

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH



Current Items of Interest

10 November 2023



2023 Remembrance Day National Ceremony

The Australian War Memorial will commemorate Remembrance Day 2023 with the National Ceremony on Saturday, 11 November.

Commences: 10.45 am AEDT

Location: Captain Reg Saunders Courtyard and Sculpture Garden

General attendance at the National Ceremony is welcome and tickets are not required. Large screens will be positioned within the grounds, adjacent to the ceremony, for members of the public to view proceedings.

The National Ceremony will also be broadcast live from the Australian War Memorial on ABC TV and ABC iView.

Click on the link below for more information. For further enquiries please email ceremony@awm.gov.au or call (02) 6206 9813 to leave a message.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/remembrance-day>



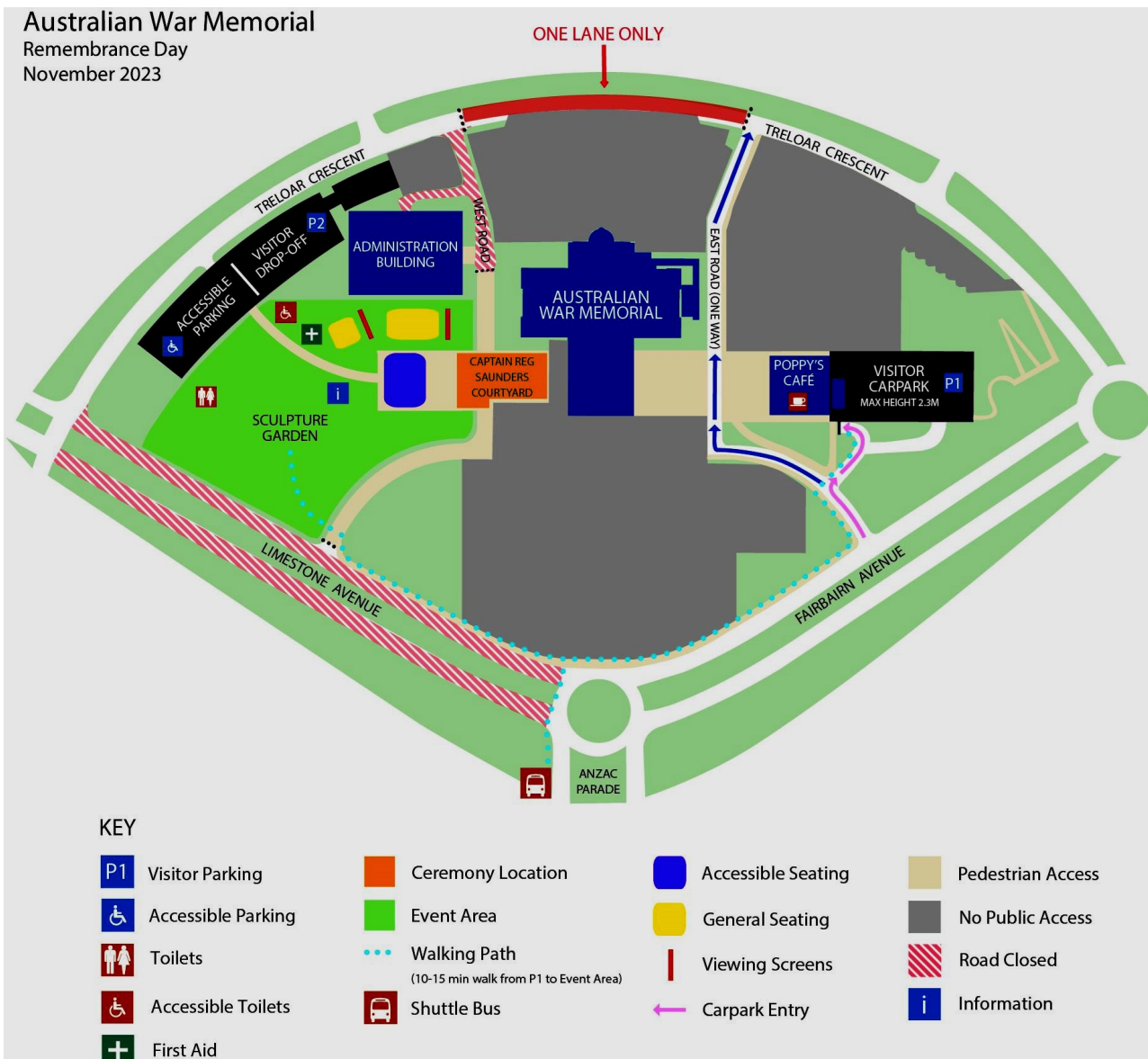
Planning on attending Remembrance Day National Ceremony in-person? Here's what you need to know:

🚫 Road closures will be in effect from 9pm on Friday 10 November until no later than 5pm on Saturday, 11 November. Roads affected are Limestone Avenue from Treloar Crescent to the Anzac Parade intersection.

P Limited mobility impaired parking will be available on site, across from Campbell High School in the P2 carpark.

🚌 Free shuttle bus services operating from Russell Offices to the Australian War Memorial, commencing at 9.30 am to 10.30 am.

Visit our website for all parking and public transport details to plan your attendance at the Remembrance Day National Ceremony: <https://brnw.ch/21wEhp2>





RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch
is pleased to invite members and their guests
to the
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 6 December

12:00noon for 12:30pm

Orion Room Canberra Southern Cross Club Phillip

\$45 per person

Menu (alternate service):

MAIN

**Duo of roast turkey with herb stuffing and honey glazed ham,
potato gratin, roast vegetables, red currant jus (GF)**

**Mustard crusted lamb rump, sweet potato fondant, baby carrots,
roast asparagus, Madeira jus (GF)**

DESSERT

**Traditional Christmas pudding, brandy custard, vanilla bean ice cream
Mini pavlova, fresh fruit, passionfruit puree, Chantilly cream (GF)**

The charge includes soft drinks, selected wines and beers.

Spirits at own expense.

Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements

Please RSVP by 3pm 17 November 2023

Phone 62851931 or email admin@rslwoden.org.au

Direct Credit (Don't forget to include your name in transfer)

A/C name: Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch

BSB 062-908, Account 1084 1897 (include your name)

Credit Card; Phone 6285 1931

Sorry, no refunds are possible after cob 21 November 2023.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Dear members

RSL WV Sub-Branch needs Welfare Volunteers!

We need help assisting with the delivery of Christmas Cards and gifts to our oldest members.

If you can help us please contact our office on 6285 1931 or Peter Sutton on 0408 027 246

WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE CARDS

It is a legal requirement for all our volunteers to have a current Working With Vulnerable People Card. These cards are valid for 5 years but during COVID, the expiration dates of the cards were extended by Access Canberra.

Would Volunteers please check the expiry date of their cards and apply for a new card if required.

Please advise us of your registration number and the new expiry date of your card so we may update our records.

Information on renewing or applying for a Working With Vulnerable People Card can be found on the Access Canberra website :<https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/business-and-work/working-with-vulnerable-people/apply-for-or-renew-a-wwvp-registration>

There is no charge for volunteers to have a Working With Vulnerable People Card.



Poppy Appeal

Together We Remember.

Your donation provides life-changing support to veterans and their families.

[Donate Now](#)



<https://poppyappeal.com.au/>



1 November 2023

Veterans to receive better access to a GP

The Albanese Government is committed to ensuring the veteran community is provided with the best possible services and supports.

With increasing costs of living and rising costs for business, the veteran community has told us they are finding it harder to find GPs who will treat them without out of pocket costs.

That changes today.

From today it will be easier to access a GP for more than 276,000 Australian veterans.

In line with the tripling of the bill billing incentive, the Albanese Government is investing \$33.3 million to triple the Veteran Access Payment (VAP) for certain GP services.

The VAP is an incentive payment GP's receive, in addition to the Medicare rebate, when treating veterans who hold a DVA Gold or White Card.

The tripling of this payment will help to ensure GPs continue to service veterans with no out of pocket costs.

These changes will see payment for a GP consultation of up to 20 minutes (Level B) increase by more than \$16 in metropolitan areas and more than \$31 in the most remote areas of Australia.

Payments apply to general face-to-face and telehealth GP consultations, including home visits for people who are homebound, and consultations in residential aged-care facilities.

In an effort to further reduce the burden on medical practitioners, a review is currently underway to simplify and consolidate the Department of Veterans' Affairs forms that medical professionals are required to complete.

The first package of the 19 most frequently used forms has been consolidated down to 7, while a process is underway to significantly reduce the remaining 54 forms by mid-2024.

MEDIA CONTACT: STEPHANIE MATHEWS - 0407 034 485

Who will benefit?

This measure will incentivise GPs to treat the more than 276,000 veterans and eligible dependents who hold Veteran White or Gold Cards.

From 1 November 2023, GPs who treat Veteran Card holders will receive increased VAP fees: Modified Monash	VAP as at 1 July 2023 (pre 1 Nov indexation)	VAP as at 1 November 2023
1 – metropolitan areas	\$8.05	\$24.25
2 – regional centres	\$12.20	\$36.90
3-4 large and medium rural towns	\$12.95	\$39.20
5 – small rural towns	\$13.80	\$41.65
6 – remote communities	\$14.55	\$43.95
7 – very remote communities	\$15.45	\$46.65

Notes: Indexation of 0.5 percent applied on 1 November ahead of VAP increase.

RSL AUSTRALIA WELCOMES GP'S VETERAN ACCESS PAYMENT INCREASE



MEDIA RELEASE

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) has applauded today's lifting of the Veteran Access Payment for certain general practitioner services and says the incentive should improve access to medical services for many veterans.

The Government's initiative to triple the bulk billing incentive payment for GPs was announced in this year's Budget, with the extra payments to begin on 1 November 2023.

The payment, in addition to the Medicare rebate, is available for veterans who hold a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Gold or White Card and applies for a range of consultations and treatments.

President Greg Melick said the RSL welcomed the introduction of this measure, which would increase veterans' access to health care.

"It is an important advance, but much more is still to be done to improve the health and wellbeing of more than 580,000 veterans and their families.

"For example, the current Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide is painting a disturbing picture of the health challenges facing our defence and veteran community, particularly in the area of mental health," Greg Melick said.

"We are continuing to work with the Federal Government to ensure the full implementation of all recommendations of the Royal Commission and the establishment of a permanent implementation body.

"This will require a significant and ongoing funding commitment."

Greg Melick said the RSL had made a detailed [pre-budget submission](#) this year to secure funding to address the inequities and barriers that continue to be experienced by the veteran community.

"The tripling of the Veteran Access Payment is an important advance, as has been the increased DVA staffing, which has reduced the number of unprocessed claims and substantially reduced processing times for payments to medical practitioners.

"The RSL's submission also called for the [extension of non-liability healthcare to all reservists](#), further initiatives to reduce administration for healthcare providers treating veterans, the [harmonisation of funeral benefits for veterans](#), [funding to enhance our Advocacy Training and Development Program](#) and as well as a commitment to implement demand-driven funding to support veterans' welfare, rather than having to fight for funding each budget year.

"These measures were [missing from the Budget](#), and we will continue to advocate for their implementation.

"Our veterans are skilled and capable people who make significant contributions to the Australian community post-service. Investing in services, support systems and wellbeing programs to strengthen their health and welfare remains a core focus for the RSL," Greg Melick said.

HOW YOU CAN COMMEMORATE THIS REMEMBRANCE DAY



Friday 11th November is Remembrance Day. It is a day of unity and reflection when Australians pause to remember and honour our veterans who have given their lives in service.

Whether you choose to wear a poppy, attend a service, or take a quiet moment of reflection, there are many ways you can commemorate:

1) Wear a poppy in the lead up to Remembrance Day and on Remembrance Day itself

Look out for the RSL Volunteers or buy online at:

<https://commemorative-badges.myshopify.com/>

2) Attend a Commemorative Service

Visit the [Remember to Remember website](#) or contact your local RSL Sub Branch for a service near you. The National Commemorative Service hosted at the Australian War Memorial will be live broadcast via ABC TV, ABC Radio, the ABC listen app and [ABC iview](#).

This year, with the support of RSL Australia, and Legacy Australia, Defence Families of Australia will once again run the 'RememBEARance' campaign which encourages those attending a service to consider laying a small bear alongside their wreath to recognise the role and sacrifices made by our defence families.

3) Pause for a minute of silence at 11 a.m.

Wherever you may be at 11 a.m. on Saturday the 11th of November, pause and reflect to pay tribute to our fallen service men and women. Set a reminder in your calendar or phone, switch your phone to 'do not disturb', and pause for just a minute in memory of the fallen. It's a simple action that means so much.

4) Read or recite the famous poem "In Flanders Fields"

Written by Major John McCrae in 1915 this poem and the poppies it references have become an enduring symbol of Remembrance Day and the human cost of war. The tradition of wearing a poppy on the 11th of November was inspired by [this poem](#).

5) Share a personal story on social media of who you will remember this Remembrance Day using the hashtags #RemembranceDay #LestWeForget #remembertoremember

6) Make your own poppy wreath with your family, friends or colleagues to display on your letterbox, fence, window, school or workplace. [Watch the tutorial](#).

For more information and resources on how you can commemorate this Remembrance Day visit: remembertoremember.com.au

Energy Bill Relief for Households

“Energy rebate to provide bill relief

The Commonwealth, state and territory governments are working together to provide targeted and temporary electricity bill relief to eligible households.

You can get bill relief if you are the primary electricity account holder or, for some energy providers, another named account holder on your electricity account. You must also hold a Pensioner Concession Card, a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card or a Veteran Gold Card.

Your household can only get one bill relief rebate, even if there is more than one eligible person living there. You can only get this bill relief for your principal place of residence. How much you get depends on where you live, with between \$175 and \$500 available to targeted households and \$325 to \$650 available to small businesses.

If you are eligible, are not named on the bill and you pay for electricity, contact your electricity provider to discuss your options.

If you live in Queensland or Western Australia, you do not need to take any action because these state governments are including this energy bill relief in their state rebate programs, which are being given to all households.

If you currently receive energy concessions, in most cases the electricity provider will automatically apply the bill relief to your electricity account and you do not need to do anything. This will reduce the amount you owe on your next bill. How and when this happens depends on where you live as each state and territory may do things a little differently.

If you don't receive energy concessions, please go to energy.gov.au/bill-relief to find a link to your state or territory with instructions about what to do. This could be to contact your energy provider or your state/territory government with your concession card type and the DVA file number on it. Give them consent to check your card online for payment of the rebate.

If you get your electricity from your strata or landlord in a caravan park, apartment building, retirement home or village and your household is eligible for the bill relief, you will not automatically receive the rebate. However, you will be able to access a direct payment through your state or territory government.

Please check www.energy.gov.au/bill-relief for the latest information.”

The rebate can be obtained by going through MyGov (if you have it) or by calling your energy provider in your State or Territory. There are different payment methods for this rebate for each State and Territory.

The information for your State can be found at –

[Energy bill relief for households - ACT | energy.gov.au](http://Energy%20bill%20relief%20for%20households%20-%20ACT%20|%20energy.gov.au)

Should you require any further information please call your local energy provider.



**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.

The Eddison Day Club will continue to meet for a lunch each Friday at noon until we can once again meet at a reinvigorated Day Club.

Come and join us for lunch at Canberra Irish Club 6 Parkinson St, Weston ACT 2611



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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