

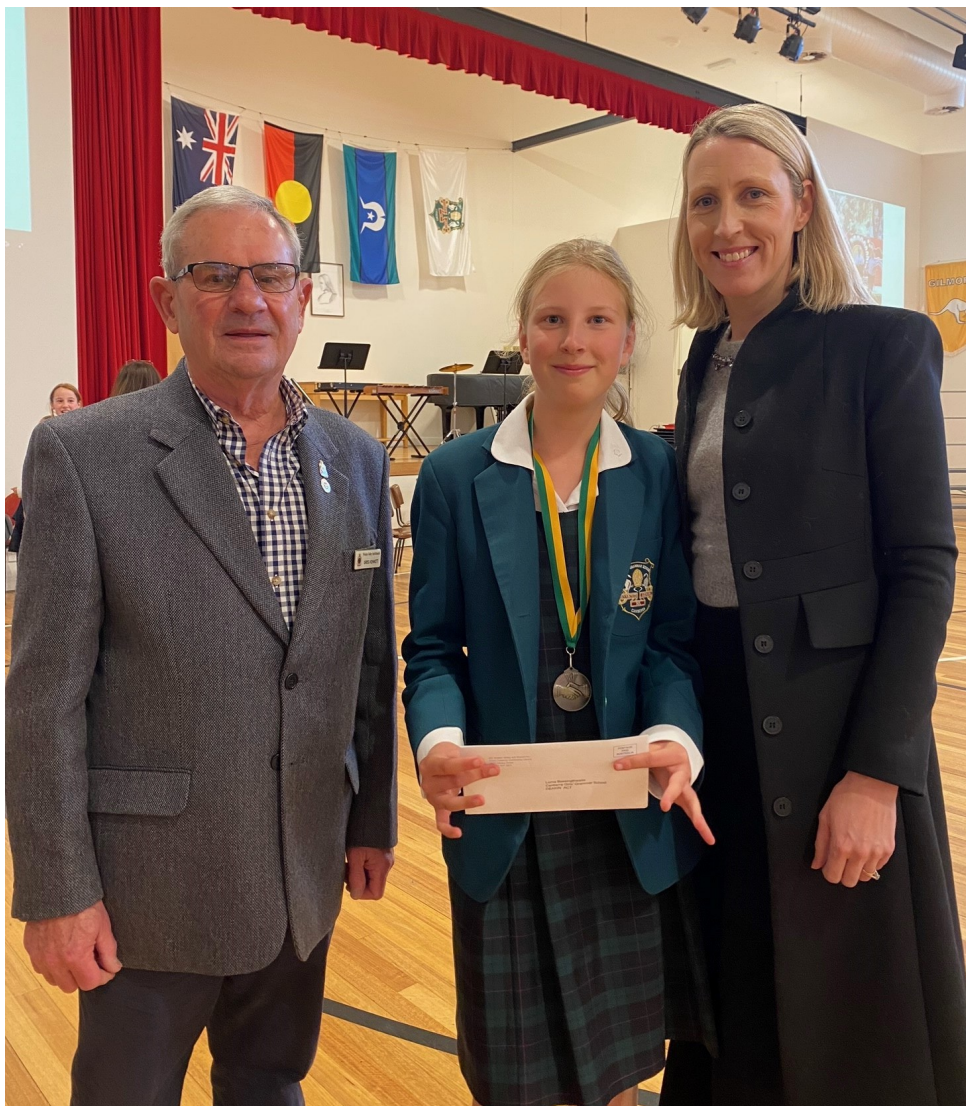
RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH



Current Items of Interest

12 May 2023

On Monday 8 May, Secretary Greg Kennett visited Canberra Girls' Grammar Junior School in Deakin to present prizes to the student who was placed second in this year's ANZAC Essay Competition. The photo shows Greg with the student, Lorna Bassingthwaite, and her mother following the presentation. Of added interest is that Greg was advised that Lorna is the great granddaughter of the late General Sir Francis (Frank) Hasset. To mark the 50th anniversary of the withdrawal of Australian forces from South Vietnam, this year's essay topic was *'Australia's Participation in the Vietnam War 1963-73 – What were the attitudes and perceptions of the Australian community towards that participation?'*. Greg will present prizes to the first and third placed students in the next two weeks.





RSL
Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

6 May 2023

For immediate release

RSL Australia Congratulates His Majesty King Charles III on his Historic Coronation

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) has congratulated His Majesty King Charles III on his Coronation in London's Westminster Abbey.

The RSL says the new King's Coronation is an historic event to be celebrated, not only in the United Kingdom, but throughout the Commonwealth, including in Australia, and in many other countries around the world.

RSL National President Greg Melick said the RSL had a long association with the Monarchy, and this would continue under His Majesty King Charles III.

"The King's mother, the late Queen Elizabeth II was patron of the RSL for some 70 years and our organisation and Australia's veteran community greatly valued her interest and support.

"She dedicated her life to the service of her nation and the peoples of the Commonwealth and never shirked this great responsibility.

"The King's Coronation is steeped in tradition and Australian Defence Force personnel played an important part in the official celebrations, recognising our prominence in the Commonwealth and close association with the Monarchy.

"The RSL sincerely congratulates King Charles III on his Coronation and wishes him a long and successful reign," Greg Melick said.

The RSL National Office is lit up in regal purple this weekend to mark the Coronation, as are several of Australia's Defence buildings.

ENDS

National Media contact: Tony Harrison – 0417 318178 tony.harrison@rsl.org.au



RSL AUSTRALIA WELCOMES ADDITIONAL \$328M COMMITTED TO VETERANS IN FEDERAL BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) has welcomed the 2023-24 Federal Budget and the more than [\\$328 million in funding](#) that has been allocated to veterans and their families through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

RSL Australia National President Greg Melick said it was encouraging to see a significant injection of funding to support those who have served our country.

"This commitment to the health and wellbeing of veterans, in addition to a substantial investment to address key recommendations from the Interim Report for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, is incredibly promising and addresses a number of challenges experienced by veterans," Greg Melick said.

"It is also heartening to see the inclusion of a number of cost of living measures from Medicare reform to subsidise energy bills and an increase in rent assistance to support Australians across the country, including many in the veteran community.

"We welcome the investment to strengthen Medicare and increase access to primary healthcare, and we hope that this will increase access for veterans seeking appointments with GPs once we understand the impact of this measure more broadly.

"However, we are disappointed that the Budget did not include identified funding for the full implementation of all recommendations of the ongoing Royal Commission, as well as a commitment to implement demand-driven funding to support veterans' welfare, rather than having to fight for funding each budget year."

While supportive of the commitment of funding to DVA, Greg Melick said RSL Australia looked forward to engaging with the Federal Government on additional measures to support the more than 581,000 veterans and their families across the country.

"We acknowledge that the economic environment is uncertain and fiscal conditions are tight, but for these reasons, we made extensive calls on government for sustained funding to address the inequities and barriers that continue to be experienced by the veteran community," he said.

"We remain committed to our pre-budget calls for the establishment of an implementation body to oversee the recommendations of the Royal Commission and will continue to advocate to the Federal Government to ensure this remains a priority.

"Our veterans are skilled and capable people who make significant contributions to our communities post-service. Investing in services, support systems and wellbeing programs to strengthen their health and welfare remains our core focus.

"Veterans and their families can take heart in knowing that Australians continue to value their service and sacrifice, both during and after their ADF service, and we will continue to work tirelessly with the Federal Government to ensure our members are supported with practical services and programs."

Other budget highlights include:

- An additional \$4.8 billion in funding for veterans' compensation and support payments.
- \$254.1 million over four years to modernise and sustain ageing IT systems, and ensure more timely payments and access to services for veterans and families through DVA.
- \$64.1 million in 2023-24 to retain more than 480 DVA staff who are working to deliver frontline services to veterans and families;
- \$2 million over 2 years from 2023–24 to continue the Department of Veterans' Affairs mental health literacy and suicide intervention training program for the ex-service community
- Expanded eligibility for the Acute Support Package (ASP) introduced in the October 2022 Budget to include grandcarers – grandparents who are full-time carers of children of veterans
- \$82.5 million for the Veterans' Home Care Program and Community Nursing services

The RSL also welcomed the \$50,000 re-enlistment bonus for Australian Defence Force personnel but said this should be seen as just the first step in a campaign to build an increased and sustainable military complement.

The RSL also reiterated its concern that some 30 projects have been either reduced, delayed or scrapped in a bid to save \$7.8 billion, with funding reprioritised as part of the \$19 billion reinvestment to help fund the recommendations of the Defence Strategic Review. This funding is fully offset from Defence's current budget.



Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs

As part of the Federal [#Budget2023](#), the Australian Government has announced \$254.1 million to sustain and modernise our IT and financial management systems.

Improved IT systems will help simplify claims processing and improve the timely delivery of support payments to veterans, families and service providers who deliver critical support to the veteran community.

Read more about the Federal Budget 2023-24 measures on our website here: www.dva.gov.au/budget2023-24



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Budget
2023-24





Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs

Congratulations to His Majesty King Charles III and Queen Camilla on their Coronation.

Our Australian Defence Force's [Australia's Federation Guard](#) form part of the ceremonies, marching in the procession from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace, alongside United Kingdom, Realm, and Commonwealth representatives.

At home, the [#Coronation](#) was heralded with a National 21-Gun Salute in the forecourt of the Australian Parliament House.



RSL WV Sub-Branch Annual General Meeting

Dear members,

An early notice of the Sub-Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be held at 1400 hours on Tuesday 30 May 2023 in the Sub-Branch office in Holder. The AGM will be followed by the monthly Ordinary General Meeting (OGM). Note that there will not be an OGM in April due to ANZAC Day.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Kind regards,

Greg



Woden Valley Sub-Branch

Greg Kennett

Secretary

Woden Valley Sub-Branch

Australian Capital Territory

P: (02) 6285 1931

M: 0438 884 896

Nuclear Test Veterans Commemorative Medal

Dear members.,

The UK Ministry of Defence will be issuing medals for Commonwealth veterans and civilians who were involved in the British Nuclear Testing from 1952 to 1967.

For more information, please click the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-veterans-and-civilian-staff-from-across-the-commonwealth-to-claim-commemorative-nuclear-test-medals>

If you would like to apply for the medal, use the form here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1097410/MODMO_0001-E-PDF.pdf

Federal Court Decision re DFRDB

The following has been received from a Sub-Branch member and is referred for your information. Full details of the Federal Court decision can be found in this link :

[McKenzie v Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation 2023 FCA 396 Summary.pdf \(adfra.org\)](https://www.adfra.org/McKenzie_v_Commonwealth_Superannuation_Corporation_2023_FCA_396_Summary.pdf)

FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Clinton Earl McKenzie v Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation

[2023] FCA 396

SUMMARY

In accordance with the practice of the Federal Court in some cases of public interest, the following summary has been prepared to accompany the orders made today. This summary is intended to assist in understanding the outcome of this proceeding and is not a complete statement of the conclusions reached by the Court. The only authoritative statement of the Court's reasons is that contained in the published reasons for judgment which will be available on the internet at the Court's website together with this summary.

- 1 The applicant, Clinton Earl McKenzie, served with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) for over 20 years. During his time in service, Mr McKenzie was a member of, and made contributions to, the retirement benefits scheme established by the *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973* (Cth) (the **DFR Act**). The DFR Act relevantly provides for the provision of retirement pay to members of the ADF (the **DFR scheme**). That scheme is administered by the respondent, the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation.
- 2 Upon retiring from the ADF in January 1996, Mr McKenzie became entitled to retirement pay under the DFR scheme pursuant to s 23 of the DFR Act. On 6 December 1995 and within the three month period before retirement permitted by s 24(1AA) of the DFR Act, Mr McKenzie elected in writing “*to commute a portion of his or her retirement pay in accordance with*” s 24 of the DFR Act (the **election**).
- 3 The sole question for determination in the proceeding was whether, on a proper construction of ss 23 and 24 of the DFR Act, Mr McKenzie’s election permanently reduced the annual amount of retirement pay to which he was entitled (as the respondent contended), or whether his retirement pay was reduced only until he reached the age on which his expectation of life factor in sch 3 of the DFR Act was based (as Mr McKenzie submitted).
- 4 This question turned upon the proper construction of s 24(3)(b) of the DFR Act which, when Mr McKenzie retired, provided that, following a commutation election, a recipient member’s annual retirement pay was reduced “*on and after the day on which the election takes effect*”.
- 5 Mr McKenzie, who appeared without legal representation, made helpful, clear, and well-prepared submissions. In essence, Mr McKenzie submitted that the words “*on and after*” in

s 24 of the DFR Act should be construed as having an implied temporal constraint, so as to not apply once a member has lived beyond the applicable expectation of life factor in sch 3 of the DFR Act.

- 6 However, the Court rejected Mr McKenzie's construction of the DFR Act, finding that it would involve reading words of temporal limitation into s 24 which Parliament had not seen fit to enact. The Court held that, contrary to Mr McKenzie's submission, Parliament's intention that a member's annual retirement pay be permanently reduced following commutation is plain from the unqualified text of s 24(3)(b). The remedy for any unfairness in the scheme of the kind identified by Mr McKenzie lies in the hands of the Parliament. The originating application filed on 12 July 2021 was therefore dismissed with the parties afforded the opportunity to make submissions on the issue of costs.

2024 AVCAT Scholarships & Long Tan Bursary

AVCAT Scholarships

Hello,

[AVCAT scholarships](#), including the [Long Tan Bursary](#), are tertiary scholarships for the children and grandchildren of Australian ex-serving veterans. Scholarships are \$4000–\$6000 per year, for up to three years.

Applications open on 18 August 2023, Vietnam Veterans' Day, and close at midnight AEDT on 31 October 2023.

Apply online at avcat.org.au

Applicants must be:

- Enrolled or planning to enrol in a full-time course for one or more academic year's duration at a university, TAFE, or RTO in 2024
- The child, stepchild, foster child, or grandchild of an Australian ex-serving veteran
- An Australian citizen or permanent resident

In receipt of, or eligible to receive, a means-tested Commonwealth educational payment – Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY, Austudy or Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES) in 2024

The Long Tan Bursary is sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs. View the complete list of AVCAT Scholarship sponsors [here](#).

Find information about scholarships, the application process or scholarship eligibility at avcat.org.au.

Spread The Word

Share on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#), hang a [poster](#), hand out a [flyer](#), or drop [this notice](#) into your newsletter.

Kind Regards
Len Russell
CEO AVCAT

Dear members,

As we have noted that some of our members are using the Grapevine email address, please find below the article from The Canberra Times about the expected closure of the Grapevine address from May 31, 2023 .

Grapevine email addresses to be closed as system is no longer supported

By [Jasper Lindell](#)

April 16 2023 - 5:30am



© The Grapevine home page in October 2009. Pictures Shutterstock, Wayback Machine

Email addresses linked to the early days of the digital revolution in Canberra are set to be cancelled, in a move that could affect up to 13,000 inboxes.

Grapevine, a joint venture between ActewAGL and TransACT, was established in 2005 and was the first service many Canberra customers used to access the internet.

The internet service provider was taken over by TransACT, which was then [sold to iiNet in 2011 for \\$60 million](#).

Now iiNet has told customers who still hold email accounts on old Grapevine domain names their inboxes would be closed from May 31.

"Once closed, you will no longer be able to send or receive emails using your mailbox, email forwarding to or from another email address will stop, you won't be able to access any existing emails stored on the mail server and any messages sent to your email will bounce back to the sender as undeliverable," customers were told.

Users with [@grapevine.com.au](#), [@grapevine.net.au](#) and [@homemail.com.au](#) email addresses are understood to be affected.

The company said the decision was not related to the cost of maintaining the email addresses, but said the platform was no longer supported.

Richard Webb said he had used a Grapevine-linked email address for more than 18 years.

"It is literally impossible to identify before the end of May the many hundreds of places that I have used my email address, and to change my account details. In many cases I will be unable to change an email address on an account after the end of May because the system concerned will seek confirmation of the attempted change from my old email address," Mr Webb wrote to iiNet customer support.

"This massive disruption to my life will also be writ large across thousands of other people in Canberra."

There were 23,000 active Grapevine email accounts a decade ago, when a fault meant thousands of customers were unable to access their inboxes. iiNet believes 13,000 accounts could be affected by the closure but was unable to confirm whether all those were currently active.

iiNet has recommended affected customers migrate their email addresses to a web-based service, like Google-operated Gmail.

The company has also promised no contract break fees or modem payout fees would apply to customers who choose to cancel their iiNet broadband service as a result of the decision to cancel Grapevine email accounts.

A spokesman for TPG Telecom, which owns iiNet, said the Grapevine email system had reached the end of its life and the company began notifying customers this week to give them time to migrate to other services.

"We appreciate the closure of this legacy email system may be disappointing for some customers and have provided detailed information on our iiNet website to assist with the closure process," the spokesman said.

GRAPEVINE EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Having read of the closure of Grapevine email accounts on 31 May 2023, I sought advice on what we might be able to do to help members deal with the situation.

Having checked several sources, I offer the following link as an option for members to seek assistance. Should anyone wish to do so, please complete the survey on the link.

A highly recommended IT Consultant, John Welsby, will then offer his assistance to close Grapevine accounts and open new ones with reputable service providers. The Sub-Branch will offer the resources available in our training room to facilitate this process. John will also answer any related questions members might ask.

[Grapevine Email Termination Survey \(google.com\)](#)

(If you have difficulty with this link, please call Alex for advice 02 6285 1931)

Although this assistance will require a small contribution to John's company, I believe it would be money well spent.

Kind regards and good luck,

Jim Gilchrist



Welcome to the latest edition of *e-news*, which includes snapshots of articles that you'll find on the [Latest News for Veterans](#) page of the DVA website (dva.gov.au/latest-news).

You can [unsubscribe](#) from *e-news* at any time.

News

[Consultation on legislation reform goes digital](#)
[Support available for anyone impacted by ongoing OSI investigation](#)

[Better access to information for ADF personnel and veterans](#)

[Minister officially opens upgraded facilities at the Launceston VeteranHub](#)

[Chaplaincy support program to be trialled for veterans](#)

[Medicare Cards now available in myGov app](#)

[DVA help for veterans and families experiencing family and domestic violence](#)

[Veteran Covenant available for RSFU members](#)

[Pensions and allowances rose from 20 March](#)

[Client benefits survey to be launched soon](#)

[Beware bank impersonation scams](#)

[Incapacity Payments for Veterans Studying Pilot closing](#)

Health and wellbeing

[Team Australia Invictus Games 2023 competitors announced](#)
[The healing power of sport – what are adaptive sports](#)

[New online veteran resource for nurses](#)

[World Hearing Day](#)

ESO News

[SA Legacy officially opens new premises](#)
[Saltwater Veterans – getting veterans sailing](#)

[Scootaville charity ride to raise money for Legacy](#)

Transition

[Defence industry panel discusses veteran and families employment](#)

Features

[How DVA supports homeless veterans](#)
[Continuing a life of service, after serving in the Australian Defence Force](#)

[Community marks anniversary of unique Indigenous unit](#)

Commemorations

[Anzac Day commemorations around the world honour those who served our nation](#)
[New commemorative resources available](#)

[Commemorative medallion and certificate of recognition](#)

[Veteran arranges service to remember Korean War](#)

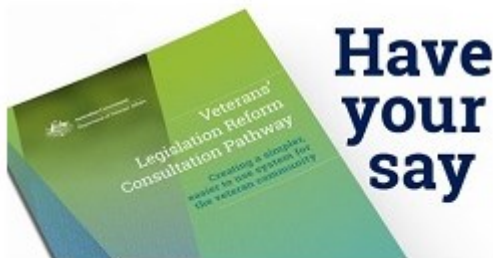
[Honouring Korean veterans on the anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong](#)

[Bomber Command Commemoration at the Australian War Memorial](#)

[20th Anniversary of the Iraq War](#)

[80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bismarck Sea](#)

Consultation on legislation reform goes digital



Support available for anyone impacted by ongoing OSI investigation



Better access to information for ADF personnel and veterans



Minister opens upgraded facilities at the Launceston VeteranHub



Free Certificate III Courses

Dear All,

I am very excited to be able to promote the below Certificate III courses that are all fee-free for Veterans and their partners in NSW!!

They are all delivered self-paced and online.

Qualification	Overview
Certificate III in Business	This qualification reflects the role of individuals in a variety of Business Services job roles
Certificate III in Business (Business Administration)	This qualification applies to a range of administrative roles in varied contexts.
Certificate III in Business (Customer Engagement)	<p>This qualification reflects the role of individuals working in a range of complex customer service roles.</p> <p>Duties at this level would include working with multiple communication channels, providing excellent customer service, adhering to key performance indicators, working in a team environment, providing support to a team, providing technical advice and capturing data.</p>
Certificate III in Business (Medical Administration)	This qualification is suitable for those working in various medical administration contexts.
Certificate III in Business (Records and Information Management)	This qualification applies to a range of administrative roles in varied contexts.
Certificate III in Legal Services	This qualification reflects the role of individuals who use a broad range of administrative competencies in a legal environment. The job roles that relate to this qualification may include Legal Administrative Assistant and Legal Receptionist.
Certificate III in Accounts Administration	<p>This qualification reflects the job roles of employees with functions that could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ filing, checking and processing financial data entry and processing accounts payable/accounts receivable ▪ providing customer service in financial transactions ▪ assisting in processing payroll ▪ front line cashiering and bank account maintenance ▪ assisting with entering transaction data to ledgers and maintaining a general ledger ▪ processing purchases and sales including EFT/e-business ▪ producing GST reports
Certificate III in Information Technology	This qualification reflects the role of individuals who are competent in a range of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) roles, including animation, basic cloud computing, basic cyber awareness, digital media skills, generalist IT support services, networking, programming, systems and web development.

Please promote throughout your networks.

If anyone is keen to enrol into one of these courses please contact Cath Allen directly.

Thanks,

Cath Allen
 Employment & Wellbeing Services Manager
M: 0458 822 899 | E: cath.allen@rsllifecare.org.au
rsllifecare.org.au/veteran-services

RSL LifeCare Limited
 120 Pacific Highway
 St Leonards NSW 2065

DVA funded 12 month health and fitness program - Heart Health Program - Registrations Open

**DVA Heart Health Program for Returned Veterans & Peacekeepers & those covered by
the ADF Firefighters Scheme**

12 Months of Health coaching

Gym or Pool membership assistance available

Did you know the DVA provides a free 12-month health and fitness program that can be delivered to returned Veterans and peacekeepers with operational service and those covered by the ADF firefighters scheme anywhere in the country. The program is flexible and able to accommodate participants living in metropolitan areas, regional or remote areas, those still working or retired, studying or with other time constraints. Run on behalf of the DVA by Corporate Health Management the program aims to help you increase your physical health and wellbeing through practical exercise support and 12 months of health coaching and advice on healthy lifestyle choices provided by one of our team of highly qualified allied health professionals.

Am I eligible?

Started 20 years ago for those returned from Vietnam, the Heart Health Program is free and now open to all returned veterans and peacekeepers with operational service and those covered by the ADF Firefighters Scheme who have not previously done the Heart Health Program before. To check your eligibility visit <http://www.veteranshearthealth.com.au/eligibility/>

Individual Heart Health Program – How it works

Each participant receives 12 months of healthy lifestyle coaching from a highly qualified and dedicated allied health professional via fortnightly health coaching calls with information and advice tailored to each individuals health and fitness goals. The health coach will use their extensive knowledge along with health surveys and food diaries to guide you through the program. The program covers a range of topics including:

- setting healthy goals
- nutrition and diet advice
- advice on lowering alcohol consumption
- developing better sleep patterns
- stress management
- managing diabetes
- taking care of your body
- managing your weight

and maintaining a healthy heart

Program Exercise Resource – Exercise how you like to

The program can provide an exercise resource to help participants to exercise the way they like to or provide an opportunity to try something that's different than the usual. Resources can take the form of:

- Assistance with the cost of a gym or pool membership or
 - Provide a piece of exercise equipment for use at home or
- Provide assistance with accessing new exercise or training gear

Registering Your Interest

Registering your interest or checking eligibility is easy. Simply visit <http://www.veteranshearthealth.com.au/eligibility/> and follow the steps. Or please call the program phone number **1300 246 262** at any time to speak to one of our team.

Kind regards

Heart Health Team - DVA Heart Health Program

Program proudly delivered on behalf of the DVA by:

CHM Corporate Health Management Pty Ltd

Toorak Place, 521 - 529 Toorak Road, Toorak VIC 3142

Direct: 1300 246 262

Email: hearthealth@chm.com.au

Web: <http://www.veteranshearthealth.com.au>





**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.



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information
or access to our services
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62851931

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

Office hours are
9am-3pm Mon-Fri

PS.

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