

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH



Current Items of Interest

10 February 2023

The RSL Sub-Branch OGM was held on 7 February 2023





Calling all Vietnam Veterans: Your Museum Needs Your Help

At a cost of over \$1M, your museum now has a Development Approval for the new museum building. However, the DA is being challenged by residents who do not want to see the new museum on our land.

So, now we must fight the objections at the
Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

At a cost of around \$140K!

Vietnam Veterans Have Never Walked Away From a Fight,

***So we are appealing to all Vietnam Veterans (and friends)
to donate \$10 (more if you can afford it) to a fighting fund.***

Every cent raised will go towards the legal costs of fighting the objections. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made by direct debit until the end of March to the museum as follows:

National Vietnam Veterans Museum Trading Account

Bendigo Bank BSB: 633 000 Account: 149 738 577

Identify the donation as “VCAT FUND” along with your name.

For other donation options please contact the museum Tele:03 5956 6400

Authorized by R W Elworthy AM, NVVM Secretary M: 0402106262

The Reinvigoration of the Eddison Day Club

The Eddison Day Club is one of over 70 Day Clubs that were initially formed in 1977 on the initiative of the Department of Veterans' Affairs as a way of having veterans, their partners and other older members of the general community to meet others to share ideas, do light exercise, be educated and informed, have morning tea, a light lunch before returning home. Our Club met for the first time on 6th February 2004 at the Canberra Irish Club in Weston. Our Club was promoted to the Board of the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch by Mr Ian Gollings who was the initial coordinator. There has been a succession of coordinators over the years as well as other volunteers who were once able to coordinate raffles, arrange transport for those who can no longer drive, leading exercise, prepare quizzes etc.

The Eddison Day Club has been fortunate to be able to have available a multitude of guest speakers, entertainers and musicians come to our club. Previously we were able to attract between 40 and 55 persons each week This had to cease on 8th March 2020 due to COVID-19 which forced the Canberra Irish Club to close until being able to open once again in July of that year. Further lockdowns occurred in the latter months. During 2021 and 2022, there were many attempts to restart the attendance at the day Club, but have so far failed to regain the attendance required to attract both members and guest speakers or entertainers.

To this end the Board of the Woden Valley Sub-Branch and others have agreed to combine the usual Ordinary General Meeting Dinner planned for late February and the 19th Birthday of the Eddison Day Club. The kitchen of the Canberra Irish Club is currently undergoing renovations and is not expected to open again until late January or early February.

Plans are well advanced for a lunch on **3rd March 2023**, where members of the Eddison Day Club and Sub-Branch members will hold a combined lunch. The cost of this lunch is expected to be no more than \$20.00 per head. There will be a two-course meal as well as some light entertainment and a raffle. The main purpose is to talk and have fun.

Following the meal, we intend to gauge the interest of those attending in having the Eddison Day Club meeting on a regular basis – maybe not meeting initially each week, and maybe not on a Friday as was usual in previous years. New members will be required from all.

The Eddison Day Club is a vital activity of the Woden Valley Sub-Branch and is the only one in the Canberra district. Due to COVID-19 and the aging of veterans, out of the 70 Day Clubs in 2020, only 40 have survived. The Day Clubs are an outlet for our older, and sometimes isolated members of the community to get together.

One thing under consideration is to have residents of local Aged Care Facilities attend the Day Club. The facilities will provide transport and support workers. Our volunteer base has been vastly depleted over the last few years. We will need to recruit some new volunteers to assist with several positions to have the Day Club proceed efficiently.

Save the date of 3rd March 2023 to attend the luncheon of the combined membership of the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch and the 19th Birthday of the Eddison Day Club.

1200 for 1230 at the Canberra Irish Club.



8 Feb

RSL AUSTRALIA OUTLINES BUDGET WINS FOR GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE VETERAN HEALTHCARE AND TO ADDRESS ROYAL COMMISSION OUTCOMES

MEDIA RELEASE: Australia's largest ex-service organisation has outlined a list of critical budget policy initiatives to immediately improve access to services and entitlements for veterans and their families.

RSL Australia has made a detailed pre-budget submission to the Australian Government calling for financial provisions to break down bureaucracy in the Department of Veterans' Affairs and for funding to be made available for the prompt implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

RSL Australia President Greg Melick says the 2023-24 Budget is the starting point in securing funding and addressing policies that will make a material difference to the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families in Australia.

"The forthcoming Budget provides the Australian Government with the opportunity to comprehensively change the way Australia treats its veterans," Mr Melick said.

"An appropriate Budget response will ensure that our service men and women are able to experience a healthy transition from service, engage in fulfilling civilian careers and continue to make positive social and economic contributions to our nation."

The budget submission calls for the Government to work towards merging the three veterans' entitlements Acts, which will have an immediate impact on the claims backlog within the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

The RSL has also made suggestions for the removal of significant barriers currently faced by veterans when accessing timely and appropriate healthcare, particularly by reviewing and increasing the DVA fee schedule to better align it to the actual cost of healthcare. If implemented, this will also result in a reduction in the administrative burden placed on healthcare providers in accessing DVA remuneration.

Mr Melick said it is critical that the Government invests in the enhancement of the DVAs Advocacy Training and Development Program for volunteer and paid advocates to assist veterans navigate the DVA claims process.

'RSL Australia is urging the Government to comprehensively change the way Australia treats its veterans,' Greg Melick said.

“The RSL’s submission calls for the next Federal Budget to provide funding to support this process.”

According to the 2021 National Census, one in 20 Australian households include at least one person who has served or is currently serving in the Australian Defence Force, representing a significant cohort of the general population.

RSL Australia welcomes the National Cabinet’s commitment to making health its first priority for 2023. The RSL stands ready to work with all levels of government to ensure that the men and women who have served our country can access the healthcare the Prime Minister says they deserve.

Overview of RSL Australia submission:

- **Prompt implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, including funding for the establishment of an independent body to oversee this, led by a National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Wellbeing.**
- **The Government to simplify and bring together the three current legislative Acts for a cohesive approach to veterans’ entitlements – with the end goal being a reduction in the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) claims backlog to ensure veterans and their families are not left waiting for entitlements designed to support their health and wellbeing.**
- **The immediate extension of non-liability healthcare for mental health treatment to ADF reservists on completion of the enlistment process.**
- **Veterans to have the support of trained advocates to help them navigate the DVA claims process through the provision of funding to enable DVA to enhance its Advocacy Training and Development Program for volunteer and paid advocates.**
- **The removal of significant barriers currently faced by veterans when accessing timely and appropriate healthcare, particularly by reviewing and increasing the DVA fee schedule to better align it to the actual cost of healthcare.**
- **A tangible reduction in the administrative burden placed on healthcare providers in accessing DVA remuneration.**

RESOURCES:

Link to [RSL Australia Pre-Budget Submission 2023](#)

National Media

contact:

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Suspicious emails and text messages offering refund payments through myGov have been identified as a scam.

These suspicious emails and text messages supply a clickable link requesting data via an email or SMS, such as login details followed by full name, address, phone number, credit card information and CVV number details.

Services Australia and myGov have advised they will never send an email or text message asking for a username, password, myGov PIN, secret questions and answers or personal details.

They recommend myGov only be accessed by typing in the website address yourself.

To learn more about identifying and avoiding scams, visit <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/examples-scams...>

Scam alert!

Warning
about
myGov
scam





**COFFEE CATCH UP
EVERY FRIDAY 10-12**



Members and guests are welcome to join us for a chat and enjoy freshly brewed coffee & cake with former service mates. Every Friday from 10 to 12 in The Corey Room, Level 2A, of the Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley Street, Holder.

Please note that the Eddison Day Club is currently meeting on only a very casual basis for lunch at midday Fridays.



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information
or access to our services
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Visit us on the web at
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Office hours are
9am-3pm Mon-Fri

PS.

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