the wells in a week, compared to five to eight weeks for their British counterparts. They worked 12-hour tours, 7 days a week and within a year, the Americans had drilled 106 wells and England oil production shot up from 300 barrels a day to over 300,000

The contract fulfilled; the American oil men departed England in late March 1944. But only 41 hands were on board the return voyage. Herman Douthit, a Texan derrick-hand was killed during the operation. He was laid to rest with full military honors, and remains the only civilian to be buried at The American Military Cemetery in Cambridge.

"The Oil Patch Warrior," a seven-foot bronze statue of a roughneck holding a four-foot pipe wrench stands near Nottingham England to honor the American oil men's assistance and sacrifice in the war. A replica was placed in Ardmore Oklahoma in 2001

It is by no means a stretch to state that without the American mission, we might all be speaking German today.

Special thanks to the American Oil and Gas Historical Society.

"There are no noble wars, just noble warriors"





Mitre 10 Beaudesert Display
 Raised donations for Sub Branch



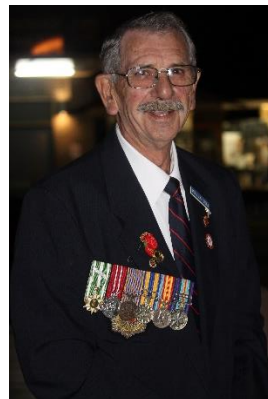
Lloyd Venz Picture - little radio that played loudly
 and is in the photo Lloyd bought in Vietnam
 when he was on five days R & R.



Ex-Member from Bundaberg



Les Allen



Phil Johns



Ian McDougall





Anzac Dawn paying respects

Wreaths laid on ANZAC Day



Scenic Rim Community Spirit Lighting up the Dawn

Lloyd Venz



Ron Smallwood



Richard Mackay



Les Allen

