

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH



Current Items of Interest

23 February 2024

REMINDER!

SUB-BRANCH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (OGM) 27 February 2024

Dear members,

A reminder that the next Sub-Branch OGM will be held at 1400 hours on Tuesday 27 February 2024 in the RSL Sub-Branch office in Holder.

Light refreshments will be provided following the OGM.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards,

Greg



Woden Valley Sub-Branch

Greg Kennett

Secretary



WELCOME TO EDDISON DAY CLUB 20th BIRTHDAY PARTY!



EVERYONE INVITED TO CELEBRATE THIS GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

Where: Irish Club 6 Parkinson St, Weston ACT 2611

When: 8 March 2024

Time: 11.00 am

Menu: TBA

Drinks: Available

Cake: Of course!

Cost of lunch: \$15.00

RSVP by 1 March - Phone 62851931 or email admin@rslwoden.org.au

Transport: On request



Revisit Korea 2024 - Program and application form please see the attachment to this Current Items email.

For the information of you and your Korean Veteran Members and their families.

“Dear all,

Hope this finds you well. Thank you for your patience, I am writing to announce Re-visit Korea Program 2024 to you.

The Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs of the Republic of Korea has proposed to invite Veterans and their family members to participate in Revisit Korea 2024.

The proposed dates for this year are April, July and November.

Quotas to Australians can be found on the information attached, which is inclusive of carers.

Please have a thorough read of the information given, and fill out the application form attached and return it to me no later than **Friday 15th March, 2024**.

My email address and postal address can be found below.

Please note that the schedule could be subject to change, then we will inform you as soon as we get updated.

It would be grateful if you could spread this news to anyone else who would be interested and eligible.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have!

Best regards,

Blair

유혜림 Blair Hyelim Yu (Ms.)

주호주국방무관부 실무관 Research Officer

Office of the Defence Attaché,

Embassy of the Republic of Korea
113 Empire Circuit

Yarralumla ACT 2600

Free Consumer Participation Training - HCCA (Changed to Online!)

Free In-Person Consumer Participation Training.

HCCA is now taking bookings for our free online Consumer Participation Training.

Are you, or someone you know, interested in learning more about how consumers (all of us) can participate in and improve our health system? Would you like to learn more about the ACT health system, and have an opportunity to speak up for consumers of health services?

All are welcome to attend this free training presented by Health Care Consumers' Association. Consumer representatives are the voice of your community in the health system. Learn how you can participate and become a representative in this two-day in-person course.

In this training, you will learn more about:

- Health advocacy for yourself and loved ones
- Systemic advocacy for your community

How to become a consumer representative on a health service committee, and the skills and knowledge needed for this role

All are welcome to attend this free training!

Time: 10am – 3:30pm

Date: Friday 1 March

Location: Online via Zoom

Register: Bookings essential. Register on [Humanitix](#) or contact Nadia Owuor via email at reps@hcca.org.au or phone 6230 7800.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact HCCA by email at reps@hcca.org.au or phone on 02 6230 7800

RSL & SERVICES CLUBS ASSOCIATION

VETERAN & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Forum



Steven Pearce



Greg Page



Andy Abey

**MONDAY 4 MARCH
KIRRIBILLI CLUB**



RSL & SERVICES CLUBS

Members/Corporate and Community Partners \$295 | Non Members \$425

Member Clubs and Corporate & Community Partners who wish to be invoiced for their registration please contact
Kiah Kennedy kiahkennedy@rslservicesclubs.com.au or pay via direct debit to secure your place **Payment REF: VCEF2024**

VETERAN & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Forum



Major Charlie Lynn



Patty Barrett



Robyn Preston

8:00am Registrations Open + Coffee and Networking

8:50am Opening Address from RSL & Services Clubs Association CEO, Margot Smith

9:00am Welcome from Ms Robyn Preston MP, Shadow Minister for Veterans and Member for Hawkesbury

9:10am Good PR – Importance of Stories in Veteran and Community Engagement

Patty Barrett, Director, Good PR

9:50am Focus on Veteran Engagement: Importance and Objectives

Understanding Veteran Needs

Panel Members: Scott Reynolds, Saltwater Veterans, Patrick Lindsay, Lime Tree Studios and Andy Abey, CHRG

10:20am Morning Tea

10:40am Leadership in Veteran Engagement

Victoria Benz, Deputy Commissioner, NSW & ACT, Department of Veterans' Affairs

- DVA Overview
- Collaboration
- Grants: an opportunity to partner and collaborate
- Political Engagement & Advocacy

11:15am Grants: What you need to know

Panel Members: Representatives from L&G, DVA and Office of Veterans NSW

- Compliance with ClubGrants: latest developments
- Applying for grants through NSW Office of Veterans and DVA: things to consider
- What does best practice look like and what might need a rethink

11:50am Strategies to Engage Youth and Schools

Panel Members: Maureen Horne, Gosford RSL, Anne Bennie AWM and Don Tilley, Learning Links

- Youth Engagement Programs and Activities
- Engaging the Next Generation

12:20pm Lunch

1:05pm Leveraging Technology for Outreach

Panel Members: Robert Lopez, Norths Collective; Dave Callan at Mounties, and Venessa Watson, Daily Press

- Utilising Digital Platforms for Veteran & Community Engagement
- Online Resources for Veteran and Community Outreach
- Tools and measurement

1:40pm Strategies for Building Strong Community Relationships

Panel Members: Greg Page, Heart of the Nation, Community Engagement Panel: Jane Mills, P&C Association and Steven Pearce, Surf Life Saving NSW

- Addressing Diverse Community Needs
- Resource Allocation and Partnership Development

2:20pm Strengthening Partnerships with Veterans and Community Organisations

Collaborative Projects with Community Organisations

Panel Members: Gary Sanderfield, Disaster Relief Australia Walter Robinson OAM, President, Cabra Vale Diggers

3:00pm Afternoon tea

3:20pm Leadership in Motion: What does leadership look like in practice

Panel Members: The Hon Charlie Lynn OL OAM, Adventure Kokoda, and John Robertson, Foodbank NSW & ACT

Jen Reynolds, RSL NSW, Mark Brewer, Acting Veteran Family Advocate Commissioner, DVA Vision and Strategy

- Partnering for Sustainable Community Initiatives
- Veteran and Community-Centred Project Development
- Developing Collaborative Projects

4:00pm Forum Wrap Up

4:10pm Close



**THE HON MATT KEOGH MP
MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL**

MEDIA RELEASE

13 February 2024

VETERAN CLAIMS BACKLOG ELIMINATION IMMINENT

The Albanese Government was elected on a commitment to properly resource the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to eliminate the unacceptable backlog of veteran compensation claims.

In the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide's Interim Report, serious concerns were raised about how the claims backlog - which was at 42,000 in mid-May 2022 – was detrimental to the mental health of veterans.

Thanks to the Albanese Government's increased staffing and resources for DVA, all new initial liability and incapacity claims are now allocated for processing within a two week timeframe – effectively eliminating this part of the backlog and a return to business as usual levels.

As at 31 January 2024, the total number of claims yet to be allocated to a delegate has fallen to 3,697.

DVA is also on track to clear the remaining backlog of Permanent Impairment claims before the end of February so they too reach a business as usual rate of allocation.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide set a deadline to clear the backlog of compensation claims by 31 March 2024. Thanks to the Albanese Government's investments in 500 additional claims processing staff and in ICT, this target will be exceeded.

Eliminating the claims backlog is a huge step in the right direction and the staff in DVA are to be commended for their tireless work.

DVA's claims workforce is continuing to work on processing veterans' claims as quickly as possible.

While more claims continue to be lodged every day, in November a record 9,800 claims determinations were made which means veterans and families are receiving the support they need, sooner.

DVA is now shifting to a new business as usual working model, aiming to allocate all claims to a processing officer within two weeks of receipt.

MEDIA CONTACT:

DVA Media: media.team@dva.gov.au



Statement from the Secretary of DVA on the Veterans' MATES Program

12 February 2024

The Department is aware that the withdrawal of Defence and Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Human Research Ethics Committee approval on Monday, 5 February 2024 has increased concerns in the veteran community regarding the Veterans' MATES Program (MATES), particularly in relation to the sharing of data. MATES has sought to support veterans and their families to manage their health and aligns strongly with DVA's objective to proactively support the health and wellbeing of veterans.

It is important to note that there has not been any unauthorised access of veteran data. The data has not been made available publicly or for nefarious purposes. DVA only ever provided client data for the purposes of MATES to a trusted organisation, the University of South Australia (UniSA) under strict data security and access policies.

DVA provided the data to UniSA in accordance with the ethics approvals in place at the time. This was done via a secure and carefully controlled channel. UniSA stored the data in a secure facility. Billing data was automatically de-identified before being accessed by researchers for the thematic review under the MATES program. The data did not include doctor's notes. Identifying data was only used to communicate with the veteran themselves, as well as their doctor, in the event that the analysis of the de-identified data revealed risks to the veteran's health. The letters that went to veterans and their doctors provided invaluable insights that supported those veterans receiving the most appropriate treatment possible.

Following an Office of the Australian Information Commissioner decision in April 2023, an external review was conducted concerning the administration of opt-out procedures in the MATES program. The review concluded all other such requests received by DVA to opt out of MATES had been properly implemented.

DVA takes its obligations under the Privacy Act extremely seriously and in August 2023 paused any provision of data to UniSA to enable a thorough examination of the existing arrangements. Since this time, no data transfers have occurred.

On 9 February, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs asked the Department to close down the MATES program and examine options for possible future programs that provide health benefits to the veteran community while meeting community and stakeholder expectations around ethical and data use requirements. Any future program would be subject to a new Ethics Committee approval.

Alison Frame
Secretary

Relaxation and Stress Management

<Time> 9:30am – 4:30pm
<Date> Friday 15th March
<Location> Wagga
1 day

This program will provide information, skills and tools to assist participants to identify and manage stress and develop relaxation and mindfulness skills that can assist in everyday life.

Topics include:

- understand the stress response and why relaxation is important
- develop skills in relaxation and mindfulness and develop focused attention.

Who can attend:

Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.

Registration closes: 01/03/2024



Find out more or register your interest by contacting Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling on **1800 011 046** or visit **www.openarms.gov.au**.

P 04532

OPEN ARMS
Veterans & Families Counselling

*A service founded by Vietnam veterans,
now for all veterans and families*



Managing pain

<Time> 9:30am – 4:30pm

**<Date> Thursday 21st &
Friday 22nd March**

<Location> Woden

This is an educational and skills based program which assists participants to develop an understanding of pain and focus on strategies to improve their experience of pain.

Topics include:

- develop effective pain management strategies including long-term pain management strategies
- understand the relationship between thoughts, behaviour, lifestyle factors and pain.

Who can attend:

Current and ex-serving ADF members, partners, adult children.

Registration closes: **04/03/2024**



Find out more or register your interest by contacting Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling on **1800 011 046** or visit **www.openarms.gov.au**.

OPEN ARMS
Veterans & Families Counselling

*A service founded by Vietnam veterans,
now for all veterans and families*

INVICTUS
AUSTRALIA



Defence Community Sports Day

So many sports, all in one place! Join Invictus Australia for a thrilling Family Sports Day at Tuggeranong Archery Club. Come & Try Archery, Wheelchair Sports, Pickleball, Electronic Sports, Table Tennis, Indoor Rowing, Drone Racing and more... Family friendly festival atmosphere created by organisations passionate about defence. Face painting , fairy floss and fun - see you there!

When: Saturday 23rd March 2024

Time: 11am - 3pm

Where: Tuggeranong Archery Club
299 Soward Way, Greenway, ACT

Who: This is a FREE activity for the Defence Community – Serving, former serving & family members

Email us for more info:
ddimmock@invictusaustralia.org

Ready to have fun!

Register via the QR code



MAJOR
PARTNERS:



NEC



CROSSFIT KARUNA

Intro to CrossFit - West Gosford

Invictus Australia and the team at CrossFit Karuna would like to invite you to an Intro to CrossFit Night. This family friendly event is designed to accommodate people of all abilities and fitness levels. Come on down and see what CrossFit is all about.

- When:** 13 March 2024
- Time:** 6.30pm - 8.00pm
- Where:** CrossFit Karuna
304 Manns Rd, West Gosford NSW
2250
- Who:** This is a FREE activity for the Defence Community – Serving, former serving & family members
- Provided:** Coaches & Equipment, please bring towel and water



Ready to join!

Scan QR code for registration.

Email us for more info:
jmartyn@invictusaustralia.org

INVICTUS
AUSTRALIA





12 Week Group Fitness Program with UTS

Invictus Australia and the University of Technology Sydney are seeking dedicated participants to join us on a 12 week fitness journey in Holsworthy on Wednesday mornings. This program is open to all members of the defence community including families and of all fitness levels.

When: 21 Feb 24 - 15 May 24

Time: 9.30am - 10.30am

Where: TBC - Holsworthy LGA

Who: This is a FREE activity for the Defence Community – Serving, former serving & family member

Provided: Exercise fitness program from UTS staff and students.



Ready to join in!

Register via the QR code

Email us for more info:
jmartyn@invictusaustralia.org

INVICTUS AUSTRALIA
UNCONQUERED TOGETHER





(not)parkrun Walking Group

Invictus Australia and Soldier On would like to invite all current and former serving military members and their families to join us for a Not Parkrun Walking Group in Maitland. This group is for all ages and abilities. Join us for a walk followed by a coffee at Lavenders cafe.

When:

Friday 19th Jan, 2nd & 16th Feb, 1st, 15th & 29th Mar, 12th & 26th Apr

Time:

9.30am – 11.00am

Where:

Maitland Riverside Carpark

Who:

All former and current serving military members and their families.

To find out more email jmartynd@invictusaustralia.org

INVICTUS
AUSTRALIA
UNCONQUERED TOGETHER

SOLDIER
ON

medibank
parkrun



Veterans Wellbeing Hub Update

Hello,

On 23 January 2024, the Commonwealth Government announced that RSL LifeCare Veteran Services will develop a new Veterans' and Families' Hub in Queanbeyan. The Hub will be available to people across both the Eden-Monaro region and the ACT, connected to 10 RSL sub-branches to provide outreach services across the Southern Tablelands region.

RSL LifeCare has experience operating the Nowra Veterans' and Families' Hub. Given the diversity of experiences and life stages of our veteran community, I will be particularly interested to see what has worked well in Nowra and how we can adapt it to best support the needs of Canberra's veteran community.

As the ACT Minister for Community Services, Seniors and Veterans, I am excited to see progress on this Hub so it can deliver a more integrated and holistic response to the way we support people to live well in their everyday lives.

If you would like to discuss this, please contact my office at:

Davidson@act.gov.au.



**EMMA
DAVIDSON**

ACT Greens
Member for Murrumbidgee



Tickets for international 2024 Anzac Day services now available.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs is pleased to announce that tickets are now available to attend the 2024 Anzac Day Dawn Services in France and Türkiye.

Recognising the 109th anniversary of the start of the 1915 Gallipoli campaign in the First World War, services will be held on the dawn of 25 April 2024 to commemorate our brave Anzacs on the fields where they fell.

The Anzac Day Dawn Service in Gallipoli, Türkiye will take place at the Anzac Commemorative Site within the Gallipoli Peninsula. This will be followed by a mid-morning Australian Memorial service at Lone Pine Cemetery, the site of one of the fiercest battles that the Australians fought during the First World War.

The Dawn Service in France will be held at the Australian National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux, France, followed by a service at the Digger Memorial, just outside the town of Bullecourt. The local French government will hold a series of smaller services in Villers-Bretonneux and Bullecourt throughout the day.

Kahlil Fegan DSC AM, Repatriation Commissioner said, "Anzac day is a time to come together with your loved ones in solemn reflection of those who have sacrificed so much. There's something truly moving about sharing this experience on the sacred battle fields of France and Türkiye. If you're able to travel, I encourage you to get your tickets today."

Those planning to attend the Dawn Services can get their free attendance passes online at <https://commemorations.teg.com.au/en/>
Early registration is essential. For entry requirements and travel advice for France and Türkiye, visit smartraveller.gov.au.

For those unable to travel, the services in France and Türkiye will be broadcast live on the ABC.



**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 as 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

RSL Woden Valley
Sub-Branch
14/27 Mulley Street
HOLDER ACT 2611

62851931

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

Office hours are
9am-3pm Mon-Fri

PS.

Ever lost your copy of
*e-News, Current Items of
Interest or The Serviceman?*

All our publications are also
readily available to read on
our website

www.rslwoden.org.au