



SOUTHERN DOWNS EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

"SUPPORT THROUGH FRIENDSHIP & UNDERSTANDING"

INC NO. IA57463

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"HORIZONS OUTLOOK NEWS"

February 2019

President's Report:

Welcome back to another year and hope all enjoyed your Christmas break and we are all looking forward to a self-motivated 2019 together.

It was sad news that we were informed in December 2018 of the passing of **Les Nielsen**. Les was a Life Member of the Warwick RSL Sub Branch where he helped many veterans over a long period of time. He has been a past President of that association and was a financial member of SDESA. We will miss his quirky sense of humour.

Celebrating our **SDESA Christmas Party 2018** was something different and something brilliant. After receiving some quotes to hold our Christmas Party around Warwick, it was clear that it had become so expensive to hire and have catered, we decided to have our Christmas Party at the Centre last year and have it catered. **Mark Bradford Catering** from Yangan, did an outstanding task with his staff, for the setup and catering for the members and guests. We suspended the alcohol ban for the evenings function and all who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. *(Some pictures on Page 4.)*

Maybe a similar casual dinner could be arranged in July this year, let me know your thoughts on the idea, as we would need your support to have the function instead of a 'Dine In Out' night.

Welcome to new member Stephen Wright, Steve would like to get involved in Welfare and Pensions as soon as we can have him do the courses, through the Advocacy Training and Development Program. Assisting members with the various forms and claims was the backbone of the former 'Veterans Support and Advocacy Service' and we would like to emulate that in the coming year.

Bunnings sausage sizzles and cake stalls are enjoyed by thousands of Bunnings customers every week. These are valuable fundraising opportunities for local community groups, and all of the funds raised go straight to the community group conducting the fundraiser. Bunnings sausage sizzles are extremely popular and are typically booked out up to six months in advance.

Their stores also provide community groups with the opportunity to host an awareness table in the foyer, which allows groups to talk to customers about their cause and fundraise. We are hopeful of conducting such at Bunnings Warwick in the future, which will help raise funds for our ongoing costs and to assist in the welfare and functions for our members.

Our first **Dine In Out** venture for 2019, was held at *The Coffee Club* in January. On the **13th February** we are heading to the '**Condamine Sports Club**' for the evening. We have booked for 30 members, so just turn up around 6.00pm and you will be made most welcome.

Our next **General Meeting** has been set down for **Friday, 29th March 2019**, commencing at **10.00am**. This allocates members to have their say on how your association is running.

***Your Mate
Ken.***



IN MEMORY

**Leslie (Les) Harold
NIELSEN
R62896
1947 – 2018**



**Branch: RAN Naval Airman
Category: Aircraft Handler**

CALENDER FOR FEBRUARY 2019



FEBRUARY 2019

Friday 1st 9.00 am *SDESA Centre*

Wed 6th 9.00 am – 12 Noon. Services Memorabilia Display.

Friday 8th 9.00 am *SDESA Centre*.

Wed 13rd 9.00 am – 12 Noon. Services Memorabilia Display.

Wed 13th 6.00 pm Dine In/Out 'Condamine Sports Club'

Friday 15th 9.00 am *SDESA Centre* & **Committee Meeting**.

Wed 20th 9.00 am – 12 Noon. Services Memorabilia Display.

Friday 22nd 9.00 am *SDESA Centre* and **BBQ-Sausage Sizzle-Raffle**.

Wed 27th 9.00 am – 12 Noon. Services Memorabilia Display.



SDESA LADIES Monday Lunches

25th February 2019



"BELLE VUE CAFÉ"

***SDESA Ladies meet each month on
Mondays at 12.00 Noon,
to have a luncheon together.
For information contact:***

***Helen Nielson
Ph: (H) 07.4661.5772
Mob: 0429.615.772***



Margaret Trahair (15th)



Lee Wells (20th)

M113 replacement project.

The multi-billion-dollar project to replace Army's M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers has taken another step forward with the formal release of the Request for Tender for LAND 400 Phase 3 – Mounted Close Combat Capability.



The project will see Army's capability significantly enhanced with a fleet of up to 450 modern Infantry Fighting Vehicles and 17 Manoeuvre Support Vehicles. Key differences between this new tender and the recently announced Phase 2 (*won by Rheinmetall's Boxer CRV*) is that there are more than double the number of vehicles required – and the winning vehicle will likely be a much heavier, definitely with more firepower, and roll on tracks (*as opposed to wheels*).

Rheinmetall's Lynx, unveiled in Paris two years ago (*pictured above in AusCam colour scheme*) is a likely strong contender. "This will be the largest investment in Army's capability ever undertaken and will provide our troops with a modern close combat capability.

The vehicles will be equipped with high levels of protection, firepower and mobility that will enable sustained operations, varying from peacekeeping to close combat."

Just as with the LAND 400 Phase 2 Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles, Australian industry involvement and Australian workers will be critically important to this project.

Defence is placing greater emphasis on a coordinated and programmatic approach to Army's biggest project ever. A new Armoured Vehicle Division will be created to consolidate large programs like LAND 400, LAND 907 – Main Battle Tank Replacement and LAND 8160 – Enhanced Gap Crossing Capability into a programmatic 'mega project'."

When fully delivered, the LAND 400 Program will allow Army to successfully sustain mounted close combat operations against emerging and future threats as part of a joint force.





The SDESA Ladies Monday Luncheon Group, had a wonderful Christmas get-to-gether at Warwick Gardens Galore during December 2018.

The SDESA Members Christmas Dinner was held at the Centre, on the 13th December with fantastic results.





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Secretary's Notes:

I have advised the committee that I will not be available for a committee position at the **Annual General Meeting**, to be held at the Centre, on the **4th August 2019** commencing at **10.00am**.



I have held that position of secretary for the past five years and have served on committee prior and would like some respite. Therefore, the committee is looking for a member, preferably with some computer skills, to fill the secretary's position, preferably prior to the AGM, thus enabling the person to have some training on both computer system and photocopier, instead of being thrust into the position. The committee is also looking for an Editor for our Monthly Newsletter from August, again with some Microsoft and PDF computer skills.

I have enjoyed the honorary position in both the 'Veterans Support and Advocate Service Aust Inc Warwick Auspice' and coordinating the new 'Southern Downs Ex-Services Association Queensland Incorporated' with the committee members.

I have not been without my detractors, as President Ken Ashton and myself have personally received many derogatory emails over the later period, from one obnoxious absurdly false person, but not withstanding the inappropriate emails from that person, it has been a rewarding position to see the association where it is today. Our Wednesday and Friday morning chats, over a cream biscuit and cuppa are the envy of many associations, as the members and guests congregate to talk, look over the excellent selection of services memorabilia display, or check out a video on our new sixty-five-inch flat-screen television.

Thank you for your support.

Barry E. Kelly

DVA NEWS

Motor Vehicle Registration Queensland

PCC holders and Veterans receiving at least 70% disability pension or who have at least 50 impairment points, may be eligible for a discount on the registration fee for one vehicle and one boat.

For more information visit the concessional registration website at:

www.qld.gov.au/transport/registration/concession/cheaper

Motor Vehicle GST exemption

Once every 2 years or 40,000 km, eligible veterans are entitled to GST exemption on the purchase of a new car. GST exemption is also available on spare parts necessary for the running of a motor car. For more information refer to DVA Fact Sheet - DP79 Supply of Cars and Car Parts GST Free.

More Information about Concessions State Seniors Card

Different concessions may be available for holders of Seniors Cards. All State Governments issue their own Seniors Card. The Seniors Card is issued free and provides access to savings on a range of goods and services provided by participating businesses.

For more Information visit the Seniors Card website at:

www.qld.gov.au/seniors/legal-finance-concessions/seniors-card

Seniors Business Discount Card

This card gives you access to discounts when purchasing goods and services from participating business outlets in Queensland. You must be 60 years or over and meet all the criteria to be eligible. For more information on the Business Discount Card contact Smart Service Queensland on 137 468 or visit their website at: www.seniors.qld.gov.au



For more information about Queensland Government concessions call **137 468** or visit the website at

www.qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/.

TPI Payment Not Splittable – Family Court Judge:



In a major victory for injured defence veterans, a Family Court judge has ruled that invalidity payments are immune from divorce settlements. The judgement means that thousands of veterans have been wrongly advised by the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC formerly CommSuper) that the payment was “splittable”.

It could involve hundreds of millions of dollars in incorrect payments and unnecessary court action. The ruling was made by Justice Michael Kent in Queensland after a Family Court battle by a 44-year-old army veteran who ran his own case against the might of the Commonwealth. Justice Kent ruled that the CSC’s argument that invalidity entitlements under the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS) were “superannuation” was wrong. The ruling was not contested by the veteran’s former spouse. EARLIER: Bravery Trust fills the gap for battling veterans and their families Despite the judgement, the CSC still regards invalidity benefits as “a form of superannuation payable as income support for the pensioner for the extent to which the person has been incapacitated for civilian employment by their ADF service.” Justice Kent ruled that the CSC’s argument was incorrect and that the benefit was insurance and therefore not “splittable”.

The judgement has been ignored by the CSC but supported by the legal fraternity who say it could have major consequences for veterans receiving invalidity payments and their ex-spouses. The CSC refused to comment on the matter, but in correspondence obtained by News Corp it attacked the judgement. “The Judgement in the Family Court proceedings did not expressly address any of the relevant statutory provisions within the complex framework governing family law superannuation splitting and should not be regarded as a conclusive determination of this issue,” it said in a letter to the Commonwealth Information Commissioner. Principal lawyer with Slater and Gordon, said that invalidity benefits under the MSBS were clearly not deemed “superannuation interests” under Family Law.

“Noting that the pension was not in fact a superannuation entitlement/interest, it is impossible to split it under superannuation splitting,” she said. “This is consistent with the purpose of these benefits as expressed in the Cole Report.” That 1990 report said the payment would “provide insurance against invalidity and death with the amount of benefit payable providing compensation for the retirement benefit foregone because of premature termination of service.” The veteran who cannot be identified said it appeared that he was the only person to have audited information provided by the CSC. “It didn’t sit right with me on principal,” the eight-year army veteran said. He was medically discharged with serious back injuries and receives a Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) pension and is unable to work. “I urge veterans to get into the Family Court and to not take what the CSC or its expert witnesses say as gospel.

Invalidity payments are insurance not superannuation and because they are not defined benefits, they are not splittable.” He said he could see why the CSC was reluctant to admit its error because there could be thousands of cases like his and hundreds of millions of dollars at stake.” It took two years of arguing against nine different lawyers and three barristers in two federal courts in front of two registrars and three judges to get the message across,” he said. “Although I won, I still find it a national embarrassment that people who have fought for their country have to go through this due to incorrect information provided by their Super fund.” CASE STUDY A veteran who became a paraplegic following two parachuting accidents while serving with the army’s 3rd (parachute) Battalion has vowed to fight to save his invalidity pension. The former soldier, who cannot be identified, was medically discharged in 1995 and fought for two years for a TPI pension.

He has been in court battling his ex-wife who is seeking to 'split' his invalidity payment by seeking half of the \$1200-a-fortnight 'insurance' benefit. "Many veterans are sick and just hand over the money after being bullied by lawyers," he said. "I can think clearly and will fight this to my last breath." The veteran, who has competed in wheelchair triathlon championships, said he would always look after his dependent children, but he would not hand over the invalidity payment he received for serving his country. He welcomed the judgement in the Family Court matter. "I look forward to going to trial.

(For Information Only)

Aussie Humour.



On leaving the pub late one night, an Aussie phoned the ambulance on 000, because his mate has just been hit by a car while they were crossing the road.

Aussie: "Get an ambulance here quick, he's bleeding from his nose and ears and I think both his legs are broken " !

Operator: "What is your location sir" ?

Aussie: "On Eucalyptus Street" !

Operator: "How do you spell that sir" ?

(Heavy Breathing) and after a minute

Operator: "Are you still their sir" ?

(More Heavy Breathing) and another long minute later.....

Operator: "Sir, can you hear me sir" ?

(More Heavy Breathing) this goes on for a further minute . until ..

Operator: "Sir, please answer me. Can you still hear me". ?

Aussie: "Yer mate, sorry about that ... I couldn't spell eucalyptus, so I dragged him around to Oak Street... OAK. " !



Police, Fire, Ambulance



Southern Downs Ex-Services Association Queensland Incorporated

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