



Remember Support – Understanding – Information – Friendship

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

State Management Committee Meeting: The November SMC meeting was held at ANZAC House on 3 November 2025. Information of particular interest to our members are:

- f* 2025 Christmas Lunch for all our WA PVA Members is nearly upon us once again. We shall be heading to the Grosvenor Hotel, Hay St Perth for yet another lovely lunch on Wednesday December 17th. Our Secret Santa is visiting once more just remember \$10.00 minimum gift price. The Numbers Game will be drawn at the lunch so we may see many big winners on this day so good luck to all. Lee will be sharing further important details in the next few weeks.
- f* We are putting out a call for our group members to become paparazzi for our Association. We would love to see more photos on our Facebook page as well as have a variety of choice for the PVA Newsletter and most importantly for the 2027 PVA Calendar.
- f* Speaking of which, the 2026 PVA Calendar will be hitting Perth very soon and at \$10 it will be a great stocking stuffer. I have had a sneak look, and it is a good production and a calendar I would be proud to have hanging in my home. Debbie will be sharing more information for everyone once the calendars have arrived.
- f* Another important piece of information comes to you all via a request of the State Management Committee. We have a need for a new secretary of our Association. Our delightful Peta Connelley is hanging up her secretary role to spend more time with her family and thus we need an organised person who is willing to take this challenge on. Our SMC is a truly supportive group. If you would like to take this role on for your Association, please email me at fionafifi@hotmail.com with your interest and we can have chat about the role.
- f* WA PVA is now at 142 members. We have managed to sign up several new members in the past few weeks after several events which is so pleasing to see. Please continue to spread the word about our wonderful organisation to your friends and community.
- f* Back to the Bush Bruce Rock Veterans Reunion was once again successful. 2026 will be the 25th anniversary of this event and I would love to take some of our membership up to Bruce Rock and enjoy the wonderful, kind vibe that is Bruce Rock and this celebration of our Vietnam Veterans. Our donated rosemary plants are growing well and are now well established in the remembrance garden. In 2026 WA PVA have been invited to lay a wreath at the church service that follows the Ode service at the Cenotaph and the March of our Veterans to the church.

- f Bev and I recently met with the new Veteran Family Advocate Commissioner, Annabelle Wilson and we were very impressed by Annabelle's lived experience as a Partner of a Veteran giving her a huge amount of advocacy experience in her desire to see changes to the Advocacy arm of the DVA.
- f We recently had a statement from the Repatriation Commission speaking to the ongoing Advocacy issues outside the DVA community. The role of the Veteran Advocate is central to our Veteran support system. Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) advocates guide our community through the claims process acting with integrity for our Veterans. Sadly, it is becoming apparent that there are commercial advocates now engaging our Veterans in a manner that highlights the motivation of financial gain for themselves over the well being of our Veterans by charging commission fees that may extend to the statutory entitlements intended for children of the Veteran. Paying for advocacy does not mean faster processing times, better claim outcomes or higher compensation payouts. The DVA, ESO community and Veterans advocates continue to safeguard the integrity of the Veteran Advocacy system. Please report any unethical behaviours of commercial advocates to fraud.tipoff@dva.gov.au to ensure our system is safeguarded into the future.
- f I recently attended a Palliative Care sponsored Advanced Care Planning workshop. It's important to start Advance Care Planning early in life while you can speak and decide for yourself. Remember you can review and change your choices and documents to suit the changes in your personal situation, health or lifestyle. For more information about accessing Advance Care planning please head over to <https://palliativecarewa.asn.au>

GROUP NEWS

Bunbury – Margaret – arcmdon1@bigpond.com

South-West – Gae - gaedonaldson96@gmail.com

Hillary's - Debbie - dasmithwapva@gmail.com.

Midland/Hills – For information on this group contact dasmithwapva@gmail.com

Cheers to you all

Fiona Sassenfeld – President WA PVA

Check the PVA web pages for information of interest to you

www.pva.org.au

facebook.com/partnersofveteransaus