



Melbourne West Defence Veterans'

An Affiliated Group of the Hoppers Club.

C/- PO Box 1059, Hoppers Crossing, Vic 3029

'West Side Story'

Edition Twenty Two

WINTER IS COMING

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Welcome to the Twenty-Second edition of the new West Side Story, a Newsletter to inform our friends of what's going on with our new Hoppers Club Affiliated Group.

WE WILL REMEMBER OUR DEFENCE VETERANS

My coffee cup reminding me why I shouldn't have a donut with it.



via KKORIGINALSTORE

Why men shouldn't write advice columns

Dear John,

I hope you can help me. The other day, I set off for work, leaving my husband in the house watching TV. My car stalled, and then it broke down about a mile down the road, and I had to walk back to get my husband's help. When I got home, I couldn't believe my eyes. He was in our bedroom with the neighbor's daughter!

I am 32, my husband is 34 and the neighbor's daughter is 19. We have been married for 10 years. When I confronted him, he broke down and admitted they had been having an affair for the past six months. He won't go to counseling, and I'm afraid I am a wreck and need advice urgently. Can you please help?

Sincerely, Sheila

Dear Sheila,

A car stalling after being driven a short distance can be caused by a variety of faults with the engine. Start by checking that there is no debris in the fuel line. If it is clear, check the vacuum pipes and hoses on the intake manifold and also check all grounding wires. If none of these approaches solves the problem, it could be that the fuel pump itself is faulty, causing low delivery pressure to the injectors.

I hope this helps,
John

— Forwarded by Steve Sanderson,
Gilbert, S.C.

DEFENCE VETERANS OF MELBOURNE WEST

We are now an “Affiliated Group” at the Hoppers Club.

We have recommenced our gatherings for 2025 and would love to see you each Wednesday around 11-11.30 till whenever at the Hoppers Club for some light camaraderie mixed with lunch and a drink or two. All up, a pleasant couple of hours and very informal. It is intended to continue these gatherings while-ever people are happy to do so. It’s a “no pressure to attend” gathering with luncheon if preferred and all our ex-members are very welcome. Cost is whatever you want to eat and drink.

1978	2024
Long hair	Longing for hair
8 Tracks	Cataracts
KEGs	EKGs
Streaking	Leaking
Acid Rock	Acid Reflux
Seeds and stems	Fiber
Stayin' Alive (the song)	Stayin' Alive (the goal)
Hoping for a BMW	Hoping for a BM
Going to a new, hip joint	Getting a new hip joint
Rolling Stones	Kidney Stones
Bell bottoms	Big bottoms
Disco	Costco
Whatever	Depends
Rock n' roll all night	Sleep through the night
Think you know everything	Think you know your name

NOTES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 2025

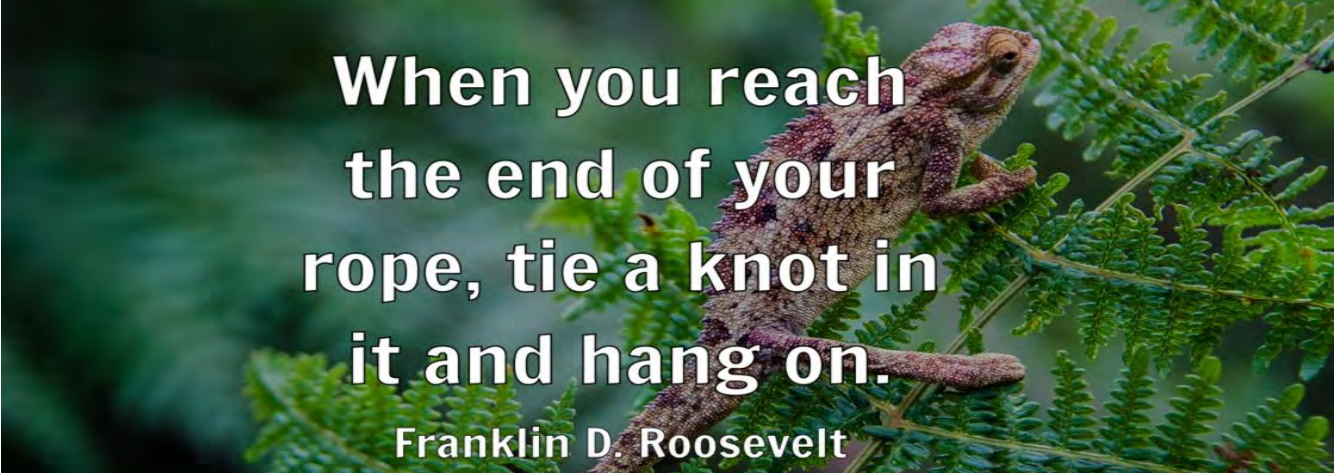
- 23rd Lunch gathering of the Hoppers Club group
- 24th Anzac Day Service at Grange P-12 College starting at 10am
- 25th Anzac Day Dawn Service at Werribee Station Place
Note that there will NOT be a Services Luncheon in April.
- 28th Anzac Day Service at Thomas Chirnside Primary School at—watch emails
- 30th Lunch gathering of the Hoppers Club group

MAY 2025

- 7th Lunch gathering of the Hoppers Club group
- 14th Lunch gathering of the Hoppers Club group
- 21st Lunch gathering of the Hoppers Club group
- 23rd Services Luncheon Werribee RSL (address by Police re Home Security)
- 28th Lunch gathering of the Hoppers Club group

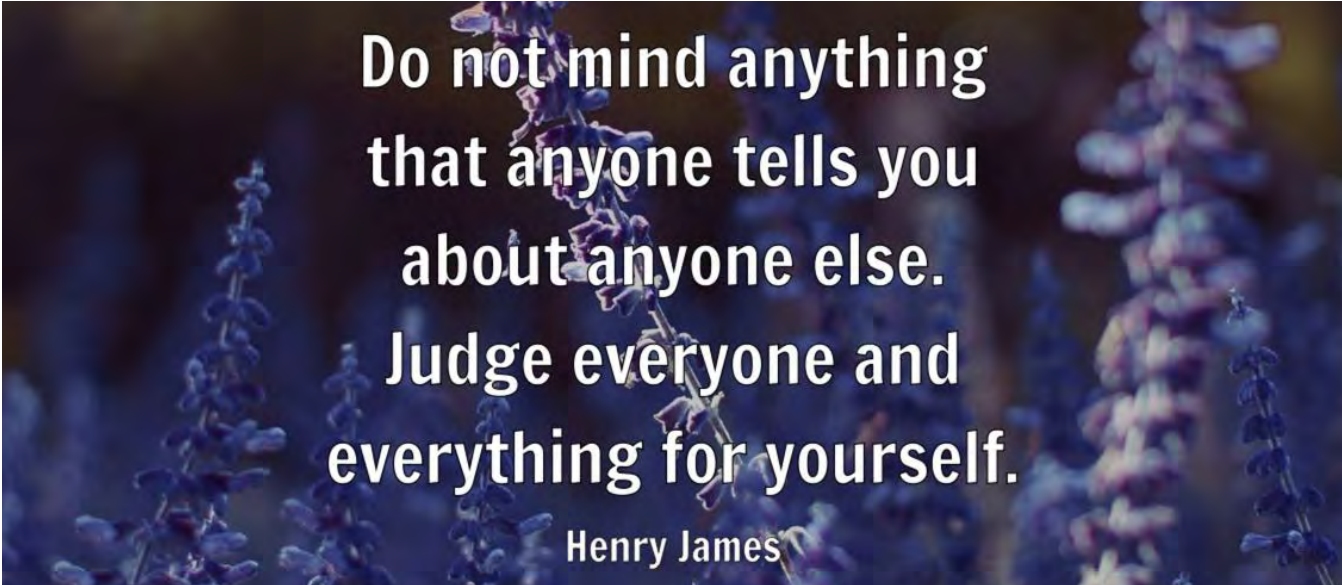
1. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
10. A backward poet writes inverse.
11. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
12. Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects.

NOTABLE QUOTES



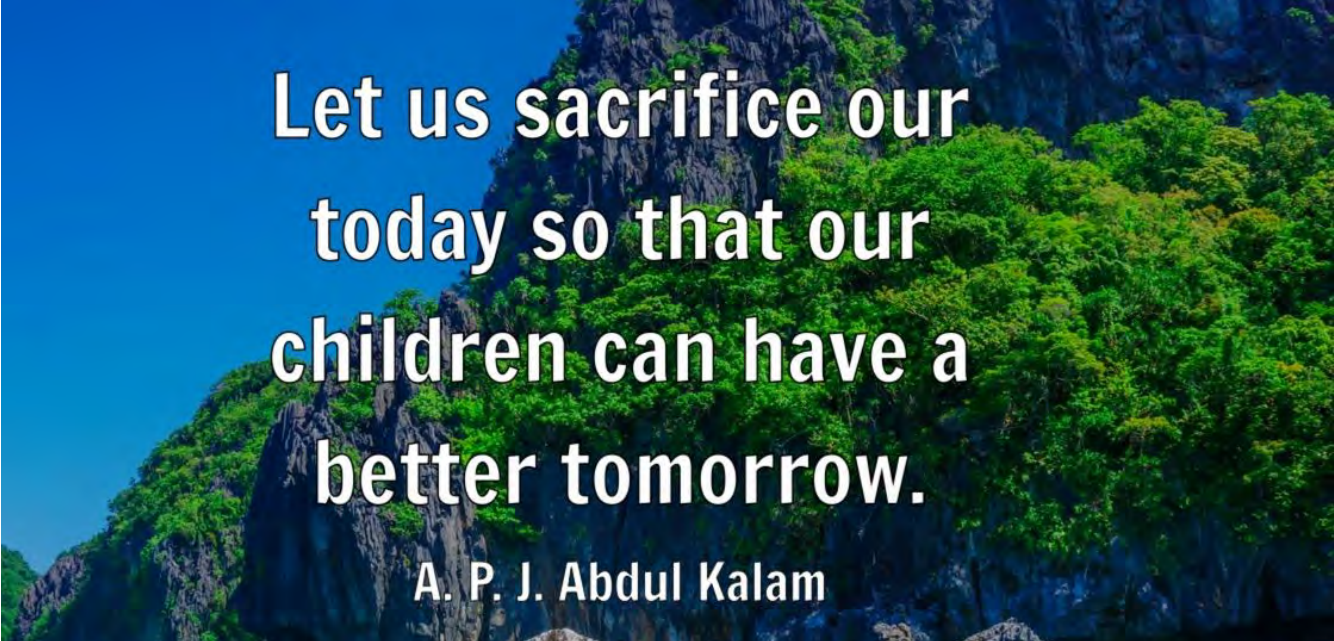
**When you reach
the end of your
rope, tie a knot in
it and hang on.**

Franklin D. Roosevelt



**Do not mind anything
that anyone tells you
about anyone else.
Judge everyone and
everything for yourself.**

Henry James



**Let us sacrifice our
today so that our
children can have a
better tomorrow.**

A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

14 Warning Signs of Fascism

1. Powerful and Continuing Nationalism
2. Disdain for Human Rights
3. Identification of Enemies/Scapegoats
4. Supremacy of the Military
5. Rampant Sexism
6. Controlled Mass Media
7. Obsession with National Security
8. Religion & Government Intertwined
9. Corporate Power is Protected
10. Labor Power is Suppressed
11. Disdain for Intellectuals and the Arts
12. Obsession with Crime & Punishment
13. Rampant Cronyism and Corruption
14. Fraudulent Elections

Wife: What are you doing?

Husband : Nothing.

Wife : Nothing...? You've been reading our marriage certificate for an hour.

Husband : I was looking for the expiration date.

ALBO IS MY SHEPHERD

Albo is my Shepherd
 I shall not want
 He leadeth me beside still factories
 and abandoned farms
 He restoreth my doubt in the Labor Party
 He anointed my wage with tax and inflation
 So my expenses runneth over my income.

Surely poverty and hard living shall
 follow the Labor Party
 and I shall pray for the dole
 and live in a rented house forever.

Five thousand years ago, Moses said:
 "Lay down your shovel
 Sell your camel
 Move your ass
 And I shall lead you to the Promise Land".

Five thousand years later, Gough Whitlam said:
 "lay down your shovel,
 Sell your camel
 Sit on your ass
 This is the Promise Land".

This year, Albo will take your shovel
 Sell your camel
 Kick your ass
 Tell you he sold the Promise Land.

I'm glad I'm an Aussie
 I'm glad I am free
 I wish I was a dog
 And Albo a tree.

**CARROTS CAN BE
GOOD FOR YOUR EYES,
BUT WINE CAN DOUBLE
YOUR VISION**



**They say a banana a day cleans your colon,
then I found out you're meant to eat them**



I used to think
drinking was bad
for me...
so I gave up thinking.

I need to re-home a dog.
It's a small terrier, and
tends to bark a lot.
If you're interested, let
me know and I'll jump
over my neighbor's
fence and get it for you.



WE WILL REMEMBER OUR DEFENCE VETERANS

SENIORS NEWS

Reduce your risk of flu in 2025

Flu (influenza) is a highly contagious virus that causes widespread illness each year. While the flu is mild for some people, it can also make you very unwell. Annual flu vaccination is recommended and if you are 65 years and over you may be eligible to have a free flu vaccine each year.

Influenza – known as the flu – is a common viral infection that affects people of all ages.

The most common symptoms of the flu are:

- sudden appearance of a high fever (38°C or more)
 - a dry cough
 - body aches (especially in the head, lower back and legs)
 - feeling very weak and tired (and not wanting to get out of bed).
- While the flu can be a mild disease for some, it can also cause serious illness and even lead to hospitalisation in otherwise healthy people.

Annual vaccination is the safest way to best protect yourself against the flu and its complications. You can also reduce your chances of catching or passing on the flu by wearing a face mask if you need to go out and washing your hands.

Who should get the flu vaccine?

Everyone aged 6 months and over is recommended to get a flu vaccine each year. The flu vaccine protects you, but it also can help protect those around you.

Vaccination is important for people aged 65 and over as they are at higher risk of getting sick from the flu. All eligible people aged 65 and over can receive a free flu vaccine that is designed to boost the immune response for better protection.

When should I get the flu vaccine?

You should get vaccinated each year from April onwards to be protected before the flu season. The peak flu season is usually June to September each year. It's never too late to get the vaccine as the flu can spread all year round.



Following passage of the *Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2025* (VETS Act), the first level of external merits review for all compensation claim decisions made from 21 April 2025 will be to the Veterans' Review Board (VRB), regardless of which Act a veteran or dependant has claimed under.

This extends access to the VRB for veterans and dependants whose claims came under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA)* creating a 'single review pathway' that aligns the review process for all compensation claim decisions. The new single review pathway takes effect from 21 April 2025. Decisions made under the DRCA from this date will be open to review by the VRB.

Currently, if a veteran or dependant appeals a decision under the DRCA the first level of external merits review is by the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART). This change allows an appeal to the VRB without having to go straight to the ART. This means that all appeals lodged from 21 April 2025 can go to the VRB for the first level of external merits review.

The internal own motion review process will remain. This means if DVA made an error, section 347 of the MRCA can be used to conduct an own motion review and resolve the error. If the client is seeking a formal appeal, this will progress with an application directly to the VRB.

From 21 April 2025, instead of applying for a VRB review through DVA, veterans will be able to apply directly to the VRB.

Information about how veterans or dependants can request a review is available on the VRB website (www.vrb.gov.au/how-apply), with options including:

- lodging it online
- posting it
- sending an email
- in person at a VRB registry. (continued next page)

From previous page:

Important administrative changes include:

- Section 137 reports will continue to be needed but will be re-titled as s352D reports to reflect the relevant section of the MRCA.
- The target time for DVA to process a s352D report is 28 days.
- From 21 April 2025, requests for s352D reports will be sent via email from the VRB to DVA. The VRB will notify DVA of such requests within 24-48 hours of being received (which is 'as soon as practicable' as per section 352C of the MRCA).
- The 28 days will commence the day following when VRB requested the s352D report.
- Veterans can request a VRB review within 12 months of receiving a determination (this is no change).

A single review pathway will harmonise the appeal pathways across each of the three Acts bringing consistency to the way veterans appeals are treated regardless of the timing of their service.

Further information on the single review pathway is available on the DVA website at [Single Review Pathway | Department of Veterans' Affairs](#)



In remembrance of every Australian Defence Service person who has paid the supreme sacrifice in serving their country.

LEST WE FORGET

That's all for now folks.....!

The next issue will be Edition 23, so please, if you have anything of interest to our membership, or even an internet address for me to look up some items, please let me know by email to

glensmith43@hotmail.com

NOTE: comments and political jokes in this Newsletter are those of the editor and are not necessarily those of the people who are in the Group.

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