

Reducing garden hazards

The Veterans' Home Care program offers up to 15 hours of home and garden maintenance each financial year to help keep your home safe and reduce health and safety hazards.

Services include a range of minor maintenance or repair tasks that could be done by a handyman such as:

- replacing light bulbs and tap washers;
- installing batteries in smoke/security alarms;
- cleaning gutters, windows or fans;
- minor home maintenance (e.g. cupboard door adjustment);
- removing a safety hazard by pruning, cutting grass or weeding; and
- clearing debris following natural disasters.

'One-off' yard and garden clean ups including a variety of tasks may be approved in specific circumstances, for example, if you are assessed with mobility limitations.

The VHC service does not include supplying replacement items. There may be delays in receiving services if there is a shortage of service providers in your area.

We appreciate your patience while your VHC provider is working hard to arrange the service for you. The home and garden maintenance service does not include:

- tasks that require a qualified tradesperson, such as a plumber or electrician;
- major home repairs and maintenance, such as gutter replacement, house painting, landscaping, mulching, branch lopping, tree felling, and tree removal; or
- tasks that are considered to be routine, cosmetic or ornamental gardening services such as weeding, maintaining flower beds, pruning shrubs and regu-

lar lawn mowing, unless there is an environmental health or safety hazard.

Other DVA services such as HomeFront and the Veterans' Home Maintenance Line may be able to help you with some of this work. HomeFront was set up to help make the homes of eligible veterans and war widows safer to prevent falls and accidents. The program provides a free home assessment by a trained assessor each calendar year.

The assessor identifies fall and accident hazards in and around the home. Only qualified tradespeople will carry out the work and only with your permission. DVA makes a financial contribution towards the cost of recommended items and modifications.

The Veterans' Home Maintenance Line is a toll-free telephone service that advises on general property maintenance matters and can refer you to reliable and efficient tradespeople in your area.

The tradespeople have appropriate qualifications, and both professional indemnity and public liability insurance cover. Your local Home and Community Care (HACC) provider may also be able to help with home and garden maintenance services.

HACC is a joint Australian state and territory government initiative. Australian citizens are eligible for HACC assistance, provided that they are not receiving a similar service from another government-funded program. Contact information for HACC providers is available online at:

www.healthyactive.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/hacc-contacts.htm

Ivy shows her nose for danger

Explosive detection dog, Ivy, was on hand to help the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, to launch *M is for Mates: Animals in Wartime from Ajax to Zep* DVA's education resource for primary school students.

Mr Griffin launched the resource at Curtin Primary School in the ACT, with Ivy—a black Labrador—demonstrating her skills.

Ivy didn't disappoint, tracking down the training devices hidden around the school's courtyard.

"With her handler, Ivy can save lives. A dog's sense of smell is hundreds of times more sensitive than ours and Ivy is trained to protect people and places by sniffing out explosives," Mr Griffin said.

Throughout wars, conflicts and peace operations dogs have also been used to carry messages, track down enemy soldiers and warn of aircraft attacks, serving in locations such as Afghanistan, the Solomon Islands and East Timor.

M is for Mates was designed to teach students about the many animals that Australian forces have relied on in wartime and peace operations, including camels, carrier pigeons and even dolphins.



Lance Corporal Adam Exelby, his black labrador Ivy, Veterans' Affairs Minister Alan Griffin and Curtin Primary School students.

DVA worked with the Australian War Memorial to develop the resource that complements the AWM's travelling exhibition *A is for Animals*.

DVA has also produced and distributed a secondary school education resource *Australian Prisoners of War* based on the stories of PoWs captured during the Second World War and Korean War.

The stories are part of the *Australians at War* Film Archive and contain classroom-ready

activities, a CD ROM of interview transcripts and a DVD of historical background and content on the eight topics covered in the resource.

DVA education resources can be downloaded free from the website at www.dva.gov.au/commemorations/education/education_resources.htm

Additional copies can be purchased from the Australian War Memorial.

Resources available from the AWM

A range of publications and DVDs produced by the Australian War Memorial is available through the Memorial's book shop and website.

The DVD *Australians in the Great War* includes four short films from a special series of exhibitions looking at the First World War from an Australian perspective (running time 56 minutes)

The newly updated souvenir book *A Place to Remember* takes

you through the Memorial's Commemorative Area, galleries and Sculpture Garden. The book is filled with colour images of relics and art works, and now includes images from the new exhibition *Over the front: the Great War in the Air* (54 pages).

M is for Mates: Animals in Wartime from Ajax to Zep is a book designed to showcase how animals helped our servicemen and women during wartime. Produced in association with the Department of Veterans'

Affairs, this colourful, informative and educational book is filled with photographs and illustrations, and is perfect for children (58 pages).

To order the above titles call the Australian War Memorial on (02) 6243 4578, (02) 6243 4438, visit the website: www.awm.gov.au/shop or complete the order form below by posting it to:

eSales Unit
Australian War Memorial
GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601

PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM (please print clearly)

Quantity Details			number of copies	total
	a) A Place to Remember (\$14.95)		X	\$
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Purchase online at www.awm.gov.au/shop or send your cheque/money order or credit card details to eSales Unit, Australian War Memorial, GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601. Please allow up to 6 weeks for delivery.