

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH



Current Items of Interest

14 April 22



WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ANZAC MORNING REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY



Join us at Eddison Park,
Phillip
Monday 25 April 2022
Commencing at 08:00am
BYO chair and umbrella,
please note due to
renovations there will be
NO BUS this year to AWM





The Hon Andrew Gee MP

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

MEDIA RELEASE

11 April 2022

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN IN THE BATTLE OF BULLECOURT

Today we commemorate the 105th anniversary of the first of two Battles for Bullecourt on the Western Front during the First World War.

More than 10,700 Australian soldiers were killed during both battles.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said that while the second battle was ultimately a victory, the extreme loss of Australian lives during the fighting took a heavy toll.

"After the weary German army withdrew its forces to the Hindenburg Line, the order was given on 11 April 1917 for the 62nd British Division and the 4th and 12th Brigades of the 4th Australian Division to attack Bullecourt supported by British tanks," Minister Gee said.

"While the tank crews fought bravely, their armoured vehicles were untested, unreliable and ill-suited to the muddy terrain. They were quickly destroyed by German artillery, forcing Australian infantry to make the charge across no man's land without any support.

"The decision to use tanks instead of the traditional artillery barrage was devastating and more than 3,300 Australians lost their lives in the subsequent fighting.

"More than 1,170 Australians were taken prisoner during the first battle - the largest number captured in a single engagement during the First World War.

"Despite losing the battle, the bravery and determination of the Australian troops in the face of extreme adversity is something our nation should be very proud of.

"A second effort to take Bullecourt was launched in May 1917, resulting in some of the most intense trench fighting of the war. German counter-attacks continued for a fortnight, but their forces ultimately withdrew.

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/health/healthportal. **Defence Member and Family Helpline** provides support for Defence families on 1800 624 608.

"More than 7,500 Australians were killed and wounded at the Second Battle of Bullecourt.

"We honour the service and sacrifice made 105 years ago by those brave men who fought at Bullecourt in the defence of freedom, and all those who served during the First World War.

"Lest we forget"

**MEDIA CONTACTS:
Minister Gee office: 0466 385 097**

Background: Renowned Australian historian Charles Bean said at the time, *'Bullecourt, more than any other battle, shook the confidence of Australian soldiers...'*

Following the second battle, Charles Bean remarked, *"The Second Bullecourt battle was, in some ways, the stoutest achievement of the Australian soldier in France. Such success as the Australians achieved had been won by troops persisting through the sheer quality of their mettle, in the face of errors"*.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E02021

Troops billeted in a sunken road near Bullecourt, in France, during the fighting of the Australian troops in that sector.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E00600

Four members of the Australian Field Artillery using an 18 pounder gun in action at Noreuil Valley, during the fight for Bullecourt.

Canberra Times

Defence, veteran suicide inquiry extended

Updated April 10 2022 - 7:56pm, first published 7:52pm

Michaelia Cash extends the report date of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

The federal government will extend the final report date for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide by an additional year to June 17, 2024.

Attorney-General Michaelia Cash says the extension recognises the broad scope of the commission's inquiries and also accounts for the ongoing impact of COVID-19.

"We recognise the important work the Royal Commission is doing to look at systemic issues of defence and veteran suicide, and the need to provide the Royal Commission with the time to do so in a trauma-informed way," she said in a statement on Sunday night.

"This extension will allow more individuals to come forward and share their experience with the Royal Commission. I thank all those who have already come forward," she said.

Lifeline 13 11 14

Open Arms 1800 011 046

Australian Associated Press



The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
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MEDIA RELEASE

7 April 2022

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL TO RECONSIDER MEDALLIC RECOGNITION FOR RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH

The independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal will re-examine the issue of medallic recognition for Australians who served with Rifle Company Butterworth in Malaysia between 1970 and 1989.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the Government had listened to the concerns raised by many veterans who had served on Rifle Company Butterworth deployments.

"The Tribunal will consider whether these Australian veterans should receive the Australian Active Service Medal for their deployment to Malaysia," Minister Gee said

"The issue was looked at by the Tribunal more than a decade ago, and a view was taken at the time not to recognise their service as "warlike".

"The New Zealand Government recently broadened eligibility for the New Zealand Operational Service Medal for veterans who served in Malaysia and Singapore between 1959 and 1974. Given this, and the concerns raised directly with me by the veteran community, it is timely that this issue is re-examined.

"The Tribunal is an independent statutory body specifically set up to consider honours and awards issues like this.

"I sincerely appreciate the many representations made to me and my office on this matter since I took on the Veterans' Affairs portfolio last year.

"I also acknowledge that veterans who have served on Rifle Company Butterworth deployments have been fighting for this additional recognition for years, and I don't want this to drag on. I expect the inquiry to be complete by the end of the year.

"This will be a public inquiry and I encourage all those with an interest to make a submission before 1 July 2022."

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Australian Defence Force personnel have served continuously at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base Butterworth in Malaysia since 1970, when Rifle Company Butterworth was deployed at a time of unrest in Malaysia, led by the Malayan Communist Party (MCP). The MCP signed a peace treaty with the Government of Malaysia in 1989.

Information about the inquiry, and how to make a submission, can be found on the Tribunal's website: <https://defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au>.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Minister Gee office: 0459 966 944

Defence Media: 02 6127 1999

Office of the Hon. Andrew Gee, Canberra ACT.



Current Serving, Veterans and Families Lawn Bowling Day 2022

The Belconnen Bowling Club, located on Beetaloo Street in Hawker, invite Current Serving, Veterans of all ages and your Family to our Lawn Bowling Day.

Please join us at our Family Friendly Club, Saturday 23rd April 2022, 11am to 2pm.
This event is free to all and includes equipment hire, greens fees and a sausage sizzle at 1230pm.
Drinks are also available for purchase on the day.

For catering purposes if you would like to attend, please advise the club on 02 6254 2157.



Australians overseas may wish to attend an international Anzac Day commemoration. There will be international services held in:

- Gallipoli, Turkey
- Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Kanchanaburi, Thailand
- Sandakan, Borneo Malaysia
- Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Find out more  <https://www.dva.gov.au/.../commemorative.../anzac-day-2022>

#Anzacday2022

Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs



From NSW RSL

Legacy centenary to be celebrated next year



The recent Budget provided a grant to support Legacy Australia to commemorate its 100th anniversary in 2023, including a remembrance torch relay from Pozieres in France, to London, and onto Australia to raise awareness of the great work Legacy does supporting veteran families.

RSL Australia

The #ANZACSpirit lives within us all.

On the 25th of April we're encouraging all Australians to #CommemorateYourWay

You can attend an RSL service, #LightUpTheDawn at home, participate online, listen to the radio or watch a broadcast, or take the opportunity to connect with your local community.

However you choose to honour our veterans on ANZAC Day, we invite you to commemorate in a way that is meaningful to you.



NEW EXHIBITION



Remembering Australia's War in Vietnam, 1962–72

FREE ENTRY
OPEN DAILY, 9AM-5PM
THE ANZAC MEMORIAL, HYDE PARK



ANZAC MEMORIAL
HYDE PARK, SYDNEY

This year the Australian War Memorial will mark the 107th anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli with an Anzac Day Dawn Service at 5.30am.

The Returned Services League will coordinate a full Veterans' March to proceed through the western grounds of the Memorial at 9.30am.

Tickets will not be required to attend the Anzac Day Dawn Service or Veterans' March.

The Memorial galleries will open at midday, and the Anzac Day Last Post Ceremony will be held in the Commemorative Area at 4.45 pm. Tickets are required to enter the Memorial galleries and Last Post Ceremony.

Find out more: <https://www.awm.gov.au/anzac>





COFFEE CATCH UP ACTIVE AGAIN

Our Coffee Catch Up is open again from 10-12 every Friday 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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