



# **RAAF ASSOCIATION – TOWNSVILLE BRANCH**

## **NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2018**

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### **Next Branch Meeting**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018

1000 Hours

Townsville RSL, Charters Towers Road, Hermit Park

### **Next Raffles**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018

1730 Hours

Townsville RSL, Charters Towers Road, Hermit Park

### **Next Social Event – Christmas Luncheon**

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018

1130

Mercure Resort, Woolcock Street, Townsville RSL

### **October Birthdays**

On behalf of the President and all members, I wish the following members a very Happy Birthday.

6 <sup>th</sup> October	Allan O'Connor
29 <sup>th</sup> October	Gary Lane
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Chris Wootten
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Douglas Bower

If I have missed anyone, please forgive me and have a Happy Birthday.

### **Cancellation – Morning Tea**

The morning tea that was advertised in the social calendar to be held at the Palmetum Cafe on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October has been cancelled as a booking could not be made and there are issues with parking at this venue. I will try and organise a social activity for November.

## **Legacy Week**

Thank you to those who assisted by manning the stall for Legacy Week where we raised in excess of \$3000.00 for Legacy

## **Memorial Service – 7 September 2018**

The Memorial Service held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to honour the thirteen RAAF personnel who lost their lives when 11 Squadron PBY-5 Catalina A24-52 crashed on landing on Cleveland Bay on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1943 was well attended and was a very nice service.

We received great support from RAAF Townsville with the Base Chaplains who conducted the service, Warrant Officer Ray Eastham, WOD and the Catafalque Party as well as uniformed personnel who placed a single Poppy on the Memorial as each name of those who lost their lives was read out.

## **Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS)**

In the next few weeks, VVCS will be changing it's name from Veterans Families Counselling Service to Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling. I have attached a flyer that I received that outlines the changes and why they have occurred.

## **DVA Advocates**

Lindsay Gordon, Basil Nelson and myself are now registered to commence training as Level 1 Compensation Advocates. We are training under the auspices of the National Board of the RAAF Association with the full support of the National President. This training will take several months to complete and all three of us have mentors who will guide us through the training. More information will be passed to you as it becomes available.

## **Changes to DVA Ancillary Healthcare**

At a DVA North Queensland Consultative Group meeting that Pat and I attended yesterday (Tuesday) we were once again reminded that changes to the DVA Ancillary Healthcare system are changing on 1 July 2019. This will affect all ancillary healthcare other than optical and dental. If anyone is using this system of healthcare, a referral from your doctor to the healthcare provider is currently a twelve month referral. As of 1 July 2019, these referrals will only be valid for twelve visits to your healthcare provider or twelve months, whichever comes first. I have also put this in the minutes of the September meeting as I did speak about it in General Business.

## **DVA Gold Card Holders**

Any members who currently or may have a DVA Gold Card in the future are requested by DVA to submit a claim for any new illness or injury so that it can be assessed and if successful it will be added to the list of accepted conditions on your card. While this may seem insignificant as you already have a Gold Card, there may be extra benefits that you will be entitled to with home care and items. You can use an advocate to do this for you or you can do it yourself online through the DVA website.

## **Overseas Travel Entitlements for DVA Card Holders**

Anyone who holds a DVA Health Card whether it is gold or white, and has any illness or injury while overseas, can receive DVA support for conditions that are recognised conditions on your DVA Health Card. You must tell DVA that you are travelling overseas before you leave and you will be required to pay for any medical expenses while you are travelling and then claim for a refund on your return. The amount that DVA will refund is the standard refunds that would be paid if the treatment was provided within Australia. It is still strongly recommended that when travelling overseas that you have travel insurance as an added precaution.

**Please Note:** Illnesses and or injuries that are not recognised on your card will not be covered.

## **Christmas Luncheon**

Once again, the Christmas Luncheon has been booked at the Mercure Resort on Wookcock Street commencing at 1130 hours on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018. More details to follow.

All members and families are invited to attend.

Until the next newsletter, kind regards to all and please stay safe.

*Ted Mildren*