FROM WARFARE TO WELFARE

Issue No. 71 June 2017





Patron: Air Vice-Marshal Chris Deeble AO CSC



The Veterans Support Centre Belconnen actively pursues the welfare of all Defence Force members and their families.

Our services are available to both serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force and certain Government employees.

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Veterans Support Centre Belconnen

Vietnam Veterans & Veterans Federation of Australia (VV&VFACT)

9 Burkitt Street PAGE ACT 2614 Phone (02) 6255 1599 Fax (02) 6255 1577

Email office@vscact.org.au Website www.vvfact.org.au

Office Hours 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday

President: Ian Thompson **Committee:** Brian Agnew

Senior Vice President: Daniel Burton Robert F. Jones

Vice President: Geoffrey Bolwell John Kearns

Treasurer: Sidney Gainey Peter Saint

Assistant Treasurer: Lyall Camp John Sainsbury

Secretary: Robert West Arthur Gale

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Executive Support Officer: Karen Toscan Ronald Culton

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Hospital Visiting: Terry Duffy/Dennis Hebden John Kearns

Grants: Trevor Goodhew/Don Richards

PUTP (PTSD Support): David Tonacia

The Committee can not do everything required to keep the services the Centre offers fully operational without the efforts of non-committee members. This assistance is greatly appreciated and if you would like to assist the Centre in any way, please contact the Office on (02) 6255 1599.

VV&VFACT is a registered charity established to assist serving and former Defence Personnel, Veterans and some Government agencies from all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in their dealings with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). VV&VFACT also pursues the welfare of their families to assist them to optimise the quality of their life as the effects of Defence service take their toll. Formed in 1994, VV&VFACT is an incorporated entity (ABN 58 534 419 650). It is registered as GST exempt, a tax deductible gift recipient and an income tax exempt charitable institution.

Presidents Report

Critical Shortage – Please Help

The constant demand for Advocacy services from the hard-working VSC Practitioner's continues at the normal busy pace and all Advocates are working at maximum. Unfortunately, a member who has been mentored with the view of assisting the veteran community, has succumbed to personal pressures, and I was advised recently that he is forced to withdraw from all duties at the VSC. On a brighter note, there are still two members in the training pipeline and hopefully they will continue their training to conclusion.

Given that clients are now being forced to wait extended periods prior to seeing an Advocate we are in critical need of reinforcements in the Advocate ranks. If any member is inclined to help their mates, now is the time to put your hand up and step forward. Please speak to me and I will answer any questions you may have.

The following brief story clearly indicates the dearth of Advocacy services in the field: On 26 April 2017, I flew to RAAF Tindal as the guest of honour at the 75 Squadron, 75 Anniversary celebrations. Although a private trip, as an ex-fighter pilot I really enjoyed being back on an operational base sniffing fumes from F/A 18 aircraft and telling stories from "the old days"!!.

As a consequence of the trip to RAAF Tindal, I have been asked to return to the base in August and over a 4-day period conduct 6 client interviews per day to assist RAAF members with DVA claims assistance. Depending on the success of the venture, VSC Advocacy services may become a regular thing in RAAF Tindal to satisfy serving member requirements.

To be honest, if the visit to Tindal does eventuate, the additional clients gained by the VSC will be difficult to cope with given our current workload and existing Advocate numbers.

ANZAC Day 2017

The Vietnam Veteran community was well represented at the ANZAC Day march, despite the tumbling rain. Following the drenching at the War Memorial service I wonder how many of us retired home hurt for a change of clothing before kicking on with regular ANZAC Day activities? My thanks to John Kearns for his ingenuity to remedy a hardware deficiency in the Banner.

Final Training Information Program (TIP) Course Training

The last TIP training course to be run in Australia was conducted in Canberra during the period 17 to 19 May 2017 (inclusive). Senior Advocates, Ross and Ray attended and are now refreshed for a further three years under the VITA rules.

After 23 years of very successful and productive operation, TIP no longer exists and all future Advocate training will be conducted by Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) accredited facilitators and assessors.

Bus Trips

Two more very successful and well-attended bus trips have been conducted over this period. No doubt the highlight of the "Bus Season" is the visit to Ron Culton's property and the shenanigans that aging veterans and their partners seem to get up to once they enter the property. I am advised that fine food and drinks invariably light the competitive flame in otherwise sedentary people and the competition in the various events is fierce. Well done to everyone involved in the organisation and conduct of this most enjoyable day. An especially large "Thank You" must go to Ron who digs deep into his own pocket to make this day such a memorable experience for all concerned

Vietnam Veterans Day Planning

The Vietnam Veterans Federation (ACT Branch) has jointly conducted the Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance ceremony in the ACT, in association with the Vietnam Veterans Association (ACT) Branch, since 2007. This shared arrangement has entailed jointly organizing, conducting and of course, funding the ceremony by the local Vietnam Veteran community.

The ACT Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association recently announced that due to age of members and lack of interest displayed to maintain the Association, the VVA is no longer able to represent the interest of members at various veteran forums and is effectively defunct. As a result of the winding down of the Association, in future, all of the costs associated with arranging this important Remembrance ceremony, will be borne by the ACT Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Federation alone. Planning activities for the 18 August ceremony are in hand and initial requests for assistance have been made to the National Capital Planning Group and the ADF Ceremonial Section.

Thank you to all the volunteers who keep our organisation running in such an efficient and productive manner. I can assure you that all the behind-the-scenes work is essential to maintain the Federation as a first- class provider of Advocacy services to our well-deserving veteran community.

Ian Thompson
President/Advocate
02 June 2017



ANZAC DAY 2017



They shall not grow old,

As we who are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them,

Nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun

And in the morning

We will remember them.

LEST WE FORGET







Due to the nature of the weather on ANZAC Day this year we have very limited photos. Please go to www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/anzac/national for more photos.

VIETNAM VETERANS REMEMBRANCE DAY FRIDAY 18th AUGUST 2017

On Friday 18th August 2017, Vietnam Veterans and their families will pay tribute to those who served, suffered and died in and as a result of the Vietnam War. The Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day service will be held at the Australian National Vietnam Forces Memorial on ANZAC Parade, Canberra, ACT.

All Vietnam Veterans, their families and friends are encouraged to attend and pay their respects to our comrades no longer with us.

The service is scheduled to commence at 1000 hours and conclude approximately one hour later. Should the weather be inclement the service will proceed as planned. We ask that all be in place at 0940hrs for the official arrivals.

A venue for the traditional camaraderie afternoon following the service will be advised in the near future.

Any infirm Veterans attending or preferring to be seated for the service can arrange this by email to vietvetsday@gmail.com or by telephone on 0438 374 443 Please make these arrangements no later than Monday 14th August 2017.

For further information please contact Ian Thompson or vietvetsday@gmail.com



Bus Trip to Ron Cullton's Property and

The 2nd Annual Wombat Way Games

On Wednesday the 19th April, members from the Veterans Support Centre went on a DVA funded bus trip to Ron Culton's Property "Wombat Way" which is 40km's past Braidwood. We stopped at Braidwood for a coffee break and look around, then we were on our way. When we arrived we were treated to a delicious lunch of roast meat, veggies and yummy apple pie. Once we had all stuffed ourselves, it was time for the 2nd Annual Wombat Way Games. The weather was glorious and the games were a lot of fun! The winners on the day were Allison Bennett, Dallas Stow and Ron's neighbour ??. The bus trip back the The VSC was quiet one as everyone was tired from the day. Thanks Ron it was a fantastic day and all who attended have raved about it. Bring on next year!!!









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9 Veterans Support Centre























The ACT Health Village Creek Centre is located at 37 Kingsmill Street, Kambah ACT.

The centre is open 8:30am – 5pm Monday to Friday and 11am – 12pm Saturday and Sunday for Equipment collection and return only. The phone number for the centre is (02) 6207 0658.

Services that operate at the Village Creek Centre are as follows:

Equipment Loan Service (ELS)

The Equipment Loan Service (ELS) operates an extensive fleet of loan equipment for short-term use by people in their own home. All loans are subject to stock availability and require a referral by an approved health professional; this could include a physiotherapist, occupational therapist or registered nurse depending on the type of equipment required. Please note that General Practitioners are unable to refer to the Equipment Loan Service. If you don't have a current health professional and/or need advice on approved prescribers, please contact ELS on (02) 6207 0658, CHI on 6207 9977 or the Independent Living Centre on (02) 6205 1900 for further advice. Subject to stock availability, ELS staff are able to issue equipment on the basis of referral from an approved health professional. Equipment loans through ELS are available for a maximum three-month period and all loans are free. Fees will however be incurred if loan items are damaged or not returned.

ACT Domiciliary Oxygen and Respiratory Support Scheme (DORSS)

The ACT Domiciliary Oxygen and Respiratory Support Scheme (DORSS) - is part of the ACT Equipment Service. The DORSS scheme provides oxygen and associated respiratory equipment to eligible residents of the ACT. A referral by a medical specialist is required for all oxygen and associated equipment either by a respiratory physician or other appropriate referrers (Cardiologist, Oncologist, palliative care specialist or Paediatrician). All respiratory equipment (CPAP/VPAP machines) requires a referral by a respiratory specialist following sleep study. All Oxygen, CPAP/VPAP and associated equipment is provided at no charge. Please contact the administrator for further information on the eligibility criteria required for access to this service.

Clinical Technology Service (CTS)

The Clinical Technology Service (CTS) performs the following activities for clients: design and manufacture of custom devices to aid people with severe physical disability, in collaboration with SWAPS, (Specialised Wheelchair and Posture Seating Service) installs off-the-shelf seating components in wheeled mobility aids to meet client and carer needs, and services and repairs wheeled mobility devices. This service is available to people with disabilities living in the ACT. Fees and charges may apply to work performed.

ACT Equipment Scheme (ACTES)

The ACT Equipment Scheme (ACTES) provides access to a range of equipment for eligible Canberran's. This is available for permanent residents of the ACT with long term illness or disabilities to assist them to live safely at home in the community. To be eligible for this service, you must be a permanent resident of the ACT who has resided in the ACT for at least six months. Clients must be ineligible to receive assistance from other government funded schemes, private health schemes or schemes such as the EACH packages and clients must hold a current Centrelink Pension or Health Care Card. Please call the administrator for information on cost and eligibility for the ACT Equipment Scheme.

Specialised Wheelchair and Posture Seating Service (SWAPS)

The Specialised Wheelchair and Posture Seating Service (SWAPS) includes: assessment and advisory services, prescription of customised wheelchairs, prescription of specialised seating systems, and customising and fitting of wheelchairs and specialised seating systems. SWAPS is a consultancy service that helps clients, carers and treating therapists address the wheelchair needs of clients who: are chair bound with severe postural / tonal factors, require specialist Therapy assessment and who require a customised wheelchair and/or a pressure management system. The cost of equipment and / or of services separate from SWAPS, is not covered by SWAPS. Initial access to this service is by referral through the Community Health Intake on (02) 6207 9977.

Prosthetics and Orthotics (P&O)

The Prosthetics and Orthotics (P&O) service provides the following: assessment, advisory services, manufacture, fitting and repair of artificial limbs or support devices. The Prosthetist / Orthotists are university qualified Allied Health professionals who provide clinical care, artificial limbs and devices to support or align the body, to reduce pain and enhance mobility and function. Fees may apply.

Driver Assessment and Rehabilitation Services (DARS)

The Driver Assessment and Rehabilitation Service (DARS) provide advice, assessment, rehabilitation and training for people wishing to drive after an injury or illness, or who have a disability. DARS is for residents of the ACT and the surrounding region who are assessed as medically fit to drive, but for whom there is a query about driving capacity. It is advisable that you discuss your driving with your General Practitioner (GP) or specialist if you have a condition that could impact on your driving. You must be identified as medically fit to undertake an assessment before you can be seen by DARS. Please call the administrator for more information on DARS access, referral process and associated fees.

Vocational Assessment and Rehabilitation Service (VARS)

The Vocational Assessment and Rehabilitation Service (VARS) helps people gain skills needed to gain employment. We also help people maintain their current employment if their physical capacities change. We can also help people gain skills that may not necessarily be work related but can help with self-confidence and self-esteem. People can access this service if they are currently undergoing a rehabilitation program with the Community Rehabilitation Team and require help with work. Referrals can be made by via the Community Health Intake line on (02) 6207 9977. This service is open part-time.

Transitional Therapy and Care Program (TTCP)

The Transitional Therapy and Care Program (TTCP) is a national initiative to provide older people who are at the end of their acute or sub-acute hospital stay with up to 12 weeks further transitional therapy and care to recover to their full functional capacity, to return home and make arrangements for long term care. The TTCP service is collaboratively managed by ACT Health, Rehabilitation, Aged and Community Care (RACC) services and Baptist Care. There are 49 packages funded by the Commonwealth Government, 15 of which are based at the Mullangarrie Unit in Red Hill, and 34 are provided in clients' own homes. Patients will be asked to make a financial contribution to their care. The fee is calculated on a daily basis with a maximum amount based on the single pension. Fees will be agreed prior to admission to the service. Access to the services will not be affected by the ability to pay

National Archives of Australia

Indigenous Australians at War from the Boar War to the present

Gallery Tours: Take a guided tour of the award-winning exhibition that celebrates the courage, tenacity and the resourcefulness of indigenous Australians in the armed forces.

Tuesdays 11 am and Thursdays 1 pm. Free: Bookings essential at www.naa.gov.au

Discover our Anzac history online

As part of the Anzac centenary project, we are building a very personal history of World War 1. Visit Discovering Anzacs to view unique Anzac profiles, linked to their original service records. Help tell the story of Australia and New Zealand during the war by adding your own family stories, photos or service details to the profiles.

www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au

Free entry. Open daily 9 am – 5 pm

Phone: (02) 6212 3600

www.naa.gov.au

Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes ACT



Biggest Morning Tea 10th May 2017





Thank you to all of you who came along and supported our Biggest Morning Tea on 10th May 2017. We had a lot of yummy food and we raised \$640 for cancer research. A big thank you to Colin Greef and Peter Seal who kept us all entertained with some great music!





Biggest Morning Tea 10th May 2017











The Veterans Support Centre: Notice of AGM 2017

The Annual General Meeting of The Veterans Support Centre Belconnen will be held on Tuesday 19th September at the Stephen King Memorial Centre, 9 Burkitt St, Page at 11am.

Members should be aware of the following:

- Nomination for committee positions close at 3pm, Monday 21st August. A valid
 nomination needs a nominator and a seconder who are both financial members of
 The Veterans Support Centre. The nominated person needs to be a financial member
 and needs to accept the nomination in writing. Forms for nominations are available
 at The VSC or on our web site. Alternatively nominations can be accepted at the AGM
 on the day.
- Notice of motion for AGM (in writing) are due by no later than 3pm on Monday 21st August.
- Notice of intention to change objectives or constitution (if required) closes by 3pm
 Monday 31st July.
- Voting on any motions received for those not attending the AGM will close on Monday 18th September at 3pm.
- The AGM will be followed by the normal Tuesday BBQ.

Further details and information about the AGM will be published on Facebook or by email. Your assistance is requested with providing the committee with any agenda items by Monday 31st July.

AGENDA FOR AGM

- 1. Ode
- 2. Apologies
- 3. Minutes of AGM 22nd September 2016
- 4. Presidents Report
- 5. Treasurers Report
- 6. Committee Appointments for 2017/2018
- 7. Motion of Notice
- 8. Appointment of Auditor for 2017/2018
- 9. Close of Meeting

Election of Committee Members 2017/2018

At the AGM on 19th September 2017 a committee comprising of the following positions shall be elected from financial members who have nominated to be office bearers.

Executive Committee

President, Senior Vice President, Vice Presidents (2)
Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

Committee - 10 members (including Public Officer)

All the above committee positions are open for election

Your support is requested by standing for any of the above positions by completing the nomination form on page 21 and lodging with Christopher Flynn, the Public Officer by 3pm Monday 21st August 2017.



2017 AGM COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Nomination Form for the positions of Office Bearers for the 2017 Annual General Meeting of The Veterans Support Centre Belconnen is below. The meeting will be held at 11.00am on Tuesday the 19th September 2017 at the registered premises of the Federation: 9 Burkitt Street, Page.

Please remember that the persons nominating, seconding and accepting the nomination must all be financial for 2017. Nominations close on Monday the 21st August 2017 at 3.00pm. Nominations can be completed and mailed or faxed to the office on Fax: **62551577** or emailed to: **leannda.mackie@vscact.org.au**

NOMINATION (Nominator to complete)	
I:	Membership No
Hereby nominate	Membership No
For the position of	Signature
SECONDER (Second nominator to complete)	
I	Membership No
Hereby second	Membership No
For the position of	Signature
ACCEPTANCE BY NOMINATED	
I	Membership No
Hereby accept my nomination for the position of	
Signature	Date

Christopher Flynn

Public Officer

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Treasurer's Report

Since the last Treasurer's Report I can let members know that we have received a top up of funds from a number of grants including DVA.

A number of donations have been received from members and from friends of VSC which is also helping to provide services to our members. I would encourage all members to spread the good work we do and perhaps identify some nice benefactor who would be prepared to donate to our organisation.

We have also been fortunate to continue to receive a steady income from the Queanbeyan RSL and others who use our premises.

The Food Van has excelled since the last report with one period bringing in over \$12000 as income from a number of very profitable events. Unfortunately these ongoing events are taking a toll on our resources including the Food Van but more importantly on our very important Food Van staff.

There is a proposal that we may consider replacing the Food Van but that is the easiest part-supporting the very excellent Food Van staff with new and extra help will have to be our focus for the future if we are to continue to reap the returns from the Food Van.

An audit of our accounts is due before the Annual General Meeting which is coming up in September. I believe the audit will show that we have been able to keep a steady cash flow over the period however like everything else we will not know when the next drop in support will occur.

Over recent moths we have been able to upgrade our IT system and that is still ongoing while we 'tune' the system. As a cost saving measure we have also installed solar panels on the building housing the Food Van and that will help us reduce the costs of running the Centre.

In summary, the accounts are being well managed by Lyall who is the mainstay behind the day to day running of the Centre finances. Jenny Goodhew continues to provide that steady hand and keen eye to ensure that we are staying on the right side of the ATO and our creditors. I thank both enthusiastic people who give a great deal of their time keeping our financial system running.

Sidney Gainey

Treasurer

Coral Sea, Midway and after

Japanese planning created crucial errors:

The battle of Midway has long been the subject of hype: "decisive ... the battle that doomed Japan ... the most important naval battle of the Second World War"; the list goes on. And yet, with all due respect to the momentous nature of the battle itself, Midway cannot be properly understood in isolation. Instead, it is necessary to contemplate the nature of America's seminal naval victory in terms of both the naval battle that immediately preceded it (Coral Sea), and the twin campaigns (Guadalcanal and New Guinea) that came after.

The early months of 1942 had seen the Allied strategic position in the Pacific ripped to shreds by advancing Japanese forces. Backed by the world's finest carrier force and powerful land-based air formations, the first wave of assaults from the ferocious Japanese Army had crushed Malaya, captured Singapore, Hong Kong, Guam and Wake, and driven the US Army into its doomed redoubt on Bataan in the Philippines.

Realising that Allied defences were even weaker than they had anticipated, the Japanese had wasted no time in launching follow-on attacks, quickly capturing Borneo, Java, Bali and other islands in the Malay Archipelago. They also extended their positions south-east by capturing the crucial harbour at Rabaul on New Britain. Australia was now directly threatened. Indeed, Darwin had already been powerfully attacked on 19 February by Japan's vaunted carrier force. By March—April 1942, Japan had effectively secured all the raw materials it had gone to war for in the first place. It had humbled the militaries of Great Britain, Australia, the Netherlands and the United States. And not incidentally, it had sown the seeds for the eventual destruction of white colonialism in Asia.

It was at this high-water mark of Japanese militarism that things began to fall to pieces for Japan in a strategic sense, because they had no clear idea of what to do next. Though the imperial military had been deep in discussion of strategic options since January, these deliberations were hampered by two key problems. The first was the tug of war between Admiral Yamamoto, head of the Combined Fleet, and his ostensible masters at Naval General Headquarters (GHQ), who were busily trying to wrest strategy-making back from Yamamoto. The navy was at war with itself. The second factor was the Imperial Army, which alone possessed the manpower to conduct major ground operations, but which was loath to become entangled in large campaigns outside its main area of focus in China and Manchuria. The result, perhaps inevitably, was that the strategy that emerged from these tortured deliberations was nothing more than a hodgepodge of competing interests, each jostling for the right to be at the head of the line.

Ironically, one of the losers in this contest over strategy actually ended up going first. Wishing to acquire a ground base from which to threaten northern Australia and simultaneously to secure the flank of Rabaul, the Imperial Navy fixed its eyes on Port Moresby, on the southern coast of Papau. Up to this point in the war, the Japanese had basically been expanding into a military vacuum, encountering little in the way of naval opposition.

What little they had run into, they had annihilated. The Imperial Navy felt that the services of only a single heavy carrier division (Carrier Division 5, composed of Shōkaku and Zuikaku) were all that would be required to ensure Moresby's capture.

In this they were badly mistaken. In the battle of Coral Sea, Carrier Division 5 found itself opposed by a joint American—Australian naval force centred on the American carriers Lexington and Yorktown. Indeed, it is worth noting that if the US Navy had not executed the Doolittle Raid against Japan three weeks earlier, there is every likelihood that Enterprise and Hornet would have been on hand as well, which might have resulted in the outright loss of Shōkaku and Zuikaku.

The resulting battle, fought on 7–8 May 1942, was a highly confused affair, replete with poor scouting, faulty communications, and a great deal of groping about as both sides wrestled with how to fight history's first carrier battle. When the smoke cleared, the result was a tactical victory for the Japanese, who sank the Lexington (and believed they had sunk the Yorktown as well) for the loss of the light carrier Shōhō. Strategically, however, Coral Sea was a Japanese defeat, as it deprived their navy of both carriers at a crucial time. Shōkaku had been badly damaged by bombs. Zuikaku, though unscathed, had brought home a total of only 56 operational aircraft of the 128 the two carriers had set out with. Carrier Division 5 would not be participating in any operations for the next couple of months at least.

Even before the battle of Coral Sea, Admiral Yamamoto had been advancing his strategic vision of a contest at the island of Midway. His basic reasoning was that as long as American aircraft carriers remained at large, Japanese gains would never be secure. After the Doolittle Raid, the destruction of America's carriers was a goal no one would contest. Thus, by overcoming the initial opposition of first his own naval headquarters and then the army, Yamamoto succeeded in pushing his Midway operation ahead.

The resulting battle, fought on 7–8 May 1942, was a highly confused affair, replete with poor scouting, faulty communications, and a great deal of groping about...

It must be noted that Yamamoto's basic logic was in fact sound. America's carriers were indeed the sole naval asset of any consequence left to the US Navy. Likewise, those few remaining flight decks were the guarantor of the supply lines running to Australia, which both sides knew would be used as a major base for any eventual Allied counter-attack. The loss of those flight decks would absolutely cripple Allied naval operations until America's vast shipbuilding programs began pouring forth their cornucopia of vessels in 1943. Japan's military leaders were keenly aware of these production-based realities, and knew that they had only a relatively short time in which to bring the war to a successful close. Thus, Yamamoto's desire to sink America's carriers was well-founded.

What was less well-considered, however, was the battlefield on which he thought he could sink them. Believing the US Navy to be a morally beaten force, Yamamoto focused on creating a battle that was close enough to the Americans' main naval base at Hawaii that they could be easily lured out to battle, and yet outside the range of the very powerful air forces based in Oahu, the second largest of the Hawaiian Islands.

This fundamental estimate of low American morale drove Japan's operational planning, with several consequences. The first was that it induced the Japanese to disperse their forces, in the belief that by not showing their complete hand, they would avoid spooking the Americans before they had sortied for battle. Likewise, by attacking an outpost just 1,100 nautical miles (2,000 kilometres) from Oahu, they handed the advantage of better logistics to their enemy. Among other things, Pearl Harbor and its extensive repair facilities were relatively near at hand. This made possible the Herculean efforts that restored the heavily damaged Yorktown to working order in the nick of time for her to make her final, valiant contribution to history. Finally, while Midway was outside the tactical air range of Oahu, it was close enough that land-based aircraft could be ferried to the atoll. This made Midway a much harder nut to crack than Yamamoto had anticipated.

In retrospect, it can be seen that Naval GHQ was right, and Yamamoto wrong, in his choice of location for follow-on operations in mid-1942. Had Japan chosen to fight the Americans again in the south Pacific (or, for that matter, if they had simply sent their entire carrier force to Coral Sea in the first place), the results might have been radically better for the Japanese. The Americans had already demonstrated they were prepared to fight fiercely to protect Australia's supply lines. Further battles in the same area would have strained the Imperial Navy's flimsy logistics (based on Truk, now Chuuk, in Micronesia), but the Americans would have been at the end of a very long leash themselves. In this sense, the Imperial Navy paid dearly for its inability to contemplate that such a "backwater" could, in fact, be the scene of a decisive naval battle.

None of this was apparent to the Japanese at the time, though, and the battle of Midway went ahead. Superlative Allied cryptographic work had handed the US Navy the enormous benefit of being able to read sufficient of Japan's naval codes to craft a sound operational plan. Admiral Chester Nimitz, the American Commander in Chief of the Pacific, audaciously placed his three carriers in a position to ambush the unwary Japanese striking force. Admiral Nagumo, the Japanese carrier force commander, had no inkling of the presence of American carriers until it was too late for him to react decisively. The battle, fought over 4–7 June, was actually decided by late morning on the first day. American dive-bombers, approaching unseen through broken cloud cover, completely surprised Nagumo's force as it was beginning preparations to launch a counterstrike against the US carriers. In the space of about five minutes, American pilots knocked out three Japanese carriers – Akagi, Kaga, and Sōryū. The Hiryū lasted until mid-afternoon, but she, too, was eventually located and fatally bombed. In one stunning day, Japan had lost her four finest carriers. With them went 248 carrier aircraft and over 3,000 sailors and aviators. The Americans lost only Yorktown. The outcome was a catastrophe for Japan, and one from which it could never recover.

Midway merely underlined the utter bankruptcy of the naval strategy Japan had adhered to over the preceding 20 years.

Yet, for all its importance, it is in the immediate aftermath of the battle that we can glimpse some of the paradoxical ways in which it was not decisive. Victory at Midway, obviously, did not win the war for the Allies overnight. Indeed, Midway merely underlined the utter bankruptcy of the naval strategy Japan had adhered to over the preceding 20 years.

The Japanese had fondly hoped (indeed, expected) that by crushing the American carrier force, they would compel the Americans to see the hopelessness of their position and be brought to the bargaining table. Yet when the positions were reversed, and the Imperial Navy had itself been handed an irredeemable defeat that meant the premature death of its own carrier force, one detects precious little inclination on the part of the Japanese to head for that same bargaining table. Decisive naval defeats, apparently, were only for the other fellow.

Likewise, for all the positive effects that the battle had on the fortunes of the Americans, Midway and the central Pacific were unlikely to be the scene of further combat in the near future. This is because Midway itself wasn't really worth fighting for in the first place. And now that the momentum in the war had shifted, this was actually not a good thing for the Americans.

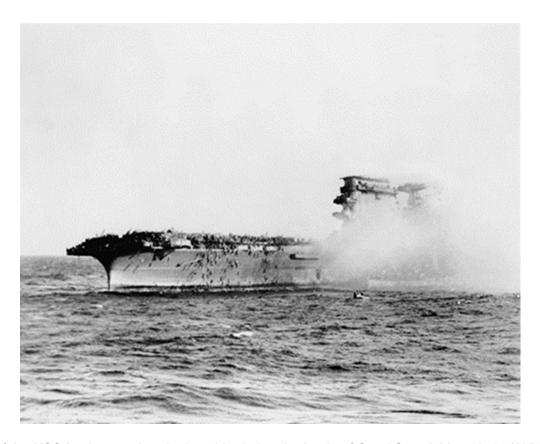
From an American perspective, the war to this point had been rather episodic in nature. In the short term this was a blessing, as the Americans were relatively weak and needed to regroup from the initial Japanese onslaught at Pearl Harbor. For the first six months of the war, the US Navy had been outnumbered in carrier flight decks, not to mention smaller combatants such as cruisers and destroyers. Likewise, Japan's superior capabilities in massing carrier air power had not yet been matched by America's carrier aviators.

After Midway, though, the US and Imperial navies were fairly evenly matched at sea, at least in terms of the primary coin of the realm — fleet carriers. America's naval and air forces would grow stronger as 1942 continued. And as the stronger opponent, with potentially deeper reserves of men and machines, the Americans needed to find somewhere that they could get the Japanese into a vice and then begin applying the sort of grinding, day-in, day-out attritional combat that was needed to destroy Japan's military. Thankfully, the Japanese provided the US with just such a location in Guadalcanal. And as a bonus, they handed the Australians (later joined by the Americans) a second battlefield of almost exactly the same nature in New Guinea.

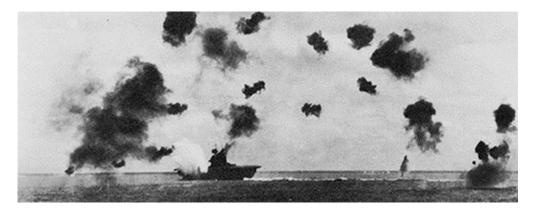
Although it would have seemed cruelly ironic in 1942 to describe the brutal Guadalcanal and Kokoda campaigns as blessings for the Allied cause, in retrospect it is clear they were precisely that. There is a regrettable (if understandable) tendency on the part of military histories written in both America and Australia to view these campaigns as two separate animals. The Japanese, however, saw them for what they truly were – the twin heads of a monster that was beyond their means to vanquish. They had created the New Guinea "head" themselves by insisting on undertaking further offensives, even after the destruction of their carrier force – which makes their self-inflicted dilemma all the more incredible. And this transformation of Japan's strategic fortunes took place with wondrous speed. From the battle of Coral Sea to when the first Americans set foot on Guadalcanal, a mere three months passed and by then the Kokoda campaign was underway as well.

In terms of naval losses, the fighting around Guadalcanal, and later in the Solomons, did more damage to the Japanese navy than Midway ever had. Guadalcanal broke the back of the imperial fleet by destroying or damaging a good part of its cruiser and destroyer force, and wiping out the last remnants of Japan's elite naval aviators. It also cost the Japanese army tens of thousands of troops.

New Guinea, for its part, evolved into an endless nightmare for Japan, resulting in the eventual loss of more than 100,000 soldiers. These two campaigns consumed Japanese aircraft – both navy and army – at catastrophic rates, and to absolutely no avail. These were exactly the sort of operations the Allies needed to be implementing towards the end of 1942. Their locations didn't really matter: what mattered was the attrition. Thus, the final and most meaningful effects of Midway were to be found nowhere near the tiny atoll itself, but nearly three thousand miles away in the south-west Pacific.



Crew of the USS Lexington abandoning ship during the battle of Coral Sea, 8 May 1942. AWM 157901.



USS Yorktown hit during the battle of Midway. AWM P02018.115

Story and pictures from Australian Memorial Website





Is gambling having an effect on your health?

The ACT Gambling Counselling and Support Service is proud to acknowledge National Men's Health Week being held 12-18 June 2017. This year's theme is "Healthy Body – Healthy Mind: Keeping the Balance". In the ACT alone, 14,998 people (5.4%) report symptoms of experiencing harm associated with their gambling. Between 5–10 people are significantly impacted by one person's gambling.

Whilst the majority of us enjoy the occasional bet however for many people impacted by gambling it can have serious effects on their physical, mental, emotional and financial wellbeing. And this can lead to consequences for family members, friends and colleagues. Listed below are some indicators that your gambling is no longer a social activity and may be causing you harm. Do you:

- think about gambling a lot or all the time?
- gamble more and more over time?
- have trouble cutting back or controlling your gambling?
- feel restless or irritable when attempting to cut down or control your gambling?
- gamble to help cope with other issues in your life?
- try and win back past losses?
- keep secrets or hide your gambling from other people?
- borrow to gamble?
- miss out on other activities because of your gambling?

If you or someone you know is experiencing harm through gambling, contact the ACT Gambling Counselling and Support Service today on **1800 858 858** to access free, anonymous and confidential support. To access 24 hour gambling help online visit: www.gamblinghelponline.org.au





THE CANBERRA REX HOTEL & SERVICED APARTMENTS

The Canberra Rex Hotel is a 4.5 Star hotel located at 150 Northbourne Avenue Braddon.

The Hotel is within walking distance of the CBD, notably Lonsdale Street, the heart of Braddon's dining and shopping precinct. Canberra's national icons are all within a short drive of the Hotel.

Guests can stay in serviced apartments, luxe suites and sleek hotel rooms. The newly rebuilt rooms have been carefully thought out, punctuated with contrasting accents and materials. Access to an array of Hotel features is available to guests during their stay, including, a 20m indoor heated pool, gymnasium, complimentary (basic) Wi-Fi, 24-hour reception and on-site restaurant and bar. Our rooftop bar and lounge, Canberra's first, will be opening 2017.



One of the newly refurbished Crown Suites

Respecting our Elders - Elder Abuse Prevention in the ACT

What is Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse is any behaviour or action within a relationship of trust that harms an older person. It includes financial, psychological, physical, sexual, social abuse and neglect.

Forms of Abuse of Older People

Physical Abuse: the infliction of pain or injury. This can include hitting, pushing, punching, kicking, biting, scratching, shaking, slapping, dragging, burning, inappropriately restraining or confining, inappropriately medicating, and damage to property.

Psychological Abuse: inflicting mental anguish through actions that cause fear of violence, isolation or deprivation, and feelings of shame and powerlessness. It may include verbal intimidation, humiliation or embarrassment, shouting, bullying, threats of physical harm, threats of institutionalisation, withdrawal of affection (e.g. refusing access to grandchildren), emotional blackmail, damage to, or removal of property and possessions, removal of decision-making powers, or preventing access to services.

Sexual Abuse: unwanted sexual behaviour including rape, indecent assault, sexual harassment or inappropriate touching.

Financial Abuse: the illegal or improper use of an older person's finances or property. It may include stealing, misappropriating money, forcing changes to a will or other legal documents, denying access to personal funds, forging signatures or misusing Power of Attorney.

Neglect: the failure of a carer to provide the necessities of life to a person for whom they are caring. Neglect can be intentional or unintentional. Intentional neglect is when an older person is abandoned or not provided with adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical or dental care, or where their spiritual needs are not met. It also includes improper use of medication, poor hygiene or personal care, or the refusal to allow other people to provide adequate care. Unintentional neglect occurs when a carer does not have the skills or knowledge to care for a dependent person. They may not be aware of the types of support available, or may be ill and unable to meet the person's needs.

Social Abuse: preventing a person from having contact with friends or family, or access to social activities. It includes intrusion, isolation, and preventing independence using threats, manipulation, and control.

The ACT Elder Abuse Prevention Program

The ACT Elder Abuse Prevention Program aims to reduce and prevent incidents of elder abuse through community awareness raising, accessible information and referral systems, service response guidelines and staff training. The Program is coordinated by the Office for Veterans and Seniors Affairs within the Community Services Directorate. The Elder Abuse Prevention Network (EAPN) and the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing (MACA) provide advice

Older Persons Abuse Prevention Referral and Information Line (APRIL)

The Abuse Prevention Referral and Information Line (APRIL) is a confidential telephone service for callers who want to discuss elder abuse issues and seek advice and referral on options. The service operates during business hours. The APRIL number is 02 6205 3535.

ACT Elder Abuse Prevention Program Policy

The Policy outlines approaches for preventing and responding to abuse, roles and responsibilities of key agencies, and reporting requirements. The ACT Government will be working with key agencies to implement the Policy and to ensure the best possible prevention and support strategies for the older members of our community.

Elder Abuse Prevention Pathways

Elder Abuse Prevention Pathways provides a quick reference guide for service providers to respond to incidences of elder abuse.

ACT ABUSE PREVENTION REFERRAL AND INFORMATION LINE PHONE: (02) 62053535

about this program.

Veterans Support Centre Notice Board

GUTTER-VAC: Don't risk a fall, give Gutter Vac a call. The Gutter Vac team has been cleaning gutters here in Canberra for over 13 years. They offer the most advanced and highest quality gutter cleaning services available. Services they provide are: Gutter cleaning, storm water sumps, solar panels, rainwater tanks, chimneys, bird droppings, insulation removal and ceiling cavity clean ups. Gutter Vac complete work from the smallest domestic jobs to the largest warehouses and university campuses.

Give them a call today on 0407 701 135 or email: actsouth@guttervac.com.au

Reserve Forces Day wreath laying ceremony. 24th Jun 2017 at 1330 for 1400hrs. At St Johns Anglican Church, Reid. Dress is ANZAC Day dress with medals. Afterwards everyone is invited to afternoon tea in the church hall. If you have any enquiries please contact Ian Sayers on (02) 6254 5347 or isa34235@bigpond.net.au

ST JOHNS AUMBLANCE CANBERRA ACT - FREE FIRST AID SESSIONS: Learn how to recognise and manage heart attacks or strokes and how to preform CPR and use a defibrillator, or instruct someone else to. For seniors, retirees and their families.

Contact St John Ambulance ACT Phone: (02) 6282 399

http://www.cbdcollegefirstaid.edu.au/?Phillip;Info;2256

Protect yourself against Shingles: A **FREE VACCINE** is now available for people aged 70 – 79 years old. Shingles is a painful blistering rash caused by reactivation of the varicella zoster virus – the same virus that causes chickenpox. Sometimes pain in the affected region can be severe and prolonged. When it lasts more than three months it is called post herpetic neuralgia. Other complications may include scarring, skin infections, loss of vision or hearing, pneumonia and/or neurological complications. The vaccine is available from your general practitioner or vaccination provider.

www.immunise.health.gov.au

<u>Collection of Files:</u> If you have had assistance from a Pension Officer at The Veterans Support Centre and your case has been finalised, please call the office to arrange collection. We have limited space available for storage.

Call (02) 6255 1599 and ask for Taryn.

ARE YOUR DETAILS CORRECT?

As our main form of communication is through email, please ensure your details are correct by emailing **office@vscact.org.au**.

Subject - Membership details update

Include the following-Full name

Contact phone number/s

Date of birth

Change of address if applicable

Or call (02) 6255 1599 to update. This is only if your details have changed!

Need to contact Defence Community Organisation(DCO)?

For advice, support or local community information, call our all-hours Defence Family Helpline on **1800 624 608**

Run by DCO, the Helpline is the best way to access the programs and services that we offer to help Defence families manage the military way of life.

The Helpline is available 24 – 7 and is staffed by qualified human services professionals including social workers and psychologists.

You can also email the Helpline at DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au

HELPLINES

VVCS Veterans Helpline: Free call 1800 011 046 (24 Hours)

Defence Community Organisation: 1800 628 036 (24 Hours)

(This helpline allows you to talk to someone from your service eg: Army, Navy, RAAF)

Beyond Blue: 1800 224 636

Veterans 360 Australia: 1800 838 360









FOOD VAN DATES

JUNE FRIDAY 9TH AUST. CHICKEN SHOW—MIXED GRILL (EPIC)

W/E 10-11TH AUST. CHICKEN SHOW (EPIC)

NOTE: THE FOOD VAN HAS A BREAK OVER THE WINTER

If you would like to volunteer on the Food-Van please contact the office

office@vscact.org.au

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

JUNE MONDAY 12TH QUEENS BIRTHDAY (VSC CLOSED)

AUGUST FRIDAY 18TH VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

SEPTEMBER TUESDAY 19TH VSC AGM

MONDAY 25TH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DAY (VSC CLOSED)

FIRST POINT OF CONTACT

Our President Ian Thompson would like to remind everyone that Leannda and Taryn in the Office are the first point of contact for everything regarding The Veterans Support Centre. This includes but is not limited to Pension Officer appointments, ute bookings, functions and any general information you may require. Contact details are as follows:

Phone: (02) 6255 1599

Fax: (02) 6255 1577

Leannda: leannda.mackie@vscact.org.au

Taryn: taryn.simpson@vscact.org.au

The Veterans Support Centre Belconnen, offers the following services and activities:

- Assistance to lodge claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Representation at the Veterans Review Board (VRB)
- Representation at the Administration Appeals Tribunal (AAT)
- A team who visit all the hospitals and the hospice in the ACT
- The Food Van which is our main source of fundraising
- A walk for health programme
- A choir
- A guitar group
- A woodwork shop
- A metal work shop
- A library
- Tuesday BBQ 12:00pm \$5.00 per head (Arrive from 11:30am)





Above all else, the Veterans Support Centre is a place where you are always welcome, so come in, grab a coffee and have a chat!

Mounting Medals and Memorabilia

		J		
Ross Smith	PH:	(02) 6292 1266	MOB:	0418 345 995
Tony Mann	PH:	(02) 6295 2038		
Christine Wilde	PH	(02) 6231 9922	MOB:	0409 900 315
Dave Etherington	PH:	(02)6292 2699	MOB:	0419 819 503

Reunions and Events

If you wish to notify members of forthcoming reunions/events, please notify the Veterans Support Centre by emailing Taryn at taryn.simpson@vscact.org.au with details.

WALKING GROUP

The walking group is open to all Veterans and their family and friends

The walking schedule is available on the notice board at The Centre and copies of the schedule are available at our office. If it's raining still meet at the appointed starting place to decide to walk or go and have coffee.

GUITAR GROUP

The guitar group continues to meet on Friday morning at 9:30AM. New members are always welcome, no matter what stage of playing you are. If you are interested in learning to play either guitar or banjo, or simply just want to come along and jam with us call Ian Schafferius on 0434 717 093. Or just be here on Friday morning and join the group. You don't need an instrument to get started as there are a couple of guitars and banjos that can be taken on loan.

Hospital Visiting Team Help is needed Now!

Veterans need your help by becoming part of our hospital visiting team.

Training and Support is provided.

I can tell you hospital visiting is very rewarding and you get to meet some very interesting people. If we can get someone to smile for 5 seconds then we know that we have enlightened their life for a moment in time even though they may be gravely ill.

If anyone would like to join our hospital visiting team, then please contact:

Calvary Hospital

Dennis Hebden 0407 018 196

The Canberra Hospital, John James & National Capital Hospitals

Terry Duffy 6296 1068 after 5:00 pm.



Fundraising for The Centre

Coins for The Centre

The Centre has a fund raising method that all can join in without too much trouble or effort. It's EASY - at your leisure at home just fill a container with any excess five cent coins and when full or when you are ready bring it into the Centre and a tax deductible receipt will be given with thanks.

Aluminium Cans and Car/Motorcycle Batteries

Another way to support The Centre is to bring in your empty aluminium cans and batteries to the Centre and place in the bin near the green shed as marked. These cans and batteries are cashed in to the recyclers and The Centre makes some money.

Library

Our library is located at the Stephen King Memorial Centre in Page and has proven to be quite popular with members. We have a large range of books and DVD's to interest all members. Our library runs on an honours system. Donations always gratefully received.

FUNDRAISING MONEY TINS

The Centre wishes to thank the following businesses for their support in raising funds to benefit veterans in our community:

- RMC Golf Club Duntroon
- AFFCANS-ADFA
- Cookery Nook-Hawker Shops
- Avion Café-Brindabella Business Park
- Page Tavern-Page Shops
- Moby Dicks Tavern Kippax Shops
- Russel 2 Canteen-Russel Hill Offices
- Campbell Park Canteen-Defence Building Campbell Park

Donations

Donations are always appreciated at any time. If you are considering a donation (**tax exempt**) to a charity please consider VVFACT. The VVFACT is a registered charity established to assist veterans from all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in their dealings with DVA and enhance the quality of their lifestyle as the effects of war service begin to take a heavier toll. Formed in 1994, VV&VFACT is an incorporated entity ABN 58 534 419 650. It is registered as GST exempt, a deductible gift recipient and an income tax exempt charitable institution. Please make all donations payable to VV&VFACT.

Ready to Write?

This Newsletter is for, by and about members of the Veterans Support Centre.

Which means we're always looking for stories and photos that bring the branch to life.

So if you or your organisation has something to contribute and share with the members, drop it in to the office or email it to office@vscact.org.au

It doesn't need to be fancy. You provide the info and we can make it usable. The only request is – please use plain text formatting – just as it comes out of standard Microsoft Word 2003. Anything fancy can take hours to re-do so it fits the newsletter.

Keep in mind, too, that the newsletter pages are only half the size of a normal A4 page, so any tables need to fit that small A5 size. Photos can be either prints or .jpg digital images.

Deadlines for future Newsletter issues

SEPTEMBER Issue 72 August 25 2017

DECEMBER Issue 73 November 24 2017

MARCH Issue 74 February 23 2018

If you or anyone you know have a Facebook account please go on and **LIKE** our page! Feel free to comment on what you see and if you have something you feel should be on our Facebook page, please let Taryn in the office know. Just Google "Veterans Support Centre Belconnen Facebook".

To learn how to set your Facebook privacy settings you can GOOGLE "Facebook privacy settings" and it will explain how to set basic privacy settings, manage settings for how you connect and how to control what you are tagged in.



IMPORTANT- Contact Details

Emails from Veterans Support Centre are regularly sent out to members. If you have not recently received any emails, please advise current email address to office@vscact.org.au and include your full name, date of birth, and any other relevant information, so we can update our records. Members without email please phone the office on (02) 6255 1599 during office hours to update your details.

2017 Springtime Antiques & Collectables Fair

In the Albert Hall, Commonwealth Avenue, Canberra

- Friday August 18 6pm-9pm
- Saturday August 19– 10am-5pm
- Sunday August 20– 10am-4pm

Presented by Rotary Club of Canberra City

Established, Genuine Antiques & Collectables Fair

Admission \$8 Concession \$6 Children under 14 years admitted free

ENQUIRIES: 02 6231 5244 OR 0418 631 445 Refreshments available

Proceeds to support local organisations that assist those less fortunate in the ACT.

Sponsors of the Fair include WIN TV and other local businesses.

Wheelchair access is available

Selkirk

ANTIQUES & RESTORATIONS

Offering personalised service and sales.

Specialising in Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian

Mahogany, Cedar and walnut furniture.

Small silver items, both sterling and plate.

Selkirk Antiques have selected pieces of Doulton,

(including Flambé') Shelley & Moorcraft Ceramics

Furniture restoration service available.



29 Summerland Circuit, Kambah ACT 2902 02 6231 5244

Mobile 0418 631 445 Fax 02 6231 3656

The Veterans Support Centre Newsletter

Advertising Rates

Contact the office staff for sample sizes and rates. The editor reserves the right to vary the size of the advertisement for aesthetic purposes if necessary. There will be no added cost to the advertiser if this occurs. The newsletter is published quarterly (March-June-September-December), with cut off dates the last Monday of the prior month e.g. May for June. Circulation is approximately 500-600.



Membership Are you Financial?



Membership of the Veterans Support Centre is from **February to December.** Membership gives access to training and workshop facilities, a range of social and community activities....and a place to get together with a mob of like-minded Veterans. Membership is open to Veterans of any conflict, serving and retired service personnel. Cost is \$35 single, \$40 family. Payments by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, bank transfer or credit card through the office. Current members are required to complete the top section of the form only, located in the back of this newsletter or you may download a PDF version of the Membership Form from the website. Print it out, complete and mail it to the office with your payment. Please provide a stamped self-addressed envelope for your receipt and Membership Card. (Membership is tax deductible). Thanks to those who have already renewed their membership, it is much appreciated. (NB. Direct Debit payments must include your name and initials) See membership form on opposite page.

Please remember: Even if you do not require our services any more, we have many more veterans who require assistance, so your funds play a vital role in the welfare of the veteran community.

Please show that you care! Phone 6255 1599 Now!

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2017 - INVOICE NOW DUE!!

The Veterans Support Centre actively pursues the welfare of all Defence Force members and their families. Our services are available to both serving and former members. Your membership fees and donations help support others in need and are tax deductible. Membership is due in February each year and a \$5 capitation fee goes to our National Office to support the publication of the national magazine.

RENEWAL INFORMATION

Second Name:

First Name:

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Postal Address:									
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Current Occupation:	Email Addres	 SS:							
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Can you help with any of the following: Please circle									
Food Van: Yes No Cleaning Yes	s No Maintenanc	e res No Garden	ing Yes N	NO Hospit	tal Visiting <mark>Yes No</mark>				
Membership is per Calendar Yea	ar and is due Febi	ruary each vear. S	Subscrip	tions are \$	\$35 for single and \$40				
Membership is per Calendar Year and is due February each year. Subscriptions are \$35 for single and \$40 for family (includes dependants). You can pay by cheque, cash or EFTPOS at the Centre. Membership									
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payments by credit card can be accepted over the telephone. <u>Please include a stamped self-addressed</u> <u>envelope for your receipt and Membership Card if sending through the post.</u> Payment via Internet Banking									
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The Veterans Support Centre Belconnen would like to thank the following Friends and Sponsors

AC/DC Mitchell (02) 6262 2680

(Automotive Computer Diagnostic Centre)

A Class Signs (02) 6241 5535

Canberra Sand and Gravel (02) 6280 4133

Cosmorex Coffee (02) 6280 7511

Department of Veterans Affairs 1800 555 254

Olmos Investments (Caltex Kippax, Holt)

Pace Farm Eggs 1300 653 447

Seears Workwear (02) 6280 0500

The Green Shed (Mitchell) 0407 830011

(Mugga Lane) 0433 337 125

Trend Windows and Doors (02) 6260 1266

Vikings Club Erindale-Fishing Group (02) 6121 2100

Waste Away Hume (02) 6260 1288





