

Airlie Beach / Whitsunday RSL Sub Branch



PARADISE POST

June 2017

Welcome to the new look Paradise Post, we hope you enjoy it, If you have a story or something to contribute please email Rodinaus@hotmail.com You can also receive Paradise Post via email. Just send me message to subscribe.

Support RSL

We are always seeking people who want to assist us in providing support to our current and former servicemen and women. There are many ways you can get involved:

BUY A BADGE

Show you support our veterans and those currently serving by buying a badge from an RSL representative and wearing it with pride on ANZAC or Remembrance Day.

DONATE TO AN APPEAL

Donations to our ANZAC and Poppy Appeals enable our Sub Branches to continue to provide welfare and wellbeing services in their local communities.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

RSL Sub Branches are involved in their local communities, visiting veterans, schools and community groups. Some ways you may be able to assist a Sub Branch include driving members for visits, providing administration or specialist support, or helping to sell merchandise to raise funds around ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. Contact your local Sub Branch to find out how you can help.

What's on in June

Next Members Meeting:

Wednesday 7th June @ 7pm. Reef Gateway Hotel.

It is also that time of year coming up, time to dust off the tux.

Our annual dinner will be held on the 19th August at the Reef Gateway Hotel. It will be a sit down Dinner and music by the Cadillacs.

Airlie Beach Whitsunday RSL Executive Committee 2017-2018

President:	Terry Brown	0408763090	alibarber40@bigpond.com
Deputy President:	Chris Bull	0429607849	Kaybull56@gmail.com
Vice President	Bill Rose	49464486	Mob:0404416943
Secretary:	Rod Davies	0499730316	secretary@rydav.com
Treasurer:	John Schweitzer	0438264114	john.schweitzer5@bigpond.com

Management Committee for 2017-2018

Badges	Joan Rose	0404416943	Home: 07 49464486
General Duties	Shane Matthews	0427461849	Jackomatho@live.com
General Duties	Peter Mckellin	0448800091	
General Duties	TBA		
General Duties	TBA		

Honorary and responsible appointments for 2017-2018

Welfare officer (local)	Bill Rose		
Welfare officer (Mackay)	Tracey Victor	31283275	Mob:0448943604
Asset Trustee	John Schweitzer		
State and District meetings	Bill Rose, Chris Bull		
Auditors	Leader Group		
Legal	Whitsunday Law		
Padre	Stuart Grice		

Patrons for 2017-2018

John O'Neil	0418776606
RGH	49462600

Life as Bill see's it.....

My old mate Ron was having a blue with his wife and things were very cool between them. One might even say fridged. Anyway one day they had to travel to the next town, meaning a trip through the country, on the way they drove past a paddock full of pigs, goats and cattle. Ron couldn't let the chance like this slip by and asked her sarcastically "relatives of yours "YES" she replied, "the in laws"

Just a thought

A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

Poor old Ron was having a really bad week and the night after the country trip their house got burgled. The crook was caught, so Ron went to the local cop shop and asked the desk sergeant if he could see him. The cop said "you will get your chance in court mate". to which Ron replied "I would really like to see him" "why" asked the sarge. Ron with anticipation said "I have to know how he got into the house without waking the wife, I have been trying for years"

Just a thought

The time you enjoy wasting, is not wasted time.

I bragged about my Great Grandfather when I was a kid. He was 97 years old and I told my mate" He does 150 push ups and runs 5km, then spends an hour in the gym on weights, he then eats a big breakfast every morning and next week he's getting married to a beautiful 25 year old." "WOW" said my mate "97 years old and wants to get married" "it's not that he wants to get married" I said "he has to cause she's pregnant"

Again we remember the fallen and those that served. This year marks 100 years of many major battles of the 1st World War. Battle of Passchendaele, Battle of Beersheba and Third Battle of Gaza to name a few. There were many major battles that took place that helped shape the outcome of the war. It also marks 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, fought during 4-8 May 1942, 75 years since the fall of Singapore. So this year again is a time for reflection and to remember the sacrifice that the brave people of these campaigns endured at the cost of many thousands of lives.

THE ODE

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning,
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM





ANZAC Day 2017



Even though ANZAC day has passed anytime is a good time to remember the significance of the day. The ANZAC services held here in the Whitsundays this year were very well attended and received moving reports from the public and coverage from the press. Almost all of our local groups were represented in our parade. The number of children involved is increasing each year continuing the memory to the next generation

What is Anzac Day?

Anzac Day, 25 April, is one of Australia's most important national occasions. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War

Why is this day special to Australians?

When war broke out in 1914 Australia had been a federated nation for only 13 years, and its government was eager to establish a reputation among the nations of the world. When Britain declared war in August 1914 Australia was automatically placed on the side of the Commonwealth. In 1915 Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula in order to open the Dardanelles to the allied navies. The ultimate objective was to capture Constantinople (now Istanbul), the capital of the Ottoman Empire, an ally of Germany.

The Australian and New Zealand forces landed on Gallipoli on 25 April, meeting fierce resistance from the Ottoman Turkish defenders. What had been planned as a bold stroke to knock Turkey out of the war quickly became a stalemate, and the campaign dragged on for eight months. At the end of 1915 the allied forces were evacuated from the peninsula, with both sides having suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. More than 8,000 Australian soldiers had died in the campaign. Gallipoli had a profound impact on Australians at home, and 25 April soon became the day on which Australians remembered the sacrifice of those who died in the war. Although the Gallipoli campaign failed in its military objectives, the actions of Australian and New Zealand forces during the campaign left a powerful legacy. What became known as the "Anzac legend" became an important part of the identity of both nations, shaping the ways in which they viewed both their past and their future.

What does it mean today?

Australians recognise 25 April as a day of national remembrance, which takes two forms. Commemorative services are held across the nation at dawn – the time of the original landing, while later in the day, former servicemen and servicewomen meet to take part in marches through the country's major cities and in many smaller centres. Commemorative ceremonies are more formal, and are held at war memorials around the country. In these ways, Anzac Day is a time at which Australians reflect on the many different meanings of war.

Ration Packs.

An important part of any service man or woman's kit is food rations to be eaten during battles, and patrols or in emergency situations. Over the years much innovation has gone into producing light, long-lasting and nutritious ration packs. This tin of emergency rations is from the Boer War in 1901. It could be opened from either end, providing the hungry soldier with either bully beef or cocoa.



This tin of emergency rations is from the Boer War in 1901. It could be opened from either end, providing the hungry soldier with either bully beef or cocoa.



This tin contains five pre-packed one-day ration packs, which were typical of the rations used by Australians serving in Afghanistan and Iraq between 2003 and 2004. Each of the five packs offers a different menu, designed with reference to the latest findings in nutrition and food science. The menu for one of the packs is:

Beef & Vegetables (Dutch Style) 1x250ml, Beef, Minced, With Spaghetti 1x225ml, Freeze Dried Rice 1x55g, Beverage, Powder, Sport, Lemon & Lime 1x12g, Beverage, Powder, Sport, Orange 1x12g, Soup, Low Salt, Chicken Flavour 1x30g, Biscuit, Shortbread 1x35 g, Chewing Gum, Juicy Fruit 1x pkt 4, Curry Powder 1x3.5g, Fruit Grains, (URC), Apricot 1x15g, Fruit Spread, Peach 1x26g, Fruit, Peaches, Diced, Canned 1x140g, Muesli Bar, Apricot & Coconut 1x31.3g, Sauce, Tomato, Ketchup 1x15g, Biscuit, Jam Sandwich Type 2 1x45g.

How does it compare with the food you eat in a day?

On the 16 March 1970, the Navy's base in Darwin was commissioned as HMAS Coonawarra in the Darwin suburb of Berrimah. This marked the amalgamation of several Navy facilities around Darwin which included a receiving station at Shoal Bay, a transmitting station at Humpty Doo and Darwin Naval Base within Larrakeyah Barracks. In December 2003, HMAS Coonawarra relocated from Berrimah to Darwin Naval Base, in doing so it ensured that the waterfront become the heart of Naval activities in the Northern Territory.

That was then... this is now!

The Owen 9mm sub-machine gun, designed by 22 year old Evo Owen of Wollongong. Easy to make, extremely reliable and easy to use and maintain. A little heavy with limited range, it was still a great all-round weapon that served Australia well during our time of dire need through WWII, then in Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam.



Image at left, AWM 091259 copyright expired, public domain. Image at right by SGT Fabre, (c) Australian Army



The EF-88 Australian Steyr assault rifle. Manufactured in Australia with Australia's needs in mind. Highly accurate to long distances it is remarkably lightweight and able to carry a grenade launcher or a range of laser aimers, torches and enhanced sights using the NATO picatinny rail system.

Giving our Diggers the best equipment to enable them to do their best.

STATE OF ORIGIN

DRINKS TILL FIRST POINT SCORED!



BIG SCREEN ACTION



IN THE COURTYARD
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GAME 3 - 12 JULY



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Our C-130Js and C-17As - along with a C-130H Hercules from the Royal New Zealand Air Force – conducted training from RAAF Base Richmond for the first time with instructors from the Missouri Air National Guard. The 139th Airlift Wing's Advanced Airlift Tactics and Training Center teaches aircrew and intelligence officers learning how to overcome threats they may face on airlift missions. Normally, crews are required to travel to Missouri to conduct this training.

System updates allow faster processing.

The time taken to process certain claims for veterans has fallen dramatically thanks to updated claims processing systems.

Almost \$24m was allocated in the last federal budget to replace a number of the Department of Veterans' Affairs' rehabilitation and compensation systems and to simplify and improve internal processes.

Claims for non-liability health care are now processed within a day and in some cases within 30 minutes, where previously the average processing times for these claims was 18 days.

Defence Personnel Minister Dan Tehan said veterans seeking treatment for PTSD, depression, anxiety, and alcohol and substance abuse were accessing treatment “faster than ever before”. “This system update is ongoing and there will be further improvements to processing times and more consistency in decision making and calculations,” he said.

“The government wants veterans to have quick and easy access to the support services they require.”

The next system improvements will focus on incapacity claims review, rehabilitation, needs assessment and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 permanent impairment processing.

The F-35 Lightning II's recent trans-Pacific flight to Australia marked several firsts, including the first time the Lightning II has operated in the southern hemisphere. The return flight holds great historical significance, replicating the 1934 flight of Australian aviation pioneer Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, who flew his single engine Lockheed Model 8D Altair aircraft, named Lady Southern Cross, on the first ever west-to-east aerial crossing of the Pacific Ocean.



Jubilee Central



Serving the local community
7 Days a week 6am-9pm

Army News

Soldiers have been integral in the clean-up efforts following Tropical Cyclone Debbie, It was the most horrific experience of our lives; the worst two days of our lives. We've never spent two days as bad as this in any circumstances," Mrs Matthew said.

"I think the Army and Navy are doing a fantastic job. I can't believe how wonderful they are."



The ability to adapt is important in emergency response, particularly when nature throws up more surprises. Adaptation was required when the commander of the JTF and 3 Bde Brig Chris Field was appointed to the role of State Recovery Coordinator. Col Damian Hill stepped up to lead the JTF and said the transition was seamless be-

cause of the first-class systems in place and the quality of the personnel – civilian and military.

"The operation didn't miss a beat, such was the professionalism of those involved," Col Hill said.

On April 10 the ADF began reducing its support to Queensland emergency services. units assigned to JTF661 were gradually returning to their home bases as the clean-up and reconstruction situation in North Queensland moved into its next phase.

As the ESF returned to Townsville, many soldiers shared a view that they planned to return on holiday to the Whitsundays later in the year as a way of helping the tourist destination get back on its feet, such was the connection made with the local community.



Lt Andrew Shone, of 6ESR, at Wilson Beach with a famous local dog that survived Tropical Cyclone Debbie.
Photo: Cpl David Said

In Flanders fields



Members of Australia's Federation Guard hold five hand-crafted boxes containing Flanders soil for the dedication of the Flanders Memorial Garden at the Australian War Memorial. Photos: Jay Cronan. MUD of the Western Front once hampered our diggers and consumed the bodies of their fallen comrades. Now the mud soldiers cursed "with every fibre of their being" has been repurposed, as soil from Flanders' battlefields was scattered on a newly dedicated commemorative garden at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on April 4.

Soil taken from the battle fields and war cemeteries across Belgium's Flanders region was mixed with dirt from Australia's military heritage sites at the opening of the Flanders Memorial Garden. Governor-General Gen Sir Peter Cosgrove sprinkled soil on the garden from the Tyne Cot Cemetery near Passchendaele.

"Flanders, once a place of carnage and courage, of desperate sacrifice and stoic endurance; now, a beautiful place, a resting place," he said. "With the changing of the seasons, there are the poppies which rise not only from the soil but from the hearts of those who rest below. "Now, some of that earth, all of those hearts, are home with us. This garden, it grows from them. It grows for us." Remains of more than 13,000 Australians lie in Flanders and half of those who died in the bloody fighting of 1917 have no known grave. The memorial garden was made possible thanks to help of the Flanders government, represented at the ceremony by their Secretary General of Foreign Affairs, Koen Verlaeckt. Mr Verlaeckt sprinkled soil collected near Menin Gate on the garden. "Through this gate your troops marched off to the battlefields," he said. "Its walls carry the names of more than 6000 Australian soldiers who fell in Flanders fields, and who have never been found." "The sacred soil from Flanders fields symbolises the territory your countrymen defended, where they fell and where they rest in peace."

Busy time for patrol boats



HMAS Launceston leads HMAS Pirie out of Darwin Harbour. Photo: WO2 Chris Houghton

HMAS Launceston leads HMAS Pirie out of Darwin Harbour. Photo: WO2 Chris Houghton

ARMIDALE-class patrol boat HMAS Launceston has tested trainees and strengthened regional relationships in a recent deployment to South-East Asia. After sailing from Darwin on March 10 in company with sister ship HMAS Pirie, the two crews conducted 25mm, 12.7mm and small arms firing serials. They also undertook close quarters steaming, internal damage control, boat drills and communications training to help their junior warfare officers practise their mariner skills. Pirie then began border protection duties in Australia's northern waters, while Launceston continued north to the Indonesian archipelago through the Sape Strait between the islands of Subawa and Komodo, passing an active volcano. Launceston then conducted coastal navigation training throughout the archipelago en route to Singapore, berthing at Sembawang on the northern coast. Launceston celebrates her 10th birthday this year.

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THE Battle of the Coral Sea, May 4-8, 1942, was a naval first in that none of the opposing ships actually fired on each other – all action involved aircraft using bombs and torpedoes to rain down destruction from the air.

The Allied ships had the benefit of radar, which the Japanese had not yet developed.

Australia's contribution was small compared to US forces and consisted of the County-class cruiser HMAS Australia II, the modified Leander-class cruiser HMAS Hobart I, RAAF elements from Townsville and intelligence staff and coast watchers. Australia II was the flagship of Task Group 17.3, comprising Hobart I, the Northampton-class heavy cruiser USS Chicago and destroyers US Ships Perkins, Farragut and Walke. RADM John Grace RN, who was born in Gungahlin, the area now consumed by the Canberra suburb, commanded the group, which was tasked with attacking enemy transports and light cruisers reported to be heading for Port Moresby through Jomard Passage.

On May 7, the task group was attacked by eight twin-engine Japanese torpedo bombers and 19 high-level bombers.

The cruisers, through the skill of their captains and crew, avoided eight Japanese torpedoes and claimed to have shot down between three and five Japanese aircraft with a high volume of anti-aircraft fire from their pom-pom guns.

Both sides claimed victory in the battle.

The Japanese sank more critical US ships than they lost, but were prevented from achieving their aim of seizing Port Moresby.





The Air Warfare Centre is fuelling our progress towards creating fifth generation warfighters, SQNLDR Bruce Chalmers writes

An F/A-18 Hornet conducts an in-air refuelling with a KC-30

AIR Warfare Centre’s Exercise Diamond Shield integrated personnel and platforms as it trained the modern warfighter through the new Air Warfare Instructor Course (AWIC) conducted by No. 88 Squadron. The AWC, formed a year ago, had the challenging task of establishing the inaugural course. Exercise Diamond Shield, held from March 13 to 31, was a part

of the AWIC. AWC Commander AIRCDRE Joe Iervasi said the AWC was created under Plan Jericho and aligns with our Joint Warfighting Capability vector in Air Force Strategy 2017-2027.

GPCAPT Cath Wallis presents SGT Joseph Munro with his Warrant Officer of the Air Force Instructor of the Year award.

FOR the first time, a 1RTU instructor has been recognised as the Warrant Officer of the Air Force Instructor of the Year. SGT Joseph Munro, an Aircraft Technician, has been recognised for his exemplary leadership and performance as a Military Skills Instructor (MSI) at 1RTU from January 2014 to August 2016. SGT Munro was surrounded by his family and peers when he received the award and a CAF Commendation at the Air Force’s 96th birthday celebrations at RAAF Base Wagga. GPCAPT Cath Wallis, Senior Australian Defence Force Officer RAAF Base Wagga, praised SGT Munro for his work.



GPCAPT Cath Wallis presents SGT Joseph Munro with his Warrant Officer of the Air Force Instructor of the Year award.

“SGT Munro has personally trained more than 400 recruits – the future of our Air Force,” GPCAPT Wallis said.

“What is really impressive is the way that he teaches. He is able to adapt his style of delivery to a diverse range of cultural backgrounds, education levels and learning styles – he constantly strives to find innovative ways to gain the very best out of those in his charge.”



Photo: CPL Bill Solomon

TASMANIAN mates CPL Phil Rule (right) and CPL Mark Peacock went to the same school, mixed in the same circle of friends and even played for the same sports clubs.

They are now in the Army Reserve and Air Force respectively and caught up with each other in the Middle East.

It was the first time the pair had crossed paths during their multiple deployments.

“We have never met on our deployments

before. It was great to finally catch up,” CPL Peacock said. CPL Peacock, of No.1 Expeditionary Health Squadron at RAAF Base Amberley, was deployed to Australia’s main operating base in the Middle East until late April.

RAAF P-8A Poseidon assists in its first civilian search and rescue response

17 May 2017

The Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) latest maritime surveillance and response capability—the P-8A Poseidon, has assisted with the co-ordination of a search and rescue response, approximately 50 kilometres south of Mount Gambier, Victoria.

While on a training mission from its home at RAAF Base Edinburgh in South Australia, the P-8A Poseidon, call sign Blackcat 20, intercepted a mayday call from a distressed vessel, the MV Port Princes, around 1 pm on Tuesday, 16 May 2017.



MV Port Princess was observed taking on water, with four persons on board. Blackcat 20 provided communications assistance to aid the stricken vessel, rescuing the stricken ship's captain and three crew. Executive Officer for No. 92 Wing, Wing Commander Brett Williams said the successful search and rescue response by the Poseidon's crew was a great demonstration of this remarkable aircraft. "The P-8A Poseidon takes RAAF maritime surveillance and response capability to a new level of interoperability and performance," Wing Commander Williams said. "This is the first search and rescue response completed by the P-8A Poseidon since the aircraft's arrival into Australia last November. The Poseidon is still undergoing test and evaluation activities before a formal introduction into service. "Search and rescue forms an important part of the operational test and evaluation program which we've laid out to bring the Air Force's P-8A Poseidon into service," he said. Images of the rescue event were relayed in real-time from the aircraft to the Rescue Coordination Centre in Canberra.

11 May 2017

It is with deep regret that the Australian Defence Force announces Private Jason Walter Challis died as a result of injuries sustained during a training activity at Mount Bunday Training Area, near Darwin, Northern Territory, on 10 May 2017. The following statement is provided on behalf of Jason's whole family.

Our beautiful boy has gone.

His cheekiness and loving ways will stay with us forever.

His personality pleased and brought so many people together.

Everyone he met loved him and fell in love with him.

Jason was the best son, step-son, brother and mate you could ever ask for.

Rest in peace, our darling Jason, we love you forever. Until we meet again.

Defence requests that the media respects the family's privacy at this difficult time



MEDIA RELEASE

**THE HON DAN TEHAN MP
MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR CYBER SECURITY**

Increased reimbursement for Medical expenses

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today said veterans could now claim up to \$1,000 reimbursement for medical expenses when they have applied to the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) or the Specialist Medical Review Council (SMRC) review process.

Mr Tehan said the reimbursement amount had been increased from \$467.50 to \$1,000 for each medical condition to encourage the early submission of medical evidence.

"This measure fulfils another election commitment and will encourage veterans applying for a review at the VRB to get any necessary medical evidence as soon as possible to help speed up the review process," Mr Tehan said.

"Increasing the amount that can be reimbursed will ensure those applying to the VRB are appropriately remunerated for any relevant out-of-pocket medical expenses incurred as a result of obtaining evidence for VRB hearings."

"The Government is committed to supporting the veteran community and their families, and this new measure further demonstrates work to strengthen this support."

Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel have deployed to the Philippines for Exercise Balikatan 2017—an annual exercise hosted by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and United States Pacific Command (US PACOM).

The ADF will participate in the exercise series for the fourth time. Air Commodore Noel Derwort, Director General Engagement and Assessment, Headquarters Joint Operations Command said Exercise Balikatan demonstrates Australia's commitment to build regional capacity in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and regional security. "This exercise allows us to build on our strong relationship with the Armed Forces of the Philippines while maintaining good interoperability with United States Pacific Command," Air Commodore Derwort said. "This year's exercise has already seen ADF personnel return to Ormoc City on Leyte Island where they made an important contribution to the recovery from Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. "Other ADF personnel are contributing to exercises that build regional capacity to respond with HADR and security operations." Exercise Balikatan 2017 runs from 08 –19 May and will involve 80 ADF personnel. The exercise includes a Command Post Exercise component, a Humanitarian Civic Assistance program on Leyte and Samar Islands and a range of military training activities involving an Air Force AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft and personnel from Special Operations Command.

WELFARE

Household Assistance

You may be entitled to DVA supplements to help with household costs. Supplements include:

Energy Supplement
Clothing allowance
Essential Medical Equipment Payment
Certified Essential Medical Equipment
Certified medically required heating and/or cooling

For more information about household assistance supplements, go to

<http://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/home-and-care/household-assistance>

General enquiries (8am-5pm, Mon-Fri)
Telephone: 133 254
Regional callers: 1800 555 254
International callers: 61 2 6289 1133

USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency	000
Police Whitsundays	49488888
DVA	133 254
country areas (Freecall)	1800 555 254
VVCS	1800 011 046.
Beyond blue	1300 22 4636

COMSUPER/DFRDB

MEMBERS

Phone 1300 001 677
Email: members@dfrdb.gov.au
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PENSIONERS

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Whitsundays Vets Welfare..

We have several people that Bill our welfare officer visits and helps out with shopping and other various task. All are well. We have one couple of ww2 vets that have had it a bit harder over the last couple of months especially during Cyclone Debbie, but well looked after and improving.

If you need assistance please contact the club or Bill.

PTSD Group Programs

DVA provides group treatment programs for PTSD in hospitals across Australia. These programs treat current as well as former serving members of the Australian Defence Force and veterans. To find out more you can contact the hospitals directly and speak to the PTSD program coordinators. A list of the programs and relevant contact details are available at:

<http://at-ease.dva.gov.au/professionals/files/2016/02/Trauma-Recovery-Programs-Feb-2016.pdf>.

Useful web Links.

www.dva.gov.au
www.my.gov.au
www.vvaa.org.au
www.defence.gov.au
<https://csc.gov.au/>
<https://www.rslqld.org/>

