



Australian Navy in Vietnam Veterans' Welfare Association of Western Australia Inc.



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

**OUR NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING
WILL BE AT 1200 ON MONDAY 8th
MARCH 2010 AT THE SWAN YACHT
CLUB, RIVERSIDE RD, EAST
FREMANTLE.**

Chairman's Report – March 2010

Here we are open for business again after the Christmas Break, and it is good to see that the same familiar faces have once again put their hands up to help others in the Veteran Community with their Advocacy and other Volunteer help.

Unfortunately it is a fact of life, that all of us get older and have our own medical problems and demons to deal with. Every single one of us who volunteers to work down at Leeuwin fall into the 60 to 70 year age bracket. Without these people there would not be any functioning ANVVWA WA (Inc). Many of our volunteers, including myself, need a long term break, or are looking to retire from their volunteer work within the Veteran Community. These people have done their bit for Veterans and have carried the torch. It really is now time for some of the younger people within the Veteran Community to put up their hands, and carry on the legacy of what the previous generations of Veterans have done for current serving ADF Members and younger Veterans who may no longer be in full time employment, and who have some time on their hands to help.

With that mind, I am appealing to any Veterans out there in the 40 to 50 age group or younger, or Partners of Veterans to consider coming on board and becoming an Advocate. It doesn't matter what branch of the ADF you come from, whilst those of us who are here are all Ex Navy with one exception, an Army Veteran, we all have a common bond, and that is the ADF. We need your help if this Association is to continue its role of helping Veterans from all three arms of the ADF. Without younger people coming onboard to take over as Advocates, and the running of the Association, in the very near future consideration

will have to be given by those of us who are left to close down the ANVVWA WA (Inc). That would be an absolute tragedy, given what we have established and how many people we have helped in the past.

We are currently negotiating with the Civilian Property Managers of Leeuwin Barracks, and the Army to get a three year Lease Agreement in place to enable us to remain where we are. Hopefully this will happen over the coming months, and we will be able to continue the excellent relationship we have established with the Army at Leeuwin.

There appears to be quite a backlash within the Veteran Community aimed directly at the current government, who promised to do so much for recipients of the ADF DFRDB scheme, to review this scheme and make it more fair and equitable with other government departments pensions. Despite several previous reviews where past governments were advised to change the method of pension indexation, the present government conducted another review, and got the answer they wanted, which was not to change the indexation method of pension increases from the CPI method currently in place. Kind of makes you wonder why a Politician's wife and family are regarded as being more needy or entitled to a handout than a Serviceman's Family, and therefore have a much better lifestyle from their Politician partner's rate of pension and other benefit increases.

On page 4 of this newsletter, I have included a graph which clearly shows that over the past 20 years, the rate of a Politicians pension has doubled the rate of a Military superannants pension. The military pension is based on CPI increases, whilst the Politicians pension is based on an MP Backbencher's salary, which was a bucketful of money before they even considered giving themselves massive pension raises. Included in the graph is the Age pension which has certainly done far better than the Military pension.

To simplify this graph, and remembering that there was already a huge disparity in pension rates at the time it was started 20 years ago, we know a Politician was already starting on a higher pension than the Serviceman. So over 20 years that Politician's pension has increased by 140% of what it was at that time.

The Age pension has increased by 130% of what it was. Meanwhile the lowly Military Superannuant who is stuck with CPI increases has had his pension increased by 70%. This is the same load of rubbish index that the Political bean counters keep telling us hasn't increased over various quarters, yet all over the place the cost of living is going through the roof. Bugged if I know what planet they are living on, but it's not the same one Military Superannuants live on.

Anyway time will tell at the next Elections. The unfortunate thing here is that the major ESO in Australia, originally established after WW1 to assist returned Servicemen and Women, and the one who obviously carries the most influence with the government polities, appears to be doing very little if anything to support the rank and file Veterans. This can be clearly seen by their lack of support for TPI's and other recipients of Service related disability pensions. Maybe one day we will get a decent politician who does have the fortitude to get his snout out of the trough and support the Veterans. But don't hold your breath waiting. Somehow I don't think the airport in Canberra would be able to handle all the flying pigs coming home to their trough in Parliament House to make a decision favouring the Military Superannuants and Service Disability pensioners.

Peter Denver
CHAIRMAN

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH US.

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ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

Did you know that we have our own website? You can find it at www.ranveteranswelfare.asn.au

When you get some time go into the site and have a look around. Our Webmaster Tic Toc does a fantastic job of keeping it up to date. He is always looking for interesting items to include on our website. So if you have items of interest, be it Army, Navy or RAAF, please feel free to forward them onto him.

ANZAC DAY – SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2010

Our Association will be marching through the streets of Fremantle again this year. The Parade route starts and ends at the Esplanade Park in Marine Terrace and is just over 1 Km in length. Step off time will be at 1015, so you will need to be there no later than 1000 to form up. All Veterans are invited to march with us if they wish, if you don't have a specific Banner to march under. Look for the Blue and Gold Australian Navy in Vietnam Banner.

On completion of the march, there will be a brief address and closing ceremony by Fremantle dignitaries. We are hoping to have a limited number of parking vouchers for the car parks at either end of the Esplanade Park for those participating in the March. If we do get them, they will be issued out on a first come first serve basis. So if you will need one, please advise our office staff, and we will mail you one out if, and when we get them.

On completion of the march, it has now become tradition for us to make our way with our families to the Swan Yacht Club on Riverside Road, East Fremantle, and it is opposite Leeuwin Barracks. For those of you have not been to the Swan Yacht Club before, it is an excellent family venue, where meals and drinks can be purchased at very reasonable prices. We also take part in the ANZAC DAY Ceremony at the Club, which involves a very short March around the Club, and a brief Service.

Following that, the Midland City Brass Band always puts on a fantastic free afternoon of music for all to enjoy. The Swan Yacht Club has been a very strong supporter of our Association, and other Veteran Associations for many years. We are deeply grateful to the Commodore Mr Dean Furness, The Committee, and Management of the SYC who go out of their way to make our day memorable.

Once again we will be running our raffle at the Club as a fund raiser, and we need donations of new items that we can raffle off. So if any of you have any unwanted left over Chrissy presents, or gifts that you have received that you will never use, please don't leave them in the cupboard somewhere. Perhaps some of you have contacts with a business or a retail outlet who would be willing to donate an item for us to raffle. Please contact us. and we will arrange to pick them up, providing of course you live in the Perth Metro area. This is one of our Major fund raisers for the year. Please help us with your donations, all you have to do is call us at the Office and we will do the rest.

It gives me great pleasure to advise all our Members that our Vice Chairman, Bob Lindsay will lead our Association in this years ANZAC DAY March.

BEER BY 7 YEAR OLDS

A handful of 7 year olds were asked what they thought of beer. The last one is especially interesting.

* I think beer must be good. Dad says the more beer he drinks, the prettier Mum gets. Tim.

* Beer makes Dad sleepy, and we get to watch whatever we like on TV when he falls asleep. Beer is nice. Melanie.

* My Mum and Dad both like beer. My Mum gets funny when she drinks it and takes her top off at parties, but Dad doesn't think this is funny. Grady.

* My Mum and Dad talk funny when they drink beer, and the more they drink the more they give kisses to each other, which is a good thing. Toby.

* My Dad gets funny on beer. Sometimes he wets his pants when drinking beer, so he shouldn't have too much. Sarah.

* My Dad loves beer. The more he drinks, the better he dances. One time he danced right into the pool. Lilly.

* I don't like beer very much. Every time Dad drinks it, he burns the sausages on the BBQ and they taste disgusting. Shirley.

* I give Dad's beer to the dog and he goes to sleep. Tom.

* My Mum drinks beer and says silly things and picks on Dad. When she drinks beer she yells at him, and tells him to go bury his bone down the street again, but that doesn't make any sense. Jack.

THE AFFAIR

Paddy is on the way home from the pub, and he asks his mate Mick if he would be a witness, as he suspects his wife is having an affair. Quietly arriving home they tip toe into the bedroom, and catch Paddy's wife in bed with Murphy, and they are both naked..

Paddy puts a gun to Murphy's head.

The wife shouts, "Don't do it, I lied about inheriting the money. He paid for the new car I gave you. He paid for the new boat. He paid for your season football tickets. He paid for our Holiday to Spain. He paid for your Golf Club Membership, and he even pays the monthly rent on the house."

Confused, Paddy lowers the gun, looks over at Mick and asks, "What would you do?"

Mick replies, "I'd cover him up so he doesn't catch a cold."

HOSPITAL INCIDENTS - DOCTORS REPORTS

* At the beginning of my shift, I placed a stethoscope on an elderly and slightly deaf female patient's anterior chest wall.

"Big breaths." I said.

"Yes, they used to be." replied the lady.

* One day I had to be the bearer of bad news when I told a wife her husband had died of massive myocardial infarct. Not more than five minutes later, I heard her on the mobile phone telling her family he had died of a massive internal fart.

* While acquainting myself with a new elderly patient, I asked her "How long have you been bedridden."

With a look of complete confusion she answered, "Why not for about twenty years, when my husband was still alive."

* I was performing rounds at the hospital one morning and checking up on an elderly man. I asked, "So how was your breakfast this morning?"

It was very good except for the Kentucky Jelly. I just can't seem to get used to the taste."

I then asked to see the jelly, and the patient produced a foil packet labelled "KY Jelly."

* A nurse was on duty in the Emergency Room when a young woman with a purple punk rocker Mohawk, sporting a variety of tattoos and way out clothing was admitted. It was quickly determined that the patient had acute appendicitis. Once she was disrobed on the operating table, the staff noticed that her pubic hair had been dyed bright green, and above it a tattoo that read, "Keep off the grass."

Once the surgery had been completed, the surgeon wrote a short note on the patient's dressing which read, "Sorry, I had to mow the lawn."

* A nice calm respectable lady walked into the pharmacy and said to the Pharmacist, "I would like to buy some cyanide."

The Pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?"

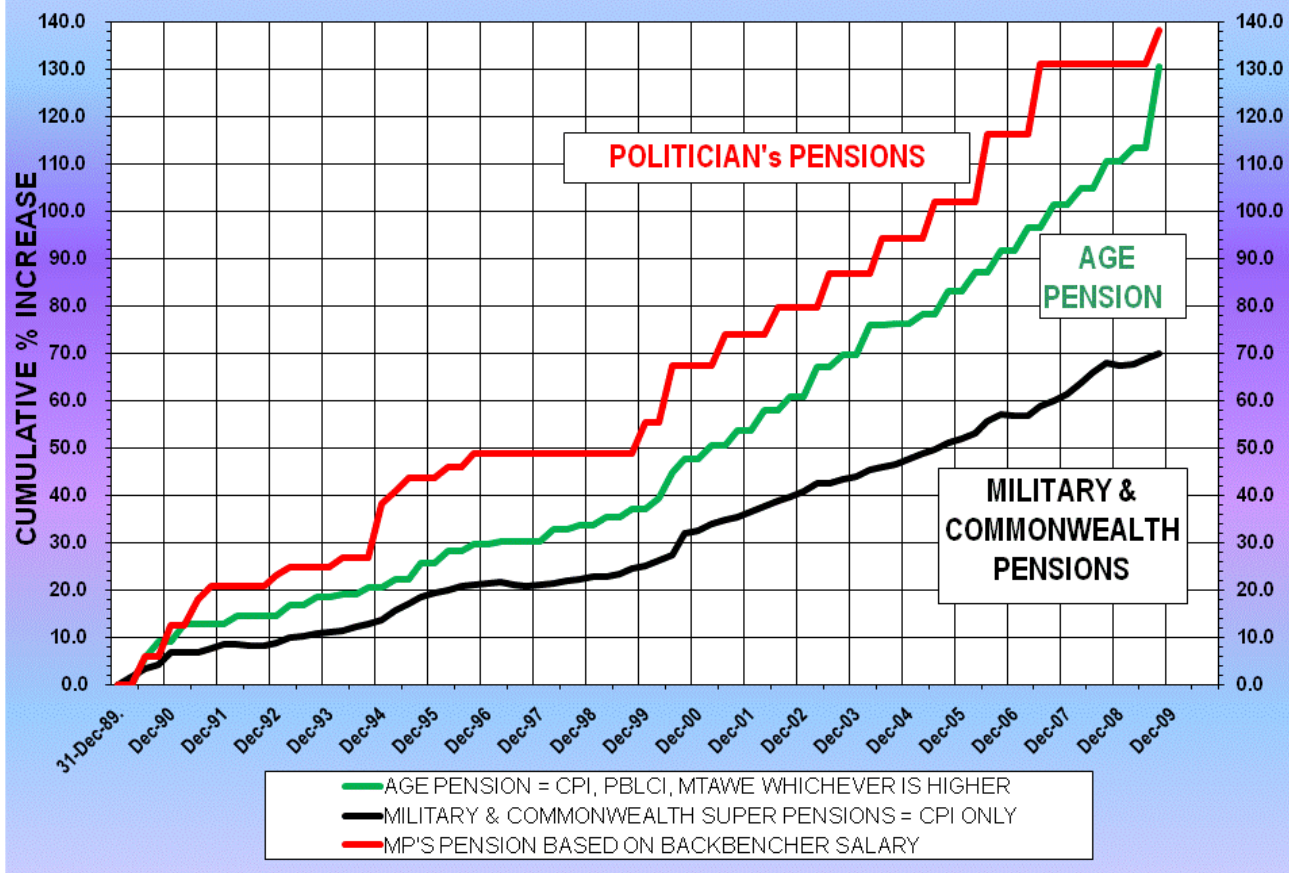
"I need to poison my husband."

"I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband, that's against the law, and I will lose my license and go to goal."

Upon hearing that, the lady reaches into her purse and pulls out a photo of her husband in bed with the Pharmacist's wife.

The Pharmacist takes one look at the photo and says, "Why didn't you tell me you had a prescription."

INDEXATION INJUSTICE - SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENT INACTION AND BROKEN PROMISES



Some more interesting items from the DVA Information Handbook on Pensions.

Disability pensions are paid to compensate Veterans for injuries or diseases caused or aggravated by war service or certain defence service rendered on behalf of Australia before 1 July 2004.

Disability pensions are free of income Tax, and are not subjected to Income or Assets Tests that apply for Service Pension purposes. There are four categories of Disability pension.

General Rate: This pension is graduated from 10% to 100% according to the assessed degree of incapacity. Note: that 100% Disability pension does not mean the recipient is wholly incapacitated. It is quite in order for a Veteran receiving 100% General Rate pension to be in full-time employment.

Intermediate Rate: (Intermediate rate is midway between General and Special (TPI) Rates) and is payable to Veteran's eligible for at least 70% of the General Rate, (or 100% General Rate for Pulmonary TB), and who can only work part time (less than 20 hours per week or 50% on normal hours for the

Veteran's usual occupation), or intermittently, solely because of accepted disabilities.

Special Rate: Also known as the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) is paid to a Veteran who is blinded in both eyes as a result of Service, or who is eligible for at least 70% of the General Rate (or 100% General rate for TB), and who solely because of accepted disabilities, is unable to work for more than 8 hours per week and thereby suffers loss of earnings. A pension at the Special rate may also be paid if the condition is temporary (eg recovering from surgery), and is known as the Temporary Special Rate (TSR), or Totally and Temporarily Incapacitated (TTI).

Extreme Disablement Adjustment: EDA is paid to Veterans eligible for 100% general rate Pension, and with an impairment Rating of at least 70 points, and a lifestyle rating of at least 6 points under DVA's *Guide to Assessment of rates of Pension* (GARP). The Veteran must be at least 65 years old, and not already eligible for the Intermediate or Special (TPI) Rates.

For further information about Pension payments by DVA, phone 1133 254 (metro) or 1800 555 254 (country). Website: www.dva.gov.au