

Maryborough RSL Club Newsletter – January 2019 Edition

This newsletter is provided to all Sub Branch members of the Maryborough RSL Sub Branch Inc. to provide advice of upcoming events within the Club and services available to Veterans and their families under Department of Veteran Affairs.

Pension and Welfare

Our advocates are a dedicated group of volunteers who support veterans and the community. We have two Welfare Advocates who visit the aged care facilities, hospitals and home visits to support those people as part of our role as an RSL.

We also have a qualified Pensions Advocate with over seven years' experience and a trainee who is there to provide support in submitting claims through the Department of Veterans Affairs. These volunteers also can provide a home visits to assist those who have difficulties to attend the club.

Our volunteers are available in our club as follows:

Advocate Pensions – Monday and Tuesday 0830 to 1400

Trainee Pensions and Welfare – Monday and Tuesday 0830 – 1400

Advocate Welfare – Monday 0900 – 1400 and Thursday 0800 – 1200

Advocate Welfare – On call for emergent situations.

Bookings to see these volunteers can done by contacting the Reception on Monday to Friday between the hours of 0900 – 1700. Contact number is 41222321.

In emergent situations you can contact the Maryborough RSL during opening hours and either a Pensions or Welfare officer will make contact.

The Pensions and Welfare team have been extremely busy during the 2018 year and achieved many milestones during this period. They have maintained a high level of interaction with the veterans through visits and being supportive to the community.

They have supported veterans claims through DVA and had claims for Gold Cards, TPI, EDA, disability pensions and compensation approved to ensure a veteran was provided with appropriately for their service of our country. Some of the claims came at short notice with veterans having recently being diagnosed with cancer or who were at their lowest point with PTSD. They were able to get approval for these claims within 24 to 48 hours so that the veteran could get immediate attention and treatment. The team was also able to provide transport to veterans who were unable to drive through Cab Charge or by picked up by the team in their personal vehicles or utilisation of the Club vehicles.

I would also like to mention the Memorabilia Team who are also volunteers and work tirelessly to ensure that all displays are presented at a very high standard and that they share their wealth of information to the public through there tours of our museum. This team is continually sourcing new items for the museum and the club has a very close working relationship with John Meyers team at the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum

The following volunteer hours are provided:

3024 hours at a wage cost of \$60,332.50 if they were not volunteers.

Travelled 14,387 Kilometres

Transforming DVA – Better Access for Veterans and Their Families

On 21 of January 2019, DVA's online claiming platform, MyService, introduced a number of improvements and features to increase the DVA services available online.

These new improvements and features will enable you to:

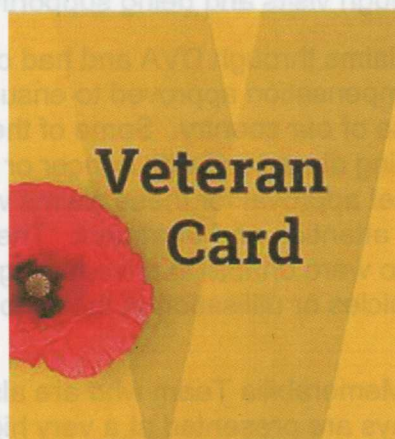
- Submit claims for Incapacity Payments
- Easily access information about Transport
- Request a call-back

As DVA continues to expand and change our online services we will keep you updated.

Log onto MyService now

If you have a DVA health card, next time you log into your MyService account, you will notice the digital version of your health card has a new design and is now called a Veteran Card.

The new-look card will replace existing DVA health cards providing veterans with access to your regular health benefits and physical versions of the new card will be send via mail to new and existing cardholders in the coming months. The introduction of the Veteran Card is part of the Australian Defence Veterans Covenant and serves as an opportunity to offer acknowledgement and respect to those who have served.



More information about the Veteran Card and the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant is available on the [DVA Website](#)

I already have a DVA Card – There is nothing you need to do – your existing DVA card (both physical & new look digital card) can be used until you receive the new Veteran Card in the mail.

I want to register for a Veteran Card – Log in to your [MyService](#) account, select “Veteran Card” in the navigation panel and follow the prompts to apply.

Need help with myGov or using DVA’s online services? Call us!

myGov support line: 13 23 07

DVA General Enquiry Line: 1800 555 254

Our mailing address is:

Department of Veterans’ Affairs

GPO BOX 9998

Brisbane, Queensland 4001

Australia

Gold Card for Doctors and Nurses from the Vietnam war

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DFRDB Update - January 2019

For those who have not seen Herb's latest [audio-visual presentation](#) or did not fully grasp the detail, Herb has produced this overview [DFRDB – The Denial of Benefits](#).

So far, we have received only an automated response from the Attorney General to say it has been forwarded to Minister Chester's Department. Before we can progress it to the Commonwealth Ombudsman, we are obliged to wait for a reply. After the referral of our cause, by Maj Gen David Ferguson AM CSC, to journalist Sam Buckingham-Jones of *The Australian*, an article featured on page 3 of that publication on 14 Jan 2019.

Click [here](#) to view the article.

Our sincere thanks go to David Ferguson. It goes to show what is possible when our senior officers stand up for us and use their influence. While there are many ex-service organisations (ESO), we are led to believe as many as 1500, the Alliance of Defence Service Organizations (ADSO) has regular direct access to Minister Darren Chester. But ADSO has only 18 affiliated ESOs of which; a leading member is the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA). However, ADSO and DFWA represent a raft of issues. Their policy objectives in relation to DFRDB are no longer relevant, and it is unclear if they intend to represent our concerns. Until we have a united voice on DFRB/DFRDB/MSBS, we are an easy target for rejection. Like Herb and myself, many of you are members of ex-service organisations, and we ask you to consider what is your organisation doing for you? Is your local branch interested? Are they taking the matter up with State and National bodies? Are their National bodies affiliated with ADSO? We continue to be a conduit for DFRDB matters and are continuing our research to strengthen our case. We have established our web site <https://www.adfra.org/> as a forum for all military superannuation grievances and encourage all who are disaffected to register.

While we are aware of concerns raised by MSBS recipients, neither Herb nor I are experts on the subject. We need MSBS recipients to register on the web site and express those concerns.

We can then help to compile them into formal presentations.

Regards, **Jim Hislop**

Veterans accuse Federal Government of 'ripping off' thousands from retirement benefits

ABC Sunshine Coast

By [Bruce Atkinson](#)

Posted yesterday at 9:42am Wed 30 Jan 2019, 9:42am



PHOTO: [Vietnam veteran Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith says he is owed \\$5,000 in superannuation.](#) (ABC Sunshine Coast: Bruce Atkinson)

RELATED STORY: [Productivity Commission calls for Veterans' Affairs Department closure](#)

RELATED STORY: [As a veteran, I don't want your thanks. There are plenty who deserve it more](#)

A Federal Coalition backbencher is lobbying the Government to investigate how much money he believes it owes some older Australian military veterans.

Veterans, including some who served in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam, signed up for compulsory superannuation called the Defence Force Retirement Benefits (DFRDB) scheme between 1948 and 1972.

The Defence Force Welfare Organisation (DFWO) estimated there are 2,305 pensioners still covered by this scheme.

It calculated there are 52,000 pensioners who are members of the scheme that operated from 1973 to 1991, and around 1,500 are still serving members of the Defence Force.

Upon retirement, those who served more than 20 years could take a commutation, or advance payment, of part of their pension and repay the money with fortnightly deductions based on their life expectancy or actuarial age.

The veterans believed that once they reached age 72, for example, they would have repaid all money owed and their pension payments would immediately return to the full amount.

However, they have continued to receive the reduced pension, which has been a bone of contention for them ever since.

A 'disgusting and abhorrent' situation

Federal Member for the Queensland electorate of Wide Bay, Llew O'Brien, recently wrote a strongly worded letter to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs to address the issue.

The Minister, Darren Chester, is a National Party colleague of Mr O'Brien but it has not stopped the first term MP taking a serious swipe at his more senior colleague.

In the letter Mr O'Brien said:

"I am extremely concerned that when members of the DFRDB scheme were sold the option of taking a portion of their pension as a lump sum advance, they did so without the proper and reasonable information from the Australian Government that clearly indicated the deduction would be permanent against the full value of their pension, for the remainder of their life."

He added:

"I have been unable to find any clear advice warning those members who took out a lump sum advance, that their pension would be permanently reduced and would not be restored to its full value once the amount of the lump sum advance was repaid."

Mr O'Brien described the situation as "disgusting and abhorrent". He said he believes the Australian Government will "continue to profit significantly from the underpayments and must make restitution".

"People have been sold a financial product by the Australian Government and they haven't been given proper or reasonable information about it when they were sold it," he said.

"Some of the things that I've had outlined to me not only don't pass the pub test, they don't pass the Australia Day test — they don't pass any Aussie test that would be put forward.



PHOTO: Mr O'Brien says the DFRDB scheme is "fundamentally wrong" and that the Government is profiting from elderly veterans. (Supplied: Llew O'Brien)

"These are people, who are considered Australian military heroes, have seen battle like you and I can only ever read about in a book and now ... the Government is making a profit out of them in their senior years ... it's disgusting."

Mr O'Brien did not hide his distaste for the response from the Minister and decided to go public.

"I've asked the Minister to do costings on how we can remedy this, what the cost to Government would be to right what is a fundamental wrong, and what the evidence that I've seen tells me is an un-Australian type of an act," he said.

Mr O'Brien said the Minister had so far dismissed all his approaches

Mr Chester's office has not responded to interview requests from the ABC about this story.

'The Government owes me': veteran



PHOTO: [Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith wants the peace of mind of knowing his wife, if widowed, will received his pension.](#) (ABC Sunshine Coast: Bruce Atkinson)

One of those military heroes is retired Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith who commanded the Australian troops during the 1966 Battle of Long Tan.

The Sunshine Coast-based was prematurely forced to retire from the Army at 43, due to a parachuting accident in 1976.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith elected to "commute" \$10,000 of his superannuation so he could buy a house.

He understood his pension would be reduced as he paid back the money but believed once he reached 72 and the "advance" was repaid his fortnightly income would return to the full amount without any deductions.

More than a decade later and the now ages almost 86 he continues to receive the reduced pension because it did not return to the higher amount.

"For 14 years I have been living without that money, so the Government owes me in round figures around \$5,000," Lieutenant Colonel Smith said.

"The Government should repay the amount that veterans were deducted for their commutation because they've paid back the loan if you want to call it a loan.

"I have been ripped off. Yes, I borrowed some money, [but] I paid it back.

"We paid back a loan and we should have reverted to the original amount and there's no argument about it.

"I expect the original superannuation payments to revert to their full amount and further that when I die, if I die before my wife, that my widow will get her percentage of my superannuation to which she's entitled until she dies.

"But she is not going to get the full amount because the overall figure is not what it should be."



PHOTO: [Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith \(right\) with other Vietnam veterans at Remembrance Day celebrations in 2018.](#)
(ABC Sunshine Coast: Bruce Atkinson)

Lieutenant Colonel Smith said successive governments would not pay the money back that he believed they owed him.

"And they don't want to put things on paper when the original deal was made — in my case back in 1976.

"I was simply told that your superannuation deductions will revert to their original amount when you have reached your actuarial age."

According to Lieutenant Colonel Smith, a common-sense approach to the issue would be to change the legislation and reinstate the full amounts.

"Not just me but all the other veterans who served, as in my case 24 years, and were entitled to superannuation."

Lieutenant Colonel Smith said he wanted Llew O'Brien to bypass Minister Chester and push the Prime Minister to order the Department of Veterans' Affairs to investigate how many people are affected and the cost of repaying the money.

He said he did not believe the total amount would be significant and he wanted the Government to show compassion.

"They talk about the veterans... have put their life on the line but when it comes to money it's a whole different story," Mr O'Brien said.

"They don't want to do what they should do in terms of money.

Veterans want families cared for

The Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia (VVAA) has also added its weight to Llew O'Brien's push to convince his colleagues of the need for a rethink.

VVAA national president, Ken Foster, said there had "always been a disappointment among career soldiers" that when they realised that they got to a certain age their pensions were not going to revert to the full amount.

"I haven't found anyone that didn't believe that it would go on for life so ... [it's a] disappointment that will hang on," Mr Foster said.

"We feel that we are being ripped off here and we never got a meaningful explanation or a costing of why they couldn't put it back.



PHOTO: [National president of the VVAA, Ken Foster, is calling on the Government to provide an explanation for why some veterans have not been paid their full pensions.](#)
(Supplied: Ken Foster)

"We've gone back to the Government and said, 'Show us the information that we were given at the time that we signed that commutation paper to say that it was for the whole of life' and they say, 'Some of that documentation is no longer available'.

"There's always an excuse why they can't explain it.

"It was for the whole of life ... but nobody really wants to address it to look at it as a social issue."

Mr Foster said it would mean a lot to veterans to have the money repaid and the ongoing payments increased to the appropriate level.

He said the biggest concern for the majority of veterans was providing for their families after they have died.

"I'd like to make sure that my wife is looked after — at least to the manner that she has been while I've been around," Mr Foster said.

A call for compassion

Mr Foster is uncertain how many Vietnam veterans are affected by this issue.

"I know that number is decreasing every year, every week, every month because the older veterans are dying," he said.

"This group is decreasing ... in a few years' time it probably won't apply so I don't believe it's a great amount of money."

Mr Foster is also appealing to the Government to help.

"They're always on about the service of the younger veterans and how we've got to look after the younger veterans. They've also got to consider the older veterans.

"Those that were there through Korea and Malaya then Vietnam and so on that are now getting towards the end of their lives.

"They're the ones that were involved with this pension scheme and a little bit of compassion, a little bit of consideration.

"At least give us some reasonable costings that explain why you can't do it and have a meaningful discussion about the whole thing and explain why in the Government's mind they can't be a little bit more sympathetic to what is seen by the veteran community as a worthwhile argument," Mr Foster said.

"We see it as a very simple resolution. The fact they rely on us for publicity. They're always there when there's a photo shot at a memorial or something but when it comes to this sort of thing it's apparently all too hard."

Factsheet CON03 - Concessions in Queensland

Purpose

This Factsheet is about what concessions may be available to DVA clients in Queensland.

Who is eligible for concessions?

The organisation that offers the product or service, e.g. your local council, decides what sort of concession is offered and to whom it is offered. DVA Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) and Gold Card holders are usually eligible for concessions, but it is important to contact the organisation offering the concession to confirm your eligibility.

Health concessions

Treatment Cards

If you have a DVA treatment card (Gold or White Card) you should always use this card for medical, hospital, pharmaceutical and allied health services.

Pharmaceutical benefits

PCC holders are eligible for medication under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) at \$6.40 per prescription. Your pharmacist can tell you which medicines are listed under the scheme. Premiums charged by manufacturers may apply to some alternative brands/medicines. Once you have spent the PBS Safety Net threshold amount on PBS medicines, you will receive free PBS medicines for the rest of the year.

National Diabetes Services Scheme

You can receive a range of Australian Government approved products at a reduced price. For more information contact the scheme on 1300 136 588 or visit their website at: www.ndss.com.au

Hearing services

The Office of Hearing Services provides vouchers which enable you to get hearing assessments and devices from hearing service providers of your choice. This includes the cost of fitting the device. For more information contact the Office of Hearing Services on 1800 500 726 (TTY 1800 500 496) or visit their website at: www.health.gov.au/hear

Transport Concessions

Public Transport Concessions

PCC and Queensland Gold Card and White Card holders are entitled to a concession fare for travel on Translink, qconnect and regional ferry services. A concession fare is 50% cheaper than an adult fare.

TPI and EDA Gold Card holders must have a TPI/EDA Veteran Travel Card to receive unlimited free travel on approved Translink, qconnect and regional ferry services.

For more information phone Translink on 13 12 30 or visit their website at www.translink.com.au/tickets-and-fares/concessions/pensioners-and-veterans.

Queensland Rail Travel

Queensland PCC and Gold Card holders marked War Widow/Widower are eligible for 4 long distance Queensland Pension rail travel entitlements per calendar year.

Queensland TPI or EDA Gold Card holders who have a TPI/EDA Veteran Travel Card, receive one free return trip each fortnight on long distance Queensland rail travel.

For more information, please contact Queensland Rail Travel on 1300 131 722 or visit their website at

<http://www.queenslandrailtravel.com.au/PolicyCentre/Pages/Eligibleforconcessions.aspx>.

Household Concessions

Australia Post

Australia Post will give discounts on re-directing mail for PCC holders who change their address and deliver some items that aid the sight impaired free of charge, or at a discounted rate, for PCC holders. For more information contact Australia Post on 13 76 78

or visit their website at <https://auspost.com.au/parcels-mail/manage-your-mail/redirect-hold-mail/redirect-mail#tab3>.

Telstra

Telstra offer a number of concessions to PCC holders, including a discount on new telephone service connection fee and a reduction in your home line plan costs. For more information contact Telstra on 132 200 or visit their website at <https://www.telstra.com.au/support/category/home-phone/plans-rates/telstra-pensioner-discount-and-connected-seniors-program>.

Rates Subsidy

Queensland PCC and Gold Card holders may be eligible to receive a subsidy of 20 per cent (up to a maximum of \$200 each year) of the gross rates and charges levied by your local council. For more information, contact your local council.

Water Subsidy

Eligible PCC and Gold Card holders may be eligible for a subsidy of up to \$120 each year off the cost of water access and usage charges. For more information, contact your water retailer.

Vehicle Concessions

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 Factsheet [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

More information about Queensland Government concessions

For more information about Queensland Government concessions call 137 468 or visit the website at www.qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/.

Anniversaries

- 2 January 1943 – Buna Government Station captured, Papua,
- 11 January 1973 – Proclamation of cessation of hostilities by Australian forces in Vietnam
- 22 January 1943 – Sanananda cleared and the Papuan campaign concluded the next day
- 30 January 1943 – defence of Wau, New Guinea
- 30-31 January 1968 – Start of the Tet Offensive against South Vietnamese cities by the Viet Cong
- 10 February 1964 – Collision at sea between HMAS Melbourne (R21) and HMAS Voyager (D04)
- 20 March 2003 – Invasion of Iraq
- 21 March 1918 – German offensive begins on the Somme
- 27 March 1918 – First trans-Jordan operation
- 28 March 1918 – First Battle of Dernancourt & First Morlancourt
- 4 April 1918 – First Battle of Villers-Bretonneux
- 5 April 1918 – Second Battle of Dernancourt
- 24-25 April 1918 – Second Battle of Villers-Bretonneux
- 25 April 1915 – ANZAC Day
- 30 April 1918 – Second trans-Jordan offensive

Volunteers Restore Australian Map to Wiltshire Hillside

Copy this link into your browser a must see about our history.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-wiltshire-46060246/volunteers-restore-australian-map-to-wiltshire-hillside>

War Memorials Queensland

<https://www.qldwarmemorials.com.au/>

Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant

The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant was announced by the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Darren Chester MP, on 27 October last year. The Covenant encourages Australia to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service, and support veterans and their families.

The Covenant includes an oath, which the Australian people will be encouraged to take at community commemorative events, such as Remembrance Day.

The new Veteran Card and an Australian Veteran Lapel Pin and a Reservist Lapel Pin underpin the Covenant. The intention of the Covenant is to provide employers, businesses, local communities, and veteran and sporting organisations the opportunity to commit to supporting veterans and their families.

Veteran Card

Veteran applicants, new to DVA, can apply for the new Veteran Card by creating a [MyService](#) account and, there, request a Veteran Card.

Please note

- This is the commencement of the implementation of the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant.
- Registration is aimed at applicants new to DVA.
- Current [DVA health card](#) holders will be issued with the new Veteran Card over the coming months.
- Registration includes the following:
 - As a veteran you are eligible for free treatment under the [Non Liability Health Care \(NLHC\)](#) arrangements for mental health, should you ever need it
 - During the application you will be asked to provide your bank details, as you may be eligible for a fortnightly payment supplement, associated with the NLHC arrangements
 - Applications received prior to 18 February 2019 may receive an interim physical card by post, with the new physical Veteran Card following a few weeks later.
- The Government is working with Australian businesses and community organisations to discuss tangible recognition and services for Veteran Card holders.
- More information, including a list of participating businesses, will be available on this website over the coming weeks.

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

The Veteran Card is available to anyone who has served in the Australian Defence Force with at least one day of continuous full-time service.

Eligible Reservists, including those engaged in Disaster Relief Service, Border Protection Service, or involved in a serious service-related training accident, will also be able to request a Veteran Card.

The card will help Australian businesses, service providers and community organisations to identify veterans so they can offer their acknowledgement and respect. For example, the card could provide a platform for businesses and community groups to provide tangible recognition and service to holders of the card.

It is important to note that the respective business or organisation determines what concessions, if any, they choose to offer to a veteran and their family. There is no obligation for a business or organisation to offer a concession.

The appearance of the Veteran Card is a rebadging and redesign of DVA's current health treatment and concession cards (Gold, White and Orange).

Existing DVA health cards (Gold, White and Orange)

All existing DVA health card holders (Gold or White) and concession card holders (Orange) do not need to apply. Your existing services and entitlements are maintained. Health providers and participating businesses will recognise your existing card.

The new-look card will be issued to you automatically over the coming months, along with a Veteran Lapel Pin and Oath as part of a phased roll-out. Orange Card holders will also receive their new-look card in due course.



The Oath

A key objective of the Covenant is recognition and support of the Australian community for veterans and their families.

The Oath is a declaration on behalf of the Australian people to give an enduring and formal recognition of the valued contribution that current and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their families make today, and have made in the past, to our country. The Oath is not intended to replace the Ode, but is an additional commitment of respect to Australia's military veterans. The Oath may be said at special events such as community commemorative events, such as Remembrance Day.

Veteran Lapel Pin and Reservist Lapel Pin

The Veteran Lapel Pin and Reservist Lapel Pin provide a way for the public to recognise and connect with veterans and acknowledge their service to the nation. The pins will help identify veterans when they aren't wearing their uniform or medals.

The pins will be available for distribution in the first half of 2019.

Sub-Branch and Club News.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Maryborough RSL Sub-Branch Inc

The AGM will be held at 1000 on Sunday the 24th of February 2019 in the function area level 2. At this AGM there will be elections for Deputy President, Treasurer and Director positions so I would encourage all for maximum attendance. There is currently only one motion that has been tabled which is on display in the noticeboard near the Lennox St Reception. At this AGM there will be some special guests attending – Mr Tony Ferris (Qld RSL State President) Mr Don Davey (Wide Bay Burnett District President) and Mr Trevor Williamson (Wide Bay Burnett District Deputy President). They will provide a brief on where QLD RSL is heading and a current update on the new Constitution.

At the AGM a full disclosure of the Auditors report of the financial status will be provide to all members.

In the Management Committee's opinion, the Returned & Services League of Australia Maryborough Sub Branch is solvent and there are reasonable grounds to believe that it will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

FRI 1st	SAM MADDISON
SAT 2nd	IAN MURRAY
FRI 8th	ONE SLY DOG
SAT 9th	DARLIN & THE MIDNIGHT DELIGHTS
FRI 15th	DEREK SMITH
SAT 16th	BOBBY BARNES
FRI 22nd	BRENTYN IRVINE
SAT 23rd	RED BETTY

MARYBOROUGH RSL PRESENTS SUNDAY SESSIONS

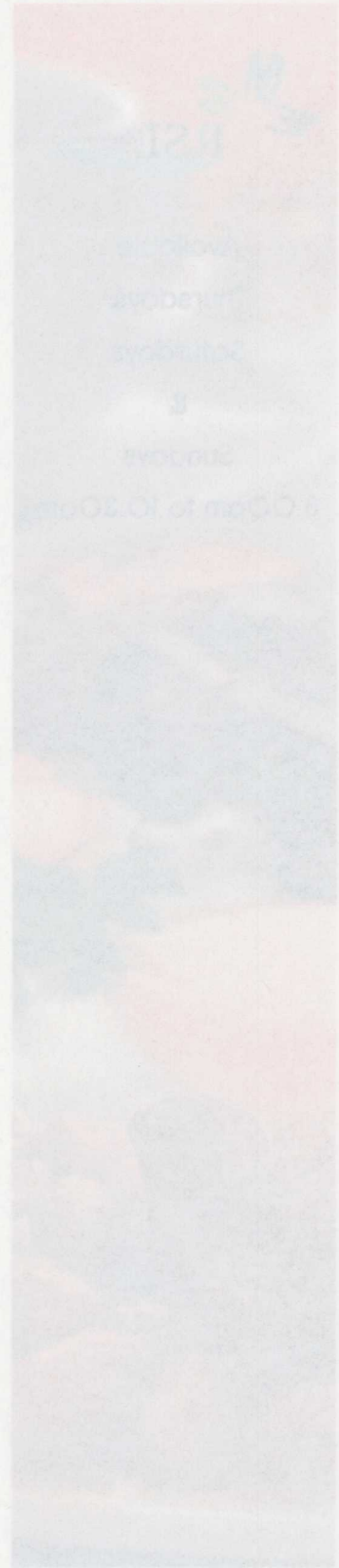
IN THE SPORTS BAR

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
12PM - 4PM**

With Hardings House Duo

DRINK SPECIALS

Starting Sunday 3rd February





Available
 Thursdays,
 Saturdays
 &
 Sundays
 8.00am to 10.30am

Breakfast Menu

RAISIN TOAST			
served with butter & strawberry jam			
1 slice		2.50	
2 slices		4.50	
HONEY ROASTED MUESLI		6	
with natural Greek yoghurt with a berry compote			
BUTTERMILK PANCAKES			
with berries, double cream and maple syrup			
Large (3 pancakes)		15	
Small (2 pancakes)		10	
ENGLISH BREAKFAST MUFFIN		8	
bacon and egg on a toasted English muffin			
BIG BREAKFAST		18	
2 eggs (fried, scrambled or poached), bacon, old English sausage, roasted tomato, mushrooms, hash brown and sourdough toast			
PETITE BREAKFAST		9	
1 egg, (fried, scrambled or poached), bacon, roasted tomato, hash brown and sourdough toast			
KIDS BACON AND EGGS		7	
1 egg (fried, scrambled or poached) with bacon on white toast			
BREAKFAST BRUSCHETTA		15	
Two poached eggs, bacon, smashed avocado, diced tomato, red onion and fresh basil on sourdough			
BENNYS			
All served on toasted sourdough with two poached eggs			
BACON, avocado & citrus hollandaise		15	
HAM, avocado, spinach, citrus hollandaise, basil pesto		15	
SMOKED SALMON, avocado, citrus hollandaise, lemon wedge, black sesame		18	
EXTRAS			
Bacon	2.50	Sourdough Toast	2.50
Egg	2.50	Avocado	3.00
Grilled Tomato	1.50	Old English Sausages	2.50
Hash Brown	.80 or 2 for 1.50	Hollandaise Sauce	2.50
Sautéed Mushrooms	2.50		

Email Addresses

To ensure that information is provided to all Sub-Branch members the Board have decided to provide five newsletters per year not four to ensure that everyone is abreast of changes that occur through Department of Veterans Affairs, other agencies and also changes within your Club the best in the state. To facilitate this, we are requesting all Sub-Branch members to provide us with your email address. This can be achieved by emailing our Secretary at secretary@maryborough.rsl.com.au in doing this it will reduce the cost of postage and time delay between getting this information out to you and will reduce our postage costs which give us more money for the veterans in welfare and charity which is our total focus.

Late Item

Australians with lung cancer will save tens of thousands of dollars a year after the federal government announces the listing Tagrisso on the Pharmaceutical Benefit's Scheme. It will bring down the cost of an individual scrip from \$8,000 to \$40.30.

'Whether it's in research, whether it's in providing the clinical care, we are in this fight with all of those who suffer from cancer and we are going to fight cancer together' – Scott Morrison, Prime Minister.

Presidents Statement (Mr George Mellick)

Happy New Year to all. In 2018 the Board of Directors were extremely busy in what was seen as challenging but also a rewarding year. We had many commorative events during the year. Most notable was ANZAC Day which saw the biggest attendance that has been seen in many years. As it was also the year to recognize women for their service in the Defence Force so our parade was led by Mrs Ebony Blackwood (Afghanistan Medal for her Service in the Middle East Area of Operations on HMAS PARRAMATTA in conjunction with the Australian Active Service Medal and the International Campaign Against Terrorism Clasp.) and our lead contingent displayed the newly purchased banner to recognize those who have served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Solomon and Timor with a strong contingent under this new banner. We are already planning to have a bigger and better ANZAC Day in 2019. Other commorative events of note was Vietnam Veterans Day with a wonderful turn by the biggest crowd in many years.

The Board of Directors developed a Strategic Plan for implementation by the General Manager. Many of the activities have been actioned as can be seen around the Club such as Leave Pass Sunday, 25% discount for Sub-Branch members on bar and food sales, removal of ATM from Lennox St entry to beside the existing ATM, converting the outside smoking area to a larger area for mobile scooters, allowing staff to smoke in the Memorial Garden designated smoking area instead of outside the club which was a potential risk to them, children playroom with supervision on Friday and Saturday nights and other special occasions, signage for the Memorial Garden door, posting of birthday cards with two meal vouchers, improvement in customer service, implementation of a Breakfast menu three days a week and many more.

Recently I received the resignations of the five Citizens Auxiliary dated 25th of January 2019 and at an Extra Ordinary Board Meeting on the 30th of January 2019 the Board of Directors accepted their resignation with regret as they have done a wonderful service raising funds for the Veterans and those in need in our community which is a total credit to the Citizens

Auxiliary. The General Manager has arranged for staff of the Club to continue these Saturday raffles as per the current schedule with support from the Board of Directors and other volunteers.

It is with much regret and sorrow that we have attended 15 Poppy Services for 2018.

LEST WE FORGET

On the 24th of February 2019 we have our Annual General Meeting so I would encourage everyone to come along and then have a couple hours together at the Leave Pass Sunday.

General Managers Statement (Mr Craig Lenihan)

Welcome to another year of exciting prospects for your Club.

Management and staff are working hard to give you our members the best possible service and experience from the moment you enter our club.

You may have noticed the club is now open earlier on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday for breakfast, this is part of the club's plan to increase extra benefits to our members.

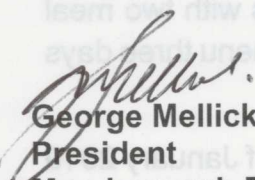
The lunchtime special \$10:00 meal deal is helping our vulnerable community and club members by providing a healthy low-cost meal, we are proud to continue providing this vital community and club service.

Your club chefs are working on a main menu change as to reflect the seasons, by using seasonal products and produce.

One of the goals for this year is to offer our Sub-Branch members, war widows day trips to other RSL's, special events and destinations, more information to come.

A major goal this year is to upgrade our courtesy bus fleet, with the current buses reaching high mileage with the upkeep costs increasing. The Board have asked Management to investigate the benefits of updating to current model buses, with more safety features and lower maintenance costs. Management has approached a local business for quotes. Maryborough RSL believe in buy local first.

The board and management are always looking for ways to reduce the clubs operating costs, so we can offer more benefits to the members. These measures have included, renegotiated supplier contracts, staff restructuring, changes in operating hours and improved service. The management team and staff are committed to continual improvement with the goal of providing best possible service and benefits to all our member


George Mellick
President
Maryborough RSL (Sub-Branch) Inc


Craig Lenihan
General Manager
Maryborough RSL Club

1 February 2019

They shall grow not old, as we that 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”

