

# RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH E-NEWS



E-Newsletter

July 2018

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

One of our major fundraising events to support the VSC and run our busy and vital services from RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch will occur during 5-11 November this year.

Please contact Jan Properjohn at [treasurer@rslwoden.org.au](mailto:treasurer@rslwoden.org.au) or call us on 62851931 if you can assist.

Apologies for incorrect dates in *The Serviceman*.

We'd also welcome volunteers who wish to offer ideas and advice on how best to optimize our collection opportunities whilst remaining "in area".



Chris Hammond at one of our poppy stalls

Want to visit Burrangiri on 16 August for a Veterans day out? Call Rani on 6285 1931. This Friday 20 July the Edison Day Club at the Irish Club will enjoy Christmas in July.

## In This Issue

- Poppy sellers needed
- Burrangiri visit date
- Sir John Monash statue
- ACT CP Football program
- SCAM alerts
- 1ALSG reunion
- Battle Commemoration Coins from the Mint
- Firepower Seminar Hamel and Amiens
- DFRB Superannuants action



## Sir John Monash statue unveiled at Australian War Memorial

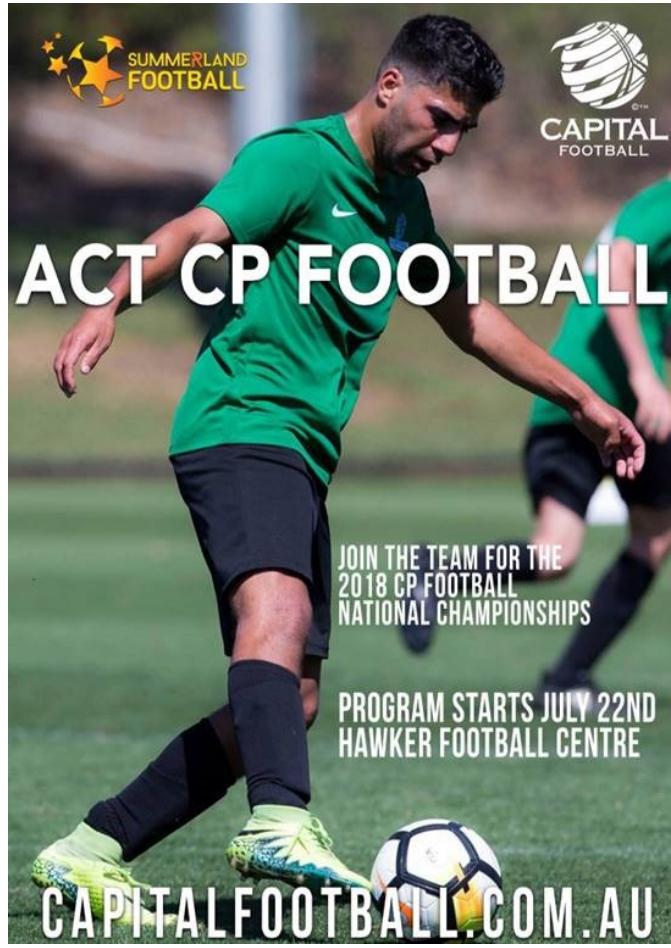
The sculpture depicts Monash wearing his civilian suit, medals, and Returned and Services League badge. Regarded as one of Australia's outstanding civilian leaders, Monash is remembered for many things, but it was as a military commander that he truly excelled. As commander of the Australian Corps he led the Australians during their most successful actions of the war. Many consider Monash to be one of the greatest commanders of the First World War.

On 4 July 1918 formations of the Australian Corps, including for the first time companies of American soldiers, was victorious at the battle of Hamel. Lieutenant General Monash had meticulously planned out the action to the last detail, estimating all objectives would be taken in 90 minutes – it took 93.

Memorial Director Dr Brendan Nelson said Monash deserves to be remembered as one of the greatest Australians ever, not just for his accomplishments as a military leader but also for his efforts to rebuild a divided nation after the war.

"In the aftermath of the war, Monash was appointed Director-General of Repatriation and Demobilisation, efficiently repatriating 160,000 soldiers in eight months. "Throughout his life he upheld the democratic ideals of his nation and the principle of equality of opportunity. When asked to lead a right-wing coup during the Great Depression, he famously wrote to the plotters, 'The only hope for Australia is the ballot-box, and an educated electorate.'

*Photo and story AWM*



The recently established ACT CP Football program is looking for more players.

Take this opportunity to develop your football skills (soccer), meet new people and be part of the ACT representative team.

CP Football is for people with cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury or symptoms resulting from a stroke.

All ages and experience welcome. For more information visit <https://capitalfootball.com.au/game-devel.../football-connect/>

## Submissions to the Veterans' Advocacy & Support Services Scoping Study

RSL WV Sub-Branch is currently preparing a submission to this DVA study. You can read other submissions as they appear at the following address:

<https://www.dva.gov.au/consultation-and-grants/reviews/veterans-advocacy-and-support-services-scoping-study/submissions>

## SCAM ALERT:

Scammers have set up a clone of the myGov website to trick you into sharing your login and bank account details.

The scam starts with a phishing designed to look like it is from Medicare, asking you to update your bank details as part of your tax return process.

Read more about scams and how to protect yourself online at:

<https://www.staysmartonline.gov.au>

Phone scams are ramping up lately, offers from Woolworths or Coles should also be ignored.

What should I do if I've been scammed?

If your tax file number has been passed on to someone non-legit, or if you think someone is misusing it, call the ATO's Client Identity Support Centre on 1800 467 033.

If money has been exchanged, make a report with the police.

Contact your bank if you've given your credit card or bank details to someone who shouldn't have them.

Stay up to date with recent scams through the ACCC's Scamwatch and Fair Trading's Scams page.

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services or to volunteer

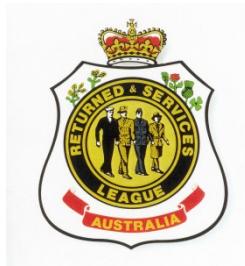
14/27 Mulley Street  
HOLDER ACT 2611

Phone 62851931

[admin@rslwoden.org.au](mailto:admin@rslwoden.org.au)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.rslwoden.org.au](http://www.rslwoden.org.au)

E-News and The Serviceman are also available on our website



## REUNION NEWS

**Name:** Tony Brown

**Email Address:** [tony11raye13@bigpond.com](mailto:tony11raye13@bigpond.com)

**Subject:** advertising our reunion

**Message:** could you help us out by advertising our reunion in your magazine or brochure, thank you.  
the reunion is for HEADQUARTER 1ST AUSTRALIAN LOGISTIC SUPPORT GROUP (1ALSG) and will be held in BAL-LARAT from the 8th of November 2019 till the 11th of November, for more details and accommodation contact Tony Brown on 0428852736 or email :  
[tony11raye13@bigpond.com](mailto:tony11raye13@bigpond.com)

## New battle commemoration coins from the Royal Australian Mint

Hello Members of the Returned Service League (RSL) .

In 2018 the Royal Australian Mint have released a selection of coins commemorating anniversaries of past battles. As these coins honour the sacrifice and courage of your members, we thought they may be of interest to your group/club.

Please feel free to share this information with your community, we would also welcome any feedback your members have about our beautiful coins.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please let us know. If you are not interested in receiving emails of this nature in the future please respond to [info@ramint.gov.au](mailto:info@ramint.gov.au).

Thank you,

Royal Australian Mint

[info@ramint.gov.au](mailto:info@ramint.gov.au)



1300 652 020

2018 \$2 "C" Mintmark Coloured Uncirculated Coin

**Lest We Forget**  
Eternal Flame

Commemorate those who have made the ultimate sacrifice

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company cordially extends an invitation to the Woden RSL Sub-Branch members to the Tenth Seminar in the Firepower: Lessons from the Great War Seminar Series.

Detail for 1918: Western Front – Hamel and Amiens is below, with more information at the Firepower Website here:

Refreshments and Reception commences at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Lecture Theatre South Foyer from 1700h - All are welcome.

## ***Firepower: Lessons from the Great War***

### **Seminar 10**

**ADFA Lecture Theatre South**  
**1700h for 1730-1930h**  
**Thursday 26 July 2018**



#### **Presentations:**

- *Technology testing at the Battle of Hamel*
- *The “Fireplan from Hell”*
- *The Amiens Offensive – Context and Impact*
- *Artillery Spotting, Air Drops and Ground attack*

See more at QR here:



CAPTURE OF HAMEL VILLAGE, JULY 4<sup>th</sup> 1918, BY AUSTRALIANS ASSISTED BY A DETACHMENT OF AMERICANS.  
From Original painting specially executed for the Australian Comforts Fund  
by A. PEARCE, WAR ARTIST.



Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company

# **1916: Western Front: Hamel and Amiens**

**Master of Ceremonies: Professor Craig Stockings, Official Historian**

## **Presentation 1**

**Speaker:** Ms Ellen Cresswell, University of Sydney

**Heading:** "Technological testing at the Battle of Hamel" (**Keynote Speaker**)

**Theme:** Combined Arms

## **Presentation 2**

**Speaker:** Dr Meleah Hampton, Australian War Memorial

**Heading:** The "Fireplan from Hell"

**Theme:** Artillery Tactics

## **Presentation 3**

**Speaker:** Major General Paul Stevens (retd)

**Heading:** "The Amiens Offensive – Context and Impact"

**Theme:** Command and Control

## **Presentation 4**

**Speaker:** Air Commodore Mark Lax (retd)

**Heading:** "Artillery Spotting, Air Drops and Ground attack"

**Theme:** Combined Arms

## **Plenary**

**Speaker Panel Discussion and Q&A**

**Moderator:** Professor Craig Stockings, Official History Project

**Registration is free: To register for this event, please respond here: [semi-nar@artilleryhistory.org](mailto:seminar@artilleryhistory.org) .**

**What:** RAAHC Firepower Seminar Series 10 – 1918: *Western Front - Hamel and Amiens*

**Where:** ADFA Lecture Theatre South

**RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch member Bryan Pannell forwarded the following information from Ken Stone for DFRDB Superannuants:**

*DFRDB Superannuants,*

*My proposal to conduct a Class Action against the Commonwealth on behalf of the 55,000 DFRDB veterans has been rejected by the three predominant Class Action Legal Firms that carry such cases in Australia. However, many thanks to the 1400+ superannuants that I have received Expressions of Interest from, in the course of the past two weeks.*

*By far the most contentious issues regarding DFRDB, are those surrounding Commutation. This was carried into the legislation from its predecessor, the DFRB Scheme, as a benefit to retiring Armed Service personnel to enable their resettlement into civilian life.*

*The dissatisfactions of the DFRDB cohort about their pension scheme, have been brought to the notice of the Federal Parliament on many occasions since the introduction of the legislation in 1972. Apart from some minor corrections, which included the recent indexation changes referencing MTAWE instead of the CPI, these requests have been dismissed by a succession of Governments (and Oppositions). This, despite Nation-wide campaigns engaging the support of some 22,000 petitioners.*

*This is because ALL previous attempts to address the matter were on legal grounds, all of which were rejected. This was done so on the fact, that there is essentially nothing wrong legally within the legislation other than the obsolete data upon which calculations were made. Nobody has raised a challenge as I am doing now, though - that there was nothing IN the Legislation too far remiss, it was something that was NOT in the legislation, that was!*

*The Legislation itself and its communication to veterans by brochures, oral presentations and formal briefings, were all untruthful by omission, i.e.*

*the non-disclosure of objective meaning. This being the absence of a definition of the term COMMUTATION, as applied by DFRDBA - essentially, legislation couched in obscurity. None of the foregoing legislation and communication thereof, had a definition of what the term COMMUTATION actually meant.*

*The legislation came into being in 1972, but the definition of 'Commutation' as employed by the administering Authority (DFRDBA) remained without formal explanation for Thirty-Five years, before being disclosed. Note: see COMSUPER Fact Sheet DB04 of July 2007.*

*The Commonwealth's interpretation of the word 'Commutation' was finally revealed as being a lump sum payment based on Notional Life Expectancy (NLE) factor that was payable as a benefit to DFRDB pensioners in EXCHANGE for repayments that 'applied-for-life'.*

*This is also the definition upon which every Minister of successive Governments until todays, based their decisions - having received and accepted direct advice from the Public Service (DFRDBA) which referenced the APS definition of 'Commutation'.*

*However, every DFRDB Pensioner, in the absence of definitive DFRDBA advice, understood that they would receive a lump sum benefit equivalent to some 4-years pension entitlement, paid as an ADVANCE of BENEFITS (which it was) that was repayable on the basis of NLE, until they reached that age milestone. It was on this premise that they accepted the offer.*

*The fact now apparent is, that each party (the Commonwealth and the Veteran) were absolutely at total variance in what the 'undefined-offer' of 'Commutation' under the legislation, in actuality, meant. This is akin to having a binding legal document with NO FINE-PRINT.*

*I have now stated this case to the Minister for Finance, Minister for Veterans Affairs, and the Minister for Defence, without response other than an acknowledgement of receipt, and to most Government politicians with a Military background.*

*I believe that in using the definition of 'Commutation' as they did, that the DFRDBA failed to correctly apply the lexicological meaning of the word.*

*This rightly being an EXCHANGE, however, there always had to be a BETTERMENT, not a DETRIMENT, to the person the commutation was offered to as an alternative option, under proper English language usage and conventions.*

*None of our convict forebears was offered a commutation of sentence that saw them Hanged, rather than Transported!*

*Ken Stone*



**And we give the last word in this E-News to the RAAF Facebook page — for this formation of C-130J Hercules flying over Sydney Harbour and the Hawkesbury as part of the 75th Anniversary of No. 37 Squadron on Friday 13 July.**