

Welcome to the first edition of our bi-monthly team newsletter

As this newsletter reaches you, the Trust is about to disburse its **one millionth dollar of financial aid** to both current or former Defence Force members and their families. Congratulations to all in our team for helping us achieve this significant milestone. On current projections, it will not be long before we disburse \$1 million each year.



As I reflect on my first four months as CEO of Bravery Trust, it strikes me both how far we have come in a short time, but also how far we have yet to go. In December we farewelled our inaugural Chairman, Dr Ken Michael, AC after almost four years of service during which he oversaw the growth of the Trust's operations, staff and fundraising, including our Foundation Partnership with Coles. Last month we officially welcomed our new Chairman, Neil Hamilton, who is well known to many of you as a member of our Fundraising Committee. Neil brings to the Trust over 30 years' experience in senior management positions and on boards of public companies across law, funds management, banking, insurance and resources and we are delighted to have him steering the Trust during this time of transition and growth.

The coming months will see the Trust forging ahead with several new initiatives that will increase our funding and promote our brand across Australia. Leading up to Anzac Day, we have a campaign with Coles and a similar one with Virgin Australia. We also have the Thank you for your Service Seats concept which we are rolling out in the AFL for the Anzac Day game between Collingwood and Essendon. We are also in discussions with Cricket Australia to do something similar with them.

Finally, many thanks to Neil and the members of our board and committees, all of whom donate their time to this worthy cause, often without appropriate acknowledgement. Your contribution is valued greatly by myself and the staff; indeed we could not run the Trust without you. The year ahead will be a demanding and hectic one as we strive for new partnerships, increased funding and a higher level of awareness within the Australian community. It will also be very rewarding.

Thank you all for your support.



Sean Farrell
CEO

Bravery Trust Newsletter

February 2016

Bravery Trust provides financial support to veterans, current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families. We provide assistance to those who have suffered injury or illness as a result of their service and who are experiencing hardship.

Thanks to your support, from 2012 - 2015:



1100 current & former members & their families assisted

\$1 million in total aid disbursed



\$326,028 in housing & utilities aid

74% of applications are for mental health concerns



Governor-General to visit Bravery Trust in March

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) will make an informal visit to the Trust's Sunset office on Wednesday 16 March in his capacity as Patron-in-Chief. It will be his first visit to the Trust since he officially accepted patronage of the Trust, and one that staff are keenly anticipating. Sir Peter is outspoken in his advocacy for the welfare of current and former serving members and their families and we look forward to providing him with a detailed overview of our work to date.

Further details on the official agenda for his visit will be cascaded to all Trust stakeholders in due course.



Australian Cricket Great Justin Langer Announced as Ambassador

Bravery Trust is honoured to welcome cricketing great Justin Langer as an Ambassador.

Beyond his successful national and international sporting career as both player and coach, Justin is also a dedicated humanitarian. He is the patron and ambassador of a number of worthy charitable organisations and his passion and commitment to making a difference to the lives of others correlates perfectly with the philosophy of the Bravery Trust.

In 2008, Justin was named as a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to Australian cricket and for his extensive and valuable community work; and in 2014 he was named the West Australian of the Year for Sport.

As a respected public figure, Justin's endorsement and promotion of our cause will be invaluable in helping to broaden awareness and in garnering support and funding for the Trust.

"I am delighted to be an ambassador for the Bravery Trust. Any person who makes sacrifices for our nation should never suffer financial hardship for themselves or their families. As

a proud Australian, my respect for our veterans is immense and I believe it is crucial that we look after them." Justin Langer AM, Bravery Trust Ambassador.

Trust Ambassador Justin Langer AM joined staff, directors and committee members at the team development day at Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta WA.



L to R: Rohan Taylor (Committee member), William (Billy) Meston (Director), Justin Langer AM (Ambassador), Sean Farrell (Chief Executive Officer) and Shawn Price (Consultant)

Team Development Day

After many weeks of planning the first ever Bravery Trust Team Development Day kicked off on Wednesday, 3rd February in typically warm Perth weather. The purpose of the day was to enable better communication across the team and for all of us to find ways of working more efficiently.

After an al fresco breakfast overlooking the glorious Swan River the day commenced with consultant psychologist Shawn Price from Positive Intelligence delivering an entertaining and insightful overview of the Birkman Method, a scientifically developed personal assessment that integrates behavioural, motivational and occupational data to predict behaviour and work satisfaction.

A quick mini bus transfer saw the team arrive at Karrakatta's Irwin Barracks, one of the largest dedicated Army Reserves bases in Australia, where we enjoyed lunch in the mess hall and then got straight into the main action – simulated weapons training using the Steyr Assault Rifle and the F89 Minimi Machine Gun. This was followed by a lap of the barracks in the pride of the Australian Army's troop carrier, the Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV). Many of the team were surprised by its level of comfort, including air conditioning!

The day concluded with a low-key, relaxed BBQ back at Sunset. It was widely lauded as a huge success. We learnt something about ourselves and how other members of the team work in different styles. There was lots of discussion about how we can work together in a more productive way. It was also very insightful to meet Defence members at Irwin Barracks and gain a better understanding of their environment.



Elle Macdonald and Sharon Tee enjoying a close up inspection of the army 4WD.



The BT team get a better understanding of the Birkman Method with consultant Shawn Price.



Board member Jane McAloon getting instruction on how to use a machine gun.

Bravery Trust Thanks Kelly O'Dwyer MP



Our CEO Sean Farrell met with the Honourable Kelly O'Dwyer MP, Minister for Small Business and Assistant Treasurer in Melbourne on Friday 26 February to formally thank her for her fast-track approval of the Bravery Trust business name last October. Ms O'Dwyer was able to navigate the various federal departments on our behalf to ensure the Bravery Trust business name was properly registered in time for our national brand relaunch.

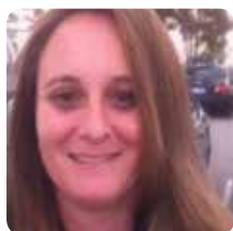
Ms O'Dwyer, who is a good friend of the Trust and has a strong connection to our current and former service personnel, having served as a Reservist, said "I was very happy to be of assistance to Sean when he approached me last year. The work Bravery Trust does with our serving members and veterans is so important and I'm very happy to support them in any way I can."

Meet Our Applications Team

Bravery Trust's applications officers are often the first point of contact for current and former ADF servicemen and women and their families when they reach out for help. The applications team know it's not easy to ask for help and understand that people are more comfortable asking for support if they feel that they'll be treated with respect and understanding.

Most of our financial hardship enquiries are from those who are overwhelmed with a combination of physical and mental illness as a result of their service. They want sound advice about the type of assistance we can offer them, including clarifying their financial hardship eligibility, assessing their domestic needs and providing financial relief through the payment of overdue utilities bills, household items, education costs, and food and fuel vouchers. Referrals to other ex-service organisations is also an important aspect of the applications officers' role to ensure the level of support provided is as comprehensive as possible.

This is where the experience, care and diligence of Maria, Julie, Liz and Nicky comes in. Their "front line" work is the most important work the Trust does:



Maria Miller

Maria Miller heads the applications team in Perth, providing delegation approvals and

reporting functions as part of her overall role as financial controller. She has a Bachelor of Commerce and is currently studying for her CPA. As one of the longest serving Trust employees, Maria has seen firsthand the enormous value of our work, not just in monetary terms but in the real life changes our assistance has

provided for service personnel and their families in need. Maria is a busy mum of two active primary school children and feels a strong connection with the children of our applicants, wanting to see the best outcomes for them. After spending seven years living in a far-north WA mining town she has developed a joy for camping holidays and tries to take any opportunity to spend time with her husband and young children.



Julie Petherick-Collins

Brisbane based Julie Petherick-Collins is a self-described

"army brat", having grown up in a family entrenched in military service, starting with her great grandfather and continuing on with her grandfather, father, uncles, and her brother all serving in uniform. Julie has over 20 years' experience in community service roles and in veterans support. She understands the complex issues faced by those experiencing PTSD and a range of other conditions which have caused hardship in their lives as a result of their service. She is truly passionate about helping those who have served our nation. Julie's other passion is travel – she has travelled the far corners of the globe and has lived and worked in many countries, revelling in experiencing new cultures. The only continent she is yet to explore is Antarctica, but it is definitely on her bucket list.



Liz Bowman

Liz Bowman is also Brisbane based and hails from a military background which goes back

to Scotland's Battle of Culloden in 1745. Each generation of her family since then has served their country in a military uniform. Her father was a rifleman in the Black Watch during WWII where he

met her mother who was serving in the Women's Land Army in England. Both of her brothers served long careers in the ADF with the elder serving in Vietnam. Liz joined the RAAF in 1977 and served for over 16 years. Most recently, Liz worked for Defence Health Limited, so she has a deep understanding of the health issues affecting the ADF community. Liz's service in the ADF, and as a serving mother, as well as her personal journey as the wife of a veteran with PTSD, all contribute to her passionate commitment to serving the Defence community with great compassion and understanding.



Nicky Sligo

Nicky Sligo works in the Trust's Perth office and has a strong background in counselling,

mediation and financial counselling. She was also a Defence wife so she inherently understands the complexities of life in the ADF. She has four adult children as well as being a foster carer for at risk children. Nicky's husband is a FIFO worker with irregular rosters and she is aware of the substantial impact of FIFO work on families, including mental illness and substance abuse. She has family members and friends who have been diagnosed with PTSD and other mental illnesses so understands the effect on the individual and their wider family. Nicky has travelled extensively and has lived in Hong Kong, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Her compassion, empathy and extensive prior work experience enables her to make an important contribution to current and former serving members in need of our support.

Coles ANZAC Day fundraising campaign

For the second year running, Coles 770+ stores nationally will run a fundraising campaign on behalf of the Trust leading into ANZAC Day. Based on the success of the 2015 card campaign, there will be four colourful cartoon-like cards to choose from, each selling for \$2 with 100% of all funds raised donated to the Trust. The campaign runs for three weeks, commencing Wednesday 6 April and concluding on Tuesday 26 April. Coles will also donate 12 cents from the sale of each freshly baked pack of Anzac biscuits, Choc Chip, Double Choc and Coconut Drop Cookies during this period. More information will be posted on our web and social media sites in the coming weeks.

The April Coles magazine, available in store, will also run a story about Trust beneficiary Stephen Cates from SA. To date, Coles has raised almost \$3.9 million via a combination of corporate donation, customer fundraising and store events.



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