

More choice in spectacles

From 1 July 2006, eligible veterans and war widows/widowers will be able to select their spectacle frames from a much wider range. The only restrictions on choice will be a maximum price for each type of frame, and that the frames must meet DVA's quality standards. Previously, eligible veterans and war widows/widowers chose spectacles from the more limited range available in the joint DVA and Department of Defence catalogue.

Under the new arrangements, it will be important for you to play

an active and informed role in selecting frames. You are encouraged to consider your selection carefully and to consult with your optometrist or other prescriber for advice on the most suitable frames for you.

The quality of frames available will be maintained through DVA's contractual arrangements with optical dispensers. All conditions governing quality standards and warranties will remain in place. Dispensers will be required to stock a minimum number of suitable frames, and DVA will monitor

the activity of optical dispensers, to ensure that the veteran community is provided with suitable and quality products.

Those who may be eligible for spectacle frames and other visual aids include Gold Card holders with an assessed clinical need, and White Card holders whose accepted disability necessitates the use of spectacles.

Further information about the new arrangements is available on the DVA website and DVA fact sheets or by calling DVA on 133 254.

SA Anzac round football games

South Australian veterans were honoured in April with commemorative services and special activities at the AFL and South Australian National Football League (SANFL) Anzac Day round matches in Adelaide.

The AFL match at AAMI Stadium between Port Adelaide and St Kilda on 24 April, commemorated all Australia's servicemen and women, particularly Vietnam veterans, in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

Long Tan veteran Alan Fraser tossed the coin before the match. Alan served in Vietnam in 1966-67, first with 1RAR and then with D Coy 6RAR. The Ode was recited by Howie Stevenson who served on various RAN ships in Vietnamese waters during the Vietnam conflict.

The Peter Badcoe VC Medal was presented after the game to Brendon Lade from the Port Adelaide Power, the player whose conduct and play best exemplified the Anzac spirit – skill, courage in adversity, self-sacrifice, teamwork and fair play. The medal was named in honour of MAJ Peter Badcoe VC, the last South Australian to be awarded the nation's highest honour for valour for three separate acts of bravery in Vietnam. The medal was presented by Kym Badcoe, Peter's daughter.



Alan Fraser who served at the Battle of Long Tan tosses the coin at the Anzac Day game between Port Adelaide and St Kilda at AAMI Stadium.

Pre-match activities and commemorative service were held at the SANFL Anzac Day Football match at Adelaide Oval to mark the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and commemorate all Australians who served in the Vietnam War. Veteran representatives of the three defence services were involved in the activities and service.

Chris Kuchenmeister, who served with 5RAR in 1966-67 tossed the coin before the match. Bert Newell, who served with HMAS *Brisbane*, recited the Ode and Bill O'Rourke DFM a gunner/crewman from 9 Squadron RAAF was the Flag Orderly at the pre-match commemorative service.

Some 30 South Australian veterans who played senior football, including five who served in Vietnam, took part in a motorcade around Adelaide Oval before the SANFL Anzac Day clash.

The South Australian Football Commission awarded the Bob Quinn Medal to Mark Passador from Woodville – West Torrens who was the player judged 'Best on Ground'. The medal is named after one of the State's most decorated football players, Bob Quinn, who won the SANFL Magarey Medal in 1938 and 1945 and was also awarded the Military Medal for bravery whilst serving as a Rat of Tobruk.

SA program boosts home security

Members of the veteran community in South Australia are learning new and inexpensive ways to improve their home security and personal safety.

South Australia's Veterans' Affairs Network (VAN) outreach team has been delivering a new security presentation known as 'Don't Leave it to Rover'. The presentation was developed in conjunction with the SA Police Crime Reduction Section and the SA Metropolitan Fire Service.

It includes helpful information such as the best type of outdoor lighting for deterring burglars, where to safely store a spare house key and who can help to install a hardwired smoke alarm or change smoke alarm batteries.

The presentation has been well received by members of the veteran community in Adelaide and throughout regional SA (including the Yorke Peninsula, Fleurieu Peninsula and the Barossa Valley).

If you live in South Australia and would like more information on the VAN Outreach program, or to find out when 'Don't Leave it to Rover' will be presented in your local area, call 133 254 or 1800 555 254 (country freecall). Alternatively, you can view the South Australia Outreach calendar on the Department of Veterans' Affairs website at www.dva.gov.au/sa_nt/activities/activities_sa_nt.htm.



Aline Roberts (Sandilands) at the dedication of the Sandilands Studio named in honour of her family

Studio honours sacrifice of Sandilands family

The sacrifice of the Sandilands family of Armidale in NSW, was recognised in May with the dedication of the Sandilands Studio at the Armidale School.

The Sandilands Studio holds wartime memorabilia collected from the Armidale district and features the story of the Sandilands family.

The Sandilands family lost three sons and a son-in-law during World War II:

- James Walter Sandilands, DFC was killed in a flying accident in India on 13 April, 1944, aged 31;
- John Douglas Sandilands was

killed in Tunisia on 16 February, 1942 while on an operational flight. He was 26; and

- Geoffrey Bruce Hope Sandilands was killed in a flying accident on 16 October 1944, aged 22. It is believed that he was on restricted flying duties following the deaths of his brothers.

The boys' sister, Aline Roberts, known as Poss, also lost her first husband, Pilot Officer Godfrey Rees-Jones, during an air operation on 16 August, 1942.

Aline was a special guest at the dedication of the Sandilands Studio.

Changes to pensioner travel with CountryLink

CountryLink has made some changes to its concession travel arrangements. New South Wales pensioners wishing to travel using a Pensioner Travel Voucher will now pay 15 per cent of the full adult fare (minimum \$10) as a booking fee for economy or first class tickets, unless the travel was booked before 1 March this year.

Vouchers are valid for single, one-way journeys and a booking fee will be charged for each voucher.

Pensioner Travel Vouchers must be booked ahead of time. You can book by calling 132 232, visiting a CountryLink travel centre, booking office, selected CityRail Stations or accredited travel agent.

Changes have also been made to the way you can use Country Pensioner Excursion tickets. These are special concession tickets designed to give pensioners and seniors in country areas access to public transport in their

region at a significantly reduced fare.

The price of a Country Pensioner Excursion ticket is now \$2.50. They cover single journeys that can be divided into several 'legs' as long as the destination is reached on the same day as the trip begins.

If the trip begins before midnight on one day and finishes after 12 am the next day, the previous day's ticket will cover it.

If you stop along the way and stay for longer than 12 hours you will need to buy another Country Pensioner Excursion ticket. You will also need to buy another Country Pensioner Excursion ticket for your return journey.

Country Pensioner Excursion tickets may only be booked within seven days of travel. You can book by calling 132 232, visiting a CountryLink travel centre or accredited travel agent.