RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH



Current Items of Interest

5 May 2023



MEDIA RELEASE

2 May 2023 For immediate release

RSL Australia Calls For More Veteran Support in Next Week's Federal Budget

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSLA) says next week's Federal Budget must include initiatives that improve the lives of the nation's veterans and their families, and funding to address inequities and barriers that continue to be experienced by the veteran community.

National President Greg Melick says the RSL is looking forward to a May 9 Budget that confirms Australia's commitment to support veterans and their families, and importantly provides the funding to fully implement the recommendations of the current Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

"We are anticipating a Budget that honours our veterans' service and sacrifice, and one that rightly recognises the strength of their continued contribution to our communities and our country," Greg Melick said.

Greg Melick says the Budget needs to focus on people, both serving Defence personnel in view of the recently released Defence Strategic Review, as well as veterans and their families.

"Particularly, we are looking for a commitment to demand-driven funding to support veterans' welfare, rather than having to fight for funding each budget year," he said.

"No previous Government has agreed to this imperative and the RSL believes it is essential that this is addressed.

"According to the 2021 Census, one in 20 Australian households include at least one person who has served or is currently serving in the Australian Defence Force. These service people make a significant and unique contribution to our nation both during and after their service."

RSL Australia made an extensive pre-Budget submission to Treasury calling on the Government to make budgetary provisions to remove some of the inequities and barriers that veterans and their families continue to experience. This includes budgetary provisions to:

- Establish an independent body led by a National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Wellbeing to guide prompt implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide
- Extend non-liability healthcare for mental health treatment to ADF reservists on completion of the enlistment process
- Strengthen the advocacy system and enhance the Advocacy Training and Development Program to better support veterans to navigate the DVA claims process
- Review and uplift DVA renumeration for healthcare providers to better enable veterans to access timely and appropriate healthcare
- Achieve a tangible reduction in the administrative burden placed on healthcare providers in accessing DVA renumeration.

Greg Melick said it was encouraging that the current Government had already acted to implement some improvements, including to simplify and reform veterans' entitlement legislation. This is welcomed and the RSL and the veteran community are now looking for that momentum to be accelerated in next week's Budget.

"This Budget provides the opportunity for the Government to comprehensively change the way in which Australia treats its veterans.

"The social and economic contribution made by our veterans and their families post-service is incredibly valuable to our nation. Funding action to help maximise their skills and capabilities represents a sound investment for us all," Greg Melick said.

Link to RSLA's pre-Budget submission: www.rslaustralia.org/pre-budget-submission

ENDS

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



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 om 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 here 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)

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.

- 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.
- 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).
- 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".
- 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.

Article about ANZAC Day services in Emerald, Queensland by Barry Campton

A COUNTRY TOWN REMEMBERS

At 0428 hrs the dawn Service in Emerald central west Queensland commenced.

Prior to that I watched the people arrive to join in the service. Families with children and rugs spread themselves around the town cenotaph, people talking quietly to each other.

A young man arrived on his Harley Davidson Fat Boy motor bike dressed in the familiar uniform of a motor bike rider. He seemed to be alone. I approached him and introduced myself and we started to talk.

He was there to honour his Grandad a Trooper in the Light Horse, it was the first time he had been to anything like an Anzac service.

The captains of the colleges addressed the assembled crowd (now numbering about 300) about their thoughts on what Anzac meant to the youth of Emerald.

And two high school girls sang, unaccompanied, the National Anthems of Australia and New Zealand.

At 1000 hrs the marshalling area for the main march was alive with most of the population od Emerald!

The St. Patricks College brass band was in attendance.

The standard of the playing was, in my opinion, world class.

1030 hrs the march commenced to the Cenotaph.

The band lead followed by about 120 ex-service members including one civilian marching in honour of his great uncles who served in Bomber Command.

The police, ambulance, SES and other service organisations followed.

But what was most remarkable was the hundreds of school children accompanied by teachers and parents clutching their wreaths to be laid at the cenotaph.

These were not normal wreaths usually prepared by florists, these were ones prepared and made by the children from paper, cardboard, paper and illustrated in textra pens, crayon and coloured pencils.

During the service these were reverently laid without much prompting from the "grown ups".

The crowd estimated to be about 3000 applauded each and every group that marched past them.

Unfortunately, the RAAF was not able to provide a catafalque party this year so four young SES cadets volunteered for this traditional task.

Lunch at the Bowling Club was the traditional roast meat and three baked vegetables followed by a trifle complete with both green and red jelly, cake with raspberry jam and the richest custard I have tasted in a long time.

THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC IS WELL AND TRULY ALIVE IN EMERALD QUEENSLAND



2024 AVCAT Scholarships & Long Tan Bursary

AVCAT Scholarships

Hello,

<u>AVCAT scholarships</u>, including the <u>Long Tan Bursary</u>, 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 <u>avcat.org.au</u>.

Spread The Word

Share on <u>Facebook</u> or <u>Instagram</u>, hang a <u>poster</u>, hand out a <u>flyer</u>, or drop <u>this</u> <u>notice</u> 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



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 <u>sold to iiNet in 2011 for \$60</u> 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



Dear members,

A fellow Sub-Branch member recently forwarded the following to me and I pass it on to you as I think it is worth a read, especially at this time of the year. Although the sender doesn't know its origin, I suspect it might have originated in the USA, given some of the language/words.

To understand a Military Veteran you must know:

- * We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.
- * We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.
- * We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.
- * We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.
- * We found new friends and new family.
- * We became brothers and sisters regardless of colour, race or creed.
- * We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.
- * We didn't get enough sleep.
- * We smoked and drank too much.
- * We picked up both good and bad habits.
- * We worked hard and played harder.
- * We didn't earn a great wage.
- * We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.
- * We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.
- * We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.
- * We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.
- * Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.
- * Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.
- * Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.
- * We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.
- * We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.
- * We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.
- * We have dealt with victory and tragedy.
- * We have celebrated and mourned.
- * We lost a few along the way.
- * When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.
- * We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.
- * We share an unspoken bond with each other that most people don't experience and few will understand.
- * We speak highly of our own branch of Service, and poke fun at the other branches.
- * We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartheat
- * Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned and it can never be taken away.
- * It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.

Kind regards,

Greg



Planned Vietnam Veterans Vigil 3 August 2023

Dear All,

One of the events being planned in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War is a Vigil to be held at gravesites and memorials throughout Australia and overseas on 3 August 2023. This would be a great opportunity for Scheyvillians to pay their respects to our graduates who were Killed in Action and also perhaps to those classmates who have passed since.

Our KIA and their gravesites are;

2LT J. Fraser- Nerang QLD

2LT A.D. Jellie-Pasadena SA

2LT T.E. Langlands- Beresfield NSW

2LT I.G. Mathers- Holland Park QLD

2LT D. Paterson- Pasadena SA

2LT K.P. Rinkin-Taree NSW

2LT G.C.Sharp- Tamworth NSW

2LT L.A.Taylor- Box Hill VIC

In addition, we all know of others who have since passed.

We have several months to prepare. Give some thought to how we might be able to pay due homage to our fallen classmates on 3 Aug.

A Vigil at the gravesites of the above would be the least we could do. Perhaps a commemorative gathering locally afterwards.

More can be found on http://www.vvv.org.au

A worthwhile endeavour.

Regards
Brian Cooper
National Deputy Chair and Commemoration Liaison

Comments and ideas welcome please

Brian Cooper bctcooper@gmail.com 0418373874





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

You can <u>unsubscribe</u> 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

<u>Team Australia Invictus Games 2023 competitors announced</u> <u>The healing power of sport – what are adaptive sports</u>

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

<u>How DVA supports homeless veterans</u> <u>Continuing a life of service, after serving in the Australian Defence Force</u>

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)	This qualification reflects the role of individuals working in a range of complex customer service roles. 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.
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	This qualification reflects the job roles of employees with functions that could include: • 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 <u>returned veterans</u> and <u>peacekeepers with operational service and those covered by the ADF Firefighters Scheme</u> 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 <u>fortnightly health coaching calls</u> 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 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