

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ENEWS



November 2019



Government House Open Day 12 October

Left picture:

RSL President Jim Gilchrist, Anthony John, Her Excellency Linda Hurley, Bob Cremer and Peter Eveille.

Bottom picture: Bob Cremer



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Recent RSL OGM Dinner 29 October



Right picture: Anthony John introducing guest speaker LTCOL Patrick Cullinan SC OAM



Left picture : Guest speaker LTCOL Patrick Cullinan SC OAM



LTCOL Cullinan is the first Australian to have climbed two 8,000 metre mountains – Broad Peak 8,047 metres in Pakistan in 1986, and Mount Everest 8,850 metres in Nepal in 1988.

Volunteering EXPO 2019

Saturday 26 October - bottom pictures : Anthony John, Jill Kelly, Bob Cremer, Rania Kalimeris and Peter Sutton.



RSL WV SB also popped up at the Volunteering expo this year at the Bus Depot Markets. Manning the stall were: Jim Gilchrist, Rania Kalimeris, Jill Kelly, Bob Cremer, Anthony John and Peter Sutton. There was strong interest in helping deliver our services from the many interested potential volunteers on the day.



OXI Day 28 October



The Hellenic RSL honoured the Greek National 'OHI' Day on Sunday, 3rd of November, in remembrance of all those who served and died in Greece defending their homeland, in World War Two.

Well attended commemoration. John King, Peter Eveille and Andre Bobets as well as representatives from Melbourne and Sydney RSL.

BOOKING IS NOW OPEN

RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch

is pleased to invite members and their guests to the

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 4 December

12:00noon for 12:30pm

Orion Room Canberra Southern Cross Club Phillip

\$35.00 per head (includes Duo Roast and Honey Glazed Leg Ham Roast vegetables, steamed greens and cranberry sauce Traditional Christmas pudding with warm brandy custard and cream

Bread roll and butter | Coffee and tea | Dinner Mints

Please RSVP with payment to the office

Phone 62851931 or email admin@rslwoden.org.au

By cob 27 November 2019

Payment -

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

By cheque: mail to 14/27 Mulley Street Holder ACT 2611

Cash, cheque or credit card: Visit our office

Sorry, no refunds are possible after cob 27 November 2019.

Chief of Army's History Conference – ADFA 28 November.

Tickets are available for the Chief of Army's History Conference to be held at Adams Auditorium, ADFA, Northcott Dve CAMPBELL ACT.

There will be some interesting presentations from academics, both military and civilian, on Army's role in the South West Pacific; East Timor; our transition from a Desert Army to a Jungle Army to an Amphibious Army during WWII and aspects of our time in Korea among other subjects.

Ticket price is \$50.00 and includes catering.

Further details are on the Eventbrite website where tickets can be purchased. Here is the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/chief-of-army-history-conference-2019-tickets-70233699887>

Sincerely,

Major Conway BOWN (Army Reserve)

SO2 Corporate Communications | Australian Army History Unit

SO2 Unmanned Aerial Systems (COTS) | UAS Program



VETERANS FILM FESTIVAL 6 to 9 Nov 2019

CALENDAR 6 to 9 November 2019

WED 06 NOV OPENING GALA SCREENING CRY OF SILENCE AND AFTER PARTY SESSION 1 ⌚ 6:00 Pm - 10:00 Pm 📍 Australian War Memorial, Treloar Cres, Campbell, ACT 2612	THU 07 NOV THE ODD ANGRY SHOT SESSION 3 ⌚ 6:00 Pm - 7:30 Pm 📍 National Film And Sound Archive, McCoy Circuit, Acton ACT 2601	THU 07 NOV ESCAPE AND EVASION WITH Q&A SESSION 2 ⌚ 6:00 Pm - 8:30 Pm 📍 Australian War Memorial, Treloar Cres, Campbell, ACT 2612
FRI 08 NOV SHORT FILM SESSION 1 SESSION 4 ⌚ 6:00 Pm - 7:30 Pm 📍 Australian War Memorial, Treloar Cres, Campbell, ACT 2612	FRI 08 NOV THE SWALLOWS OF KABUL SESSION 5 ⌚ 8:00 Pm - 10:00 Pm 📍 National Film And Sound Archive, McCoy Circuit, Acton ACT 2601	SAT 09 NOV VOODOO MEDICS WITH Q&A SESSION 6 ⌚ 12:00 Pm - 2:00 Pm 📍 Australian War Memorial, Treloar Cres, Campbell, ACT 2612
SAT 09 NOV DANGER CLOSE WITH Q&A SESSION 7 ⌚ 2:00 Pm - 4:30 Pm 📍 National Film And Sound Archive, McCoy Circuit, Acton ACT 2601	SAT 09 NOV SHORT FILM SESSION 2 SESSION 8 ⌚ 2:30 Pm - 4:00 Pm 📍 Australian War Memorial, Treloar Cres, Campbell, ACT 2612	SAT 09 NOV CLOSING CEREMONY SCREENING 'THE INTERPRETERS' AND RED POPPY AWARDS SESSION 8 ⌚ 7:00 Pm - 10:00 Pm 📍 Australian War Memorial, Treloar Cres, Campbell, ACT 2612

Veterans Film Festival (VFF) is an annual event dedicated to putting the spotlight on recent work by veterans and filmmakers who explore diverse perspectives on conflict and veterans' themes. The VFF offers a meeting ground and artistic platform for veterans working as creatives, filmmakers and artists of all ages, cultures and abilities to network as creative practitioners, showcase their work and engage with industry, media and audiences.

**Bottom picture : Our new member Allan Sjaarda - RNZIR
3rd Battalion & his Sanity release Honda Valkyrie.**



Being out and about on a motorcycle , with friend or solo, is a great way to escape the everyday stresses of life and to see our beautiful country. The fact that the bike is quite different is a great ice-breaker, and has led to meeting many interesting people and started a few enduring friendship - Allan said.



On Remembrance Day the Australian War Memorial will host the nation's key commemoration. The ceremony includes a formal wreathlaying and will be attended by many high-level dignitaries, diplomats, school students, as well as thousands of members of the general public. Australia's Federation Guard and the Band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon will be on parade, and there will be a special commemorative address.

Book your free tickets to the National Ceremony:
<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=525738&>

For further enquiries please email:
ceremony@awm.gov.au

From The RSL President Jim Gilchrist

Queensland RSL Art Union and Local Fund Raising Scam.



Many members have seen the teams selling tickets in the Queensland RSL Art Union and some have expressed concern that these sales may adversely affect the Remembrance Day appeal. I offer the following comments:

- The Art Union is sponsored by the Queensland RSL Branch and is registered to sell their tickets in the ACT and other States.
 - The Art Union is also permitted to use the RSL badge and logo.
 - Although the sales teams advise potential customers that funds raised through this lottery are disbursed widely across Australia, we have been unable to confirm where and in what form any such funds are provided to veterans in the ACT.
- While the Queensland Branch has previously respected our two appeals and Legacy Week, they seem to have adopted a new approach that is less conducive to what some might consider to be *fair play*.
 - Having raised these issues with the ACT Branch Executive on several occasions but with no tangible effect, I have advised the ACT Branch President that I intend to contact the Queensland President to express our concerns about this competition and to seek their support.
 - In the meantime, I ask all members, particularly those engaged with our appeal, to avoid any debate with the Art Union teams, and certainly to refrain from challenging anyone about their right to sell their tickets.

Fund Raising Scam. Some of you might be aware of reports that people are canvassing support from the general public on the pretext of collecting on behalf of the RSL for PTSD support. They are asking for credit card details from the people they are visiting. As we are unaware of any such collection authority, I advise members to keep their money in their pockets. I believe that these potential scammers have been reported to the AFP and that warning notices have been placed on community notice boards in some ACT suburbs.

RSL Woden Valley President

Jim Gilchrist

Getting the most out of your Seniors Card

Did you know that your ACT Seniors Card can be used to access discounts in other States and Territories? You can use your Seniors Card to access concessional travel on most public transport (be sure to check each State or Territories process as some require applying for a card in advance) and many interstate businesses including restaurants, hotels and tourist attractions will honour discounts with an interstate Seniors Card.

For example, if you are travelling to the NSW South Coast and looking for accommodation, head to the NSW Seniors Card website to look their discounts <https://www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au/discounts?postcode=2539&business-type=@ion=&Search=FIND+MY+DISCOUNTS>.

Type in the postcode and nominate the type of discount you are after. Each State and Territory have their own website promoting their Seniors Card discounts, be sure to check these prior to travelling.

2019-20 Budget Measure - Partner Service Pensions - eligibility alignment

Questions and Answers for *Partner Service Pensions – eligibility alignment*

2019-20 Budget Measure

Background

This measure, which is subject to the passage of legislation, removes the inequity between married and unmarried partners of veterans by extending the Partner Service Pension (PSP) for 12 months post-separation to all former partners.

Additionally, this measure will allow former partners to remain on PSP after the 12-month period where special domestic circumstances, which include domestic violence, apply. Under this measure, former partners who separate due to special domestic circumstances will be able to remain on PSP after the 12-month post-separation period until they enter into a new relationship.

What is Partner Service Pension?

A service pension provides regular income for people with limited means and is subject to the income and assets test. Partner Service Pension (PSP) is the payment made to eligible partners, former partners and widows/widowers of veterans with qualifying service.

What changes have been made in this measure?

This measure streamlines eligibility for Partner Service Pensions (PSP) by removing the inequities which currently exist between married and non-married former partners.

When will the changes take effect?

Pending the passage of legislation, these changes commence on 20 September 2019, or if Royal Assent is after this date, the measure is taken to have commenced from 20 September 2019.

Who will it benefit?

This will benefit former partners of veterans, regardless of marital status.

What will be the impact of this change, and what are the new eligibility requirements?

Former de facto partners of a veteran, persons who were formally in a registered relationship with a veteran, and persons divorced from a veteran can continue to receive PSP for 12 months after separating from the veteran (or until they enter into a new relationship), and beyond this period either indefinitely (or until they enter into a new relationship) where the Commission is satisfied that special domestic circumstances exist. Where the veteran partner or former partner dies, the recipient is eligible to receive PSP until they commence a new relationship. These provisions are already available to married partners who separate from the veteran partner.

What are Special Domestic Circumstances?

Special Domestic Circumstances is the term used to describe the set of circumstances under which a former partner of a veteran may continue to receive PSP after the initial 12-month post-separation period.

There are three criteria which must be met in order for Special Domestic Circumstances to be applicable:

the former partner must not reside in the same residence as the veteran;
the veteran must have a mental health condition recognised by DVA (this may include non-liability health care); and
immediately prior to the separation, the domestic environment shared by the veteran and the partner (or a child) was, because of the veteran's behaviour, unsafe or abusive for the partner or any child of the partner.

An unsafe or abusive domestic environment is not prescriptively defined and a permissive approach is taken when assessing these claims because there are potentially a range of circumstances that may be relevant, including circumstances where the separated partner:

was fearful for their safety or that of their children;
was subjected to physical abuse or violence;
was subjected to psychological or emotional abuse or social isolation; or
felt they were threatened or oppressed.

In all cases, the Department seeks to take a compassionate and confidential approach to determining whether special domestic circumstances exist recognising that the affected partner may be distressed or uncomfortable about describing their circumstances.

How will former partners continue to receive Partner Service Pension after their separation?

Former partners can inform DVA of their circumstances post-separation in order to remain on PSP where eligible. Where special domestic circumstances occur, which includes domestic violence, former partners may remain on PSP after the 12-month post-separation period.

What about separations that occur prior to 20 September 2019?

These changes only apply to separations that occur on or after 20 September 2019.

For the provisions which relate to continuing PSP eligibility after a veteran's death, these apply only where the death occurs on or after 20 September 2019.

For separations and deaths prior to this date, only legally married partners can continue to receive PSP after separation from the veteran.

What other support is available former partners who advise that domestic violence was a factor involved in their separation?

DVA currently provides a 'one off', non-taxable crisis payment, equal to one week's service pension, for victims of domestic violence who are veterans or partners of veterans. To receive a DVA crisis payment a person must be receiving service pension, PSP or income support supplement, have recently made a claim for one of these payments, or be eligible to receive one of these payments and be in severe financial hardship.

The Open Arms – veterans & Families Counselling Service (formerly VVCS) is a nationally accredited mental health service that provides 24-hour free counselling and support. Any current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel with one day full-time service can receive support through Open Arms, as can their partners and children.

DVA is working with the Whole of Government Fourth Action Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children. The Action Plan coordinates actions across jurisdictions and focuses strongly on prevention measures. This framework guides our policy making.

How will Partner Service Pension recipients and members of the veteran community learn about these changes?

DVA will liaise closely with ESO's and veteran community through a tailored communications strategy. DVA will also communicate these changes to Partner Service Pension eligibility through media articles, social media and other messaging platforms.

Where can more information be found?

DVA's website has information on Partner Service Pension in Factsheet IS45 – Partner Service Pension. Information on this 2019-20 Budget Measure will be updated closer to the commencement date. Alternatively, DVA can be contacted via telephone on 1800 555 254, or via email at GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au



From Legacy : Get to know your DVA Liaison Officers

Your DVA Liaison Officer, who is a Registered Nurse, works with health professionals to provide assistance to DVA widows and veterans whilst in hospital. They will discuss post-discharge care and support and will liaise with DVA to provide any necessary equipment or aids.

Our wonderful Veterans' Liaison Officers in ACT are Deanne and Rhondha at The Canberra Hospital; Suzanne at Calvary Public and Private Hospitals Bruce, Dimity at Calvary John James Hospital and Louise at National Capital Private Hospital.

**The Canberra Hospital:
Deanne Mitchell and
Rhondha Capamagian
Phone: 5124 3696**



VeteransLiaison-TCH@act.gov.au



**Calvary Public & Private Hospital
Bruce:
Suzanne McGuinness
Phone: 0448-895-600**

suzanne.mcguinnessbutler@calvarycare.org.au

Calvary John James Hospital:

**Dimity Commens
Phone: 6229 2148**

Dimity.Commens@calvarycare.org.au



National Capital Private Hospital:

**Louise Criddle
Phone: 6222 6753**

Louise.Criddle@healthscope.com.au





The ACT Ministerial Advisory Council for Veterans and their Families invites you to the Inaugural Veterans Community Day at the National Arboretum Canberra

Join us for a Remembrance Day commemoration, tour the Turkish Pine Forrest, hear the story of Canberra's first Anzac, meet members of the new Council and enjoy the stunning surrounds.

WHEN: Sunday 10 November 2019

TIME: 10am to 1pm

VENUE: Margaret Whitlam Pavilion, National Arboretum Canberra, Forest Drive, Molonglo Valley

A traditional Ngunnawal welcome to country smoking ceremony will be conducted prior to formalities.

RSVP – by 4 November 2019 – [Eventbrite Website](#) or phone 6205 3883

Please note: attendees participating in the guided tours of the Turkish Pine Forrest are required to wear either sports shoes or boots as the terrain is steep and uneven.



The ACT Ministerial Advisory Council for Veterans and their Families invites you to the Inaugural Veterans Community Day at the National Arboretum Canberra.

Date: Sunday 10 November 2019

Time: 10am to 1pm

Venue: Margaret Whitlam Pavilion, National Arboretum Canberra, Forests Drive, Molonglo Valley (map attached)

Join the Council for a Remembrance Day commemoration, tour the Turkish Pine Forest, hear the story of Canberra's first Anzac, meet members of the new Council and enjoy the stunning surrounds.

A traditional Ngunnawal welcome to country smoking ceremony will be conducted prior to formalities.

Please register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/veterans-community-day-at-the-national-arboretum-canberra-tickets-75774404283?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Thank you and kind regards,

Renee Cutrupi

Assistant Director | Seniors and Veterans

Inclusion and Participation Division

Community Services Directorate | ACT Government

LAUGHING IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

FREE PUBLIC TALK

12.30 pm, Wednesday 20 November

From the First World War to Afghanistan Australian entertainers have always been quick to commit their time and energy to entertain the troops through concerts. From enthusiastic amateurs to highly professional performances entertainers have played a role in maintaining the morale of the men and

women who accept considerable danger and hardship in their service to the nation. Join Curators in the Research Centre to hear stories from the collection related to humour, war and comedy performance.

Canberra Seniors Centre Christmas Mega Fete

Date: 23 & 24 November 2019 - 9am to 2pm

Where: 10 Watson Street Turner

This year's annual Christmas Fete is a mega event to be held over 2 days to give you plenty of time to browse through our many and varied treasures. Everything from homemade cakes, jams, chutneys and craft items to books, plants, clothes, linen, jewellery, and bric-a-brac.

Donations of good, clean items will be gratefully received at the Centre up to Wednesday the 20th of November.

The Centre provides many different activities all designed to be fun and to improve the physical mental and welfare of anyone 50+. For details please visit our website www.canberraseniors.org.au





Burrangiri

Social and recreation support.

Next RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch

day visit and lunch

takes place 21 November 2019 - 10.30 am

Call Rania on 02 62851931 to book.

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH

Next Carers Friendship Group 25 November 9.30 am

Call Rania on 02 6285 1931 to book.

Carers Friendship Group

Open to all carers of our veterans. Movie and lunch outing on 13th/14th November. Eligible Veterans will be cared for at Burrangiri Day Care, Rivett - lunch included. Limited numbers. First in Best Dressed.

Please contact Rania Kalimeris for details Phone:
02 62887470

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

Or drop in for a coffee Fridays at 10.30am

Our office hours are
9am-3pm Mon-Fri

Volunteers information Day

27 November 10-12am

Call Rania

on 02 62851931 to book

Did you know?

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

www.rslwoden.org.au

