

WA BRANCH OF THE PARTNERS OF VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC. - NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2026



President's Report

Hello,

WA PVA held our annual program planning day for the upcoming year's programs.

WA PVA is excited to be hosting the PVA National Board meeting. The availability for the National Board to meet with Western Australian members is creating great excitement amongst our members.

With the "Honouring the Hidden Service" being the theme for activities this year WA PVA has 4 events being planned for the year.

- **Morning Tea in May at the WA Government House** hosted by Governor Chris Dawson with the National Board and many members of the WA PVA in attendance. Government House is a beautiful building to be inside and to see the legacy of WA's history in full view.
- **Retreat to Busselton** will be our late May event with 8 villas for our members to come and relax, enjoy friendship, several outings to the surrounding areas as well as a wonderful craft activity.
- **Information Day** - In July WA PVA will be hosting an Information Day which is a yearly event that continues to provide much needed information from DVA / Aged Care, War Widows W.A.
- **Morning Tea at Kings Park** - In August WA PVA will be hosting a as a gathering to celebrate our ongoing support of our veterans while honouring our hidden service with these veterans
- With these wonderful events to look forward to as well as the regular fundraising activities, continued commemorative occasions being attended plus our annual Birthday/Christmas luncheon W.A. PVA will be embarking on a very busy and exciting year.
- W.A. members and I look forward to meeting the National Board in May and hope they all enjoy our beautiful city. W.A. PVA continues to support all of our spouses; we send our thoughts and best wishes to our members experiencing hard times right now.
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- *Fiona Sassenfeld JP*
- *President*
- *Western Australia Branch of Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc*
- *(WA PVA)*

State Management Committee Meetings: These are held first Monday of each month, and your committee has already been busy at work with organising events for this year.

P.V.A. Mid-Year Board Meeting: - to be held in Perth 4th – 6th May 2026, allowing the National Board time to work on issues for P.V.A. There also will be a work shop on the Government and DVA Peak Body Strategy.

Commemorations Services –

Fiona, our State President has attended the 35th Anniversary of the commencement of the Gulf War held at the State Memorial at Kings Park. It was very well attended and quite the history lesson on the event and there was many Gulf War Veterans in attendance.

ANZAC Day 25th April 2026

ANZAC Day is an important day for many Australians when we remember the service of our Navy, Army and Airforce people both past and now. It's a day we remember and thank everyone who has helped keep our country safe. It's a day we remember that we have to look after everyone who lives in our community. It's a day we talk about the spirit and courage and mateship of our service men and women who went to war to let us live the way we do today. The day commemorates the soldiers who served and died at Gallipoli in World War One. W.A. PVA will have representatives laying wreaths at Kings Park, Bunbury, Fremantle and North Beach services.

Indigenous 27th May 2026 at Kings Park

This service recognises the contribution our Indigenous service personnel had made to the many conflicts of war Australia has been involved. W.A. PVA will attend and lay a wreath

Korean 27th July 2026 at Kings Park

This is an annual service held here in Perth on this date at the Korean memorial and is well attended by the Veteran community. W.A. PVA will attend and lay a wreath.

Honouring Their Hidden Service

P.V.A. Looks Ahead: 2026 Shaping Up to Be an Exciting Year

Written by Lucinda Casey — Veteran and Partner of a Veteran

There's a quiet power in the people who stand behind service. The partners. The carers. The families who hold things together when the uniform is out the door. And in 2026, Partners of Veterans Association (P.V.A.) is turning up the volume on that story.

The message is simple: **this is our year** — and it's time to bring your mates along on the journey.

The strength of any veteran community isn't found in buildings or boardrooms — it's found in people coming together with shared purpose.

WA PVA EVENTS

You are invited to Morning Tea at Government House



Monday 4th May 2026

Time 10am to 11.30am

Event: Honouring the Hidden Service

W.A. PVA Members Morning Tea

*Meet and greet with our Patron – Lady Lynne Cosgrove
and the National Board Directors.*

Event1: Government House Morning Tea

To be hosted by Governor Dawson and his wife, with our National Patron, Lady Lynne Cosgrove in attendance.



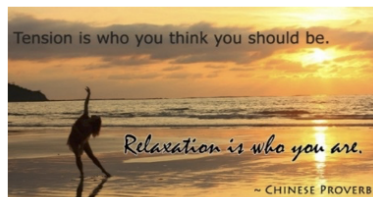
Event 2: Member's Morning Tea in Kings Park

31st August 2026 WA PVA will be holding a special morning tea at Kings Park to "Honouring The Hidden Service" of military spouse for being seen-valued and heard. This is in honour of the military spouses who are the workhorse of those left behind while our military go forward always keeping their citizens safe. More information coming to members for this event soon, this event is open to all veterans, spouses and families.



Event 3: WA PVA Retreat 2026

W.A. PVA RETREAT 2026



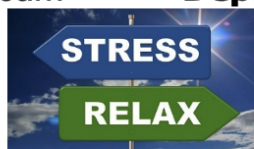
Come one Come All

Ladies this year's retreat is like last year, a short 5 nights retreat down at Bayview Resort Busselton between 24th to 29th May 2026.

We have secured 8 Villas x 3-bedroom villas, for the 5 nights. Transport and food costs would be on top of the cost of the villa.

Activities During the Week:

- Sunday - 3pm Arrival
- 5 – 6pm **Meet & Greet** Villa 1 –
We are happy to provide a few nibbles
BYO your drinks and more nibbles.
- Monday - am - Visit Op shops to find item for progressive dinner
2pm – **Craft Activity - Sip and paint by numbers** –
BYO your drinks, All materials supplied
- Tuesday - 6pm - **Progressive Dinner** – Entree, Main, Dessert &
Cheese & Chocolates & Coffee
- Wednesday 9am - **Day Touring – Ferguson Valley**
Bunbury – Dolphins, Ferguson Valley – Gnomes
Ville, Lunch, visit to Donney Brook, back to home
- Thursday am – **Physical Activity** – Beach walk or Line Dancing
6.30pm- **Group Dinner Night** -Tonic by The Bay
- Friday - 10am **Departure and homeward bound.**



Event 4: WA PVA Information Day – 13th July 2026



WAPVA Inc. Information Forum Day

“Community talks”

Monday 13th July 2026
9.30 am for a 10.0am start - Finish 3.00pm

PROGRAM

- **DVA** - Up to Date Information
- New booklets on moving into care and home services
- **Round Robin Information Session**
 - Aged Care Information
 - Planning a funeral
 - Carers WA Card
 - War Widows WA
- **Arm Chair Yoga** – gentle exercises to promote good health

WHERE :

DVA - 4th Floor
140 ST Georges
Terrace Perth

Morning Tea & Lunch available

\$15 per head payable on day

Please advise dietary requirements when booking.

RSVP: 1st July 2026

Booking:

Debbie Smith 0412 186 684

Email: dasmithwapva@gmail.com



Health & Wellbeing Matters:

• Veterans' Health Week Event – Hillarys Support Group

In January we started off 2026 with a great day's outing celebrating Veterans Health Week, in which we included both our WA PVA members, along with our Veteran partners. A great day was had by both Members and Partners!

With the 2025 theme being "Move, Connect and Nourish", both members and partners attended the Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club for a casual lunch, during which we all had the opportunity to enjoy great social connection with other members and partners.

Following lunch, and despite the blustery conditions, those of us that felt comfortable to do so, then walked along the beach.

We even managed to challenge some of the guys into doing some push-ups on the beach, while the rest of us stood by and cheered them on.

Overall, we were able to achieve all our goals of Moving, Connecting and Nourishment



• Support Groups

Bunbury Support Group - Meetings have become a more casual meeting with lots more chatter over coffee/tea which is quite enjoyable. Christmas lunch was excellent with the plain envelope donation taken up with much appreciation. Ongoing meetings are held at the Bunbury Dome with newcomers always welcomed. Currently Bunbury has 15 members.

South West Support Group - Organising the year calendar for the Southwest Group has been busy and this year each month is being hosted by a different Southwest member, and the group will be out and about their region enjoying lunches, coffees, ten pin bowling, guest speaker and more yummy lunches. Southwest group is also this year participating in the Bendigo Bank Volunteer Raffle with all funds benefiting WA PVA.

Midland Hills Support Group - Organising the year calendar for the Southwest Group has been busy and this year each month is being hosted by a different Southwest member, and the group will be out and about their region enjoying lunches, coffees, ten pin bowling, guest speaker and more yummy lunches. Southwest group is also this year participating in the Bendigo Bank Volunteer Raffle with all funds benefiting WA PVA.

- ADF Transition Forum



WA PVA once again attended a successful Transition Forum, which was held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, where we had the opportunity to speak with many transitioning Defense Force personnel and their partners.

