

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH



Current Items of Interest

22 July 22



Australian War Memorial

From : *AWM Facebook page*

This Thursday, 21 July 2022, marks the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Kokoda Trail Campaign.

Second World War veteran, Les Cook, was just 16 years old when he first tried to enlist after war broke out in 1939.

“It was the thing to do in our generation,” Cook said. “That was just what people did.”

From July 1942 to early 1943, Australian troops on the Kokoda Trail in the Owen Stanley Range and on the beaches of northern Papua saw some of the most desperate and vicious fighting encountered in the Second World War.

“As one man said, we weren’t soldiers, we were heavily-armed civilians, and I liked that definition, because that’s what we were.

“We were just ordinary people. Yes, there were some who were heroic and some who were extraordinary, but for the most part, we were just ordinary people, and, just like in life today, some of us were just making up the numbers.”

Read more about Les Cook: <http://ow.ly/in2850JXLVO>

To mark the 80th anniversary a special Last Post Ceremony will be held on Thursday, 21 July 2022. You can watch the ceremony broadcast live from 4.45pm via Facebook or YouTube. Book your free ticket: <http://ow.ly/TNWW50JXLVN>



MEETING NEWS

SUB-BRANCH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (OGM) 26 JULY 2022

Dear members,

A reminder that the next Sub-Branch OGM will be held at 1400 hours on Tuesday 26 July 2022 in the *Corey Room* of the Sub-Branch office, Holder.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Regards,

Greg



RSL
Woden Valley Sub Branch

Greg Kennett

Secretary

Woden Valley Sub-Branch

Australian Capital Territory

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Dear members,

Please click on the following link for some interesting information from the recent Commonwealth Census

**[https://www.raafansw.org.au/docPDF/Census_slides -
NSW consultative forum - July 2022.pdf](https://www.raafansw.org.au/docPDF/Census_slides_-_NSW_consultative_forum_-_July_2022.pdf)**

My thanks to Sub-Branch member Greg Newlyn for forwarding the link.

**Regards,
Greg**



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Recording the Changi Songbook

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Supporters,

One of the most astounding stories from Changi is that in 180+ weeks in confinement, there were over 240 changes of production. These shows were first recreated from memory, and as the war progressed, increasingly written by POW entertainers, in particular by the AIF Changi Concert Party. Seeing a show was a wildly popular pastime with prisoners, with rosters to ensure everyone got to see one. Prisoners said it was the only time they forgot how hungry they were. Entertainers functioned as morale officers, keeping people laughing and singing, giving them a rare chance for pleasure and joy, which ultimately increased their resilience.

After the war, the two main Changi Concert Party songwriters, Slim de Grey and Ray Tullipan, printed the 24 most popular songs in a book they called the *Changi Songbook*. We wish to record the entire *Changi Songbook* for the first time this July 25, 26 and 27 so these songs can become better known.

For the Great War centenary, we recovered the music of *FS Kelly*. For WW2, our cultural recovery project is to record the *Changi Songbook* and make these songs available to a new generation. I find them funny, beautiful and catchy. They are wonderfully made, inventive and a delight to work on. I have had them as ear worms for weeks now. They constantly put a smile on my face.

Neil Pigot, who as a young actor in the 1990s toured and recorded with Slim de Grey and members of the Changi Concert Party, is sharing his wealth of knowledge with singers Tobias Cole and Andrew Goodwin, as well as local jazz legends, Miroslav Bukovsky trumpet, John Mackey saxophone, Colin Hoorweg drums, James Luke bass and Bill Risby piano to create these recordings.

Please consider supporting us to give these recordings as a gift to the nation. This “Good Medicine” helped to maintain POWs’ will to live. Nine songs will also be featured in the ‘POW Requiem’ premiere on 29 October, marking 80 years since the start of the Thai Burma Railway.

You can donate now via the: [Australian Cultural Fund](#), or if you live close to Canberra, you are welcome to attend the final recording session and be inspired. All funds raised go towards artists and recording costs.

Details for the live recording session with audience:

Wednesday, 27 July 2022

6-8pm

Street Theatre (theatre 3), 5 Childers St, Canberra

We have a small capacity for this event, so please RSVP to reserve your seat via: [Humanitix](#)

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request for help and support.

Our sincere thanks to the Street Theatre for partnering with the Flowers of Peace to make the creative development and recordings possible.

The Flowers of Peace project is based at the Australian War Memorial and funded by grants from Metal Manufactures Ltd, Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Australia Council for the Arts, and through partnerships with the ANU School of Music and the Canberra Symphony Orchestra.

warm wishes

Chris Latham

Artist-in-Residence, Australian War Memorial

Director: *The Flowers of Peace*

Mobile +61 408 440 426

Address 178 Atherton Street, Downer, ACT, Australia, 2602

www.flowersofpeace.com.au



On Patrol May & July 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters of Everyman's

Please find attached 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) 6053 5288 (T/W/Th)

Everyman's
Serving the Australian Defence Force since 1940

ON PATROL May 2022

From the CCOMM's desk...

Dear friends and supporters,

Much has happened in the world since the last On Patrol. Most prominent is the war in Ukraine. It may be true that many of us would not have been able to find it on a map until recently, but we are now reminded daily of the potential long-term implications of this conflict.

As we have not long come away from ANZAC Day commemorations, it is indeed a sombre thought that our ADF could be summoned into a new conflict. I remember my late mother's reflections, who served in the RAAF during World War 2. She told me how shocked Australia was that a conflict in Poland in 1939, led to places in Australia being bombed only 3 years later. Today I reflect upon what may come of the Russian/Ukrainian conflict, and how that may impact directly upon Australia in a few years, or maybe less.

In all of this, Everyman's wants to create and maintain a readiness to serve the ADF, in whatever way we can, in whatever circumstances that may unfold. As much as we do not want to see our Defence Force drawn into another major conflict, it is true that we cannot ignore that prospect either.

Therefore, Everyman's is doing its best to upgrade our Brew Truck fleet, attract new volunteers to our work, and to have our Rec Centres ready on as many bases as possible. As we hope COVID subsidies in its impact, we look forward to being out on more training areas in Australia to support the ADF. Defence personnel have continued to assure us that there is nothing like a visit out field by the Everyman. It is always in the searing heat or freezing cold! However, it is not just about "getting that brew." It is also about that quiet chat regarding anything that is affecting them personally. They know the Everyman and Everywoman will always have a listening ear, will always be ready to offer a prayer, and will do everything they can, working with ADF agencies, to help that person out.

This year we have expanded into the NT and have an experienced Everywoman there who will be a blessing to our troops out on tough Territory training areas. We also have an Everyman in South Australia, not to mention the ongoing activity of our teams in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. However, the stress on our vehicles is becoming obvious. We recently had a \$3000 repair bill for maintenance required on one of our brew trucks. Whilst Defence helps us when they can, this is not always possible. Defence have such a lot of work maintaining their own vehicles and keeping them 'battle ready' that it is not always possible to look at the Everyman's truck.

Please continue to pray for us, and consider how you may be able to assist financially with our ever-increasing repair bills. In addition, there is always the need for new Landcruisers to replace the older ones, that have done lots of hard work in rugged bush areas.

All this of course, is for both the material and spiritual support for the ADF. In the future, they may have big demands placed upon them. Please consider partnering with us in our endeavour, both materially and spiritually.

Everyman's Welfare Service
a company limited by guarantee

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Serving the Australian Defence Force since 1940

ON PATROL July 2022

From the CCOMM's desk...

Dear friends and supporters,

I was recently able to accompany REP Warren CLARKE at the rifle range at Kapooka, where Warren is the current Everyman. Of course, it was one of those days of rain and bitter south-westerly winds blowing in. A perfect day for the Everyman to turn up. For any of us who have spent time on the range at Kapooka, memories will undoubtedly flood back of times like this. We spent a good time down there in that freezing cold, and the recruits and staff had to be rigged up to the hill to withstand the elements.

The hot brews and bikkies on Warren's truck were keenly sought after. We had long queues of recruits at the truck, patiently waiting in the bitter cold for their chance to grab a brew. It was also great to see recruits grab an Army Bible with their brews. Everyman's offers these to all ADF members, free of charge, thanks to the support of the Bible Society, Australia. It was a reminder that Everyman's is about more than just the brews, bikkies and chocolates. It told me that many of our younger generation are concerned about what the future holds. Any literature that may help them to understand that is helpful. It may not be the sort of thing ADF members would openly admit, but in the private conversations we have, we know that this concern is very real, as it is often quietly expressed around the back of the brew truck. Our Everyman's and Everywoman's REPs are ready whenever such a question may come.

We know that many soldiers, sailors, airmen and women, have been greatly encouraged by the chat they have had with the Everyman about the topic of hope. I remember having these conversations with some people, when on operations in the Middle East in 2018. They know that we are available to speak to them about whatever is concerning them.

We simply share one on one how we see this world and its future. I remember having some of my best conversations in the Middle East, and was overjoyed to see some walk away with a smile on their faces and admitting they had a "few things to think about now."

These kinds of concerns that members of our Defence Force have, are not necessarily matters that they can easily share, even with mates. After all, there is a job to be done, and they are trained to focus on that. Nevertheless, what if people are afraid or concerned, and need to express that? It is comforting for them to know that Everyman's, either around the Brew Truck, in a Rec Centre, or anywhere else on base or in the field, are one group of people in the ADF who are happy to sit and listen to whatever their concerns may be. We have seen firsthand how a chat about what is not even a personal concern, but a concern nonetheless, can take a great psychological weight off their shoulders. Our prayers for some, who like us to pray for them, have had an even greater obvious effect in making that person feel happier, simply because they have shared a burden.

Your support, prayers and donations will help us to put more Everyman and Everywoman into the field. In what is an age of growing uncertainty in our world, Everyman's is pleased and honoured to have opportunity to serve at whatever front the ADF will find itself in, in the future. We welcome your consideration of how you might be able to assist us to care for the ADF, whatever challenges may lie ahead for them in the future.

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CALL to ARMS – We need Welfare Volunteers!

Over the past two years the ranks of our volunteers have diminished. COVID-19 took its toll by halting all group activities and home visits. As COVID restrictions ease, we are keen to re-establish the connections with members and need your help to do this.



How can you help?

- We need to re-establish our Home, Hospital and Residential Aged Care Visiting Groups to maintain contact with our older and frail members through visits or regular phone calls
- Coffee catch-ups with members
- Assisting with commemorative and special events
- Contributing and editing articles for our publications
- Assisting with Day Club weekly fun activities or outings
- Archiving, library services or assisting the office staff
- Assisting with transport
- Organising recreational or social activities
- Helping raise funds through the ANZAC Day and poppy appeals
- Assisting with delivery of Christmas Cards and gifts to our oldest members
- Attend presentations for volunteers at the sub-branch on relevant topics to keep up to date with information

These are some of the opportunities for volunteers and other suggestions are always welcome.

What is needed to be a Volunteer?

Firstly, your genuine interest in people and your investment of time and energy in their well-being.

Each member of our volunteer team must be prepared to abide by our privacy and confidentiality policies and apply for the Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) certification (at no cost to you).

Our volunteers are highly regarded, not just by RSL, but by those who receive their care and attention and by the community at large.

We would also welcome our former volunteers to let us know if they are still willing and able to offer their services.

Please contact the Welfare Office by email: welfare@rslwoden.org.au

or

phone: 6285 1931 on Tuesday or Wednesday.

We would like to hear from you!



EDDISON DAY CLUB

“The Eddison Day Club has been meeting for a lunch only during the last several months. We have only attracted a small crowd. If we can increase numbers attending we can then arrange for guest speakers or entertainers to attend, whereas at present it is not possible to have any attend due the small numbers coming to lunch. COVID is not going to go away any time soon. We realise it is a Catch 22 situation, but unless we have more people attend each Friday, we can’t expect to have speakers/entertainers to come to us. We have had enquiries from people interested in coming to entertain us but they feel it is not worthwhile while our numbers are so low. We do need to increase interest in the Day Club to reduce isolation and interaction with others.”

Regards

Peter Sutton

Vice President Welfare



Woden Valley Sub Branch





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
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PS.

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