



# 17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association



## THE FURPHY WAGON NEWSLETTER - March 2020

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A Little Bear Will Fix

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## Port Macquarie Beaches and Waterways



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# What The Prez Sez

**H**ello to you all, I hope all goes well with you and your family.

Lets hope that this COVID19 virus is over by the time of our next reunion and it does not effect any of us.

The world has gone crazy. I use to cough to cover up a fart, now I fart to c over up a cough. All jokes aside this virus is costing the community and business dearly, and at our age we must take steps to avoid catching it.

On a brighter note, Helen and myself are heading up to Port Macquarie next week to have a further look around at venues etc. Early next month I will get a group of local members together and try and formulate a plan.

When Helen made our accommodation bookings several weeks ago she got the last cabin in the holiday park, this park has dozens of cabins. In light of this, I maybe asking for attendance numbers within a few months. This will give you plenty of time to make your accommodation bookings and travel arrangements.

Dan Garlin has once again made a donation to our cause, thanks Dan. Snow, I wish you the best on your shoulder opp, and thanks for keeping our members informed via the Furphy Wagon.

Keep Well - Peter I

## Veteran Benefits Australia

**Visiting this site is very well worth the effort - Snow**



At Veteran Benefits Australia our goal is to connect Australian DVA card holders with the benefits they are entitled to. We understand that it's hard to find what benefits your DVA card entitles you to. So we decided to make an easy directory to help find the Australian businesses that provide these entitlements, exactly where to find them and how to claim.

**To Find Out More Info! Click ►**

<https://veteranbenefitsaustralia.com/>

# ***OUR GRANT SUBMISSION REJECTED***

*During the process of organizing the Albany reunion, I (as the Secretary/Treasurer) applied to the DVA Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program for a grant to assist us with our reunion costs and finances. Unfortunately, the application was unsuccessful. Please see the letter below from the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

**Snow**

Submission Reference: **P264TZS8**

Legal Entity Name: **17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association**

Dear Mr Whykes

Thank you for taking the time to apply for funding under the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) *Saluting Their Service* Commemorative Grants Program (STS Program). Batch 2 of the STS Program closed on 6 November 2019.

In accordance with the STS Program Grant Opportunity Guidelines, all applications were assessed against the eligibility and assessment criteria and reviewed by the Commemorative Grants Advisory Committee (CGAC). The CGAC is chaired by the Repatriation Commissioner of DVA and comprises of representatives from the Returned and Services League of Australia, the Australian Local Government Association, the Australian War Memorial, and DVA policy. The CGAC make funding recommendations to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, who is the final decision maker.

On this occasion, we regret to advise that your application '2019 Union reunion with Key to the City of Albany' was not successful because:

- Bus transportation is ineligible under the program guidelines.

We hope that this decision does not deter you from applying for other funding opportunities in the future. You may wish to explore the Australian Government's whole of government grant information system, GrantConnect, at [www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au). This website provides a simple and effective service for all potential grant applicants to access grant opportunities from all Commonwealth departments. Anyone can sign up to receive notification of new Commonwealth grant opportunities as they are released.

Regards

Commemorative Grants Team  
Community Engagement Section  
Commemorations and War Graves Branch  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**  
E: [commemorativegrants@dva.gov.au](mailto:commemorativegrants@dva.gov.au)  
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**Australian Government**

**Department of Veterans' Affairs**



## **TPI Exemption Exercise Physiology and Physiotherapy**

**I** have finally received confirmation from DVA on the TPI Exemption for the Exercise Physiologists (EP) and physiotherapy. DVA has recommended that the following be forwarded to your members and placed on your websites, Facebook pages and in your magazines.

"As announced on 24 April 2019, the Australian Government has committed to exempting veterans who receive the Totally and Permanently Disabled (TPI) pension from the treatment cycle for exercise physiology (EP) and physiotherapy services.

Other allied health services accessed by TPI veterans will be subject to the treatment cycle arrangements.

The treatment cycle will commence on 1 July 2019 (with the exemption for TPI veterans for EP and physiotherapy services).

TPI veterans can advise their EP and physiotherapy providers that the treatment cycle does not apply and service provision can continue as usual.

The Department will be sending letters to clients, GPs and allied health providers in the coming weeks. Treatment cycle information will also feature in DVA communications, e-news and the Provider news."

Thank you

**Pat McCabe** OAM

## **Why We Need Toilet Paper**



**"The reason everyone needs so much toilet paper Piglet is because when one person sneezes 100 others shit themselves!"**

## **World Use?**

A market researcher calls at a house and his call was answered by a young woman with three small children running around her.

He asked her if she minded replying to his questions and she agreed.

He asked her if she knew his company - Cheeseborough-Ponds. When she said no, he mentioned that among their many products was Vaseline and she certainly knew of that product.

When asked if she used it, the answer was "Yes." Asked how she used it, she said, "To assist sexual intercourse."

The interviewer was amazed. He said, "I always ask that question because everyone uses our product and they always say they use it for the child's bicycle chain, or the gate hinge; but I know that most use it for sexual intercourse.

Since you've been so frank, could you tell me exactly how you use it?"

"Yes, we put it on the doorknob to keep the kids out."



## **PBS Safety Net threshold lowered – 1 January 2020**

From 1 January 2020 the PBS Safety Net thresholds have been lowered:

from \$390.00 to \$316.80 for concessional patients

from \$1550.70 to \$1486.80 for general patients.

As a result of these changes concessional patients/families require 12 fewer PBS scripts filled each year in order to reach the safety net. For more information on the Safety Net and the lower thresholds, visit the [Department of Human Services](#) website.

Pharmacists will need to apply the lower threshold amounts when issuing Safety Net entitlement or concession cards. Pharmacists can access information on the Safety Net at the Department of Human Services [PBS Safety Net for pharmacists](#) website.

### **What are the current patient fees and charges?**

#### **Patient co-payments**

The co-payment is the amount you pay towards the cost of your PBS subsidised medicine. Many PBS medicines cost significantly more than the co-payment amount.

From 1 January 2020, you may pay up to \$41.00 for most PBS medicines or \$6.60 if you have a concession card. The Australian Government pays the remaining cost.

Since 1 January 2016, pharmacists may choose to discount the PBS patient co-payment by up to \$1.00. This is not mandatory and it is the pharmacist's choice whether or not to provide a discount. The option to discount the co-payment does not apply for prescriptions which are an early supply of a specified medicine.

The amount of co-payment is adjusted on 1 January each year in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Thank you

*Pat McCabe* OAM

President

Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen & Women Ltd

[www.tpifed.org.au](http://www.tpifed.org.au)

0417 291 546

*Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause*

# Port Macquarie Reunion

*I will have more to report on this after Helen and I return from our trip to Port Macquarie later on in the year.*

*We must keep in mind that the coronavirus may still have an influence on society by the time we are ready to visit Port Macquarie. I hope not, but we must be prepared.*

*Peter*

## COVID 19 – Protecting vulnerable groups

DVA is committed to support the Australian Government initiatives to prevent the spread of COVID 19.

We encourage the veteran and ex-service community to heed Government health warnings, and in particular to inform themselves of the advice around public gatherings and visits. While the general community advice is currently to limit organised gatherings to fewer than 100 people for indoor gatherings and fewer than 500 people for outdoor gatherings, additional consideration needs to be taken for vulnerable groups. This includes people in residential aged care, people who are over 60, those with a chronic diseases, compromised immune systems, respiratory issues, and remote Indigenous communities.

Veteran and community groups such as ex-service organisations, day clubs, social clubs and members of volunteer programs are advised to avoid non-essential gatherings, visits and meetings where the members fall into the 'at risk' or vulnerable category. The current advice is to replace face-to-face contact with phone or video calls and either postpone or cancel gatherings where possible.

Where face-to-face meetings are essential, organisers should provide appropriate resources (such as hand sanitiser) and inform themselves about social distancing protocols issued by the Department of Health and outlined in their factsheets available from [www.health.gov.au/covid19-resources](http://www.health.gov.au/covid19-resources).

The Department of Health website has up-to-date information and advice about the evolving COVID 19 situation. For the latest advice visit [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au).

**Kind regards,  
Narelle Little  
Community Support Adviser- WA  
Department of Veterans' Affairs**

## QUOTE

***“Just think - if it weren't for marriage, men would go through life thinking they had no faults at all”.*** Anon

# GOOD ENGINEERING

## Citroen's WW II Sabotage

You're likely unaware that this year is the 100th anniversary of Citroën.

While doing some research I happened to stumble upon a fascinating bit of wartime Citroën lore. It involves screwing with Nazis in a genuinely clever and subtle way that nevertheless had big repercussions. I'll explain.

So, when France was occupied by the Germans in 1940, major French factories like Citroën were forced to produce equipment for the Nazis. Citroën president Pierre-Jules Boulanger knew he couldn't just refuse to produce anything, but he also knew there's no way in hell he's going to just roll over and build trucks for a bunch of filthy Nazis. [Pierre had a plan.](#)

[John Reynold's book Citroën p2CV](#) describes Boulanger's sabotage efforts. Of course, he instructed workers to set a nice, leisurely pace when building trucks (likely Citroën T45 trucks) for the Wehrmacht, but that's fairly obvious. What was brilliant was Boulanger's idea to move the little notch on the trucks' oil dipsticks that indicated the proper level of oil down just a bit lower.

By moving the notch down, the trucks would not have enough oil, but German mechanics would have no idea, because, hey, the little notch on the dipstick says it's just fine. Then, after the truck has been used for a while and is out deployed somewhere crucial, whammo, the engine seizes up, and you've got a lot of angry, stranded, vulnerable Nazis, balling up their little fists and madly barking curses in German.

It's such a fantastic act of sabotage: it's extremely cheap to implement, it's subtle, there's no way to see something amiss is happening as the trucks are being built, and it delivers its blow away from the site of the sabotage and when it will cause the most inconvenience and trouble.

That's some mighty good sabotaging, Pierre.

Happy 100th Anniversary, Citroën. The Free World thanks you.

