



**ANVVWA NEWSLETTER 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017**  
**Next business Meeting - Swan Yacht Club**  
**11.00 am, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

We had our AGM on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July at the Swan Yacht Club, and once again I got conned back into the chair! My health is not great, but recent tests show that I am still breathing and functioning relatively better than some we have been trying to help, so I am quids in front!

Our new line-up is slightly amended, Ian Smith is now Vice-Chairman, Bob Lindsay has taken on looking after the memorial and additional committee duties, along with our previous committee members, John Davidson, Bert Steegstra and Peter Knight. Other positions remain as before.

Minutes of the AGM were distributed and are available on our website.

The latest dose of the 'flu has been suffered by many, those who have had it declared it to be the worst they have had. My wife and I had the injections to cover pneumonia and the new viral infections but still copped a severe dose. My doc reckons it would have been worse if we had not had them, and the number of patients he has seen seems to support that thought.

Our Association has been affected by significant changes to Legislation in recent years, mainly which require our advocates to gain recognition of prior learning, or to undertake any new training as it becomes available under the new ATDP which provides ongoing certification to whatever level the advocate may reach.

To further understand this training and what is happening behind the scenes, I have attached the latest copy of "Advocacy News" to this posting, which is instigated by Jenny Walker, who is the Chairperson, of the Strategic Governance Board of the ATDP. These were not previously circulated widely, but we are trying to ensure that they are now. (They will also be available on the DVA website)

DVA has been proudly announcing several innovations on their website and newspaper, which they claim will speed the claim process for all veterans. On the other hand, it has been admitted in Parliament that many claims are being significantly delayed for various reasons, many taking as many as 140 days to process initial claims to a level where a decision can be made, then a further significant delay can occur in making an assessment, determining what action, if any, can be taken to assist the veteran.

The fault cannot be blamed upon any specific processes, but appear to be a combination of several things.

I personally believe that there are unfortunately no longer enough experienced delegates remaining in the various DVA offices throughout Australia to adequately ensure that junior public servants are adequately prepared to understand the unique experiences that can only be suffered by military people, then try to correlate the information that many have supplied (often without assistance) to a series of yes/no answers on a computer screen.

Several years ago, our DVA offices were often staffed by ex service men and women who could relate easily to many situations and completely understand these processes. This is now not the case and even senior people have limited understanding, particularly of medical processes and in many cases the lack of proper documentation of seemingly minor problems in the field, small ships or in overseas temporary situations.

Our service members today are also experiencing many stressful situations of which even we had no experience as in addition to those needs they are now even required to accept responsibility to complete their own documentation for everything in a way that we would have found impossible before the age of computers. This in itself has introduced new stresses and dangers of electronic and radiation hazards which reek of science fiction to some of us!

There are also significantly higher numbers of people who are affected by the results of conditions to which they were exposed many years before, causing physical and mental problems which are not easily defined until lengthy medical and service investigations have been completed.

DVA has been very understanding of our complaints and have tried to take on board all the problems we have raised, but with the fixed amount which cannot be denied to maintain constant support to existing customers, very little is provided in extra allowances to every Government Department each year, they have little to offer other than to ask their workers to also try harder. So I guess that we have to be a little patient, and try to ensure that we keep appropriate records, so when something goes missing, we can provide decent copies to get processes back on track.

Thanks again to all our hard working office people and those who go out and visit our aged people who are probably not in such good shape as we like to believe we are.

Many regards,  
Trev





The next two weeks represent an important time in the Anzac Centenary program with the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein on 23 October, followed by the 75th anniversary of Kokoda Track and the Beachheads on 2 November.

Three major battles occurred around El Alamein in Egypt between July and November 1942, and the Australian Imperial Force figured prominently in two of them. Over the five months, Australia suffered almost 6,000 casualties.

The battle was a decisive victory for the Allies, halting the Axis advance on Cairo and enhancing the already formidable reputation of the Australian 9th Division.

Twenty-six veterans of the Battle of El Alamein will attend a Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) on 23 October to mark the anniversary.

Between July and November 1942, Australians were also fighting along the Kokoda Track in some of the most iconic battles in Australia's history.

On 2 November 1942, Australia retook the village of Kokoda and, joined by American troops, went on to win the final battles of the campaign at the Buna, Gona and Sanananda Beachheads.

Dislodging the Japanese from Papua came at an enormous cost, with the entire Kokoda campaign resulting in more than 1,800 Australian lives lost and more than 3,600 wounded or struck down with illness.

Eleven Kokoda veterans will attend a Last Post Ceremony at the AWM on 2 November to commemorate the anniversary of the campaign.

### TV Tray for Seniors

Don't laugh. Patent pending

You're just upset that you didn't think of this great invention.

And you know that you are going to forward this on...



Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?

Wonder why the word FUNERAL STARTS WITH FUN?

Why isn't a Fireman called a Water-man?

HOW COME LIPSTICK DOESN'T DO WHAT IT SAYS

IF MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES, HOW COME BANKS HAVE BRANCHES?

If a Vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a Humanitarian eat?

How do you get off a non-stop Flight?

WHY ARE GOODS SENT BY SHIP CALLED CARGO AND THOSE SENT BY TRUCK SHIPMENT?

WHY DO WE PUT CUPS IN THE DISHWASHER AND THE DISHES IN THE CUPBOARD?

Why do doctors 'practice' medicine? Are they having practice at the cost of the patients?

Why is it called 'Rush Hour' when traffic moves at its slowest then?

How come Noses run and Feet smell?

WHY DO THEY CALL IT A TV 'SET' WHEN THERE IS ONLY ONE?

What are you vacating when you go on a vacation?

We can never find the answers, can we?

SO JUST ENJOY THE PUN AND FUN OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE!!

**During a lady's medical examination, the doctor says:-**

**"Your heart, lungs, pulse and blood pressure are all fine.**

**Now let me see *the bit that gets you ladies into all kinds of trouble.*"**

**The lady starts taking off her undies but is interrupted by the doctor.**

**"No! No! Leave your knickers on .. Just stick out your tongue!"**



**MEMORIAL Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Please do not forget our annual ceremony at the memorial, commencing at 10.00.

Please contact Bob Lindsay if you can assist him in getting our bits and bobs to the site and returning them afterwards. We will also attend the Swan Yacht club afterwards for refreshments.

### CONFUSIONS & VAGARIES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

At a movie theatre, which arm rest is yours?

In the word scent, is "S" silent or "C"?

If people evolve from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?

Why is there a 'D' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?