

DFRDB

Ernie Gimm sent us this, it is a copy of a joint press release issued by the Opposition and refers to DFRDB – a subject that is very important to a lot of blokes.

From:

Mr Stuart Robert MP,
Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and Personnel
Federal Member for Fadden



Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson
Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Liberal Senator for Victoria



Wednesday, 17 November 2010

DFRDB Fair Indexation Bill to be tabled in the Senate

The Coalition will take action on military superannuation reform. On behalf of the Coalition's spokesperson on military superannuation, Mr Stuart Robert MP, the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, will on the 18th November, table a Bill in the Senate to index DFRDB pensions in line with the Coalition's 27 June 2010 commitment.

The Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2010, will enable DFRDB superannuants aged 55 and over from 1 July 2011 to have their pensions indexed at the higher rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) or the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI).

Mr Robert said the introduction of this Bill confirms the Coalition's resolve in taking the crucial first step towards reforming military superannuation arrangements.

"The Coalition made a commitment to veterans and ex-service personnel and we are going to see that commitment through", Mr Robert said.

"I call on those independent members who have previously voiced their support for the provisions contained within this legislation to support this Bill and to support those veterans and ex-service personnel who have given so much to their country.

The Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson, said that he had listened to the considered views put forward by the veteran and ex-service community and was pleased to be able to introduce the Bill on behalf of the Coalition.

"The issue of military superannuation reform has been raised with me during every meeting I have held with veterans and ex-service personnel. With this Bill, the Coalition meets our

election commitment to change DFRDB indexation arrangements and to help support our veterans and ex-service personnel”, Senator Ronaldson said.

“This is in stark contrast to the Gillard Labor Government, which promised much to those in the veteran community but has repeatedly failed to deliver due to their own self-interest and poll driven policy paralysis.

(One wonders why they did nothing about this while in Government – they were lobbied on it many many times - tb)

Field Trip.

Ralph Dix was teaching at Radschool from Jan 82 through to Dec 85. He says “During my time at Radschool I took groundies out on Field Communications Exercises. In the early days we used to go to a worker's camp on the banks of the Goulburn River near Yea. We would spend a week there leaving a small group in the base camp and taking the rest out to various locations around the general area.

The aim of the field trip was to demonstrate to the students how to manufacture antenna and to prove how effective alternative items were when used as antennas.

The type of objects used included - Car bodies - various objects at a disused Railway station (the location we used was definitely disused, proven because of the tree growing between the tracks) Rail track, Station shed, Rain water tank at the station, both slopes of the roof and fences. But the most unexpected were assorted trees.



To use a tree we drove a 3 inch nail into the bark and used an alligator clip and a thru-line watt meter. After succeeding to attain comms by using the tree, we then removed the nail from the tree left the nail attached to the transceiver and comms were not possible.

During 1984 the influx of female trainee radio technicians made the trip to Yea more difficult from a house keeping perspective, so the decision was made to make one day trips from Radschool into the National Park just north of Baccus Marsh and south of Daylesford.

The photo is of members of 4/84. In the background of the photo you can see that the forest is still suffering from the effects of bush fires. Can anyone help with names??

My mother asked me to hand out invitations for my brother's surprise 21st birthday party. That's when I realised he was her favourite twin.

Ted Mac, the wild man from the west, saw the pic below in Vol 32, on page 12. He says, "The bloke on the left is John Heard and I think the bloke doing the kissing is "Shorty" Gallach (both RadTechA) – who was it who called us queer trades???"



So – can anyone help name the others??

August 2010.

August this year contained some interesting facts, this August had:

5 Sundays
5 Mondays
5 Tuesdays

All in a row and it happens only once in 823 years.

Auto Lemons.

THE automobile industry has produced so many lemons in its time it should have been in the marmalade business. Toyota and Lexus were in the news recently with trouble with sticking accelerators, but there have been many more cars that did not touch base with expectations. A classic example was the Audi 100 that could accelerate when you went to hit the brakes because the accelerator pedal was placed too close to the brake pedal.

Some lemons are so acidic they are downright dangerous, such as the rear-engined 1960s Chevrolet Corvair that required the tyres to be pumped up so high they exploded. Ford had issues in the late 1980s with the Ford Bronco and Explorer SUVs that rolled over with ridiculous ease. Or the Ford Pinto that not only burst into flames on rear impact, but also jammed the doors shut so the occupants were well done.

In the 1970, imported Lancias and Fiats arrived pre-rusted and Protons Satrias had toxic glue in the roof lining that rusted out the roof.

There have been other cars that exploded, spontaneously, combusted, fell apart, leaked oil, overheated or just never worked.

Some of the biggest mechanical lemons that have made mechanics wealthy are old Daewoos, the Holden Sunbird, The 4 cylinder Commodore, Datsun 180B and the king of them all, early model Kia Carnivals. Thankfully, standards have improved and there are very few lemons in the market today.



Over the past few years, car recalls in Australia have dropped from 79 in 2005 to 63 last year, with a peak of 91 in 2008. In terms of aesthetics there are still some eyesores (all SsangYongs) and some inane packages (BMW X6).

Lemons are different to recalls. A lemon by definition refers to the model whereas a recall can apply to only certain cars of that model that were made over a specific period.

The Australian Government has a web site that you can check to see if your car is involved in a recall – you can see it [HERE](#).

Here are 10 lemons: You can bet we'll upset someone here as someone will have surely owned one of these and loved it.

1. **Datsun 120Y:** Why indeed? It was underpowered, which was a good thing because the brakes were useless and the handling downright dangerous. At least when you crashed it was at slow speed. Unfortunately, it was very reliable, so there are still a few around.

2. **Leyland P76:** It held a 44-gallon drum in the boot and the design reflected such practicality. Roof lining tended to fall on your head as you drove and the rear window tended to drop out. When they went, they are a nice car to drive.



3. **Morris Marina:** It should have come with a cardigan and a death warrant. Mechanically nasty, unsafe and unreliable.

4. **Ford AU Falcon:** Ford spent \$600 million to build it and immediately it failed as plain ugly. It also blew head gaskets, radiators and thermostats, yet there are still a lot of AU taxis limping around.

5. **1960-1990 Jaguars:** Some nice models, but you needed two as one was always in the garage. You also needed to be a bank manager as they were expensive to fix. XJ12s were perhaps the worst.



6. **Holden Camira:** Once a Wheels Car of the Year, but prone to rusting and overheating. Chewed oil.

7. **SAAB 900 Turbo:** One of the early turbocharged cars. Unhappily the turbo unit didn't outlive the tyres. Major engine problems and expensive to fix. Despite being Swedish, they rattled and squeaked.

8. **Rover Vitesse:** Designed around a large-dimension, mid-capacity V8 engine, but they also fitted six-cylinder engines in the UK which were complete duds. The electrics were UK Lucas, known for good reason as the Prince of Darkness.

9. **Mitsubishi Magna:** Early models fell apart before they needed their first refuelling. Early carby engines were known to have four-cylinder performance and six-cylinder economy.



10. **Hummer:** Although mechanically sound, it used fuel like a jumbo jet, a GM PR disaster. Now owned by the Chinese.

Two 90 year old men, Mike and Joe, have been friends all of their lives. When it's clear that Joe is dying, Mike visits him every day. One day Mike says, "Joe, we both loved rugby all our lives, and we played rugby on Saturdays together for so many years. Please do me one favour, when you get to Heaven, somehow you must let me know if there's rugby there. "Joe looks up at Mike from his death bed, "Mike, you've been my best friend for many years. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favour for you. "Shortly after that, Joe passes on. At midnight a couple of nights later, Mike is awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to him, "Mike -- Mike." "Who is it?" asks Mike sitting up suddenly. "Who is it?" "Mike--it's me, Joe." "You're not Joe. Joe just died." "I'm telling you, it's me, Joe," insists the voice." "Joe! Where are you?" "In heaven," replies Joe. "I have some really good news and a little bad news." "Tell me the good news first," says Mike. "The good news," Joe says, "is that there IS rugby in heaven. Better yet, all of our old friends who died before us are here, too. Better even than that, we're all young again. Better still, it's always spring time and it never rains or snows. And, best of all, we can play rugby all we want, and we never get tired." "That's fantastic," says Mike. "It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what's the bad news?" "You're in the team for this Saturday."

Nicolas Trudgian's WW II Aviation Art.

Mick Lawson sent us a bunch of painting done by Nicolas Trudgian (right) who is an aviation, transport and landscape artist.

Nicolas grew up in the English city of Plymouth, and lived not far from the harbour that was home to the vast Royal Naval dockyards, this was a vibrant place for a youngster where there was always something to see, be it planes and trains, aircraft carriers and submarines or tanks and helicopters.



Nick's artistic skill came from his father, a very skilled amateur painter. He'd paint transport and military subjects, as a hobby, painstakingly executed with all the detail that mattered. Inspiration came from all around him and also from the stories his parents told of the war years and of a recent past where aeroplanes were powered by propellers and trains by steam.

If you want to see more of these wonderful paintings, click on the pic above.

Australia Zoo.

Australia Zoo has made a very generous concession to serving and ex serving members of the ADF. They have agreed to give members a generous discount on the admission fee and in a lot of instances, they will offer free admission.

This is how it works:

Free entry is being made available to:

- A war veteran who served with the RAN, RAAF or Army.
- Spouses of that veteran.
- Current serving members of the RAN, RAAF or Army.
- If you are accompanied by your spouse and your spouse has an ADF ID card, they are admitted free also.
- Persons holding a retired ADF ID card from the RAN, RAAF or Army
- Holders of either a white or gold Repat Health card.
- Holders of a Return from Active Service Badge.
- A member of the Returned Services League Australian (RSL)
- A member of the War Widows Guild of Australian

People who receive a 10% discount of the admission are:

- Spouses and immediate family members of both of serving and retired members of the RAN, RAAF or Army who do not have an ADF ID.
- DEFCOM members.
- Members of non-Australian defence forces.

Terms & Conditions:



The above discounts are subject to change without notice at the discretion of the organization. Management reserves the right to refuse entry to any persons. Valid identification and proof of membership/employment must be presented on entry to receive these discounts. Failure to present relevant identification may result in refusal of discount. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Further information can be obtained from:

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We thank the Australia Zoo for the wonderful generosity in offering these discounts to members. When you look at the pic above of Steve Irwin, you have to admit he was a larger than life bloke – and he is sadly missed.

Card trick.

There are card tricks and there are card tricks – but this is one of the best. Anyone who can work out how it is done gets to go to early tea – see [HERE](#)