

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH



Current Items of Interest

10 December 21



Ted Fleming: A Distinguished Life (from National Parks Association of the ACT)

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of long-term member, Dr Edward ('Ted') Lloyd Fleming, at the age of 96. Ted will be fondly remembered as both a committed conservation volunteer and a keen bushwalker.

Several years ago, Ted initiated weed control work in the Mugga Nature Reserve and the East O'Malley development; he regularly removed rubbish from the latter site. Ted was very active in the Southern ACT Catchment Group and worked with the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc (CIMAG), trapping this aggressive invasive species. In 2008, he won first prize in the Landcare Australia magazine's Inspiring Australians competition and the NRMA Insurance ACT Volunteer of the Year Award (environment category).

Ted was a retired surgeon at the time. Prior to his medical career, Ted had achieved the rank of Wing Commander in the Royal

Australian Air Force; he served in the Second World War and the Vietnam War. His other volunteer life was at the Australian War Memorial, including involvement with its online gallery and assisting visitors to discover records of family members who had served.

In addition to all of this, Ted had a passion for long distance bushwalking. He completed all of the great walks in Australia (at the time), when this was not commonly done, including: the Australian Alps Walking Track, the Bibbulmun, the Heyson Trail, and the Hume and Hovell Track. A truly inspirational man!

The funeral for the late Dr Edward Lloyd FLEMING will be held at St. John the Baptist Church Reid ACT on Monday 13th December 2021 at 10 am.

The service will be livestreamed from the following link: funeralstre.am/edward-fleming

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Bush Heritage ACT (<https://secure.bushheritage.org.au/donate>) or the Royal Flying Doctor Service (<https://rfdsse.giveeasy.org/in-memory>).



Edward Fleming in full flying kit at Eastbourne with the family dog Tony. Photo: Courtesy Dr Edward Fleming



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

AWM2017.520.1.796



Edward Fleming in Melbourne in 1946. Photo: Courtesy Dr Edward Fleming



The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Federal Member for Calare

MEDIA RELEASE

8 December 2021

80 YEARS AGO, THE WAR CAME TO THE PACIFIC

Eighty years ago, on 8 December 1941, Australian Prime Minister John Curtin made a fateful announcement to the nation: "men and women of Australia, we are at war with Japan".

These historic words, following the devastating Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbour and Malaya, marked the first time Australia had declared war on another country as an independent nation.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the declaration was a very significant moment for our country, our region and the world.

"The co-ordinated Japanese attacks on Southeast Asia meant the war would soon come within reach of Australia for the first time," Minister Gee said.

"While Australians had been fighting throughout Europe, the Middle East and North Africa since 1939, the war in the Pacific began in earnest with the co-ordinated attacks on Malaya, the Philippines and Thailand. Across the dateline on 7 December in Hawaii, the attack on Pearl Harbour had already occurred.

"Members of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Army had been serving in Southeast Asia since 1940, and in December 1941 they engaged the Japanese forces for the first time in defence of Malaya and the large naval base in Singapore.

"Australia and the Allied Forces would go on to fight many fierce battles with the Japanese, enduring tropical humidity, high temperatures, disease and infections in the Malayan jungle.

"From the initial landings on the coast of Malaya, it would take the Japanese forces just 70 days to defeat the Allies and capture Singapore and its large naval base.

"The war would come to our own shores just a few short months later with the bombing of Darwin in February 1942.

"Hundreds of thousands of Australians served in the Pacific during the Second World War, and tragically around 17,500 Australians gave their lives fighting for our freedom. More than 22,300 Australians were taken prisoner and over 8,000 of those died.

"It is important we never forget what our service men and women endured and sacrificed to defend our nation during this period.

"Our nation owes an enormous debt to all those who fought in the Pacific during the Second World War, and we should recognise and remember their immense contribution which eventually resulted in Victory in the Pacific on 15 August 1945."

To learn more visit the Department of Veterans' Affairs [Anzac Portal](#).



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

007173

Members of the AIF covering a Malayan road through the jungle during tactical exercises, May 1941.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

010400

AWM caption (for reference): MALAYA. SOLDIERS CROSSING A STREAM BY A PONTOON BRIDGE (October 1941)



Newsroom

Media Centre

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Social media

Meet our veterans

75 days, 75 stories

Vetaffairs

DVA services during the holiday season

Feedback

1 December 2021

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will continue to provide support to veterans and their families during the holiday season. However, please be aware that some services will be impacted from Christmas Day 2021 to Monday 3 January 2022 inclusive.

Counselling, mental health support and crisis accommodation

The Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling line is available to support members of the current and ex-service community and their families 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Phone 1800 011 046 toll-free.

Safe Zone Support is an anonymous counselling line that's available 24/7 to support members of the current and ex-service community and their families. Phone 1800 142 072 toll-free.

If you require urgent assistance, please call 000. If you are unwell, please contact your local doctor or go to your nearest hospital.

Short-term crisis accommodation is available for eligible people. Please phone 1800 011 046 or visit www.openarms.gov.au

For further mental health information and support, visit www.openarms.gov.au

Transport bookings for medical treatment

DVA staff will be available to process transport requests for medical treatment on 29, 30 and 31 December. Please call 1800 550 455.

The service will be closed on 25, 26, 27 and 28 December and 1, 2 and 3 January, resuming 4 January. If transport is required on these days and has not been pre-booked, you can pay for the travel and seek reimbursement when we re-open. Or, if you are an existing [MyService](#) user, you can make new transport bookings and review existing trips online.

For travel in an emergency always dial 000.

Defence Service Homes Insurance

For enquiries, or help with an insurance policy or claim, phone 1300 552 662. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For payments, phone 1300 304 989 for the cost of a local call.

Hospital admissions

Doctors can admit DVA patients into hospital over the holiday period and request retrospective approval for the admission, where required, when DVA resumes full services.

Pharmaceutical approvals

There will be no reduction in services across the Christmas/New Year period. Providers seeking prior approval for pharmaceuticals can call the Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre (VAPAC) 24 hours a day on 1800 552 580.

Pension payments

Pension paydays are not affected over this period. The last payment in 2021 will be on Thursday 30 December 2021. The first payment of the New Year will be Thursday 13 January 2022.

Incapacity payments

The last Incapacity payment of 2021 is 23 December. You may receive your Incapacity payment earlier on 20–21 December 2021. The next payment after this is due on 6 January 2022, although this may also be paid earlier on 4–5 January.

However, because of differing arrangements by various banks during the holiday period, which are beyond DVA's control, the precise day of the week you receive this payment may differ from usual. You may wish to make arrangements to ensure you have enough funds to cover any direct deposit payments.

VAN offices, General Enquiries and Open Arms centres

As usual, DVA offices and shopfronts, and general enquiry services will be closed for the Christmas / New Year period from Saturday, 25 December 2021, reopening on Tuesday, 4 January 2022.

This includes DVA's General Enquiries phone line and email services, DVA's Veterans' Access Network (VAN) offices interview service and Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling centres (note that, as mentioned above, the Open Arms and Safe Zone counselling phone lines will remain open 24/7 throughout the holiday season).

Dear members,

As you know we have been working towards closing MyAccount for the last 12 months or so. We can now advise that we will be closing MyAccount on 10 December 2021.

We have prepared the attached factsheet to help you support clients during this change. In addition, we have the following communication to support clients:

Email to all clients who are MyAccount holders. The email explains the changes and will include a factsheet about the changes and a guide on how to save their inbox contents. The factsheet and guide are also published on the [DVA website](#).

Information on MyAccount to advise the closure date. This information also includes links to the [guide on how to save MyAccount inbox contents](#).

An article on *Latest news for Veterans*.

- A brief article on *ForceNet*.

An update for Advocates to explain the changes.

If you have any questions about this change, please send them to our team at digitalclientexperience@dva.gov.au.

Regards

Liz



Liz Cosson AM CSC

Secretary

Department of Veterans' Affairs

T: 02 6289 6735 Ext: 616735

E: Liz.Cosson@dva.gov.au | E: Secretary@dva.gov.au



Turning off MyAccount 10 December 2021



FACTSHEET

This factsheet contains information for ex-service organisations (ESOs) about MyAccount turning off on 10 December 2021.

A review of services has identified several services that will not transition to MyService.

Background

DVA is continuing to improve MyService. The need for simpler, better, and more accessible online services has never been more important and is a priority for DVA.

To achieve this, we have been moving MyAccount services to MyService over the past year so that veterans, their families and representatives have a single online platform to interact with. To complete this transition, we will be turning off MyAccount on 10 December 2021.

As part of the transition to MyService, DVA reviewed which features to transition from MyAccount to MyService. The following features will not be available in MyService:

- Honours and Awards
- Claims and Advocacy Support Essentials
- Apply for Gold Card
- Single Online Claim form
- MyAccount inbox.

Australian Honours and Military Awards. DVA respects the Australian Honours and Military Awards earned by veterans in recognition of the outstanding service they have provided to Australia.

Honours and Awards that clients have entered in MyAccount are not in their official DVA record and won't be available in MyService. We know Honours and Awards information is important, but this change won't affect clients' entitlements or the services they can access, including veteran commemorations.

If clients wish to have an official title or post-nominal added to their client record, they should contact DVA on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372). Once we add it to their record, it will display in MyService and in most of our correspondence with the client.

Veterans who have added Honours and Awards information into their MyAccount will be contacted and informed as part of our broader communication strategy.

Claims and Advocacy Support Essentials (CASE). CASE allows a MyAccount user to act on behalf of a veteran to lodge claims or reviews and appeals.

In January 2020, the nominated representative framework was released into MyService, allowing a MyService user the ability to act on behalf of another user within the MyService environment.

Removing CASE from MyAccount does not impact the ESO portal or advocates' ability to use the ESO portal to assist veterans with their claims.

Apply for Gold Card. Veterans and members of medical teams who are eligible are automatically sent a Veteran Gold Card. Eligibility is generally determined from their initial claim or when they have qualifying service and turn 70. These processes remove the need for a separate function to apply for the Gold Card.

Single Online Claim form. The big change with MyService was to move away from the single claim form approach available on MyAccount toward an intuitive automated claim process to simplify the claiming process.

MyAccount inbox. We're making changes so clients can receive DVA correspondence in their myGov inbox.

When MyAccount is turned off, the MyAccount inbox will no longer be accessible. Until they're available in the myGov inbox, the letters clients currently receive in their MyAccount inbox will be sent to them via Australia Post.

If clients have correspondence in their MyAccount inbox they'd like to keep, they'll need to save it. We've posted these instructions on the [DVA website](#).

If clients have questions about correspondence, they should call us on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).



The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Federal Member for Calare

MEDIA RELEASE

6 December 2021

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIEGE OF TOBRUK

When German radio propaganda broadcaster William 'Lord Haw Haw' Joyce labelled the Allied defenders of Tobruk 'rats', little did he know that the tenacious troops would take the name and wear it as a badge of honour.

Tuesday 7 December marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Siege of Tobruk, one of the most well-known battles Australian soldiers fought in during the Second World War.

Between April and December 1941, around 14,000 Australian soldiers endured land and air assaults, and gruelling desert conditions, to hold off the German and Italian forces from capturing the Libyan town and its strategically important harbour.

The Australian 9th Division and attached troops suffered more than 830 casualties. Over 2,170 were wounded and 941 were taken prisoner over the course of the siege.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the Rats of Tobruk had earned their place in history and had much to be proud of.

"Rommel and his tanks had rampaged through Europe and it was the Rats, led by an Australian, that stopped them in their tracks. It was an extraordinary feat of arms that our country takes great pride in and should never forget," Minister Gee said.

"The Rats showed the world that Germany was not invincible and that the war could be won.

"For months on end they faced scorching hot days, bitterly cold nights, sand storms and near constant attack from both land and air.

"Despite the repeated assaults, the Rats of Tobruk would not be moved. They dug in, knowing that holding the town and its harbour was critical to stalling the enemy advance into Egypt.

"Led by Major General (Sir) Leslie James Morshead, troops from the 9th Division, the attached 18th Brigade of the 7th Division, along with British and Indian units held off the Axis forces under the command of General Erwin Rommel.

"In addition to the troops on the ground in Tobruk, a Royal Australian Navy destroyer group, dubbed the 'scrap iron flotilla' by the Nazis, provided the only link to the outside world and

Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling provides 24/7 free confidential crisis support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families on 1800 011 046 or openarms.gov.au. **Safe Zone Support** provides anonymous counselling on 1800 142 072. **Defence All-Hours Support Line** provides support for ADF personnel on 1800 628 036 or defence.gov.au/healthy/healthportal. **Defence Member and Family Helpline** provides support for Defence families on 1800 624 608.

became known as the 'Tobruk Ferry' service. The Royal Australian Air Force as well as RAAF personnel serving with Royal Air Force units, provided air support."

Among the countless stories of bravery from the campaign, is that of Australia's first Victoria Cross recipient of the Second World War, Corporal John 'Jack' Edmondson, from Wagga Wagga in New South Wales.

"When German infantry breached the defences at Tobruk on 13 April 1941, Corporal Edmondson and his section charged the enemy position and despite being mortally wounded he continued to advance under heavy fire," Minister Gee said.

"Corporal Edmondson's actions saved the life of his platoon commander. He died from his wounds the following morning.

"He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, with his parents accepting the honour on his behalf.

"On this anniversary, we commemorate the bravery, selfless sacrifice and service of all those involved in the Siege of Tobruk, those wounded and taken prisoner, and those who gave their lives."

To learn more about the Siege of Tobruk and the Second World War, go to the Department of Veterans' Affairs [Anzac Portal](#).

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Minister Gee office: 0459 966 944
DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

December “On Patrol”

https://www.everymans.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Dec-2021_for-website-email.pdf

Dear Friends and Supporters of Everyman’s

Please find above the link to the latest newsletter from Everyman’s Welfare Service.

We would love you to forward On Patrol to any friends you think may be interested, or members of your organisation, who may remember us from their days of service. If you, or any of your members would like to receive one or more copies in the post, please contact us at headquarters and we’ll make sure your name and address go onto our mailing list.

To unsubscribe, please send a quick email in reply and we will remove your contact details from our database.

Many blessings

Chris Kemper

Christina Kemper

Administration Support Assistant

Everyman’s Welfare Service

(02) 6055 2988 (W/Th/F)



2021 Ginger Meggs Turns 100! Coin Sets

Here is a milestone I thought your members might be interested in...

Ginger Meggs, the redheaded Aussie schoolboy who has delighted newspaper readers around the world, turns 100!

The Royal Australian Mint has recently released two Centenary of Ginger Meggs – Two Coin Sets.

- 2021 \$1 Coloured Uncirculated Coins
- 2021 \$1 Coloured 1/2oz Silver Frosted Uncirculated Coins



The history:

A century ago, Sydney artist Jimmy Bancks created an iconic Aussie character, a red-headed boy called Ginger Meggs. Part battler, part larrikin, part philosopher, Ginger Meggs is one of Australia's most successful cultural figures, ranking alongside Dame Edna, Crocodile Dundee and Blinky Bill. Ginger Meggs first appeared in the Sydney Sun newspaper in 1921. Fame soon followed and Ginger Meggs became Australia's most successful comic strip, appearing in newspapers around the world. Following Jimmy Bancks' death in 1952, the Ginger Meggs comic strip has been produced by a succession of talented artists, most recently Jason Chatfield since 2007.

With his wry, larrikin humour Ginger Meggs continues to delight readers of all ages.

How to own a part of history:

These coins can be purchased from the Royal Australian Mint's [eshop](#) and through its call centre (1300 652 020).

Customer Service Team

Royal Australian Mint

medicare

INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMERS

Get free proof of your COVID-19 vaccinations



Accessing COVID-19 proof of vaccination

There are 3 ways you can show proof of your COVID-19 vaccinations:

- 1 a COVID-19 digital certificate
- 2 your immunisation history statement
- 3 an International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate for overseas travel.

The easiest way to get proof is online using either:


- your Medicare online account through myGov
- the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.

USING MYGOV

1. Go to my.gov.au and sign in.
2. Select the **Proof of COVID-19 vaccination** quick link.
3. Select the type of proof you want and follow the steps.

USING THE EXPRESS PLUS MEDICARE APP

1. Log on to the app.
2. Select **Proof of vaccinations** from Services.
3. Select the type of proof you want and follow the steps.

 If you can't get your proof online or need help, call **1800 653 809***.

GET FREE PROOF OF YOUR COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

STORING YOUR PROOF

When you get proof online, you can download and print your own copy.

Once you've had all required COVID-19 vaccinations, you can add your COVID-19 digital certificate to your Apple Wallet™ or Google Pay™. You may also be able to add it to a state check in app.

If you're using the Express Plus Medicare mobile app, you can save your proof to your offline items for easy access on your device.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A MEDICARE ONLINE ACCOUNT

You need to link Medicare to your myGov account to set up your Medicare online account. Sign in to, or create your myGov account at my.gov.au

You can then link Medicare using either:

- your Medicare card number and information from your Medicare history
- a linking code issued by Medicare.

For help linking Medicare to myGov, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/medicareguides

You can also get your vaccination proof through My Health Record. Just link My Health Record to your myGov account.

KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE WITH MEDICARE

You can view and update your details using your Medicare online account or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.

IF YOU'RE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE OR DVA

You can get your COVID-19 digital certificate or immunisation history statement using the Individual Healthcare Identifiers service through myGov.

If you need an international certificate, you can call **1800 653 809*** or visit a service centre to get your proof.

MORE INFORMATION

For information about getting proof of your COVID-19 vaccinations, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/covidvaccineproof

For the latest COVID-19 updates and advice, go to australia.gov.au



* Call charges apply from mobile and pay phones only.

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Christmas Close Down

**The RSL Woden Valley
Sub-Branch office at Holder
will close from noon Friday
17 December 2021 until
3pm Monday 3 January 2022**

Christmas break for Eddison Day Club meetings with Peter Sutton

Last meeting this year on 17 December 2021

First meeting of new year on 14 January 2022

Contact Us

Give us a call for more
information or access to our
services

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Visit us on the web at
www.rslwoden.org.au

Or drop in for a coffee Fridays
from 10.00am

Our office hours are
9am-3pm Mon-Fri

Did you know?

**E-News, Current Items
of Interest and *The
Serviceman* are also
readily available to
read on our website
www.rslwoden.org.au**