

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH



Current Items of Interest

9 September 22



RSL
Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

9 September 2022

For immediate release

RSL Mourns Passing of its Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The Returned & Services League of Australia's (RSL) has expressed its deep sorrow and condolences on the passing of its Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

RSL Australia President Greg Melick said the passing of Her Majesty will be felt by all veterans who particularly valued her association and patronage of the League for more than 70 years.

"Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth has been an outstanding servant and leader of the Commonwealth for the duration of her reign and the RSL was honoured to have her as our Patron," Greg Melick said.

"Her passing makes this a period of great sadness, but also is a time to reflect on her unstinting service and contribution to Australia, Great Britain and all the nations of the Commonwealth.

"We recently marked Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, with RSL Branches and Sub-Branched throughout Australia illuminated in purple to mark her extraordinary 70 years on the throne. Such was the esteem in which she was held by our organisation and its members."

Greg Melick said Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a unique monarch and an outstanding Patron. Of the RSL

"She dedicated her life to the service of her nation and the peoples of the Commonwealth and never shirked this great responsibility.

"The RSL will be forever grateful for her commitment, encouragement and support for our veterans and service personnel.

"On behalf of RSL Australia, our Branches, Sub-Branched and all our members, I extend our sincere and deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to King Charles III and Queen Elizabeth's family," Greg Melick said.

ENDS

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THE EDDISON DAY CLUB

Save the Dates

Following consultation with the Executive of Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch it is the intention to temporarily suspend the meeting of the Eddison Day Club for the remainder of the year. This is due to the low numbers that are attending each Friday for lunch.

We have applied for a grant from DVA to hold three seminars in early October for Veterans' Health Week, whose theme this year is "Eat Well". These lunches will include a short talk by a dietician on healthy eating and then an individually packed lunch prepared by a local veteran couple who will cater and serve to each attendee.

We have also received another grant to pay for some bus trips out of Canberra. We had three in November 2020 which were well patronised. We have done some research on four bus trips to be held in October and November this year.

At present we are considering the following tours:

- a tour to the Southern Highlands stopping at Berrima, Moss Vale (where we will have lunch at the Moss Vale Services Club), visit Robertson and return to Holder by 4.00 pm;
- a tour to Yass and District, visiting Cooma Cottage, visit Harden with lunch at the Harden Country Club, visit the local sculptures including 'Bill the Bastard', maybe St Clements Monastery, and return to Holder by 4.00pm;
- a tour of Bungendore for morning tea, Braidwood shops with lunch at the 'Loaded Dog' at Tarago on the other side of Lake George, returning to Bungendore for a visit to the Woodcraft Shop, Leather Shop, the Antique Shop or a coffee. Then returning to Holder by 4.00pm;
- a tour to Cooma. We have a Sub-Branch member who will do a running commentary during the trip, as he knows the area well. We will have lunch at the Cooma Ex-Services Club and visit the area where a founding member of the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Ranch.

All tours will leave from the bus-stop outside the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch at 27 Mulley Street at 9.00am. Bottled water will be available for each tour. Face masks will also be available.

The grant will not cover all four, so we will have to conduct the ones that receive the most response. We will be using Deanes Coaches as we did last time. They have a 57 seat as well as a 62 seat coach. This will allow safe social distancing. We will endeavour to have Mr Reece Campbell be our coach captain once again.

We would appreciate people contacting the Sub-Branch to express their interest to patronising both the Veterans' Health Week functions and the bus trips they would prefer.

Regards

Peter Sutton

Vice President Welfare



Vale Dr Allan Hawke AC

[Vale Dr Allan Hawke AC | Department of Veterans' Affairs \(dva.gov.au\)](https://www.dva.gov.au)

2 September 2022

Staff of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the veteran community pay tribute to the life of Dr Allan Hawke AC who passed away this week at the age of 74.

Dr Hawke dedicated his professional life to serving the Australian public, including his tenure as the Secretary of DVA from 1994 to 1996, and in this time made an invaluable contribution to Australia's veteran community.

Current DVA Secretary Liz Cosson AM CSC said Dr Hawke's legacy includes introducing and delivering significant policies that continue to benefit Australia's veterans and families today.

'Dr Hawke's contribution cannot be overstated. He oversaw the introduction of the Compensation Claims Processing System, new veteran treatment cards, and the establishment of the Repatriation Medical Authority,' Ms Cosson said.

'His work to introduce Statements of Principles to establish a causal connection between service and medical conditions remains key to our veteran support system today.

'Allan also oversaw the dignified and respectful commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, honouring the amazing generation of Australians who served to protect our nation in that terrible conflict. Many who were in school at this time will remember the strong focus of Australia Remembers on engaging children. The legacy of this can be seen in the number of schools marching and remembering each Anzac Day.

'He was highly regarded and respected by DVA staff, and is remembered as a leader who invested in people and fostered a strong culture, inspiring his staff to serve and leading by example.'

In recognition of his life and public service, Dr Hawke was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2010.

We honour his service and his legacy.





DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL OFFICE

A member of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations

8 September 2022

MEDIA STATEMENT

- A TAXING ISSUE -

ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDS HARMONISING LEGISLATION - PROPOSED LEGISLATION ENTRENCHES DISHARMONY -

The Interim Report from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide recommends “*that the Australian Government should, without delay, implement legislative reforms to simplify and harmonise the veteran entitlement system.*” This is the Interim Report’s Number One Priority.

Now is not the time to introduce legislation which entrenches legislative differences and leaves some disabled veterans paying more tax on their invalidity benefits than others. The draft *Treasury Laws Amendment Bill 2022: Taxation of Military Superannuation Benefits* embeds different tax treatment regimes for veterans depending on when they started receiving payments and the scheme. For example:

- Veterans with the same date of enlistment, same employment and pay, same length of service and with the same disability, and receiving the same Invalidity Benefit payment under the same superannuation scheme, can be taxed differently.
- Veterans whose Invalidity Benefits payments commenced on or after 20 September 2007 receive more favourable taxation treatment than those whose payments started prior to that date.
- Except those veterans covered under the newer ADF Cover (2016) are not eligible for the same favourable taxation treatment of Invalidity Benefits as their mates serving beside them but on the earlier super schemes. Most would be unaware of this. Some may have even chosen to change to the new scheme, without being aware of this significant difference.

Can this different treatment really be justified?

The beneficial effects of the proposed legislation for veterans and their surviving dependents should be extended to all veterans receiving Invalidity Benefits for similar disabilities.

DFWA urges the Government take this opportunity to simplify and harmonise the tax treatment of veterans’ Invalidity Benefits, and not entrench the differences and difficulties causing adverse effects on veterans’ mental health as highlighted by the Royal Commission.

Contacts

National President: Kel Ryan 0418 759 120	www.dfwa.org.au	Spokesperson: John Lewis (07) 2102 9879
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ALERT
BE WARY OF A
'RSL' GUISED PHONE
SCAM IN PLAY

ALERT: RSL PHONE SCAM

We have recently been alerted to a phone scam operating under the guise of RSL. Members of the public have reported receiving calls from individuals claiming to be RSL staff members and seeking 'opt-ins' to the charity.

Please note, RSL Australia does not undertake any telephone marketing and will never ask for financial contributions, donations or for any personal information via this channel.

While some of our RSL Branches do undertake fundraising campaigns periodically, this is typically through street appeals or via official RSL websites.

As per Australia's Cyber Security Centre advice, we encourage people to be extra cautious if asked to supply personal details or financial contributions via an unknown phone number or email. The recommended advice is to decline and seek clarification through the official company contact lines.

How to report a scam:

If you have experienced any suspicious phishing behaviour associated to the RSL please report this along with any supporting details (emails, phone numbers etc) so it can be further investigated.

Email: Enquiries@rsl.org.au

For more information on scams and tips on how to protect yourself please visit: www.cyber.gov.au/learn/scams

SAVE THE DATE !



The Annual Christmas Lunch will be held on Wednesday 7 December 2022 at Canberra Southern Cross Club.

More details will be provided on the late date.

DVA Deputy Commissioner update

Please find below an update on some key activities across DVA, and I encourage you to share these with your colleagues and members.

Royal Commission Interim Report

The Royal Commission provided its Interim Report to the Governor-General on 11 August 2022. The Interim Report has been tabled in Parliament and is available on the Royal Commission's website (defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au). Hard copies can also be ordered from this website.

The Royal Commission has made 13 recommendations in the report. The Interim Report outlines a number of recommendations in relation to improving compensation claims processes and implementing legislative reform.

The Government has welcomed the Interim Report from the Royal Commission and thanked all those who have contributed to the work of the Royal Commission. The Government has stated it will carefully consider all the recommendations contained in the report and issue a full response in due course.

DVA welcomes the Royal Commission as an opportunity to learn and strengthen our approach to the mental health and welfare of our veterans and families. We acknowledge there is still plenty of work to do to further reform and improve the services and support available to our serving and ex-serving ADF communities. The Interim Report has provided advice on key areas we should focus on.

Prime Minister's National Veterans' Employment Awards

On 30 August 2022, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh announced the finalists for this year's Prime Minister's National Veterans' Employment Awards.

These awards recognise organisations that actively recruit, employ and support veterans, as well as celebrating individual veteran and partner employees and entrepreneurs who are excelling in the civilian workplace. This year's finalists have gone above and beyond to foster environments where veterans and partners can not only work, but thrive.

The Awards are the flagship of the Prime Minister's National Veterans' Employment Program, which brings together a range of resources and initiatives to support veteran and partner job-seekers and employers. See [DVA website](#) for more.

Veterans' Health Week

Veterans' Health Week 2022 will be held from 1 to 9 October to highlight the importance of being healthy. This year's focus is on healthy eating habits and improving your nutrition knowledge with the theme, *Eat Well*.

Community groups and ESOs are invited to apply for funding to help host a Veterans' Health Week event. Organisations can receive \$720 in funding to run an event for veterans and families in your local area. Applications for funding close 19 September 2022. To apply for funding and for more information, visit the [Veterans' Health Week webpage](#).

All funded and registered events will be published at www.dva.gov.au/vhw closer to the Veterans' Health Week dates so make sure to keep an eye on the DVA website. Events can be held in the fortnight before and after the official dates. For information on healthy eating, including a copy of the Australian Dietary Guidelines, visit the [Eat For Health website](#).

Grants

Grants-in-Aid

Fifteen ESOs have each secured a share of \$145,000 in funding as the successful recipients of the 2022–23 Grants-In-Aid. The funding will be used by the organisations to provide vital support to the veteran community and improve communications between their networks. For more information about the Grants-In-Aid program visit the [DVA website](#).

Among the 15 recipients is Legacy Australia, which supports the partners and children of veterans that gave their lives or health serving our country, and the Defence Force Welfare Association, which advocates for veterans on welfare matters.

BEST grant recipients announced

A total of 119 ESOs across Australia will share in \$4.45 million of funding for advocacy and wellbeing services for veterans under the Australian Government's Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) grants program.

Recipients of the 2022–23 BEST grants program will receive financial support to continue to assist veterans and families who may need help with claims, accessing health, housing and other community services and/or other benefits. The funding is a contribution towards the wages of compensation advocates and their support staff, as well as equipment and administration expenses they may require as part of delivering services to veterans and families.

For more information about the grant programs currently offered, or to learn more about the BEST grants, [visit the DVA website](#). To view the successful grant recipients, [visit the GrantConnect website](#).

STS Grants

The current batch of applications for the *Saluting Their Service* Commemorative Grants Program closes on 11 October 2022.

The *Saluting Their Service* Commemorative Grants Program offers funding to assist local communities in honouring the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel.

The upcoming 50th anniversary of Australia's withdrawal from the Vietnam War in 2023 presents a unique opportunity for communities around Australia to conduct projects and activities that commemorate the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans. Organisations are welcome to apply for funding for projects that commemorate this significant anniversary. See the [DVA website](#) for more information.

DVA TV recent videos for promotion

New therapy to treat PTSD – [YouTube](#)

Mobility, independence and a new lease on life – RAP program – [YouTube](#)

Interview with artist Mike Armstrong – [YouTube](#)

Various Veterans' Health Week videos – [YouTube](#)

Regards,

Victoria

Victoria Benz

Deputy Commissioner, NSW & ACT

Department of Veterans' Affairs

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e Victoria.benz@dva.gov.au



Army



The Band of the Royal Military College

MASTERWORKS FOR WINDS

Saturday 1st October 2022 - 7pm

Llewellyn Hall, ANU

An evening of entertainment from one of Australia's premiere wind ensembles. Entry via gold coin donation with all proceeds going to support Canberra Legacy.

Bookings essential - www.eventbrite.com.au

or scan the QR Code



[#AusArmy](#) [#ausarmyband](#) [#canberralegacy](#)





Military and Emergency
Services Health Australia

MindRight Program



CALLING

Current and former
Australian military
members

Military and Emergency Services Health Australia is proud to deliver MindRight, a program developed after StoryRight, in 2019 to provide Australian Defence Force (ADF) members the tools to successfully undertake the mindset shift from sailor, soldier or airman/woman to civilian.

Despite spending years developing a strong work ethic, excelling in stressful decision making and demonstrating a strong understanding of teamwork, many ADF military personnel can find the transition to civilian life difficult.

The MindRight program specifically targets common major problems veterans experience when leaving the military such as:

- Feeling socially marginalised when leaving the military
- Losing a sense of purpose
- Frustration from a clash between military and civilian codes.

MindRight is a one-day, peer-led course which will equip service men and women with the tools to understand:

- How military service influences your identity
- Shifting values and beliefs through life, and also from military to civilian life
- How to use self-care to fuel your resilience
- Importance of your community of care and positive impact of peer support.

"MindRight raised my self-belief in the civilian context... it helped me fully understand my own value."

Participant testimony

For any enquiries please email
contactus@mesha.org.au

REMINDER ! Flowers of Peace & 'Vietnam Requiem'



POW Requiem tickets



'POW Requiem' tickets on sale now

Tickets are now live for this once in a lifetime performance on Saturday, 29 October 2022, Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music, Canberra. Join us to witness a truly memorable concert featuring Greta Bradman, Andrew Goodwin, Riley Lee (shakahachi), Canberra Symphony Orchestra and guests, musicians from the Australian Defence Force, ANU Chamber Orchestra and Choirs when we will remember WWII Prisoners of War, primarily those captured in Asia, and their fight for freedom.

Chris Latham OAM, Director of the Flowers of Peace talks about his vision for this concert in the link below...

Book your seats now

[POW Requiem tickets | Llewellyn Hall | Ticketek Australia](#)

Director's vision

[POW Requiem - Flowers of Peace Director's vision - YouTube](#)



Re-live the 'Vietnam Requiem'

With Vietnam Veterans' Day 2022 upon us, at last we can offer you the opportunity to re-live the concert. The options are DVD or USB. Direct download will be coming soon. Both Act 1 and Act 2 are included, along the speeches from the Sunday performance. This concert recording has been made at cost and we have included trackable postage to ensure the contents do not get wet nor lost. After ordering, you can expect delivery approximately 10 days thereafter. We will keep you informed via email of progress with the despatch date.

What a treat this concert was. May you enjoy it over and over again.

Please keep your Program Guides handy when watching the video as it gives the facts and stories behind each of the movements in the Requiem. If you do not have a Guide you can download a copy [here](#).

Buy your copy now

[Music and art to help heal trauma \(flowersofpeace.com.au\)](https://flowersofpeace.com.au)



You are not alone, support is just a phone call away.

Our number one priority is supporting the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families.

There are a range of support numbers available for veterans.

[Open Arms - Veterans & Families Counselling](#) is available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week on 1800 011 046.

Safe Zone is free, anonymous and confidential and is available 24/7 for current and former serving Australian defence personnel on 1800 142 072.

The Defence All-hours Support Line is a confidential phone and online service for current serving ADF members and their families, available on 1800 628 036.

Families of serving personnel can also contact the Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

These organisations are staffed by people who understand the military experience and are there to support ADF personnel, veterans and their families.

OPEN
Veterans & Families
Counselling

ARMS

1800 011 046



**SAFE ZONE
SUPPORT**

FREE ANONYMOUS
COUNSELLING LINE
CALL 1800 142 072

**Defence
Family
Helpline**



1800 624 608

**Defence
All-hours
Support Line**



1800 628 036

1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)
Advice, claims and support services



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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