



TPI *News*



TPI Front Office

Gaynor Tilley receiving the
TPI Meritorious Award

TPI House

Wayne Norton winner of the
\$100 Monthly Meeting Prize



Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Service Men and Women

Disabled in our Service – United in our Cause



Departed Comrades

At the going down of the Sun we will remember them.

VALE-LEST WE FORGET

"I tell you they have not died,
They live and breathe with you,
They walk here now at your side,
They tell you things that are true."

NAVY

M.R. BOND

ARMY

M.A. DAVIS

D.B. TUCKFIELD

G.D. COSTA

W.J. DAFFY

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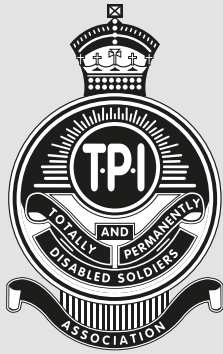
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President's Report

By Leon Eddy OAM



Hello again members.

As I write this, we have just had another successful Anzac Day. It was very pleasing to again be able to welcome our members and their families to TPI House for our Dawn Service. I believe strongly that we must share Anzac Day with those we love. I shall repeat my Anzac Address here as it reminds us of a bond we share that can not be claimed by others.

*"Today is our day, it belongs to Veterans
and to those they love and who love them."*

As a Veteran, I learned long ago that my family's love was a constant. Their caring for me and my comrades was unconditional and did not rely on current news items to dictate whether they cared or not. They did not well up with tears when discussing our war dead, they cared about them constantly and undemonstratively. They also did not jump on the "Bash a Digger" bandwagon when a media outlet suggested some unsubstantiated wrongdoing.

They believed that our Diggers have had and always will have the highest ethics. They will continue to believe that until it has been proven otherwise in a court of law. A court that has established rules of evidence and allows for the cross-checking and counterbalances of a correct legal proceeding. They will not blindly accept the findings of a "Star-chamber" that does not allow the cross-examination of witnesses, and demands answers to all questions, even if those questions are leading or biased.

My family and my brothers-in-arms care for each other and look out for each other, always have and always will. That is why I look forward to meeting up with my 9RAR comrades today. I have a genuine affection for them. We don't live in each other's pocket, but it is a joy to greet them occasionally and to share a meal and conversation as we do every Anzac Day. I observe the same caring among our members here on General Meeting days, and indeed this morning. We respect each other no matter what unit or branch of Australia's Military we served in. We have that common bond of loving the country we served, as do our families.

Go out today and enjoy your mates and comrades while you can. Ignore the hangers-on who will attempt to show how much they care today, they don't matter. Cherish your mates and your loved ones, they are the real thing."

We must appreciate the bond we share. Now that the Covid threat diminishes we need the attendance at General Meetings to increase to that of pre-Covid level. Our strength is our unity, it is this that our younger veterans appreciate along with the fellowship, camaraderie and history. They in turn will pass this on to future TPI members.

A fine example of passing TPI legacy is the awarding of our first Life Membership to a "younger" Veteran. Your Secretary, Ms Julie Conry was awarded Life Membership at the General Meeting of members on 13th April. Before her TPI membership, Julie was a career Airforce member. The Life Member Commendation that supported her Life Membership Award may be read on P25 of this issue.

This award also recognises the changing demographic of our association as Julie is our first female Life Member. It is history-making for TPI-SA.

Cheers for now, see you at the General Meetings. Leon

Editorial

.....J.F GENOVESE



TPI SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATION TIME: As you know, TPI has provided tertiary scholarships for some years now. Please encourage your children/grandchildren to apply. You will find information about the scholarships on pages 13 and 14. Don't leave it to the last moment to apply. If you need further information contact the TPI office Monday to Friday between 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

More welcome news for you: You can now walk into DVA and talk to someone without an appointment. I have lifted the below DVA announcement directly from the DVA website for everyone's benefit.

Please, (for those of you that have computers, iPads/tablets and/or Smartphones) go to the DVA website and familiarise yourselves with the various DVA webpages. You will note that Factsheets are no longer produced, instead, you will need to go on the DVA website to seek the information you require; of course, once found, you will be able to print it off.

For those members who do not have or are unable to access computers, call the TPI office during business hours and we will endeavour to answer your question/s.

Veteran Access Network offices and shopfronts have reopened from 3 May 2021.

Veterans and their families can once again access face-to-face support and services from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) without the need for a booked appointment with Veteran Access Network (VAN) shopfronts and offices reopening this week after being closed due to the ongoing global Coronavirus pandemic.

The understanding of the veteran community during these circumstances and the need to focus efforts on supporting essential services for veterans and their families is to be commended.

Our staff are looking forward to returning to our VAN offices, meeting with the veteran community again and providing the same great level of support.

As offices and shopfronts reopen, the veteran community is asked to be mindful of current health and social distancing recommendations when attending. DVA will continue to uphold the recommended measures to ensure the health and safety of all.

Veterans and their families are still encouraged to use telephone and online services whereby possible by logging into their MyService account or by lodging an online enquiry at www.dva.gov.au, or by calling us on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

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TPI Noticeboard

NEW MEMBERS

NAVY

R.J. KERR

ARMY

P.M. MOSELEY

S.C. WARREN

P.J. TIEMAN

G.R. WILLIAMS

Dates to remember.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| June | 06 Bomber Command Commemorative Day
06 D Day Landings at Normandy, France 1944
08 TPI-SA General Meeting
10 Battle of Shah Wali Kot, Afghanistan |
| July | 09 Allied Invasion of Sicily 1943.
13 TPI-SA General Meeting
23 Kokoda Track Campaign, New Guinea 1942.
27 Korea Veterans' Day. |
| August | 10 TPI-SA General Meeting
15 Victory in the Pacific Day.
18 Vietnam Veterans' Day. Battle of Long Tan, South Vietnam 1966.
31 Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day. |
| September | 04 Battle for Australia Day, Milne Bay, Papua 1942.
14 TPI-SA General Meeting
14 Australian Peacekeepers' Day.
15 Battle of Britain Day 1940.
16 Capture of Lae, New Guinea 1943. |

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The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

MEDIA STATEMENT

Monday, 3 May 2021



INFORMING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ROYAL COMMISSION

Over the past fortnight, consultation has started on the themes for the Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

The Royal Commission is a chance to unite the veteran community and everyone has a chance to have their say as we consult widely on the Terms of Reference.

I have already held discussions with hundreds of veterans, serving members and families and the feedback has been extremely thoughtful and constructive.

They are not interested in arguing amongst themselves, they want the wider military community to unite and make the most of this important opportunity to shape the direction of the Royal Commission.

My role is entirely consistent with other Royal Commissions where the portfolio Minister undertakes consultation, but the actual drafting of the Terms of Reference is undertaken independently of my Department by the Attorney-General.

However, I recognise that some veterans may not be comfortable engaging in this process through DVA. The government has listened to the concerns of these veterans who don't wish to provide their input to DVA as part of this process and I have provided this feedback to the Attorney-General, Senator the Hon Michaela Cash, who has agreed to accommodate those concerns and ensure that all voices can be heard.

Veterans, family members and service personnel can send their submissions for the Terms of Reference directly through the Attorney-General's website: <https://www.ag.gov.au/about-us/what-we-do/defence-and-veteran-suicide-royal-commission-public-consultation>

All feedback to either DVA or the Attorney-General's Department is required to be submitted by 21 May 2021 and will be carefully considered as the Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission are finalised.

THE US AIR MEDAL

AN AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE FIRST

By Gaynor Tilley

Section Officer (S/O) Margaret Curgenvan joined the RAAF in May 1965. She was posted to 4RAAF Hospital, Butterworth, Malaysia from RAAF Richmond during the latter phase of 'Konfrontasi' in 1966 and had experience within the RAAF Med Evac System – Vietnam/Australia.



In January 1967, S/O Curgenvan was the 4th RAAF Nurse to be selected from Butterworth to fly AME missions with the USAF 902nd AME SQN. This was part of PACAF (Pacific Air Command Air Force) into Vietnam and throughout the American Bases in South East Asia.

The USAF base at Clark Field, Philippines was enormous, operating 24/7 and Margaret was now 1st LT Curgenvan. After being orientated into the 902nd AME system she was required to complete weapons training with M16 Armalite and 38 Smith and Wesson revolver.

Due to the short nature of the RAAF secondment, the experiences were at times quite harrowing and intense. From the adrenaline rush of the excitement of the unknown to other times overwhelming to surreal moments with the wounded and seeing Mortar Fire and contact from the C118. Yet at times there were light-hearted moments – always experiencing support and friendship within the crew members of the 902nd.

All flights were a challenge, both in the Nursing aspect mid-flight without the benefit of Doctors and the flying conditions in the DC6 (C118). The aircraft were constantly breaking down or malfunctioning, especially with pressurisation problems and at times coming under VC fire.

The young Marines at Da Nang seemed to suffer the heaviest battle casualties; their diagnoses had to be blacked out from the manifest sheet before leaving Vietnam. Everything seemed to be non-stop battle casualties.

In 1967 RAAF Section Officer LT Curgenvan witnessed her USAF AME colleagues receiving their US Air Medal after completing the required 20 Combat Support Missions in Vietnam.

As Chief Nurse Major Jean Corrigan (USAF) pinned the Air Medal onto the Flight Nurses Uniforms she turned to Margaret, who was taking photos of the small ceremony, and told her she would like to have awarded Margaret the US Air Medal for her then 20 Combat Missions in Vietnam but was sorry she could not as the Australian Government wouldn't allow it.

Margaret went on to complete 40 Combat Support Missions during her lone secondment with the 902nd during the USAF 'Rolling Thunder' bombing period in Vietnam.

S/O Curgenvan official Flight missions were recorded for her on the American Defence Force Documents. Dept. of the Air Force, 902nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (PACAF), OPA San Francisco 96274.

Margaret Curgenvan served her country, the RAAF, USAF (PACAF) with honour and integrity. Now she finally has acknowledgement from the USAF (PACAF) – the US AIR MEDAL.

TPI (SA) ANZAC DAY REPORT

By Gary Pope

The Annual TPI Association Dawn Service went ahead this year, and the morning was clear but cool, attendance was down from other years obviously because of Covid 19 restrictions, but still, the morning was a success.



This was due to the support of The Reverend Andrea McDougall from St. Francis Anglican Church Clarence Gardens who led us through the Service.

The Catafalque Party support came from B Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment located at Edinburgh and our Bugler was furnished by Australian Military Band Adelaide located at Warradale Barracks.

It was wonderful to have them participating and the interaction between Veterans and current Service Members is appreciated.



L/R: B Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment Members. **Sergeant. C. Brennan, Troopers: M. Sultana, T. Andrews, A. Germain, J. Orr, P. Trictico and Corporal D. Tana.**

Australian Army Band Adelaide Member. **Private Isaac White.**

After a hearty breakfast of egg and sausage and egg and bacon burgers with hash browns supplied by Hungry Jacks West Richmond, all were sated and went on their way.

At eight-thirty, Members who could not march but wanted to be included in the Anzac Day March were picked up by a bus supplied by Ezyway Minibus Adelaide.

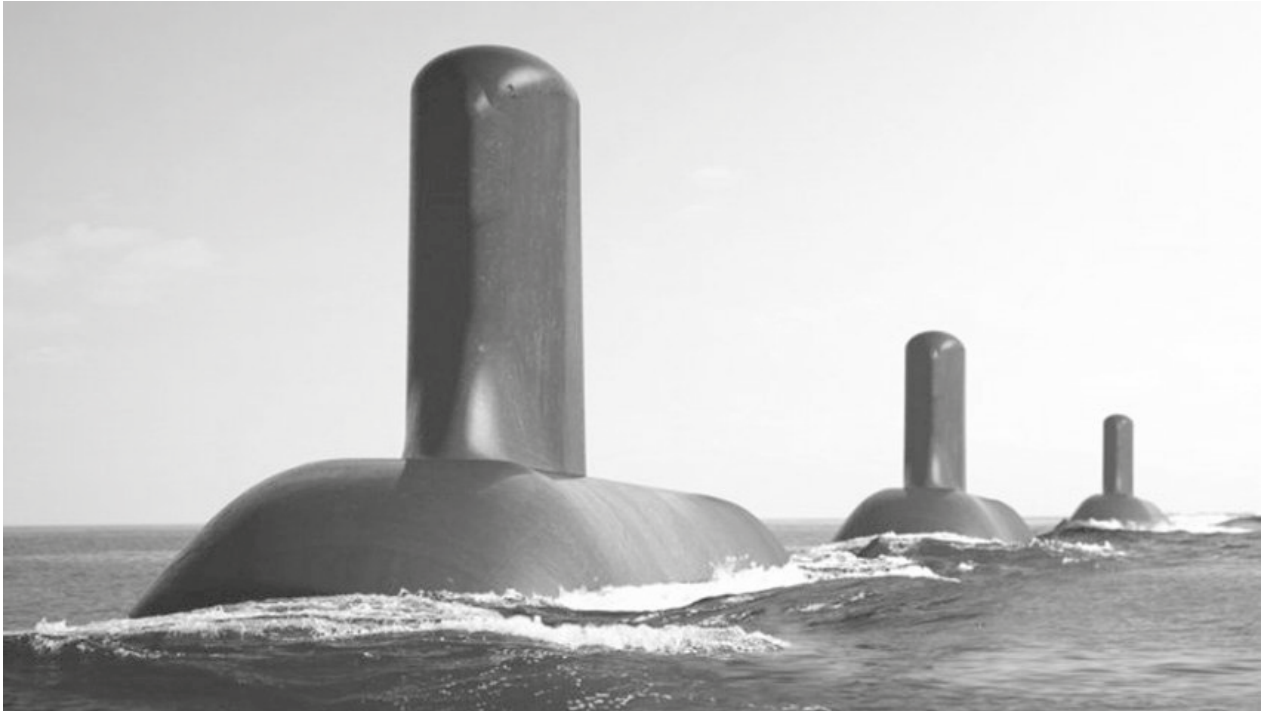
They were transported to the marching assembly point and through the march. After the march, they were driven back to TPI House.

Well done to Ezyway and Driver John Harris, for giving up their time and resources to ensure our Members could participate.

Thank you for your attendance and see you again next year.

OPINION: The submarine program is affordable and value for money but needs more work

By Christopher Skinner



There have been frequent media stories of government and community concern over the projected costs for the Attack Class future submarine program, and most of those concerns are based on some fundamental misunderstandings of how such programs are successfully managed.

For a start, we have had the incessant sniping from senator Rex Patrick who is determined to demonstrate that there are significant differences from what was quoted by DCNS, now Naval Group, in their submission, which led to their selection in what was a competitive evaluation process (CEP). I stress comparative evaluation because the process was to choose a partner for the program and was not a binding tender as such. We will probably go on chipping away at this bone for several more years such that it may get Senator Patrick reelected but may not do much good otherwise.

We did choose a highly experienced and reputable partner and everything that Naval Group has done thus far reinforces this judgment. They have moved expeditiously on the time schedule that they proposed and have initiated a large number of equipment selections and called for Australian industry expressions of interest to manufacture and sustain a large number of major hull, mechanical and electrical (HM&E) equipment and this has been enthusiastically responded by a large number of companies.

Secondly, Naval Group has pursued a proactive and locally attuned program to attract qualified young people to start their career within the Attack program. I know one of the recruits and he is quite inspired at the idea of a fascinating career ahead of him starting with three years in France with the design

team there and then back to Adelaide to continue as a highly skilled member of the Attack Class design authority. This is a truly impressive commitment of a company to the success of the program detached from the three-year federal electoral cycle, which would never approach the program with the overall outcome as their top priority.

As for the harping on the commitment to at least 60 per cent expenditure in Australia, this may make good political news but will only succeed if the Australian companies are up to the mark for safety, quality and timeliness. Australian Industrial Capability is not acceptable at any cost. Value for money is still important and the quality of product and service must meet extraordinarily high standards for all military material but especially for safety-critical applications such as undersea vehicles.

The next big issue for me is the constant harping on the huge (\$89 billion) cost of the program, which is again a complete fallacy. The cost of the program is not settled in any manner whatsoever as the contracts let thus far do not bind the Commonwealth to any particular purchase nor to the specifications, terms and conditions of the purchases that are made.

The underlying concept here that most commentators seem not to understand is that in any contract once let there is a legally binding relationship with penalties for non-compliance or breaches. There is no such binding agreement for the full 12 submarines, nor will there ever be for such a large number over such a long period when technology and geopolitics are changing rapidly

That leaves the final misconception that the Commonwealth has lost leverage with the sole source selection, when in the whole world this occurs with every program that makes a final contract for whatever product or service that may need to be extended or varied during its lifetime.

For the Attack program, the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) presumably sets out a framework for the ongoing contracting of successive stages of design, contraction and delivery, but is not a contract as such.

The methods used by experienced procurement agencies such as the US DoD include a comparison of contract price elements with other programs, auditing of the supplier facilities and staff, considering the option of government-furnished equipment (GFE) or supplies (GFS), and many others that professionals in this field can elaborate.

The bottom line then, the Attack program is going well because we selected a competent and motivated partner who is very experienced in dealing with less-experienced customers such as Australia. We can learn a lot from them as my young colleague will do so.

And to ensure we get value for money we need to maintain expert vigilance that the program is following contracted plans and stop the distractions of emotive Australian industry debates when the real issue is whether the Australian industry can meet the challenges already in front of them.

Christopher Skinner served 30 years in the Royal Australian Navy as weapons and electrical engineer officer in six ships, including all three of the previous guided-missile destroyers. He was seconded to the US Naval Sea Systems Command to manage the trials of the USS Oliver Hazard Perry FFG-7 first of class and was the initial project director for the RAN Anzac Frigate Program.



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ANZAC DAY 2021



Member Garry White with Gavin Hargraves
at March FUP, waiting waiting.....



Winner of \$100 door Prize ?????



L/R: Joe Perrin, Reverend Andre McDougall,
Gary Pope and President Leon Eddy



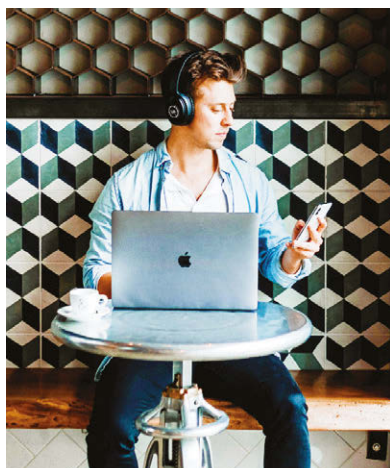
Adrian Probert Winner!! With Kym Hogan



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— AVCAT Scholar

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Frequently Asked Questions

When can I apply for an AVCAT Scholarship?

Applications open 18 August, and close at midnight October 31.

Are grandchildren of veterans eligible to apply?

Yes! Grandchildren of veterans can apply for an AVCAT Scholarship.

Do all applicants receive an AVCAT Scholarship?

The selection process is very competitive and scholarship numbers are limited therefore, not all worthy and eligible applicants will receive a scholarship.

How will my scholarship application be assessed?

Applications are considered by a team of independent assessors and AVCAT's National Selection Committee. The following criteria are used to assess applications: financial need, academic potential and personal circumstances.

What supporting documents do I need for my scholarship application?

It is advisable to start preparing your documents before applications open as this can take a considerable amount of time. You can find more information at avcat.org.au.

When will I be notified of the outcome of my application?

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application from late February through to early March. Applicants will be updated on any change to the timing of notification.

Where can I find more information?

You can find more information on the AVCAT website at avcat.org.au or contact the AVCAT office Monday - Thursday on 02 9213 7999 or at info@avcat.org.au. Register your interest in applying at avcat.org.au/scholarships



'I can say with confidence that my AVCAT scholarship has given me the reach I needed to grab hold of my dreams and aspirations.'

— AVCAT Scholar

Independent Review into the TPI Payment

Mr David Tune AO PSM

Executive Summary

Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) veterans primarily receive compensation in the form of the Special Rate of Disability Pension (the TPI payment) under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA). On 2 April 2019, the Prime Minister directed the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to commission and oversee an evaluation of the TPI Federation position that an increase in the TPI payment is needed to remedy a downward trend in its value relative to wages since the 1950s.

Mr David Tune AO PSM was appointed as the lead independent reviewer.

The TPI payment is currently \$1,401.90 per fortnight, excluding any other pensions, payments and supplements. The average age of TPI veterans is around 70, and about 90% are over the age of 60. Around 77% of TPI veterans receive an income support payment.

The TPI Federation has advocated for an increase in the TPI payment on the basis that it has two components, with one being an 'economic loss' component that is argued has reduced in relative value since the 1950s to be only 61.9 per cent of gross National Minimum Wage (NMW) currently. The TPI Federation is of the view that NMW is the minimum a TPI veteran would have expected to earn, had they not become unable to work as a result of their incapacity. As a result, they consider the TPI payment should increase by about \$9,500 per annum (\$365 per fortnight) to bring the notional 'economic loss' component, of the TPI payment, up to 100 per cent of after-tax NMW.

The review found the TPI payment has two components for indexation purposes in legislation but does not have a component that operates like other 'economic loss' compensation payments. This provides a benefit to most TPI veterans, as economic loss compensation ceases at age pension age, affects the rate of any income support payment, and is taxable – in contrast, the TPI payment is payable for life, is excluded from the income test for Service Pension (but may impact Commonwealth Rent Assistance payable) and is non-taxable.

Analysis conducted by the review, using more appropriate wage benchmarks than used by the TPI Federation, does not support the contention that the rate of the TPI payment has fallen against wages (regardless of whether it is split into two components). Against some wage measures, the TPI payment has increased in value over time. TPI veterans also have a higher net disposable income than many veterans who work full time earning Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE).

Veterans' compensation is also provided under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA). The analysis highlights that many TPI veterans receive higher payments from Government over the course of their life than veterans compensated under the MRCA or the DRCA.

Given the analysis, the review recommends no increase in the rate of the TPI payment, other than through ongoing indexation increases.

However, analysis shows some TPI veterans within the broader TPI veteran cohort may have less financial resources because of their individual circumstances, and that other changes to the TPI payment would be beneficial. The review recommends targeted changes as follows:

- Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA) be abolished and Disability Pension – including the TPI payment – and permanent impairment payment under the MRCA be defined as exempt income under the social security law. In addition, the disability income rent test should be abolished. This would simplify payment arrangements and allow TPI veterans who are renting to receive Commonwealth Rent Assistance.

- Indexation of TPI payment be changed to index the whole payment at once, rather than in two components. This could also apply to the Intermediate and Extreme Disablement Adjustment rates of Disability Pension. The split indexation mechanism was introduced in 2004 due to the different indexation mechanisms in place for the General Rate and Above General Rate (AGR) components, but it is now redundant as the indexation mechanisms were aligned in 2008. •
- Change terminology and language in legislation, guidelines and policy documents to no longer refer to the TPI pension as a 'pension' – but as a 'payment'. Some stakeholders are concerned that the term 'pension' implies welfare instead of compensation. •
- Conduct a data linkage project across agencies with the aim of examining the long-term wellbeing and overall outcomes for TPI veterans and links with mainstream services. Existing data on financial resources and Government payments provided to TPI veterans does not provide a complete picture of the needs of TPI veterans, or their overall wellbeing.

If preferred options of this review were endorsed, it would result in a total increase in administered expenditure of about \$9million in the first year and around \$79million over 10 years. There would also be a cost shift of some income support payment expenditure from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to the Department of Social Services (DSS).

OPED

I am not qualified to argue for or against this report, I am not an accountant, never the less, I have sufficient power of reason and I am opinionated. Please note, my opinion is not necessarily that of the TPI Association.

So, there you have it. It is not likely that this government is going to adjust anything for TPIs.



It has found its man to provide an answer suitable to its ideology; indeed, the report even suggests changes that if implemented, would hand over control of some financial matters to the Department of Social Services (DSS). Such an outcome in my view will disadvantage TPI members for we will need to deal with two departments, DVA and DSS, the latter having little understanding of our needs and would conflate our needs with those of the general population. Moreover, money that would have been allocated to DVA would more likely be diverted to DSS.

The report makes a case that because the TPI component is for Life, therefore this is to our advantage because according to Tune, our economic loss does not work like other economic loss that cuts out at age pension age.

I would like to see the analysis that highlights many TPI veterans receive higher payments from Government over the course of their life than those veterans compensated under the MRCA or the DRCA.

My analysis suggests otherwise. To compare MRCA and/or DRCA TPIs is like comparing Lemons and Limes, whilst similar, they are quite different.

VEA veterans worked most of their lives and paid taxes for longer; they generally were accepted as TPI late in their working life, mostly somewhere between age late 50s or early 60s. Conversely, early evidence suggests MRCA/DRCA are accepted as TPI at a much younger age. For Tune to suggest the VEA TPIs cost more money is in itself not a lie but it is a smart statistical trick to say something you want to say to please your master. It is deceitful because VEA TPIs are much more numerous therefore are more costly, MRCA/DRCA comparatively are less numerous ergo less cost to maintain. Again, this is using statistics to suit a particular outcome. ***In short, I question how independent the report is???***

Hospital Happenings.....by Mick Curry



Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

The Deputy Commissioner DVA SA, Janice Silby convened a workshop on this matter. There was an invitation for input from all sections of the Veteran Community. This fact has been included on our Website. From contributions, a submission from TPI/SA has been forwarded. The Terms of Reference and our submission can be viewed on the Website.

Re-Activation of the Repat.

The new Repat Veterans Wellbeing Centre formal opening was 18/4. All attendees were given the background to the developments to date, and forthcoming at this site. The intent is to have some form of Ex-Service Organization (ESO) representation from all ESO's including TPI/SA in one site. This should further help networking opportunities.

Veteran Visitations – Hospitals.

We have been operational at the RAH, TQEH, Jamie Larcombe Centre, and Flinders Private for some months.

President Leon and I met with a Calvary Hospital delegate to help get Veteran visitations back in their hospitals.

We have a meeting booked with a Flinders Public Hospital rep for 13 May to get us back visiting.

We will continue the challenge of getting back into the two remaining sites, Lyell McCewin and Modbury.

Travel Coverage.

There was a recent case of a member request for pre-booked DVA taxi to an Allied Health appointment which was declined. Our member was told that he had to pay and seek reimbursement. These can take well over the 21 days promised on the form.

A follow up with DVA established that the direction was incorrect. If you have an approved DVA visit, you can book the taxi or ambulance through DVA Tel:1800550455.
(contact office or me if you have any problems)

Medication Probiotics.

Members need to be advised that their GP's are aware of items such as Vitamin B1 supplement, Vitamin B 12 injection etc, which although not standard DVA subsidized medication, can be accessed with a referral. There may be cases where they need to contact DVA for confirmation. Contact the office/me for further explanation.

Coral Sea, Kokoda and Milne Bay

(May-September 1942)

The Japanese had no plans to invade Australia during the Second World War but they did plan to cut Australia's supply line with America by establishing bases in the south-west Pacific islands. In early May 1942, an American carrier force intercepted a Japanese carrier force in the Coral Sea and, after a fierce aerial battle - the Battle of the Coral Sea - the Japanese turned back. At the same time, hundreds of kilometres to the north, HMA Ships *Hobart* and *Australia* were part of a task force sent to intercept a Japanese invasion fleet heading for Port Moresby. This force was attacked by enemy aircraft but, as a result of the American action in the Coral Sea, the invasion fleet also turned back. These actions were the first major setbacks to the Japanese during their advance south in the Pacific Ocean area. One month later, after a further naval defeat in the Battle of Midway, they abandoned their plans to capture Fiji, Samoa and the New Hebrides.

However, between July and September 1942, Japanese land forces continued their efforts to take Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea, fighting Australians on the Kokoda Track where they were eventually pushed back. In August 1942, Japanese marines landed at Milne Bay where Australian troops, together with RAAF Kittyhawk squadrons, defeated them. The Battle of Milne Bay was the first Japanese defeat on land in the Pacific War.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

128005

A Beaufighter of No. 30 Squadron RAAF flies close to a rocky outcrop in the Owen Stanley Range in late 1942. RAAF and USAAF squadrons based in Port Moresby attacked Japanese supply bases on the north Papuan coast during the Kokoda campaign. No. 30 Squadron also strafed and bombed Japanese positions along the Kokoda Track during the Australian advance of October–November 1942.

(Source, AWM OG0001)

Loyal Wingman makes its first flight

By TYLER ROGOWAY



Boeing's Loyal Wingman has undertaken its first test flight, Boeing has confirmed.

Boeing's Loyal Wingman – the Airpower Teaming System – has undertaken its maiden flight, marking the success of Australia's first locally constructed defence aircraft in over 50 years.

The successful flight comes following \$115 million in development funding from the RAAF and will bring together some 35 Australian industry partners. The Loyal Wingman is expected to provide support to critical defence air assets, following clearance from the testing phase.

The Loyal Wingman executed the flight on 27 February, with support from a pilot at Woomera.

"The Loyal Wingman's first flight is a major step in this long-term, significant project for the Air Force and Boeing Australia, and we're thrilled to be a part of the successful test," said Air Vice-Marshal Cath Roberts, Head of Air Force Capability for the RAAF.

Leanne Caret, president of Boeing Defense, Space & Security and CEO, noted, "Boeing and Australia are pioneering fully integrated combat operations by crewed and uncrewed aircraft.

"We're honoured to be opening this part of aviation's future with the Royal Australian Air Force, and we look forward to showing others how they also could benefit from our loyal wingman capabilities."

Known as the Airpower Teaming System (ATS), Boeing Australia's new loyal wingman drone for the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) has taken to the sky for the first time. It's not clear exactly when the flight took place, but it occurred at the high-security RAAF Base Woomera and its surrounding range complex. The flight was originally supposed to occur around the end of 2020, but it was pushed back due to a number of factors.

The ATS, which is a modular design capable of having its entire nose section swapped out quickly, is seen as a landmark program for Australia and the RAAF. It is the first clean-sheet aircraft Boeing has brought to fruition outside the U.S. and the first military aircraft Australia has independently produced in over half a century. ATS is meant to work in combination with the RAAF's fleet of F/A-18F Super Hornets, EA-18G Growlers, and E-7 Wedgetails, as well as F-35s, acting as loyal wingmen by providing additional offensive and defensive capabilities to these existing combat aircraft. Really, that's an understatement. ATS has the potential to totally revolutionize the RAAF's air combat tactics

playbook. You can read all about this promising program and the ATS's stated capabilities in this in-depth War Zone feature.

A Boeing press release reads, in part: "The Loyal Wingman's first flight is a major step in this long-term, significant project for the Air Force and Boeing Australia, and we're thrilled to be a part of the successful test," said Air Vice-Marshal Cath Roberts, RAAF Head of Air Force Capability. "The Loyal Wingman project is a pathfinder for the integration of autonomous systems and artificial intelligence to create smart human-machine teams.

"Through this project, we are learning how to integrate these new capabilities to complement and extend air combat and other missions," she said.

Following a series of taxi tests validating ground handling, navigation and control, and pilot interface, the aircraft completed a successful take-off under its power before flying a pre-determined route at different speeds and altitudes to verify flight functionality and demonstrate the performance of the Airpower Teaming System design.

"Boeing and Australia are pioneering fully integrated combat operations by crewed and uncrewed aircraft," said Boeing Defense, Space & Security President and CEO Leanne Caret. "We're honoured to be opening this part of aviation's future with the Royal Australian Air Force, and we look forward to showing others how they also could benefit from our loyal wingman capabilities."

With support from more than 35 Australian industry teams and leveraging Boeing's innovative processes, including model-based engineering techniques, such as a digital twin to digitally flight-test missions, the team was able to manufacture the aircraft from design to flight in three years.

This first Loyal Wingman aircraft is serving as the foundation for the Boeing Airpower Teaming System being developed for various global defence customers. The aircraft will fly alongside other platforms, using artificial intelligence to team with existing crewed and uncrewed assets to complement mission capabilities.

Additional Loyal Wingman aircraft is currently under development, with plans for teaming flights scheduled for later this year.

Beyond Australia's borders, the ATS could become a massive export windfall for the country and Boeing Australia, one that is not dictated by the United States' strict export controls. Demand for loyal wingman drones, especially those with low-observable (stealthy) characteristics, is set to explode in the coming years as air arms plus-up their air combat fleets. Pairing loyal wingmen with existing tactical jet types are emerging as a potentially promising and economical way to provide some of the capabilities that would only be offered by far more expensive stealth fighters. For those air forces that already have stealth fighters, loyal wingmen could broaden their combat aircraft capacity and drastically enhance the capabilities and overall flexibility of those existing fighters. The U.S. is actively pursuing similar capabilities in the form of its Skyborg program, as well as other parallel initiatives. Boeing Australia's design could even factor into that program in the near future.

As for what comes next, three ATS demonstrators are being fielded that are said to be very close to representative of follow-on production vehicles. Considering how fast this program is moving—it was only announced just two years ago—flight testing will likely ramp up quickly, with all three test vehicles eventually joining up alongside other assets in the air. Much of the basic command logic that will drive the ATS has already been tested on subscale flying demonstrators.

There is no doubt about it, what you are looking at is a major part of the future of air combat. We will update this post when more information comes available.

View Tyler Rogoway's Articles, Aviation Intel. Contact the author: Tyler@thedrive.com

TPI and Veterans Social Golf Club

By Kevin Simper

We are now well into 2021 our golf is back to normal and the 2021 committee is as follows:-

President: **Graham Dungey**

Vice President/Secretary: **Kevin Simper**

Captain: **Dick Searl**

Treasurer: **Craig Steel**

Committee Members: **John Wicker, Colin Simper.**



We once again thank our continuing sponsors; Neil Davies from Veteran Affairs; The TPI Association; Ruben at Adelaide Exercise Physiology; Tony & Marks the fruit people; Timber Art Trophies, Elizabeth.

Golf Results

January

North Adelaide, Stableford Competition

1 st Kevin Simper.	38 Points
2 nd Wayne Jeffries.	35
3 rd Mike Sarson.	35
4 th Brian Johnson.	33
5 th Garry Pope.	33

February

Penfield, Stableford Competition

1 st John Sierakowski.	38 points
2 nd Peter Mchugh.	37
3 rd Joe Mccaffrey.	36
4 th Mike Sarson	35
5 th Peter Borgan.	34

March

Adelaide Shores, Stableford Competition

1 st Gary Pope	42 points
2 nd Kevin Simper	40
3 rd Peter McHugh	39
4 th John Sierakowski	38
5 th Steve Tanner	38

April

The Vines, Stableford Competition

1 st Steve Tanner	38 points
2 nd John Sierakowski	34
3 rd Rob Neagle	32
4 th Eric Szaflik	31
5 th John Firth	28



Colin Simper, Colin Kretschmer, Jim Warren



Winner of the Tony & Marks prize, Peter Mchugh

Next three Games

18th May at North Adelaide

17th June at Adelaide Shores and

12th July at Penfield.

The club is moving along very nicely as we are getting good numbers to the games. Our recent comp at The Vines made our southerners happy although John Sira thought black socks were the dress of the day.

We have welcomed three new members into the club Bill McDonald, Mark Doyle and Eric Szaflik.

Our thanks go out to Sharon Johnson, her husband Garry, a founding member of the club (passed away 2019), who has kindly donated his golf clubs and accessories to the TPI club. We are so grateful.

Transgressing a little. Anzac day is now behind us I hope our veterans enjoyed the day and found some old mates.



I travelled to Victoria reunited with blokes from all over Australia some in wheelchairs, some on walkers.

We got together had a few drinks, told a few lies remembered the people who are no longer with us but I have come home a better man.

New players welcome. For further information ring Graham on 0402204328 or Kevin on 0423524884.

Kevin Simper (Secretary)

Golf Club Treasurer, Craig Steel.

Joshua Dyer (aged 14) was tasked at school to write a poem for Remembrance Day.
An hour later (without any help) he produced this.

ONE THOUSAND MEN ARE WALKING

One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide
they walk toward the light milord
they walk towards the sun
they smoke and laugh and smile together
no foes to outrun
these men live on forever
in the hearts of those they saved
a nation truly grateful
for the path of peace they paved
they march as friends and comrades
but they do not march for war
step closer to salvation
a tranquil steady corps
the meadows lit with golden beams
a beacon for the brave
the emerald grass untrampled
a reward for what they gave
they dream of those they left behind
and know they dream of them
forever in those poppy fields
there walks one thousand men

Joshua Dyer 2019 (aged 14).

Lest We Forget

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Annual subscriptions are due on 1 January each year, A member who is un-financial as at 28 February shall automatically forfeit their membership and shall no longer be entitled to any Association benefit, including Honorary RAA membership.

SUBSCRIPTION FEE \$50.00

Name (Print)..... Member No:

(PRINT)

Tel: Mob:

Address Town/Suburb:

State: Postcode: Email:

Please enclose the subscription fee and a stamped self-addressed envelope or pay by Direct Debit (See below)

Send to: The Secretary, TPI Association, 171 Richmond Road, Richmond. SA 5033

PAY SUBSCRIPTIONS BY DIRECT DEBIT

Annual TPI Subscriptions can be paid by EFTPOS or directly to TPI (SA) bank account by Direct Debit.

TPI Bank Account details are set out below;

Account Name – TPI ASSOCIATION (SA) INC

BANK – COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA, 283 Anzac Highway, PLYMPTON

BSB – 065 148; **ACCOUNT NUMBER** 1024 3192

Record your surname and TPI Badge Number as a Reference for your transaction

Note: The onus is on you to **Contact TPI Office** if you do not receive your membership card within seven working days

APPLICATION FORM FOR HONORARY RAA MEMBERSHIP

Surname: (Print)..... Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Given Names: Member No:

Street: Town/Suburb: Postcode: State:

Tel: Mobile: Email:

Send to: The Secretary, TPI Association, 171 Richmond Rd., Richmond. SA 5033

AMBULANCE COVER (ACE Insurance)

TPI Gold Card covers you for Emergency attendance and/or transport by SA Ambulance, for Non-emergency transport you are responsible to pay. PLEASE CONSIDER taking insurance cover (small fee) with ACE Insurance, for general enquiries contact AmbulanceCover@health.sa.gov.au or 1300 136 272

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Name: (Print)..... Badge No:

New Address: Town/suburb: Postcode:

State: Tel: Mob: Email:

Send to: **The Secretary, TPI Association. 171 Richmond Rd., Richmond. SA 5033**

HOSPITAL VISITS

As a service to members our Hospital visits team service most hospitals; if you or a mate are going into hospital please advise our Hospital Visit Manager Mick Curry OAM.

Mob: 0417 843 262 or via email: mcur3581@bigpond.net.au

WELFARE MATTERS

If you need advice on welfare, please contact our office on (08)8351 7784 or (08) 8351 8140

GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held monthly (Feb to Dec) on the second Tuesday of the month at 11.30 a.m. It is a good way to be informed and to participate.

Some member attending always wins a Prize!

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Call into TPI House any Friday from 12.30pm to 2.30pm for a \$5 lunch, TPI member bar prices and fellowship (complete with banter). ***Be there or be Square!***

Life Member, Julie Conry.

Julie joined the Association in September 2006 and commenced as an Office Volunteer in March 2010.

Being a younger veteran with skills not possessed by us older people she schooled and led us in matters of IT technology and Office Machines, quickly becoming "Miss Fix It".

Being a lady and of a bright and cheery personality she rapidly became a rose amongst the thorns of us grumpy old men. That is an important consideration as in those days, and especially in other ESOs, many veterans did not make lady members welcome.

Julie has proven their value to the veteran movement.

Julie volunteered for and was elected to be Deputy Secretary in March 2011. She performed those duties until becoming Secretary in March 2017. She continues in that role.

Julie has performed her duties admirably, efficiently and with enthusiasm. She never shirks an issue or demand made of her.

Julie willingly assists and guides volunteers in their duties.

Julie oversights the volunteers and comes to their aid when she perceives difficulties or incorrect advice being given.

Her attitude at those times is helpful and sympathetic but she is not autocratic or personally critical.

She has a good understanding of the Management of the Association and speaks with authority on those issues.

Julie has proven to be a valuable member of the Finance Committee, often raising pertinent matters, and asking relevant questions during meetings.

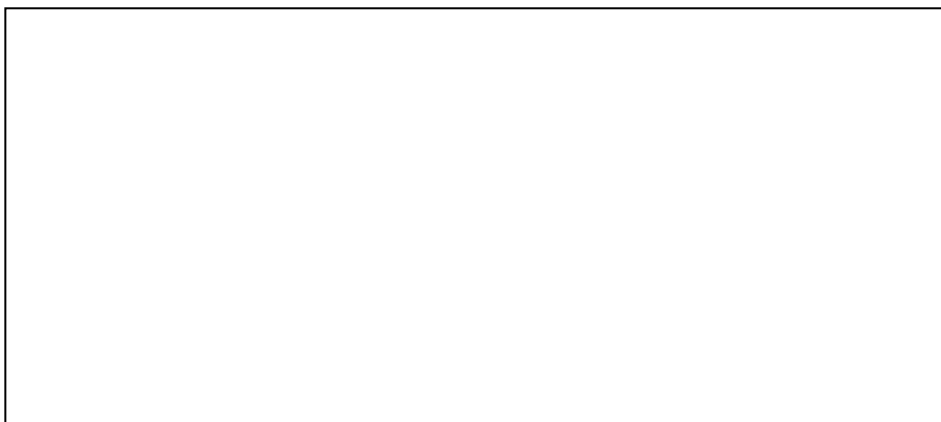
Her devotion to this Association is best displayed by the amount of time she spends working for our members after office hours not only in the office but also working from her home.





TPI *News*

**The Association of South Australian Branch
Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Ex-Servicemen and Women**



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