

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH



Current Items of Interest

8 July 22

For the first time, last year's [2021 Census - Australia](#) included a question about service in the Australian Defence Force.

This data will help clearly map where our veterans live and just how many there are in the community to ensure our services are better placed to support them and their families . [#OpenArmsSupport](#)

The [2021 Census - Australia](#) results are in – forming a more complete picture of our veteran and current serving community.

Our veteran community is made up of 84,865 personnel in active ADF service and 496,276 veterans, with the highest number reported in the 65-74 years age group.

People who have served in the ADF are also more likely to undertake volunteering work, which has been recently demonstrated with the provision of support provided during bush fires, floods and supporting the vulnerable in our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Census data is publicly available on the ABS website, and will be useful for ex-service organisations and community groups supporting veterans to plan and provide critical veteran specific support services in areas where they are needed.

To read more, visit: <http://www.dva.gov.au/.../making-history-half-million...>



“The following media release is from Jeremy Stredwick, who spoke to us on several occasions about this exciting program.

Although we were unable to do anything of substance for him or *Alectum*, we are pleased to read of their initial success and wish them well as they progress.”

Jim Gilchrist



Australia's first Veteran Cyber Academy graduation

Alectum is proud to have worked with the SANS Institute to successfully graduate 18 of Australia's newest cyber security professionals.

On the 17th of Jun 2022, held at the Australian War Memorial, 18 veterans and spouses of veterans successfully graduated Australia's first ever Veteran Cyber Academy.

The gradation was hosted by Brigadier Robert (Doc) Watson Director-General, Joint Information Warfare and Major General (rtd) Dr Marcus Thompson, AM, Phd.



The ceremony featured graduate profiles and quotes highlighting their service history and what the training has meant for them.

This pilot Academy has shown that a diverse range of ADF veterans with no cyber security experience and in some cases some no technical background at all, can be provided real, industry-recognised training and certifications, soft skills, and engagement with employers which has resulted in real-world cyber security careers.

Over the last 4 months, graduates have undertaken and completed certifications in:

- SEC275: Foundations - Computers, Technology, and Security
- SEC401: Security Essentials: Network, Endpoint, and Cloud
- SEC504: Hacker Tools, Techniques, Exploits, and Incident Handling

They have had their CVs reviewed and improved, participated in soft skilling sessions on interview techniques, had industry briefings on the current state of cyber security and most importantly, attended careers fairs with opportunities to engage directly with employers.

Some students are already in employment as a direct result of being students in the Academy. The Academy has shown that it can help stem the cyber skills shortage by enabling veterans to reskill and continue to serve the security of the nation in the cyber world.

Nathan Heberley, co-founder and Director of Allectum said “this Academy has shown there is a huge potential to support our post service veteran community by reskilling and deploying them into the cyber security arena”

While part-time, the Academy is an intensive and rigorous program which has required the graduates to apply the same grit and determination displayed while in uniform.

Allectum would like to congratulate the graduating class for their accomplishment and wishes them the best in their new fulfilling cyber careers.



More high resolution photos are available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dcst55eclnaa9wz/AACJTNzxSkeAO3OH3Ua7sQI9a?dl=0>

CSCC Community Rewards Program FY22-23



Dear members,

We have again entered into an agreement with the Canberra Southern Cross Club (CSCC) to participate in its Community Rewards Program for the 2022-23 financial year. Under the terms of the Agreement, the CSCC will pay the Sub-Branch 7.5% of the food and beverage spend by Sub-Branch members who are members of the CSCC and have registered their intention to participate.

This initiative provides an extra source of funds for the Sub-Branch and members who are also members of the CSCC are encouraged to register and nominate the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch as the organisation to which those funds can be paid. The following link will enable members to so nominate [Community Rewards - Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch \(wufoo.com\)](https://www.wufoo.com)

Your support of the Program would be much appreciated.

Regards,
Greg



Greg Kennett
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AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

AVCAT Scholarships - Open 18 August

Hello,

AVCAT scholarships, including the **Long Tan Bursary**, are tertiary scholarships for the children and grandchildren of Australian ex-serving veterans. Scholarships are \$4000–\$6000 per year for three years.

Applications open on 18 August 2022, Vietnam Veterans' Day, and close at midnight AEDT on 31 October 2022.

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 university TAFE, or RTO in 2023
- 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, Centrelink payments including Youth Allowance, AB-STUDY, Austudy, VCES or an accepted means-tested Commonwealth government payment in 2023

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 avcat.org.au.

Spread The Word

Share on [socials](#), hang a [poster](#), hand out a [flyer](#), or drop [this notice](#) into your newsletter.

Kind Regards
Len Russell
CEO AVCAT

Webinar: Financial freedom in service, transition and retirement



Tips from finance professionals and veterans

REGISTER NOW

[Financial freedom in service, transition and retirement | RSL NSW](#)

11am, Thursday 4 August 2022

Join a panel of finance professionals and veterans as they discuss the steps they've taken to build financial independence and their experience working with serving members, those transitioning out of defence and veterans approaching retirement.

Register for 'Financial freedom in service, transition and retirement', to hear:

- ✓ How to manage the financial impact of transitioning out of defence.
- ✓ Steps to take to build financial independence.
- ✓ What veterans can do at any stage to work towards financial freedom.

Sponsored by Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation.

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



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!



Commemorative Service to mark the 75th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping

By way of introduction, my name is Loz Goodchild and I am the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) officer responsible for the planning and delivery of the national commemorative service to mark the 75th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping. The service will be held on 14 September 2022 at the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra, commencing at 10:30am.

The national commemorative service not only marks the 75th anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping, but will provide an opportunity for all Australians to pause, reflect and appropriately acknowledge the service and sacrifice of the more than 66,000 Australians - made up of Australian Defence Force, Australian Police Force, and civilians - who have served in peacekeeping or peacemaking roles. It will also provide an opportunity to honour the service and sacrifice of the 16 Australians that have died on duty or were killed in action on peacekeeping operations since 1947.

We are currently finalising the service details and further information will be available on our website shortly, however you may wish to pass on the broad details of the service to your members.

Kind regards,

Loz Goodchild

Assistant Director

Commemorations Directorate | Commemorations and Transformation Division

Department of Veterans' Affairs

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75TH ANNIVERSARY
**AUSTRALIAN
PEACEKEEPING**
Australia Remembers 2022

Curtin University Honours Research Project - Female Veterans



RESEARCHERS PARTICIPANTS REQUIRED

The number of women in the Australian Defence Force is increasing; however, there is limited understanding of women's experiences once they leave the defence force and transition to civilian life.

This study is focused on the experiences of women veterans accessing suitable health, mental health and other well-being services whilst transitioning from the ADF to civilian life.

The proposed study aims to explore the suitability of existing services and any gaps in service provision for women veterans.

The research will contribute to addressing gaps, and improving the suitability of existing health, mental health and wellbeing services for women veterans.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| What | 60 min interview |
| Who | If you are a woman who has transitioned from the ADF in the past 15 years. You have experience of accessing health, mental health and wellbeing services after transitioning from the ADF. You are aged over 18 years old |
| Where | Either at Curtin University (WA) Online via Teams App Telephone |

This research is being conducted by Bronwyn Tierney-Power, a social work Honours student at Curtin University, under the supervision of Dr Lynelle Watts, Paula Clough and Sophie Ridley. For further information please contact bronwyn.power@student.curtin.edu.au or Dr Lynelle Watts - lynelle.watts@curtin.edu.au

Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study (HRE2022-0246)

DVA Deputy Commissioner update

Good morning ESO and veteran colleagues,

It is wonderful to be back into the Deputy Commissioner role, and I would like to extend my thanks to Kathy Karakousis, who was acting Deputy Commissioner for the past two months.

New Ministry

Following the outcome of the Federal Election, the new Ministry was sworn in on 1 June.

The Hon Matt Keogh MP is the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel. Mr Keogh was first elected to the House of Representatives as the Member for Burt, Western Australia in 2016, and previously held a number of shadow minister positions, including as the Shadow Minister for Defence Industry. He has also served in a wide range of Parliamentary committees.

The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP is Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs as well as Assistant Minister for Defence and Assistant Minister for the Republic.

Release of Census data

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is releasing the first tranche of data from the 2021 Census on 28 June 2022. This will include results on the question asking whether respondents have served in the ADF, the first time a question about service has been included in the Census.

Better understanding the veteran population in Australia will allow DVA and ex-service organisations to provide support for the veteran community where it's needed most.

DVA TV recent videos for promotion

Please check out the latest videos from DVA TV:

Firsthand veteran stories of war: [Japanese submarines attack Sydney and Newcastle](#)

A [second video on DSH Insurance](#) as part of the DVA Services series.

Anzac Day – international service montage on [Facebook](#)

DVA TV promotional video on [Facebook](#)

Anzac Day Schools Awards

The Anzac Day Schools' Awards is an annual competition encouraging students, teachers and communities to gain a deeper understanding of Australia's wartime history, and honour the service of Australians. This year's theme is 'Engaging with veterans: Stories of peacekeeping'. We encourage students to discover personal stories and take part in commemorative activities to honour the service and sacrifice of peacekeepers, helping mark the 75th anniversary of Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations in 2022.

The national winner receives \$5,000 and a trophy. Winning entries from each state and territory receive a cash prize, with another five prizes provided for special category winners.

Entries close on 30 June. For tools, tips, resources and previous award winners, go to: <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/research-education/competitions/anzac-day-schools-awards>

Deputy Commissioner Consultation Forums

I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming Consultation forums, which will be held in person for the first time in more than two years.

NSW Consultation forum: Wednesday 6 July, 10am-12pm

ACT Consultation forum: Wednesday 20 July, 10-11.30am

Please contact your ESO member on that forum to provide feedback or input, and to hear about a range of activities across DVA and the ESO and veteran community.

Take care,
Victoria

Victoria Benz
Deputy Commissioner, NSW & ACT
Department of Veterans' Affairs
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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
www.rslwoden.org.au

Office hours are
9am-3pm Mon-Fri

PS.

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our website**

www.rslwoden.org.au