



THE FIGHTING FOURTH

***4RAR, 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC), 4RARCOM
Patron Lieutenant Colonel Brian Avery (Retd)***



Spring Edition 2025

SAVE THE SALLYMAN



To Donate see page 5

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NB: Please ENSURE Cheques & Money Orders are made out as follows to:

4RAR ASSOCIATION QLD INC.

Web Page: [www: https://4rarqld.org.au/](https://4rarqld.org.au/)

EDITORS REPORT

Greetings to all and I hope you are keeping well and enjoying life.

I want to thank all the members who sent me well wishes during my recent and ongoing illness you really gave my spirits a good lift thank you.

Once again not much has been going on in the Association so as usual I have included some items from other publications which I hope you will find interesting. One item I have included is about the veteran's death benefits it is a long item, but it is well worth reading and keeping on file.

I would like to congratulate our patron Colonel Brian Avery on his speech in Canberra on the 75th Anniversary of the Malay emergency well done Brian.

Remember we have the AGM coming up in November where all committee positions will be open for nomination if someone wishes to get a team together to form a new committee you are welcome to do so. The current committee is getting tired after five years and the association can do with some new faces and new ideas Noel, Wendy and I are not good health at the moment, and we are considering our future on the committee so please keep this in mind.

With regards to the government withdrawing funding from the everyman's units this I think you will agree with me is a total disaster Wendy has been busy sending letters to protest against such a stupid move she will tell you more in her report.

Best wishes, to you all and keep your head down.

REMEMBER

The RAR Infantry Lunch

WHEN?

1st Thursday of every month

WHERE?

Grand Central Hotel, Ann Street, Brisbane

Opposite ANZAC SQUARE & Above Central Railway Station

There is usually a good turnout from all Battalion's, so come along you never know who you may meet up with.

Allan J McLean-Editor

SECRETARY'S REPORT

. The Sallyman has been a big part of the armed forces for over a century and to think that the federal government has cut their funding is a disgrace I have written to the Prime Minister plus other members of parliament to express our disappointment in their actions listed are the ministers I have written to:

- The Hon Richard Marles Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Defence
- Admiral David Johnston AC RAN Chief of the Defence Force
- The Hon Susan Ley Leader of the Liberal Party
- The Hon. Angus Taylor MP Shadow Minister for Defence
- The Hon Andrew Wallace Member for Fisher

If you wish to donate to the Sallyman's you can go on their website at www.everymans.org.au.

As the committee are nearing the end about term for the year 2024/2025 it is time for all members to consider putting their hand up to form a new committee. All positions become vacant on the 8th of November 2025 at the AGM you do not have to live in Brisbane to be a committee member as we can do meeting by zoom.

Enclosed is the AGM invite, meeting notice & nomination proxy forms for AGM to be held on the 8th of November 2025. We are offering a FREE lunch to all financial members who attend the AGM (drinks at your cost). This is a great opportunity for you to have a catch up with mates and meet the new committee members. You must be financial to be able to vote. A renewal form is in the newsletter, Membership renewal for the 25/26 year was due on the 30th of June 2025.

Should we not get a full committee elected at the AGM the sad note will be that we will have to disband the association. A special general meeting (Notice attached) will be held directly after the AGM. If this should happen, we will discuss the closing of the association and decide on how to dispose of our monies. Noel & I will stay on to deal with proceedings and ensure all financials go to the right organisation and our records go into storage.

Let's hope this doesn't happen as we have been a great association for over 61 years so let us continue to soldier on!

In mid-June we had a successful ladies' lunch and as a thank you to all the ladies for their continued support over the years we surprised all the ladies with a free lunch which was very much appreciated. Jaye & Clive Clewley won the Lucky Door prize.

Membership continues to be steady, but the sad news is we have lost fifteen (15) members that we know of since our last newsletter in March 2025. May they Rest in Peace.

In closing thank you all for your continued support to the association and may we continue on for many years to come.

Secretary Wendy

4th BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QLD INC

The President and Committee of the 4RAR Association Qld Inc cordially invite you and your partner, or friend to join us for the:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 8th November 2025

Where: The Collings Room,

Cnr Newman Road & Collings Street, Geebung Qld 4034

Time: Arrival 1030hr for 1100hrs start

Notice is hereby given all positions will be declared vacant at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be conducted at the above location on 8th November 2025.

Elections will be held for the Management Committee and all other positions. If you wish to nominate either yourself or another member for a position on the committee, please complete the nomination form and return it to the Secretary by 25th October 2025

If you are unable to attend the AGM and wish to vote, please complete the attached proxy form, and return it to the Secretary by 25th October 2025.

Current Committee Members

President	Mr. Noel Fairley	IT Support -	Mr. George Robinson
Secretary	Mrs Wendy McLean	Convener -	Mr. Clive Clewley
Treasurer	Mr. Alan Dorber	Committee -	Mrs. Jaye Clewley
Membership	Mrs. Wendy McLean	Committee -	Mrs. Bernadette Robinson
Management Committee	Mr. Greg Shannon	Committee -	Mrs. Christine Upton
Management Committee	Mr. Allan McLean		

Address for Nomination Form & Proxy's is: Email: secretary@4rarqld.org.au or by post to: Secretary, Post Office Box 7167, Sippy Downs Qld 4556. To be received no later than the 25th of October 2025.

Notices of motions and nominations will be on our Queensland web page under events by 1st November 2025 Web Page: www.https://4rarqld.org.au/

Following the AGM a Free Welfare & Fellowship lunch will be provided for attendees to socialise and meet the new committee, with drinks available at personal cost.

Members planning to attend the lunch are requested to notify Secretary Wendy by the 1st of November 2025 for catering purposes. Contact details: Telephone: 0417 715 979 or by email: secretary@4rarqld.org.au

Sallyman Continued from Front Page

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) says the veteran and Defence Force community will be extremely disappointed at the decision to cease funding the Salvation Army's "Sallyman" program.

RSL Australia National President, Greg Melick said the Salvation Army program had been supporting Australian troops in the field for well over a century and it was a serious concern that this support may no longer be available due to Defence Department budget cuts.

Greg Melick said while funds needed to be found to pay for the AUKUS submarines, new destroyers, missiles and other key equipment purchases, the morale of service personnel was equally important as emphasised by the findings of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

"The Salvation Army Sallyman and Sally ma'ams have played a vital role in building and maintaining this morale, throughout the military and more often on the front line of conflicts.

"Service veterans have nothing but praise for the work of the 'Salvos' and the comfort and care they bring to our troops, often at great personal risk.

"Many had risked their personal safety in the quest to support our troops in battle, and veterans will not forget this.

"The decision to cut the funding to the program is a major disappointment and the RSL urges the Government to reconsider and do all it can to ensure the service continues to support our service men and women, as well as veterans and their families," Greg Melick said.

ED: Sixty years on from my tour of Vietnam, I still have vivid and fond memories of the Sallyman and his vehicle, always ready with cold cordial, hot coffee, biscuits and, most importantly, a word of encouragement. Throughout my entire service, there were countless occasions when the presence of the Sallyman lifted my morale and that of my mates, whether it was after a gruelling 20-miler, during field exercises, or even in the thick of things in Vietnam. They were always there for the Diggers.

To cut funding for such a vital welfare and morale service defies common sense. We've just had a Royal Commission, surely some valuable lessons were learned from that? This decision smacks of bureaucracy removed from the lived experience of soldiers. Where is the RSM-A in all this? He, above all, should understand the value and impact of the Sallyman to serving personnel.

This decision must be reconsidered.

A MOTHER'S LETTER

Dear Son



Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. I'm writing this slowly because I know that you can't read fast. You won't know the house when you come home we've moved.

About your father, he has got a lovely new job he has 500 men under him, he cuts grass at the cemetery. Your sister Mary had a baby this morning I haven't found out yet whether it's a boy or a girl so I don't know if you're an aunt or an uncle.

I went to the doctors on Thursday and your father came with me. The doctor put a small tube in my mouth and told me not to talk for 10 minutes and your father offered to buy it from him.

Your uncle Patrick drowned last week in a vat of Irish whiskey at the Dublin brewery some of his workmates tried to save him but he fought them off bravely. They cremated him and it took three days to put the fire out.

It only rained twice this week first for three days then for four days. We had a letter from the undertaker. He said if the last payment on your grandmother's plot isn't paid in seven days up she comes.

Your loving Mother

PS: I was going to send you 5 pounds but I've already sealed the envelope.

THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY COMMEMORATION

LtCol (R) Brian Avery

On 31 August, a service was held in Canberra by the Department of Veteran Affairs to commemorate the seventy fifth anniversary of Australian Defence Force commitment to the Malayan Emergency. In 1950, the Australian Government committed the ADF to assist Britain to defeat a communist insurgency that had commenced in 1948. 31 August was the day when Malaya gained its independence (Merdeka) from Britain and is celebrated each year as Merdeka Day

In 1950, the Australian Army was fully committed in the Korean War, and had no forces available to deploy to Malaya, although eight jungle warfare experts were despatched to assist in training. However, RAN ships were immediately deployed to Malayan waters and two RAAF squadrons were also sent, a bomber squadron and a transport squadron.

In 1955, with the cessation of hostilities in Korea, an Army Force based around an infantry battalion, an artillery battery, an engineer troop, a transport platoon, and other elements, including nursing officers, arrived in Penang. It totalled about 1,300 personnel. This force was incorporated into the tri-national 28 Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group, with all three services committed forming Australia's participation in the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve. That force remained in Malaya (and subsequently Malaysia) until withdrawn by the Whitlam Government in 1973 but was reinforced considerably from 1964 to 1966 during Confrontation.

As the Patron of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (QLD) (NMBVA) and a veteran of the Malayan Emergency, I had been nominated by the National President of the NMBVA to be the Army Veteran to present a personal reflection on my service during the Emergency. I was also required to lay a wreath on behalf of the NMBVA.

My service in Malaya commenced in July 1958 when, as a nineteen-year-old private soldier, I arrived in Taiping, with my parent unit being 16 Comwel Fd Amb RAMC, although I spent only a few weeks in Taiping. The Australian medics were used as a pool to supplement units engaged on operations against the Communist Terrorists (CTs). I spent lengthy attachments on operations with 3RAR, 11 Indep Fd Sqn RE and 1RAR.

Accompanied by Evelyn, I drove to Canberra and stayed there for four days, with all expenses covered by DVA. The Departmental staff were very supportive of all the veterans and their carers.

On Friday, 29 August, in the most dreadful conditions, a rehearsal at a temporary memorial on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin, where ANZAC Avenue runs from the War Memorial to the lake. There was a forty-knot gale blowing off the lake, it was drizzling most of the time and the temperature was just seven degrees. DVA provided woollen wraps for the oldies to avoid hypothermia!

On 30 August, Ev and I spent the whole day at the War Memorial, where Ev had been a guide during the time we lived in Canberra. The weather had improved (marginally) but we were happy to be indoors for most of the day. The Memorial has changed immensely since we left Canberra in 1988. We could have spent another day there.

On Sunday, 31 August, the service was held and televised on the ABC from 10.30 to 11.30. It was a cloudless, calm day, although still quite cold, with snow visible on the Brindabellas. My reflective speech lasted about four minutes. Veterans from the RAN and the RAAF also gave reflective addresses on their service. Support for the service was provided by the Federation Guard and the Band of the Royal Military College. In all, it was a wonderful experience for both Evelyn and I, and we were warmly treated by the Department and all attending.

The Minister for Defence represented the Prime Minister. The Chief of the Army and the National Patron of the NMBVA, General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, were in attendance. In addition to meeting Cosgrove, whom I know well, I also met some veterans, including one Sapper with whom I had served on an airfield construction task.



Leslie "Bull" Allen was born in 1916 in Ballarat, Victoria, into a world of hardship. His early life was marked by poverty, violence, and abandonment. When his father left the family, Allen and his sister were placed in an orphanage. There, amid the toil of farm work, he developed a robust physique and unbreakable determination—traits that would define his life and legacy.

By 1940, with war looming and no job in sight, 23-year-old Allen enlisted in the Second Australian Imperial Force. Assigned as a stretcher bearer, he was deployed to the Middle East. Though known for his big heart and fierce loyalty, he was also seen as a “troublesome” soldier—often clashing with authority and military conventions.

Allen’s courage under fire became apparent during the Syrian-Lebanon campaign. Risking his life repeatedly to rescue wounded comrades, he was already showing the qualities of a battlefield hero. But the horrors of war took their toll, and he was later hospitalised in Palestine for what was then termed “anxiety neurosis”—what we now recognise as PTSD.

Following Japan’s entry into the war and its rapid expansion across the Pacific, Australian troops were urgently recalled. Allen’s battalion was redeployed to Papua New Guinea, where they would face one of the most gruelling campaigns of the entire war: the fight for the Kokoda Track and, later, the push to recapture key positions like Salamaua and Lae.

The jungle warfare in New Guinea was nightmarish. Soaked in humidity, infested with disease, and littered with hazards, the terrain was as deadly as the Japanese defenders. Many soldiers succumbed to malaria and exhaustion. The conditions made the evacuation of wounded soldiers almost impossible. It could take up to 12 men to carry a single injured soldier through mud and jungle.

Despite this, Allen’s strength and courage never wavered. Already awarded the Military Medal for rescuing wounded under fire, he would soon etch his name in history during the Battle of Mount Tambu in July 1943.

The battle saw Australian and American troops face fanatical Japanese resistance. After a failed Australian attempt to take the mountain, the Americans prepared for an assault, supported by Australian mortar crews and stretcher bearers—including Bull Allen.

As the American troops were cut down by enemy fire, chaos engulfed the battlefield. Allen, seeing the carnage and hearing the cries of the wounded, took it upon himself—without orders—to charge into the fray. He emerged from the smoke carrying a wounded American on his back.

He returned to the battlefield. Again. And again. In total, Allen carried 12 wounded American soldiers down the mountain, under fire, through mud, bullets, and shrapnel. His uniform was torn to pieces, riddled with holes. Yet somehow, miraculously, he was unscathed.

For those who witnessed his actions, it was nothing short of divine. The American troops believed he was invincible. Calm and focused, Allen worked with tireless resolve, guided not by orders but by humanity and sheer willpower. One by one, he brought wounded men back from certain death.

The effort pushed his body to its limits. Only when he physically could no longer go on did he stop. His actions that day were not part of any planned operation. They were the spontaneous acts of a man who refused to let others die alone and unaided.

The United States recognised his incredible bravery by awarding him the Silver Star—one of its highest honours for valour. Had Allen been a U.S. soldier, it is all but certain he would have received the Medal of Honor, the nation's supreme military decoration. His actions more than met the criteria: gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.

But Bull Allen was Australian. And in his own country, formal recognition of his deeds has been lacking. Perhaps it was his difficult relationship with authority, or the fact that his heroics aided another nation's troops. Or perhaps, as with many soldiers of his era, the deep wounds of war—especially psychological ones—were quietly ignored.

After his discharge in 1944, Allen struggled with his mental health. Diagnosed with “emotional instability,” he retreated from society, at one point going silent for six months. But in time, he slowly rebuilt his life. He married, had a family, and found some peace. Yet the war never truly left him. PTSD haunted him for the rest of his life.

The men he saved never forgot him. Letters poured in—many from the families of the wounded. Even Eleanor Roosevelt wrote to him, expressing gratitude and admiration. Bull Allen's story lives on in the hearts of those who knew what he did.

In every sense, Allen's courage exemplified the very best of what it means to be a soldier. His story is not just one of battlefield heroics, but of enduring strength in the face of trauma. If he had worn a different uniform, his chest might bear the Medal of Honor. Instead, what he carried was far greater: the weight of 12 men's lives—and the unshakable burden of war.

The Long Tan Lines buildings at Brisbane's Gallipoli Barracks by Des Houghton *The Courier Mail*

I visited the Gallipoli Barracks at Enoggera this week and what I saw was a national disgrace. A cluster of six older buildings, home to the Army's decorated 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, were rotting away.

Ludicrously, soldiers have had to don helmets to work there because the ceilings were falling on their heads after the deluge that came with Cyclone Alfred.

Most of the buildings have serious leaks. Water ran through light fittings, entire ceilings had collapsed to reveal rotting wood and rusting pipes, damage from earlier storms. Asbestos and lead paint has been exposed and in three of the buildings I saw large patches of black mould. Collectively, the buildings are known as the Long Tan Lines named after the 1966 battle in Vietnam where 18 Australian soldiers were killed.

The buildings are especially important because 6 RAR contains the battle-ready combat troops who could be deployed at any hour. The buildings house planning rooms and the quartermaster's storage areas.

One of them contains a large armoury resembling a bank safe. Long Tan Lines should have been pulled down 20 years ago. Pleas to repair the buildings have been ignored by a series of Defence ministers. The minister is effectively the Army's landlord at Enoggera where 10,000 people work. Half are combat soldiers; others offer logistic and clerical support and there are some Defence Department civilians.



The 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment (51 FNQR), headquartered in Townsville, stands as one of the Australian Army's most unique and important units. As a Regional Force Surveillance Unit (RFSU), it is tasked with conducting reconnaissance and surveillance patrols across the vast and remote reaches of northern Queensland — including Cape York Peninsula, the Gulf Country, and the Torres Strait islands. Its mission provides an early warning capability that is critical to the defence of Australia.

Originally formed during the First World War in 1916 as the 51st Battalion, Australian Imperial Force (AIF), it fought on the Western Front in notable battles such as the Somme, Messines, Polygon Wood, and Villers-Bretonneux. After being disbanded in 1919, it was re-raised in 1921 as a part-time militia unit and served in garrison and home defence roles during the Second World War. In 1985, the battalion was re-established as an RFSU, becoming 51 FNQR under the Australian Army's NORFORCE model, alongside the Northern Territory's NORFORCE and Western Australia's Pilbara Regiment.

51 FNQR's area of responsibility spans an astonishing 640,000 square kilometres — an expanse larger than France. This area includes tropical rainforests, savannahs, remote coastlines, and island communities stretching to the Papua New Guinea border. The battalion's headquarters in Townsville coordinates dispersed detachments in locations such as Cairns, Weipa, Thursday Island, Horn Island, Bamaga, Mount Isa, Normanton, and Cooktown, enabling rapid response and effective local engagement.

A defining feature of 51 FNQR is its close partnership with Indigenous communities. The battalion includes many Indigenous soldiers who serve within or near their traditional lands, using their unparalleled cultural knowledge, language skills, and connection to country to enhance patrol effectiveness. The unit's personnel, a blend of full-time Regular Army and part-time Army Reserve soldiers, conduct long-range patrols by foot, vehicle, boat, or helicopter, often operating in isolated and challenging environments.

Their tasks include monitoring maritime and land activity for illegal fishing, smuggling, and other threats, while building trusted relationships with remote communities to gather information and strengthen community resilience. These activities feed into Operation Resolute, Australia's ongoing border protection mission, and support the broader Defence strategy to secure Australia's northern approaches.

The battalion's badge features a crocodile — a symbol of the rugged and unforgiving nature of northern Australia — and a boomerang, representing the integral contribution of Indigenous soldiers. The motto, "Mareeba to the Gulf," reflects the battalion's expansive geographical coverage from the Atherton Tablelands through to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

In an era of rising regional security challenges, the 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment continues to provide a unique and irreplaceable capability for the Australian Army. Through a combination of cultural insight, local partnerships, and unmatched knowledge of the land and sea, the battalion ensures that Australia's remote north remains both secure and connected.

Indigenous soldiers are being recruited by the Australian Army for their unique skills

Crazy Little Johnny

Little Johnny comes down to breakfast. Since they live on a farm, his mother asks if he had done his chores.

"Not yet," said Little Johnny.

His mother tells him no breakfast until he does his chores.

Well, he's a little pissed off, so he goes to feed the chickens, and he kicks a chicken.

He goes to feed the cows, and he kicks a cow. He goes to feed the pigs and he kicks a pig.

He goes back in for breakfast and his mother gives him a bowl of dry cereal.

"How come I don't get any eggs and bacon? Why don't I have any milk in my cereal?" he asks.

"Well," his mother says, "I saw you kick a chicken, so you don't get any eggs for a week. I saw you kick the pig, so you don't get any bacon for a week either. I also saw you kick the cow, so for a week you aren't getting any milk."

Just then, his father comes down for breakfast and kicks the cat halfway across the kitchen.

Little Johnny looks up at his mother with a smile, and says: "Are you going to tell him, or should I?"

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Interesting stats

Did you Know! Facts on Vietnam War.

1.	Estimated overall casualties	5,773,190
2.	Estimated Dead	2,122,244
3.	Dust-off Missions	500,000
4.	Patients air-lifted from battlefields	900,000
5.	Assassinations (South Vietnam)	36,725
6.	Abductions (South Vietnam)	58,499
7.	Estimated South Vietnamese citizens Killed	587,000
8.	South Vietnam Military personal Killed	220,357
9.	Defoliants used (US Gallons)	19,000,000
10.	Area sprayed (acres)	3,500,000
11.	Helicopters Used	12,000
12.	Helicopters Downed (Enemy ground Fire)	4,865
13.	Average age of World War 2 Soldier	26
14.	Average age of Australian Soldier in Vietnam	20
15.	Americans Killed	58,169
16.	Australians Killed	504
17.	Americans killed less than 20 years old	11,464
18.	Americans severely disabled	75,000
19.	Amputations and crippling wounds were 300% higher than WW2.	
20.	Ammunition expended each month (tons)	71,000
21.	Average of Artillery rounds expended each day in Vietnam	10,000
22.	The number of men who registered for National service in Australia, Of these 63,000 were called up, and 18,000 went to Vietnam	804,000
23.	The US Air Force missions over Vietnam	1,899,688
24.	Total tonnage of bombs dropped by US Air Force	6,727,084
25.	During WW2 the Bomb tonnage dropped on Germany	2,700,000
26.	Fixed Wing Aircraft lost in Vietnam	3,750
27.	The US airman lost in Vietnam	8,040
28.	B52's Bombers lost in Enemy Action in Vietnam	18
29.	B52's Bombers Lost due to mid air collisions and other accidents	13
30.	The number of Field Rations consumed each month in Vietnam	10,000,000
31.	Litres of petroleum products consumed each month	303,000,000

The Infantry Soldier in the South West Pacific in WW2 saw an average of 40 days in combat in four years. The Australian Infantry Soldier in Vietnam saw an average of 314 days in the bush in one year.

In Vietnam the avg time elapsed between being wounded and being in Hospital was 1 Hour. The Percentage of those seriously wounded and saved was 82%.

The Percentage of those wounded who died after reaching Hospital was 2.5%.

LEST WE FORGET

For information about bereavement payments and funeral benefits available under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA), please go to Bereavement payment and assistance under the MRCA.

On this page

1. What is a bereavement payment
2. Who is eligible for a bereavement payment
3. How do I get a bereavement payment
4. How much bereavement payment can I receive
5. What is a funeral benefit
6. Other assistance
7. How to apply for these benefits
8. If you need counselling or support

What is a bereavement payment?

A bereavement payment is a one-off, non-taxable payment which aims to help with any additional costs following the death of eligible veterans. If the deceased veteran left behind a partner, the bereavement payment will help them to adjust their finances after the deceased veteran's DVA payments stop.

There are two types of bereavement payment under the VEA which we pay following the death of a veteran. One type includes those made in relation to a veteran who received a Disability Compensation Payment. The other type are those made in relation to a veteran who received an Income Support Payment. If the deceased received both a Disability Compensation Payment and an Income Support Payment, they may receive bereavement payments in relation to both.

Who is eligible for a bereavement payment?

Members of a couple

If the veteran was a member of a couple, we will make the payment to the surviving partner.

We define "couple" as those in any of the following situations:

- living together
- living separately because one or both of the members of the couple was ill or frail.
- living separately because one or both members was in respite care at the time of death.

There are two circumstances where we will pay the surviving partner a payment.

One is that the veteran must have been receiving a Disability Compensation Payment.

The other is where the veteran was receiving a service pension, a social security age pension or an income support supplement. In this case, the surviving partner must themselves be receiving a service pension, income support supplement or social security pension at the time of the veteran's death.

Single veteran

We usually make a bereavement payment to the estate if the veteran was single, separated, or widowed at the time of death. The veteran must have been receiving one of the following:

- service pension
- social security age pension
- income support supplement
- Disability Compensation Payment at the Special rate (T&PI) and died in needy circumstances,
or

- Disability Compensation Payment at the Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) rate and died in needy circumstances.

Note: We consider that a person died in needy circumstances if their estate doesn't have enough funds to pay for all outstanding liabilities including the cost of the person's funeral.

How do I get a bereavement payment

You generally don't have to apply for a bereavement payment if the deceased person was a member of a couple. Payment will occur automatically upon notification of the death to DVA.

If the veteran was single, died in needy circumstances, and was receiving a Special rate (T&PI) or Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) Disability Compensation Payment prior to their death, then we may make a bereavement payment to the estate. To apply for a bereavement payment for a single veteran, please fill out Form D9145 and return it to DVA. You need to make an application for payment within 12 months of the veteran's death.

How much bereavement payment can I receive.

The amount of bereavement payment depends on the payments the veteran received before they died. We also take into account whether they were single or a member of a couple.

Bereavement payments are not counted as income for taxation purposes. Please contact us if you need a statement of taxable service pension paid to the deceased pensioner.

Members of a couple where the veteran received Income Support Pension

In this case the surviving partner is eligible for a bereavement payment and continues to receive the veteran's pension entitlements for 98 days from the day the veteran died.

In most cases this will be in the form of a lump sum payment. The amount will be the difference between the new single rate of pension and the previous combined rates of each member of the couple, by 98 days. If the new single rate of pension is equal or higher than the previous combined rates of each member of the couple, the surviving partner will not receive an additional payment.

For a couple who were separated by illness, we calculate the bereavement payment on the partnered rate of pension as if they were not living apart. We do not base it on the illness-separated rate that the couple had previously been receiving.

Because we pay pensions in advance, the actual amount deposited may have been adjusted. When we make a pension payment after the veteran has died, we will include this in the bereavement payment calculation. We will automatically pay the bereavement payment lump sum into the account where the surviving partner's pension is paid.

Members of a couple where the veteran received a Disability Compensation Payment

In this situation we will make a bereavement payment to their surviving partner equivalent to six fortnightly pension instalments at the rate of pension they received before they died.

Single veteran on Income Support Pension

When a single veteran who received an Income Support Pension dies, we continue to pay the pension entitlements to their estate for 14 days.

Single veteran receiving a Disability Compensation Payment

For single veterans who also meet additional criteria, we will make a bereavement payment equal to six instalments of the fortnightly rate of Disability Compensation Payment. To be eligible, they must have

received the Special rate (T&PI) or an Extreme Disablement Adjustment pension (EDA). They must also have died in needy circumstances.

What is a funeral benefit?

A funeral benefit is a one-off payment, up to a maximum of \$2,000, to help with the funeral costs of an eligible veteran or dependant.

The costs covered by a funeral benefit may include:

- wakes
- memorial ceremonies or similar observances
- costs associated with burial, cremation, or other legal means of disposal.
- transporting the veteran's body from the place of death.

If a veteran is eligible for a funeral benefit, we can pay the amount directly to the funeral director at the request of the executor or nominated dependent.

Veterans who are automatically entitled and do not need to apply.

Australian veterans who were receiving any of the following at the time of death are automatically eligible to receive a funeral benefit payment:

- Special rate (T&PI) of Disability Compensation Payment
- Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) rate of Disability Compensation Payment
- Disability Compensation Payment plus an allowance as a multiple amputee.

Veterans who were former prisoners of war are also automatically eligible to receive a funeral benefit.

In these situations, we will automatically process and grant the funeral benefit after we are notified of the client's date of death. You do not need to apply.

Veterans who do need to apply.

Other Australian veterans may also be eligible to receive a funeral benefit payment if they died in any of the following circumstances:

- from an accepted service-related disability
- in financial difficulty
- in an institution (including a hospital or nursing home)
- travelling to or from an institution
- after discharge from an institution where they received treatment for a terminal illness
- while being treated at home for a terminal illness.

If these circumstances are met, the estate or a dependant must submit an application. This should be done within 12 months of death, or from the date the veteran's death was accepted as war caused.

A funeral benefit may also be payable when an eligible veteran's dependents die, such as a war widow(er), a child under 16, or a full-time student under 25. Applications must be made within 12 months of the dependant's death.

In the case where a veteran's prisoner of war status was not known at the time of death, an application will also need to be submitted. There is no time limit for lodging this application and it can be submitted at any time.

Restrictions on dual payments of funeral benefit

A funeral benefit is not payable under the VEA if an entitlement to a funeral benefit exists under the MRCA.

Where a person has dual entitlement under the VEA and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA), any funeral benefit paid under the VEA will reduce the amount payable under the DRCA.

Where eligibility for a funeral benefit arises due to a posthumous grant or an increase to the rate of Disability Compensation Payment, the amount payable as a funeral benefit is the rate applicable at the date of death.

Other assistance

War widow(er)'s pension and Gold Card

Partners of deceased veterans may be eligible for a War Widow(er)'s Pension. Dependent children of deceased veterans may be eligible for an orphan's pension. For more information and to apply go to Pension for orphans and war widowed partners.

People who receive a war widow(er)'s or orphan's pension also receive a Veteran Gold Card. This card entitles them to free health care. Go to Veteran Gold Card for more information.

Income Support Supplement

War widow(er)'s may be entitled to income support supplement (ISS). This pension is based on your income and assets and provides additional regular income. For more information go to Income support supplement.

Official commemoration

A veteran whose death has been accepted as being war-caused may be entitled to official commemoration. For more information go to Official commemoration.

Returning aids and equipment

If the veteran had any rehabilitation aids and appliances provided through RAP, it is good to check if you can return these after the death of a veteran. The equipment can sometimes be re-used by other veterans, so they do not go to waste.

You can arrange the return of such equipment by contacting the supplier. The supplier's contact details will be on the item. Contact us if you can't find the supplier's contact details or they can't collect an item you no longer need.

How to apply for these benefits

Please complete the relevant form below and email to us at bereavement.sa@dva.gov.au or post to GPO Box 9998, Brisbane QLD 4001. You can also call us on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

- D0307 Claim for funeral benefit
- D9145 Claim for bereavement payment for single veterans

If you need counselling or support

Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling is a free and confidential 24-hour service for current and ex-serving ADF members and their families. Call 1800 011 046 or go to Open Arms to get support or find out more.



Passing Parade

***AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM
LEST WE FORGET***



WEEPING POPPIES by Joan Mahony

While walking by some flower beds,
I noticed how they bowed their heads,
Was it to say remember when,
We lost brave women boys and men?

So long ago and yet today,
The poppy buds still seemed to say,
We bend to show our sadness still,
And pray that people always will,
Remember those that gave their lives away,
Their lives for us to live today.

RIP

<i>Lt. Col Bill Reynolds MC</i>	<i>23rd March</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Peter Buykx</i>	<i>31st March</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Captain John Sullivan</i>	<i>13th April</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Col Peter Scott DSO</i>	<i>15th April</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Edward Chapman</i>	<i>1st May</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Graeme V Simpson</i>	<i>13th June</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Kenny Heard</i>	<i>24th June</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Alan Lewington</i>	<i>4th July</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Wesley H Smith</i>	<i>14th July</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Robert G Mason</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Lt. Col Michael C Morrison</i>	<i>18th August</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Wally O'Brien</i>	<i>30th August</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Major David (Max) Chambers</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Captain John (Toad) Dunshea</i>	<i>5th September</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Garry McGlone</i>	<i>10th September</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Mrs Gail Greaves (Wife of Lindsay)</i>	<i>13th May</i>	<i>2025</i>

LEST WE FORGET



4 RAR ASSOCIATION, QLD INC

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

ORDINARY MEMBER

New Membership. ☐ Membership Renewal. ☐ (Please tick.)

I wish to make application to join or to renew my membership in the 4 RAR Association, Queensland Inc as a former serving member of 4 RAR, 4 RAR/NZ (ANZAC), 2/4 RAR, 4 RAR (Cdo), or other unit or service with close ties to 4 RAR as accepted by the committee.

Army Number

Surname Christian Names

Home Address

Mail Address

Rank on Discharge Company..... Unit

Honours and Awards (CSC, DCM, OAM etc)

Unit and subunit served in, locations and dates

Spouse's Name

Telephone Numbers H: M:

Email

Name of Referee.or Document of Proof of Service Enclosed

Approved /Not Approved

Joining Fee and Annual Subscriptions

In each financial year including the year of acceptance to the Association, Ordinary members are to pay, before 30 June, an annual subscription for membership from 01 July until 30 June each financial year which will include issues of the Association newsletter, "The Fighting Fourth". Ordinary Members are entitled and encouraged to vote.

I enclose: 1 year membership fee (\$30) or 2-year membership fee or 3-year membership fee (\$90). (Please circle desired membership.)

Payment may be made by Direct Debit via BOQ BSB:124-152 Account: 23395357. Please note your name and action on direct debit so that we can identify the person and the reason for payment, e.g., Jones, Membership."

Applicant's SignatureDate.....

Office use only

Received: /.../.....

Checked: .../.../.....

Membership Roll.../.../.....

Membership No Allocated.....

(\$60)

form
"John

Please return the completed form and payment to:

The Secretary
4 RAR Assoc, Qld, Inc
PO Box 7167
SIPPY DOWNS QLD 4556



DISCLAIMER: I have used articles from other Authors. In no way do we 4RAR Association Queensland claim to be the original author's of these articles.