

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH



Current Items of Interest

27 October 2023

REMINDER!

SUB-BRANCH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (OGM) 31 OCTOBER 2023

Dear members,

A reminder that the next Sub-Branch OGM will be held at 1400 hours on Tuesday

31 October 2023 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,

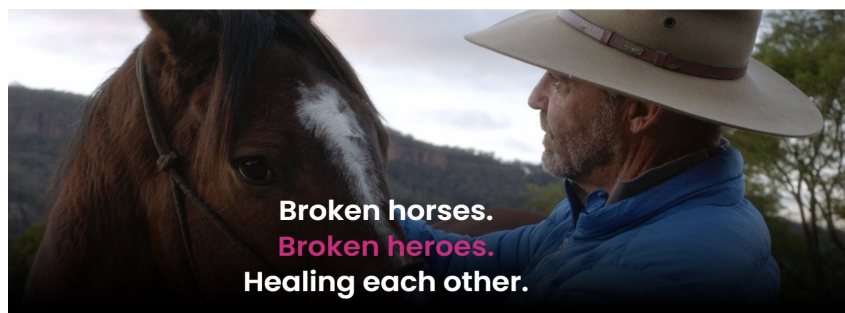
Greg



Woden Valley Sub-Branch

Greg Kennett

Secretary



54 minutes

The Healing (2022)

An inspiring journey of recovery from two very different worlds. Set against the stunning backdrop of the NSW Southern Highlands, a revolutionary program brings together traumatised ex-racehorses and traumatised military veterans - to help rebuild each other, and transform lives.

[The Healing - get your tickets today - good.film](#) an inspiring documentary that tells the story of a group of veterans and first responders struggling with trauma, who take part in a life-changing program to help rehabilitate damaged ex-racehorses.

You and your community are invited to attend the Canberra Premiere Screening of The Healing at the Palace Electric Cinema on the 1st November.

You can find out more info about the film and the Premiere Screenings at **[The Healing - get your tickets today - good.film](#)**



RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch
is pleased to invite members and their guests
to the
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 6 December

12:00noon for 12:30pm

Orion Room Canberra Southern Cross Club Phillip

\$45 per person

Menu (alternate service):

MAIN

**Duo of roast turkey with herb stuffing and honey glazed ham,
potato gratin, roast vegetables, red currant jus (GF)**

**Mustard crusted lamb rump, sweet potato fondant, baby carrots,
roast asparagus, Madeira jus (GF)**

DESSERT

**Traditional Christmas pudding, brandy custard, vanilla bean ice cream
Mini pavlova, fresh fruit, passionfruit puree, Chantilly cream (GF)**

The charge includes soft drinks, selected wines and beers.

Spirits at own expense.

Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements

Please RSVP by 3pm 17 November 2023

Phone 62851931 or email admin@rslwoden.org.au

Direct Credit (Don't forget to include your name in transfer)

A/C name: Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch

BSB 062-908, Account 1084 1897 (include your name)

Credit Card; Phone 6285 1931

Sorry, no refunds are possible after cob 21 November 2023.



100th Birthday of RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch Member Alan Reeve North

Article from Canberra Daily 24 October 2023, by Jessica Cordwell



Alan Reeve North celebrates his 100th birthday with family and friends in Canberra on Saturday 28 October. Photo: Kerrie Brewer.



A birthday card from royalty. Photo: Kerrie Brewer.

A soldier, minister, public servant, author, family man and upstanding member of the community, Alan Reeve North has spent his 100 years on earth leading a life well lived. He celebrates a century on Saturday 28 October.

Already receiving letters from the King, Governor-General and Minister for Veterans' Affairs, a momentous birthday deserves to be celebrated – and Alan has two parties planned.

The first happens on the big day at the Yacht Club with family flying from Melbourne, Brisbane and more to celebrate together. Then friends and neighbours from the southside retirement village Alan has called home for the past eight years will celebrate with a morning tea on Tuesday 31 October.

Living independently at the retirement village, Alan's family says his mind is as sharp as ever and his interest in the world has not waned. This is part of Alan's secret to long life; a little bit of genes and a never-ending curiosity about the world around us.

"When you stop growing, you're not learning, you're not progressing. I think growth is the big word for continuing living," says Alan.

The second youngest of eight children, Alan was born and grew up in Northgate, Queensland. Alan's mother was a homemaker, remembered for her amazing cooking, and his father was the local shopkeeper selling groceries, haberdashery and hardware. Alan says he sold everything because he was the only store around.

"We always had our own cow, so we always had milk and cream and butter, always had our chooks, we called them fowls – chickens, ducks. We grew our own vegetables, had our own little orchard, in some ways, we were quite self-sufficient," he says.

The family had a horse and cart, but the children travelled to school by train each day, hopping on for three stops. After school and on the weekends, Alan filled his days riding bikes with his friends, attending church with the family and playing sport.

"I did play cricket, a lot of cricket. One of my innings I made 147 not out, I was always an opening batsman. When I made over 100, I carried my bat from the beginning to the end, not out. They couldn't get me out ... I was hoping to play for Queensland, but the war came and that was an end to that."

Early adulthood was disturbed by the Second World War when all 18-year-old men had to enlist in the army, and Alan signed up to serve his country. The troop train took the young soldiers to Cairns before they were sent to Dutch New Guinea, now known as Papua, a province of Indonesia.

"The big population in Merauke were crocodiles; crocodiles were there by the hundreds. If we went on any of the rivers, we had to be very aware, as we were moving up the river there would be crocodiles entering the water every 12 feet apart," he says.

"Mosquitos were an issue because most of us came down with malaria until a medication was discovered, Atebrin. Atebrin was not a cure for malaria so while we didn't get malaria in New Guinea, we did after the war."

Returning home, Alan married the girl he met through a church social at 17. The pair went on to have four children while he also began settling into a career in banking. With the memories of the war still in his mind, Alan wanted to do something that he thought would help other people.

“The only avenue which seemed to be open then was the church, so I did some study and then I became a Presbyterian minister at a few places in Queensland ... I only stayed in the church for about five years then went back to banking,” he says.

Family was a vital part of Alan’s life as a child. He and his siblings were close then as they started marrying and having families they moved further apart. However, they spoke often and had family reunions at least once a year.

“When I was young, there was always a piano and we always gathered around the piano to sing every night. There was a lot of family contact, contact with family and much more contact with your cousins and aunts and uncles,” he says.

Moving to Canberra, Alan changed career paths and joined the public service in the nation’s capital.

“It was 1972 and Gough Whitlam had the motto ‘It’s time’, so, strangely enough I had been working in the national bank for 25 years and I thought ‘Oh, it’s time for me to make a change,’” he smiles.

As Whitlam became Prime Minister, Alan took up a role in the Department of Foreign Affairs, then went on to roles in the Australian Development Assistance Bureau and the Public Service Board.

Retirement

Inspired by the famous *The Power of Positive Thinking* self-help manual by Norman Vincent Peale, Alan is passionate about helping others, often citing words of its powers to others.

“Do all the good you can by all the means you can in all the places you can at all the times you can to as many people as you can as long as ever can ... The theme is do all the good you can for as long as ever you can,” he says.

Implementing this philosophy, Alan spent a lot of time volunteering in retirement, and played an instrumental part of the development of the Canberra City Uniting Church on Northbourne Avenue. He also held roles as the president of the Citizens Advice Bureau, vice president of the third Canberra Garden Club, secretary of the Deakin Probus Club, and auditor for National Seniors and Canberra Spinners and Weavers.

In retirement, Alan also started writing books, finishing his first book on family history in 1995. He has written a book on his grandfather, Thomas Mathewson, who is also the grandfather of photography in Queensland. More history has been captured in the two historical war books he later penned.

It was during the research for his first book that Alan had to learn computing. Being a touch typist since high school, he had no problems writing them out and the internet opened a world of research and learning opportunities.

“When I was doing book writing, I needed to discover information back in the 1850s, so I spent a lot of time at the National Library. When I was doing the military history book, I spent a lot of time at the War Memorial and the National Archives. I became well known to the staff at all those places,” smiles Alan.

The internet also allowed him to reconnect and stay in touch with family and friends.

“It certainly was good further education because I could write so much. I wrote lots of letters to family and friends – having access to a computer was certainly of great benefit,” he says.

Now with limited vision, Alan can no longer write any more books. He says as we get toward the end of life it slows down; with impairments like mobility and hearing loss the pace becomes limited.

Alan doesn’t let physical limitations hold him back socially; he uses Siri to make phone calls and every morning he can be seen in the cafeteria catching up with the ladies of the retirement village.

“We get on quite well together. One of the ladies, I hurt my back and she took me in a wheelchair to see the doctor. She pushed me to the taxi then we got a wheelchair taxi back,” he smiles.

Alan says his biggest regret wasn’t travelling enough; for example, he never made it to Europe where he wanted to see the lands of his forebears in England and Scotland. He went overseas with the army and then to Indonesia again when his son was teaching English.

“We thought ‘Oh, if we go to Indonesia, we’ll have to speak the language because Indonesians then didn’t speak English’. We joined a year 11 class for a year, we went to Stirling College to learn Indonesian, so when we arrived in Indonesia, we could understand the language. But the people we met didn’t want to speak Indonesian, they wanted to speak English,” smiles Alan.

Energy Bill Relief for Households

“Energy rebate to provide bill relief

The Commonwealth, state and territory governments are working together to provide targeted and temporary electricity bill relief to eligible households.

You can get bill relief if you are the primary electricity account holder or, for some energy providers, another named account holder on your electricity account. You must also hold a Pensioner Concession Card, a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card or a Veteran Gold Card.

Your household can only get one bill relief rebate, even if there is more than one eligible person living there. You can only get this bill relief for your principal place of residence. How much you get depends on where you live, with between \$175 and \$500 available to targeted households and \$325 to \$650 available to small businesses.

If you are eligible, are not named on the bill and you pay for electricity, contact your electricity provider to discuss your options.

If you live in Queensland or Western Australia, you do not need to take any action because these state governments are including this energy bill relief in their state rebate programs, which are being given to all households.

If you currently receive energy concessions, in most cases the electricity provider will automatically apply the bill relief to your electricity account and you do not need to do anything. This will reduce the amount you owe on your next bill. How and when this happens depends on where you live as each state and territory may do things a little differently.

If you don't receive energy concessions, please go to energy.gov.au/bill-relief to find a link to your state or territory with instructions about what to do. This could be to contact your energy provider or your state/territory government with your concession card type and the DVA file number on it. Give them consent to check your card online for payment of the rebate.

If you get your electricity from your strata or landlord in a caravan park, apartment building, retirement home or village and your household is eligible for the bill relief, you will not automatically receive the rebate. However, you will be able to access a direct payment through your state or territory government.

Please check www.energy.gov.au/bill-relief for the latest information.”

The rebate can be obtained by going through MyGov (if you have it) or by calling your energy provider in your State or Territory. There are different payment methods for this rebate for each State and Territory.

The information for your State can be found at –

[Energy bill relief for households - ACT | energy.gov.au](http://Energy%20bill%20relief%20for%20households%20-%20ACT%20|%20energy.gov.au)

Should you require any further information please call your local energy provider.

From AWM website:

Remembrance Day

On 11 November 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after four years of continuous warfare. With their armies retreating and close to collapse, German leaders signed an Armistice, bringing to an end the First World War.

As a mark of respect to those who have died and suffered, Australians are encouraged to pause at 11 am to observe one minute's silence and remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A03267

Accession Number: A03267

An unidentified cinematographer capturing the last shots to be fired before the armistice on 11 November 1918.

2023 Remembrance Day National Ceremony

The Australian War Memorial will commemorate Remembrance Day 2023 with the National Ceremony on Saturday, 11 November.

Commences: 10.45 am AEDT

Location: Captain Reg Saunders Courtyard and Sculpture Garden

General attendance at the National Ceremony is welcome and tickets are not required. Large screens will be positioned within the grounds, adjacent to the ceremony, for members of the public to view proceedings.

The National Ceremony will also be broadcast live from the Australian War Memorial on ABC TV and ABC iView.

Click on the link below for more information. For further enquiries please email ceremony@awm.gov.au or call (02) 6206 9813 to leave a message.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/remembrance-day>

Peacekeeping Symphony postponement to 2026 or 2027



Dear Peacekeeping Symphony supporters

I am writing to formally notify you all of the postponement of the *Peacekeeping Symphony* performance from 2023 to a date to be determined in 2026 or 2027, due to our inability to raise the funds to pay for the performance costs this year.

Our aim is to revisit the project and determine a date aligned with a major anniversary or ideally a peacekeeper's reunion in Canberra in either 2026 or 2027. This time frame is influenced by the fact we have to produce two other major concerts over the next two years: the *Holocaust Memorial* on **Oct 31, 2024 in Melbourne** and the *WW2 Requiem* in **September 2025 in Brisbane**.

It actually does make more sense to run all of these large commemorative projects in chronological order, given the *Peacekeeping Symphony* starts with the establishment of the UN following WW2.

Clearly if we wish to try again to raise the funds for the *Peacekeeping Symphony*, then I am going to have to bring together a consortium of believers to establish a context for the work. I believe my failure this year to raise the money was at least partially due to the fact that I did not connect widely enough and early enough with the broader community of Peacekeepers, in the ADF, AFP and elsewhere.

I wish to restart the project by determining what kind of musical work Peacekeepers would value, adjusting the music we have written so far to match those wishes, and then building a stronger case for funding such a performance. Currently it seems that Peacekeeping does not enjoy universal support, and I believe we will need to strengthen the case for peacekeeping as a worthwhile and affordable activity which can strengthen Australia's reputation in the region and the world.

If any of you would be interested in engaging with a proposed future performance of the *Peacekeeping Symphony*, please let me know. I'm sure I can construct a role that matches your availability and time.

Thank you also for providing supporting letters that accompanied the grant applications. While unsuccessful on this occasion, your support for my project was deeply appreciated.

I am in debt to all of you, and deeply grateful that you saw value in this activity.

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

[The Flowers of Peace](#)



Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs

Applications are now open for the Long Tan Bursary.

The bursary is named for the Battle of Long Tan, fought by Australians during the Vietnam War.

37 bursaries worth up to \$12,000 will be awarded to eligible children and grandchildren of Vietnam War veterans, to help pay for the cost of tertiary education.

Applications close 31 October 2023.

For more information or to check eligibility, visit :

<https://www.dva.gov.au/about/overview/consultations-and-grants/grants-and-bursaries/long-tan-bursary>



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

LONG TAN BURSARY 2024
Applications now open!
APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31 October 2023.

AVCAT Scholarships

Hello,

Applications for AVCAT scholarships open soon.

Scholarships | Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (avcat.org.au) including the Long Tan Bursary | Department of Veterans' Affairs (dva.gov.au) 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 Australian Veterans & Children Assistance Trust (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 Sponsors | Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (avcat.org.au)

Find information about scholarships, the application process or scholarship eligibility at Australian Veterans & Children Assistance Trust (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

Find Out More : [Scholarships | Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust \(avcat.org.au\)](#)



**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 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.

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