

Veterans News

Newsletter of the Macarthur Veterans Information Service

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Produced by the
Macarthur Veterans
Information Service

As a service to the
veteran community

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1800 011 046

SUFFERING OF WAR AND SERVICE

The Australian War Memorial HAS commissioned a work of art to recognise and commemorate the suffering caused by war and military service. The sculptural installation will provide a place in the Memorial's Sculpture Garden for visitors to grieve, to reflect on service experiences, and to remember the long-term cost of war and service.

More on page 3



For Every Drop Shed in Anguish

LEST WE FORGET

Editorial Disclaimer

The material in this newsletter is in the nature of general comment only and neither purports nor is intended to be advice on any particular subject. The Editor disclaims all and any liability in respect to anything done or omitted, whether in whole or in part. No person should take or use any information contained herein without first considering the facts and possibly checking professionally that the advice is appropriate for their particular circumstances.

VETERAN HEALTH BOOST WITH FUSSELL HOUSE OPENING IN NSW

VETERANS and their families will have improved access to health care with the opening of Fussell House at Concord Repatriation General Hospital in Sydney recently.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the 19 room residential accommodation facility was available to current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and their families as they access comprehensive mental and physical health services at the world class National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare (NCVH).

"Fussell House is named after 25-year-old Lieutenant Michael Fussell who was serving with the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan when he was killed in action by an Improvised Explosive Device," Mr Chester said.

"We can never fully repay the debt we owe to Lieutenant Fussell, but this facility will provide an enduring way for us all to honour his memory and sacrifice for our nation in ongoing support of our veterans and their families.

"I am proud to open this facility, which was made possible by a \$6.7 million investment from the Federal Government in our ongoing commitment to put the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families first."

Fussell House provides veterans and their families from across Australia with a home away from home at Concord as they access the care and support they need. The facility offers private and shared spaces and includes family suites, individual rooms, family lounge areas, kitchen, laundry and utility rooms and outdoor BBQ area.

The NCVH is operated by a multidisciplinary team of health professionals at Concord Repatriation General Hospital and offers a unique model of care, integrating a range of specialist outpatient services for mental and physical health and rehabilitation to assess, manage, treat and support the health and wellbeing needs of veterans.

NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Veterans James Griffin said the NCVH would relocate into the new \$341 million clinical services building expected to open at Concord later this year.

"Providing on-site accommodation will be a key component of the NCVH as it will support the treatment for veterans and their families including those residing outside of metropolitan Sydney," Mr Griffin said.

Federal Member for Reid Fiona Martin said Concord Repatriation General Hospital had a proud history of serving Australia's veterans and their families and Fussell House marks a new chapter in that history.

"Fussell House is integral to the support available at the NCVH and ensures our families have a dedicated space to call home while veterans are receiving the treatment they need," Dr Martin said.

"Fussell House and the NCVH will benefit veterans and their families across Australia for generations to come."

For more information and details about how to access the services offered by NCVH, visit ncvhconcord.com.au.

NEW SCULPTURE TO RECOGNISE THE *SUFFERINGS OF WAR AND SERVICE*

FOLLOWING three years' work with veterans, their families, ex-service organisations and the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs, a new sculpture will be placed on the grounds of the Australian War Memorial recognising the sufferings of war and service. Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the sculpture would provide a permanent place at the Australian War Memorial in recognition of those who have experienced and witnessed the ongoing traumas that can result from military service.

"I have spoken with many veterans' families and friends, including those who have lost someone to suicide, about how military service has affected them and how this can be better recognised at the Australian War Memorial," Mr Chester said.

"This project has been driven by the ex-service community, particularly Karen Bird and Connie Boglis, and I am proud that the Government will provide the \$1.2 million to ensure its place at the Australian War Memorial.

"This sculpture will be an enduring recognition for those affected by military service and serve as a reminder to us all of the about impact of service on some of our personnel and their families, but importantly, provide them with hope and healing."

Members of the stakeholder committee unanimously selected artist Alex Seton's proposal, *Every drop shed in anguish*.

Sculpture commission committee member Karen Bird, the mother of the late Jesse Bird who tragically took his own life, said she sincerely believed that Alex Seton would enhance our ability to continue the conversation we have begun within the walls of the Memorial — this story must be transferrable to the national discourse — a truth telling of how war does come home and how accumulative service does have consequences.

"Alex's vision while speaking to this truth opens the horizon to hope and new promise.

The Australian veteran community and most significantly, their families, need to know and feel this hope and new promise," Mrs Bird said.

The commission will take two years to craft and be a significant work of site-specific, contemporary art and a major addition to the Memorial's National Collection. Alex Seton's proposal, *Every drop shed in anguish*, will be a field of sculpted Australian pearl marble droplets in the Memorial's Sculpture Garden.

"Every droplet has a unique shape, defined by its delicate surface tension, as if about to burst. Their rounded liquid forms suggest blood, sweat or tears — for every drop ever shed in anguish," artist Alex Seton said.

"Most importantly, when touched these forms reveal themselves to have an inner strength and resilience that provides hope and promise of healing."

Subject to final approval by the National Capital Authority, the installation is expected to be completed in the second half of 2023. For more information on this project, you can visit:

www.awm.gov.au/sufferings-of-war-and-service



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Businessline

Action Required: Staff in the Client Benefits Division (CBD) who determine disability pensions under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) are to read and apply the new optional assessment model (OAM).

To:

Assistant Secretaries, Client Benefits Division
Directors, Client Benefits Division
Assistant Directors, Client Benefits Division
Division Coordinators

Distribute to:

All staff, Client Benefits Division

For information:

Secretary
Deputy President
Chief Operating Officer
First Assistant Secretaries
Assistant Secretaries

SUBJECT: Simplification of VEA disability pension re-assessments

Purpose:

To inform CBD staff of new assessment options that relate to VEA disability pension re-assessments.

Key Points:

- From 31 May 2021, the OAM allows delegates to use previously obtained medical evidence for accepted condition(s) when a client advises that the condition(s) have not worsened.
- Delegates undertaking re-assessments of VEA disability pensions are authorised to use previously obtained medical evidence in subsequent re-assessments if clients opt not to have a previously accepted condition re-assessed.
- The OAM is not recommended for use in the following circumstances:
 - where newly accepted or disallowed conditions possibly affect the body parts that are required to be re-assessed, or that may impact any aspect of the current re-assessment; and
 - accepted conditions that are subject to Offsetting Provisions.

Continued next page

- Delegates are still required to investigate the claim to their reasonable satisfaction. They will have to determine if the medical evidence is appropriate to use in the re-assessment or if new medical evidence is required to clarify the current level of impairment.

Background

On 14 May 2021, the Commissions agreed to a procedural change aimed to improve veteran satisfaction and claims processing efficiency under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA), for the re-assessment of disability pensions, by providing claimants with a greater level of input into the assessment process.

Currently, under the VEA, when a client is already in receipt of a disability pension lodges an application for increase (AFI) or has a new condition accepted as service related, delegates are required to obtain new medical evidence to re-assess all of a client's accepted conditions. Some veterans who have many accepted conditions were required to undergo multiple medical appointments and tests in order to have the necessary DVA paperwork completed.

This requirement has now been removed, and clients can inform the department which accepted conditions have worsened since the previous assessment. Delegates are to consider these requests on a case by case basis, and consideration is to be given to use previously obtained medical evidence.

This businessline provides greater consistency and further aligns the investigation process undertaken by staff who conduct assessments using GARP V (Guide to the Assessment Rate of Pensions 5th Edition) and GARP M (Guide to Determining Impairment and Compensation).

Further information

Information about the simplification of VEA disability pension re-assessments is available in the Consolidated Library of Information and Knowledge (CLIK) at: *Military Compensation Reference Library > VEA disability pension re-assessments* or access via the following link [VEA disability pension re-assessment – optional assessment model](#)

Contact

Any enquires regarding this businessline should be directed to Greg Ross on extension 471 654.



Natasha Cole
First Assistant Secretary
Client Benefits Division



☎ 24Hr 1800 011 046

A service founded by Vietnam veterans,
now for all veterans and families

Facebook: @OpenArmsVeteransAndFamiliesCounselling
Twitter: @OpenArmsSupport
LinkedIn: @OpenArms

MORE HELPLINES

Department of Defence - Mental Health All-hours
Support Line
☎ 1800 628 036

Lifeline Australia
☎ 13 11 14

1800RESPECT - National Sexual Assault, Domestic
and Family Violence Counselling Service
☎ 1800 737 732



WARTIME POETS CORNER

Contributed by Richard Echin of Camden



The Send-Off

Down the close-darkening lanes they sang their way
To the siding-shed,
And lined the train with faces grimly gay.

Their breasts were stuck all white with wreath and spray
As men's are, dead.

Dull porters watched them, and a casual tramp
Stood staring hard,
Sorry to miss them from the upland camp.

Then, unmoved, signals nodded, and a lamp
Winked to the guard.

So secretly, like wrongs hushed-up, they went.
They were not ours:
We never heard to which front these were sent.

Nor there if they yet mock what women meant
Who gave them flowers.

Shall they return to beating of great bells
In wild train-loads?
A few, a few, too few for drums and yells,

May creep back, silent, to village wells,
Up half-known roads.

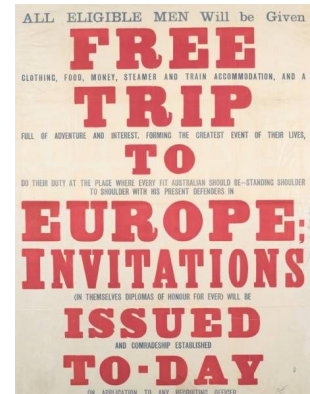
Wilfred Owen
WW 1

A Lament

We who are left, how shall we look again
Happily on the sun or feel the rain,
Without remembering how they who went
Ungrudgingly and spent
Their all for us loved too, the sun and rain?

A bird among the rain-wet lilac sings ---
But we – how shall we turn to little things
And listen to the birds and winds and streams
Made holy by their dreams,
Nor feel the heartbreak in the heart of things?

Wilfrid Gibson
WW 1



HEALTH IS IMPORTANT AND IT'S UP TO YOU.

Healthy Male (previously known as Andrology Australia) is a national organisation, established in 2000.

We are a provider of information for men's health. We facilitate action on men's health in collaboration with others, advocate for change, empower men and boys to take action on their health, build the capabilities of the health system and workforce, and prioritise our efforts to close the health and wellbeing gaps in specific groups. Ultimately, we are working towards our vision of generations of healthy Australian men.

Our aim is to make the information we provide available to everybody, regardless of gender, age, education, sexual orientation, religion or ethnicity. To do this, we collaborate with Australia's leading researchers, specialists, clinicians and educators to develop information that fills the gaps in men's health.

Healthy Male is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health.

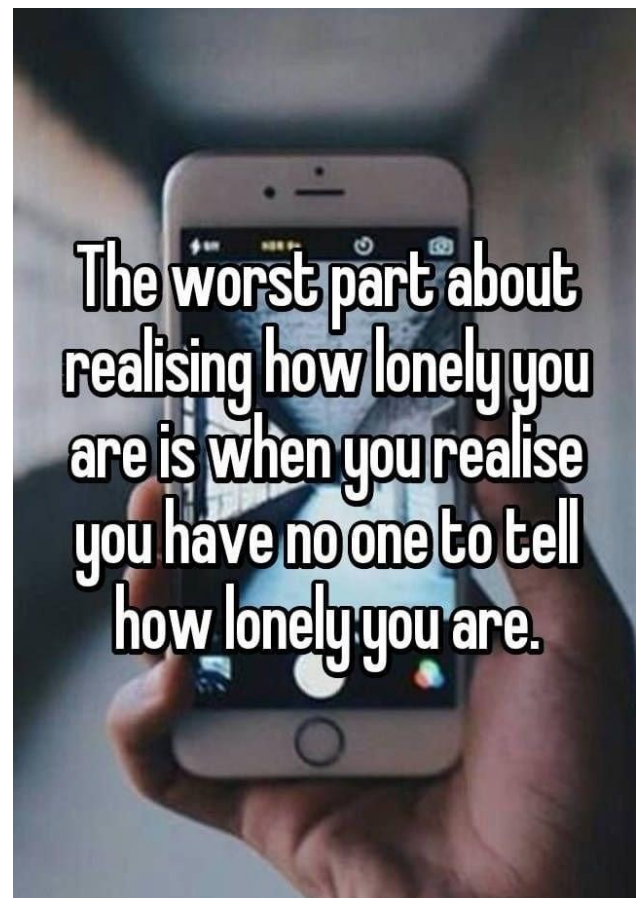
For more information go to. <https://www.healthymale.org.au/about-us>

DEFENCE COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

Changing to DEFENCE MEMBERS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Go to this link for the details.

<https://www.defence.gov.au/dco/#:~:text=On%201%20July%202021%2C%20we%20will%20change%20our,within%20the%20broader%20community%20as%20a%20Defence-led%20service.>



THE VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living.





The whole world paused this morning.

Do you know why? Because an 8 year old's tank was empty.

The boys had already started their school day at their desks and I was preparing to leave for work when I noticed my littlest standing in the bathroom wiping his face.

I paused at the door and asked if he was okay. He looked up with tears silently dripping and shook his head. When I questioned if something happened, again he shook his head.

So I sat on the side of the tub and pulled him in my lap. I told him sometimes our heart tanks feel empty and need to be refilled.

He cried into my chest and I held tight.

I asked if he could feel my love filling him up?

A nod, and tears stopped...

I waited a minute...

'Has it reached your toes yet?'

He shook his head no...

'Okay man. We will take as long as you need. Work doesn't matter right now. School isn't important either. This right here, is the most important thing today, okay? Filling you back to the top. Is that good?'

nods

One more minute...

'Is your heart full of mamas love now?'

'Yeah...'

looks in his eyes I see it shining in there, you're full to the top, and you're smiling!

Y'all. You may not be 8- you may be 28, 38, 48 or whatever- but ALL of us run on empty just like he did. His weekend was so busy and so full and his little soul was just dry!!!

We all have to pause, and take a moment to refill with the good things. Scripture, prayer, sunshine, worship, song, laughter, friends, hugs. Refill your empty, or you'll find those emotions (tears, anger, snappy words) overflowing with no reason why.

Take a moment. Refill. It's the most important part of your day!

I can't take credit for it, author is unknown however I had to share it

The Lions Club of Ingleburn is offering persons with a passion
an opportunity to serve their community

To learn more contact Lion Wayne Franshaw on 0407 358 693



Department of Veterans Affairs structure

The Department of Veterans' Affairs employs around 2000 staff throughout Australia. We have offices located in each state and territory capital, as well as smaller regional offices, known as Veterans' Affairs Network (VAN) offices. They provide information, advice and advocacy services to our clients.

Leadership

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs is responsible for the department. The secretary is head of the department and president of the Repatriation Commission. The departmental management team includes:

[Secretary and President](#) — Liz Cosson AM, CSC

Deputy Secretary, Veterans and Families Services — Vicki Rundle PSM

Chief Health Officer — Prof Jenny Firman

Deputy President — Kate Pope PSM

Repatriation Commissioner — Don Spinks AM

Veteran Family Advocate — Gwen Cherne

Defence Engagement Commissioner — Stuart Smith AD DSC

Deputy Commissioners represent the department in each state and territory. As at 26 October 2020 they are:

NSW/ACT — Victoria Benz

Victoria — Michael Harper

Queensland — Tara Hatzismalis

South Australia — Janice Silby

Northern Territory — Meghan Bailey

Tasmania — Luke Brown

Western Australia — Peter King

Next page for linked organisation



DO YOU NEED MEDALS MOUNTED,
RESTORED OR FRAMED.
Contact John Shay Phone 02 4625 2089
Or Jeff Foster 0419 461 854



Other agencies

In addition to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, other agencies or groups also provide services for the veteran community. They include:

Repatriation Commission

Australian War Memorial

Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission

Veterans' Review Board

Veterans' Children Education Boards

Repatriation Medical Authority

Specialist Medical Review Council

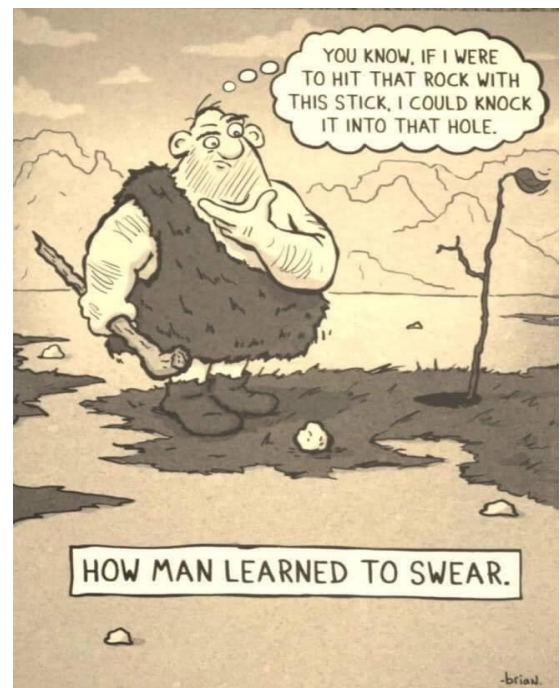
Office of Australian War Graves

Don't try to Judge a Soldier

by Clive Sanders

Don't try to judge a soldier,
If you have not been there,
Unless you've walked along the street,
That only soldiers dare.
Don't criticise their actions,
Don't judge them after years,
For they have fought your battles,
Then come home to national cheers.

It's for you they lost their comrades,
It's for you they shed their blood.
It's for you they followed orders,
Knowing that's what soldiers should.
He only had his rifle,
Which he carried in your name.
So don't make him your scapegoat,
Used to bear his nation's blame.



VETERANS AND FAMILIES MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



<https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops>

LINKS TO DVA PUBLICATIONS

GUIDE-ASSESSMENT-RATES-VETERANS-PENSIONS (GARP)

<https://www.dva.gov.au/documents-and-publications/guide-assessment-rates-veterans-pensions>

REHABILITATION

<https://www.dva.gov.au/documents-and-publications/rehabilitation-get-your-life-track>

PLANNING AHEAD.

<https://www.dva.gov.au/documents-and-publications/planning-ahead-kit>

OFFICE-AUSTRALIAN-WAR-GRAVES

<https://www.dva.gov.au/documents-and-publications/office-australian-war-graves-information-brochure>

MENS HEALTH PEER EDUCATION

<https://www.dva.gov.au/documents-and-publications/mhpe-magazine-vol-12-no-3-november-2013-brain>

**WE SUPPORT THE
AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS**



SERVICES DIRECTORY

Campbelltown RSL Sub branch Carberry lane Campbelltown NSW 2560 Phone 02 4626 8340

Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch Chester Road Ingleburn NSW 2565 Phone 02 9765 7700

Camden RSL Sub Branch 23 Cawdor Road Camden NSW 2570 Phone 02 4658 0049

Sydney Legacy—02 9248 9000

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Macarthur Sub Branch Inc Campbelltown Phone 02 4628 0684

N.S.W. National Servicemen's Association & Affiliates Inc. Phone 9759-3629, or 9759-3624

Bravery Trust, Supporting those who serve. braverytrust.org.au phone 1800 272 837

Financial Service

Austax, Accountants & Financial Planners Pty Ltd, Oxford Rd Ingleburn Phone 02 9605 8350

Health Services

South West Sydney Area Health Service, Campbelltown Hospital / Camden Hospital Phone 02 4634 3000

Campbelltown Private Hospital, Parkside Crescent Campbelltown 02 4621 9111

Mental Health -Northside Macarthur Clinic, 92-96 Dumaresq St Campbelltown 1300 652 627

Greenhill's Community Nursing, 82 Menangle Road Camden Robert Wilson Phone 02 4655 2522

Vital Home Health Services, Phone 02 9703 5661 or Hoda Al-Hayek on 0425 227 862

Regal Home Health, Community nursing services www.regalhealth.com.au Phone 02 9264 4555

Australian Unity Home care Services, Shop 3 5-7 Lithgow Street Campbelltown 02 4629 1620

Macarthur Care T: (02) 4204 8252 | M: 0478 051 063 W: <http://macarthurcare.com.au>

Macarthur Disability Services, Phone 1800 683 232

Southern Cross Occupational Therapy 02 4655 3559

Exercise physiology— Ontrac Lifestyle Management 02 4655 2266 and www.ontrachealth.com.au

Exercise physiology—Macarthur Natural Health Clinic, 12-14 Queen St Campbelltown, Phone 02 4627 8215

Podiatrist: Geoffrey Crichton 171-179 Queen street Campbelltown NSW phone 02 4628 6030

Podiatrist: Corinna Tracey, 20 Macquarie Road Ingleburn NSW, Phone 02 9829 7525 or 0419 618 502

Podiatrist: Camden Foot Clinic 26 Broughton St, Camden NSW 2570 Phone 02 4655 5600

Podiatrist: Wendy Satara Podiatrist 26 Murray Street Camden 2570 Ph: 02 4655 7390

Hearing service; Hearing Australia Ground floor Shop R9 4 Hyde parade Campbelltown 02 4621 6300

Physiotherapy: Ingleburn Physiotherapy 02 9829 3281

Physiotherapy: Lifestyle and Sports Physiotherapy 02 4647 3373

Physiotherapy: HM Home Physiotherapy (Mobile Physiotherapy Service) ph: 0404 076 778

Chiropractor: Campbelltown Chiropractic Centre. Bradbury Professional Centre Phone 02 4628 7227

Chiropractor: Macarthur Natural Health Clinic, 12-14 Queen St Campbelltown, (near Tim's) Phone 02 4627 8215

Optometrist:: Eyecare plus, 21 Dumaresq St Campbelltown Phone 02 4628 3651

Dentist:: Family Dental Care -level 6, City Centre, 171-179 Queen St Campbelltown 02 4625 4897

Dentist: Dr Dejan Ilic -Suite 122, 4 Hyde Parade Campbelltown 02 4626 1541

Dentist; Dr Warwick Hinds 44 Argyle St Camden 02 4655 6036 or 02 4655 9848

Dentures; Aesthetic Denture Clinic, Shop 22/23, 180-186 Argyle Street Camden 02 4655 4438

Dietician: Rosemary Mifsud, PO Box 671 Goulburn 0431 375 839

Dietician: Cameron McLean ONTRAC Camden and Bowral phone 02 48622444

Federal Members of Parliament

Macarthur: Dr Mike Freelander MP. 37 Queen Street Campbelltown NSW 2560 Phone 02 4620 0293

Werriwa: Anne Stanley MP— Shop 7, 441 Hoxton Park Road Hinchinbrook 2168 phone 02 8783 0977

Hume: Angus Taylor MP – 18 Hill Street, Camden NSW 2570 phone: 02 4658 7188

State Members of Parliament

Campbelltown: Mr Greg Warren MP - 3/72 Queen Street Campbelltown NSW 2560 Phone 02 4625 3344

Camden: Mr Peter Sidgreaves MP- 66 John Street Camden 2570 Phone 02 4655 3333

Macquarie Fields: Mr Anoulack Chanthivong MP Shop 3, 2-6 Oxford Road, Ingleburn Phone 02 9618 2077

Government Services

Department of Veterans Affairs Phone 133 254 from regional areas Phone 1800 555 254, internet www.dva.gov.au

“OPEN ARMS” Veterans and Veteran Families Counseling service 1800 011 046

Veterans Line after hours crisis counseling phone 1800 043 503

Veterans Home care 1300 550 450

Miscellaneous

Seniors Information Service Phone 13 12 44

South West Community Transport enquiries 02 9426 8999

Campbelltown Senior Cyber Seekers. (The Computer club for the adventurous.)

Secretary Nanette Peters 02 4628 0484 www.cyberseekers.org.au