



South Australian Division

Presidents Report 1/2010

Greetings fellow members, another year and we find that we are still facing the same old battles with the Australian Government, regarding pensions and entitlements. You may have observed the amount of displeasure displayed by ESOs regarding the Matthews Report and his recommendations relative to how DFRDB pensions are calculated. I feel sure that it would not have received a pass mark as a Staff College brief. The report was shallow, and lacked logical argument; but it was obviously what the Government wanted!

A recent Wings article drew attention to the relatively large number of WW2 members who were not aware of their entitlement to DVA assistance, including medical and financial, (Medical Pensions). The article also highlighted the fact that not all Gold Card holders benefits were automatically passed to surviving partners. This is not revealed in a lot of cases until after the death of the Veteran. Should you be concerned I recommend that you seek advice from DVA or our qualified Pensions Officers.

Already this year we have been blessed with another member receiving the OAM in the Australia Day list, congratulations to Dudley Mitchell on his well deserved award. His positive and tenacious approach to assisting veterans is legend.

Information received from Defence advised that members service and medical records can be obtained by accessing: Department of Defence Contacts #04.

Proof of Identity or NOK relationship is required and all requests must have a signature. There may be some cost involved.

Contact:

Air Force Personnel Records Queanbeyan Annex 2, Department of Defence

Canberra ACT 2600

Phone: 02 6266 5965

Historic service records WW1 & WW2 National Archives of Australia Email:

ww1prs@naaa.gov.au



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Further to my advice regarding the Entertainment Book, you will notice that there is a flyer enclosed with this newsletter. I commend members to this great publication, it really will save you money and at the same time you will be supporting your Association.

In conclusion, please don't forget the AGM which will be held in the Combined Mess on Thursday 22nd April 2010 commencing at 1330 Hrs. Please make an attempt to attend, as we must have a quorum!

Regards

Dave Helman