



South Australian Division

Presidents Report 2/2015

Half way through the year and as usual I wonder where the time has gone! We held the Annual General Meeting of the Association in April and all positions were declared vacant. As there were no additional nominations, all appointments were confirmed. My thanks go to all councillors. Sadly I must report that there were insufficient members to make a quorum and the Meeting had to be reconvened at a later time. I appeal to all financial members to make the effort to attend the next AGM to show support for the councillors who make the effort to be active and represent our branches.

Continuing on the theme of meetings, I attended the June General Meeting of the National Council on 10 June in Canberra and among the topics discussed was the feasibility of making “Wings” a free issue to all financial members. This item was addressed at length and options were discussed. Any announcements relative to this idea will be advised to members as they come to hand.

Membership remains a concern and a National working party has been appointed to identify ways to attract younger members. Also raised at the General Meeting was the effect on DFRDB pensions for those members who elected to commute. The commutation was generally accepted as an advance (loan) to be repaid over the lifetime expectations of the member and was (at that time assessed as 72 years). There are some vagaries in the interpretation of what should happen once that milestone was reached. The situation is that nothing happens once a member reaches 72 and the “loan” continues to be deducted from your pension! There is, I understand, a RAAF publication called the RAAF Personnel Information Handbook (1988? Edition) I would be grateful if anyone has a copy of that, or similar book, if they would make a copy available to this office.



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The University of Adelaide is seeking participants to be involved in a Transition & Wellbeing Research Programme; the research will be conducted by the Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies at The University of Adelaide and the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Both are independent of DVA, and Dept of Defence; (who are jointly funding the programme). Participants would be those who have transitioned to the reserve or been discharged completely from the ADF in the past five years. Those wishing to may contact the Research Director Dr Miranda Van Hooff at, Miranda.vanhooff@adelaide.edu.au or on 08 83135200.

The Association has received information from Defence Discount called APOD. APOD is Australia's largest discount provider for defence families. They are currently seeking support and participation in their discount membership program. Membership is open to all serving and ex-serving members of the ADF (Navy, Army and Air Force) and their families, including: partners, Parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren. Membership is \$20 per year and will save thousands. For more information go to www.apod.com.au/join

Until our next News: "Stand easy"

Regards

Dave Helman