

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ENEWS



Special edition weekly Lockdown eNews 17 September 21

Dear Members,

Welcome back to what has become a welcome addition to the reading lists of many members.

Thanks for your feedback about this newsletter and please keep that loop going. In fact, as we start four weeks of the extended lockdown Woden RSL Admin <admin@rslwoden.org.au> own, I'm encouraging members to offer their own contributions. While we don't have room for lengthy stories and we will monitor the quality and appropriateness of any jokes you might submit, this is another way for some of you to get involved. You might even hear a true story or two!

Again, I thank all of those members and staff who have been engaging in various ways with others who might be struggling or who might just appreciate a telephone call. The Welfare Team has responded to reports from some of these calls and has helped to resolve various matters that were concerning some people; while most of these issues have been quite straightforward, some have required a concerted effort. The Day Club team is also continuing with their contact system and reporting issues as they arise.

While some of the E&A team are continuing to work on claims and appeals, the flow of enquiries has slowed. Given the extra time out of the office, I'll be contacting all current and trainee (emerging) advocates to meet next week by telephone or video conferencing to discuss how we should continue to do this important work while helping the new volunteers develop their skills and credentials.

Having conducted its monthly meeting by telephone on Tue, the Board had a brief planning session on Thursday and will be following that up with another next week. Having dealt with normal Board matters, we are now reviewing our current business plan to prepare for a sustainable future. This will also address some of the external issues that have arisen during the past few years. The outcomes will provide clear guidance for such things as succession planning in all of our functional areas, and will confirm and resource our priorities. We can then move forward confidently as we continue to support and assist our members, particularly as we all age, while still meeting (and exceeding!) our other obligations as a sub-branch within the ACT Branch and the League as a whole. That said, I hasten to add that I believe we are in a sound position now and that we will remain so provided we identify and face certain inevitable realities as we all do continue to age gracefully and other matters beyond our immediate control arise.

Some of us continue to work closely with DVA staff and I have telephone meeting with the Repatriation Commissioner this afternoon to conduct a health check for both of us.

Thanks again to everyone who is helping in any way and please keep up the good work up.

Stay safe, stay in touch with family and friends, and please call the office if you need a hand with anything.

Kind regards to all,

Jim Gilchrist

RESCHEDULING OF SUB-BRANCH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (OGM)

Dear members,

Following the ACT Government's decision to extend the lockdown restrictions until Friday 15 October 2021, the OGM scheduled for Tuesday 28 September 2021 is cancelled. The extension of the lockdown will also prevent the Sub-Branch having sufficient time to plan the scheduled dinner on Tuesday 26 October 2021, so it is also cancelled.

Assuming the Grant Cameron Centre reopens soon after 15 October 2021, the Board has decided to hold an OGM on Tuesday 26 October 2021 at 1400 hours in the Sub-Branch office at Holder. Following the OGM, refreshments will be provided.

Regards,

Greg



Woden Valley Sub-Branch

Greg Kennett

Secretary

Woden Valley Sub-Branch

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MEDIA RELEASE

September 10, 2021
For immediate release

RSL Says ANZAC Spirit Not Contestable

Australia's peak veterans' organisation, the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL), says the importance and sanctity of the ANZAC Day commemoration and the ANZAC spirit is not contestable and it is deeply concerning Australian educators would suggest this was the case.

RSL National President Greg Melick said it was seriously disappointing that the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) would even suggest this in its latest review and link it to the so-called commemoration of the First World War.

He said ANZAC Day does not commemorate war, rather it marks the day Australian and New Zealand forces landed at Gallipoli and honours the sacrifice of the men and women who served Australia in armed conflicts since the formation of the nation.

“While it is important school students are able to study and debate the nation’s history, the significance of the ANZAC legend should not be up for debate.

“To say that its nature and significance is a contested debate is incorrect and an insult to those service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and all those who have served in our defence forces.

“While the historic decisions made by governments to involve Australian service personal in wars and armed conflicts may be open to debate and are worthy of study, the contributions and commitment of those who served should not be questioned.”

Greg Melick said ACARA should amend its latest Australian Curriculum Review to ensure the ANZAC tradition was considered in a fitting and respectful manner and not listed as an ideal that should be ‘contested’.

ENDS

National Media contact: Tony Harrison – 0417 318 178; tony@wearebright.com.au

Colleagues,

An update on the Afghan evacuees, after several 'Teams meetings' this week with the Department of Home Affairs and representatives from Settlement Services International (SSI).

At present there are several hundred Afghani refugees in Australia, with more to arrive. The first contingent of evacuees is due to leave their two-week quarantine tomorrow from locations in several capital cities, with more to follow exiting quarantine in the next week or so.

The evacuees will then be gradually relocated to various locations around Australia, depending on their circumstances ie if they have family/support networks already in existing communities. These locations have not been announced/decided upon yet.

SSI is the support agency settling refugees in partnership with Department of Home Affairs. There will be other supporting agencies also assisting the refugees.

SSI will have more information pertaining to the refugees next week – age demographic, family composition and visa classes. SSI will also have a clearer indication of refugee numbers and which States the refugees may settle in.

The link below gives more guidelines re the work of SSI.

<https://www.ssi.org.au/get-involved/current-affairs/what-can-you-do-to-help-people-in-afghanistan>

SSI and Home Affairs are extremely grateful for the offers of assistance from the RSL and look forward to working with us going forward.

More advice in due course.

**Kind Regards,
Phil**



Dear Colleagues

I wish to advise that the Interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention, Dr Bernadette Boss CSC, has today notified that she has provided her Preliminary Interim Report to government. As you are aware, Dr Boss commenced her role and work as Interim National Commissioner on 16 November 2020. On 08 July 2021, the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), issued Letters Patent which established the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. Dr Boss has completed this Preliminary Interim Report, and it is expected the Royal Commission will examine Dr Boss's recommendations as part of their inquiry.

We are yet to be advised when the Report will be tabled and publicly released, but once this occurs we will provide you with guidance on how you can access the Report.

Dr Boss has also written a letter of thanks to the Defence and veteran community, which includes an attached letter from Commissioner Nick Kaldas APM, Chair of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, and a Fact Sheet – Legal assistance – Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Royal Commission

A copy of the media release and letter of thanks issued by Dr Boss is available at the following link:

[National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention | National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention \(nationalcommissioner.gov.au\)](https://www.nationalcommissioner.gov.au/national-commissioner-for-defence-and-veteran-suicide-prevention)

Thank you to those who participated in Dr Boss's inquiry and supported this important work.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Liz



Liz Cosson AM CSC

Secretary

Department of Veterans' Affairs

T: 02 6289 6735 Ext: 616735

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The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel
Federal Member for Calare

STATEMENT ON NEW SECURITY PARTNERSHIP AND NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES

The announcements of Australia's new security partnership with the United States and United Kingdom, and that we will be working with them to build nuclear-powered (not nuclear armed) submarines in Australia, is the most important defence initiative of our time.

We know that the security outlook in our region is changing quickly. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to ensure that the decisions taken today provide them with the highest possible safety and security.

History has taught us that the best way to meet threats is to be prepared.

When World War Two broke out, in almost every respect Britain and Australia were not ready.

However, there was one technical innovation that was to prove critical. When hostilities commenced Britain had developed the world's best fighter plane in the Spitfire, and it was to prove decisive in the Battle of Britain and in preventing a German invasion.

The French submarine deal has now been scrapped. We shouldn't mourn its loss.

By the time those submarines came into service, they would have been technologically obsolete.

Future generations would not have thanked us for passing them down to them.

With so much coastline to defend, and so much uncertainty in the Indo-Pacific, Australia can't afford to gamble with something as crucial as our national security.

Nuclear-powered submarines are the best technology available.

This is the right decision for Australia, our national security, and for future generations.

Media contact: 0459 966 944

Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling provides 24/7 free confidential crisis support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families on 1800 011 046 or openarms.gov.au. **Safe Zone Support** provides anonymous counselling on 1800 142 072. **Defence All-Hours Support Line** provides support for ADF personnel on 1800 628 036 or defence.gov.au/health/healthportal. **Defence Member and Family Helpline** provides support for Defence families on 1800 624 608.



LONG TAN BURSARY 2022

Applications now open!

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31 October 2021.

Are you a child or grandchild of a Vietnam veteran? You may be eligible to receive assistance with the cost of your post-secondary education.

The Long Tan Bursary helps eligible children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans gain qualifications and skills to follow their dreams by providing financial support for their tertiary education. The bursary is worth up to \$12,000 over three years' continuous study.

To find out if you are eligible and learn more about the bursary visit

<http://dva.gov.au/.../grants-and-bursaries/long-tan-bursary>

To submit your application for the 2022 Long Tan Bursary, visit avcat.org.au/scholarships/

Applications close on 31st October 2021.



Since March 2020, more than 21,000 ADF personnel have deployed nationally under #OpCOVID19Assist.

Currently, more than 2,400 Defence personnel are assisting the Government's response to COVID-19 across the country.

#YourADF personnel are working alongside health and local authorities to support vaccination activities in regional, remote and vulnerable communities. Defence is also assisting Commonwealth, state and territory responses by providing planning, logistics, quarantine compliance, and clinical support.

The contribution and selfless service to the Australian community by your ADF is essential.

Image Courtesy: Australian Defence Force

Emergency Food Relief

Members

The following has been received from the ACT Government's Office for Seniors and Veterans –

“I understand this may not always be the most suitable option nor does it address the social and psychological barriers we discussed. However, I wanted to let you know that there are no hard and fast financial thresholds to access the Emergency Food Relief. Although the food relief option is mainly in response to financial and affordability issues people and families may be facing, it is available as a stopgap for people who have no viable access to food. When you place an order over the phone for it, there will be some questions about affordability and the situation of the person requiring it, however, as I said, there are no hard and fast rules that someone has to meet in order to qualify for it.

To this end, I wanted to share the Emergency Food Relief details below:

The Access Help section on the COVID-19 page includes the emergency food relief information. Emergency food relief can be accessed through a phone call to VolunteeringACT on 1800 43 11 33 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm): <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/community/access-help#Emergency-food-relief>

The COVID site also includes information on other grocery delivery options local to Canberra:– [Access help - COVID-19 \(act.gov.au\)](https://www.act.gov.au/covid19/access-help)

Warmly,

Hannah

Hannah Gissane (she/her) | A/g Assistant Director

Email: hannah.gissane@act.gov.au

Ph: 02 620 52598

Office for Seniors and Veterans | Inclusion and Participation | Community Services Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au”

Update to lockdown restrictions

The following changes come into effect from 11:59pm on Friday 17 September 2021.

Lockdown Extension

- Lockdown to be extended for a further four weeks, until 11:59pm on Friday 15 October 2021.

Changes for real estate agents

Real estate agents are allowed to conduct in-person house inspections by private appointment. Only household members will be permitted to attend an appointment with one agent.

Changes to social and recreational sport

Social and recreational sport will be allowed to go ahead with up to 5 people permitted to gather together.



- This will enable recreational or social sporting activities to recommence (e.g. social tennis, golf, or rowing) but does not include coaching, training or competition activity.
- Indoor sport remains not permitted at this time

Changes for small businesses

Small businesses who are currently permitted to operate a click and collect or click and deliver service can to have up to 5 staff in the business at any one time, or one person per four square metres (whichever is lesser).

- This is an increase from 2 people.
- Activities must accord with COVID-19 requirements for click and collect services for non-essential retailers.

Phased return to face-to-face learning

- **From 4 October 2021:** Year 12 students can return to face to face learning (if the situation does not deteriorate).
- **From 18 October 2021:** Year 11 students can return to face to face learning (if the situation does not deteriorate).

Read more: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/act-status-and-response/lockdown>

The ACT is currently in lockdown and Canberrans are being asked to stay at home to assist in our response to positive cases of COVID-19 in the ACT.

The lockdown commenced at 5:00pm Thursday 12 August 2021 and will continue until 11:59pm Friday 15 October 2021.

These restrictions are to help slow the spread of the virus and allow contact tracers to do their work.

Essential reasons you can leave your home during this lockdown include:

- **to buy essential groceries and medicine**
- **to access essential healthcare including in-home care**
- **for essential work**
- **to exercise outdoors for two hours per day in your region**
- **to get a COVID-19 test**
- **to get a COVID-19 vaccination.**

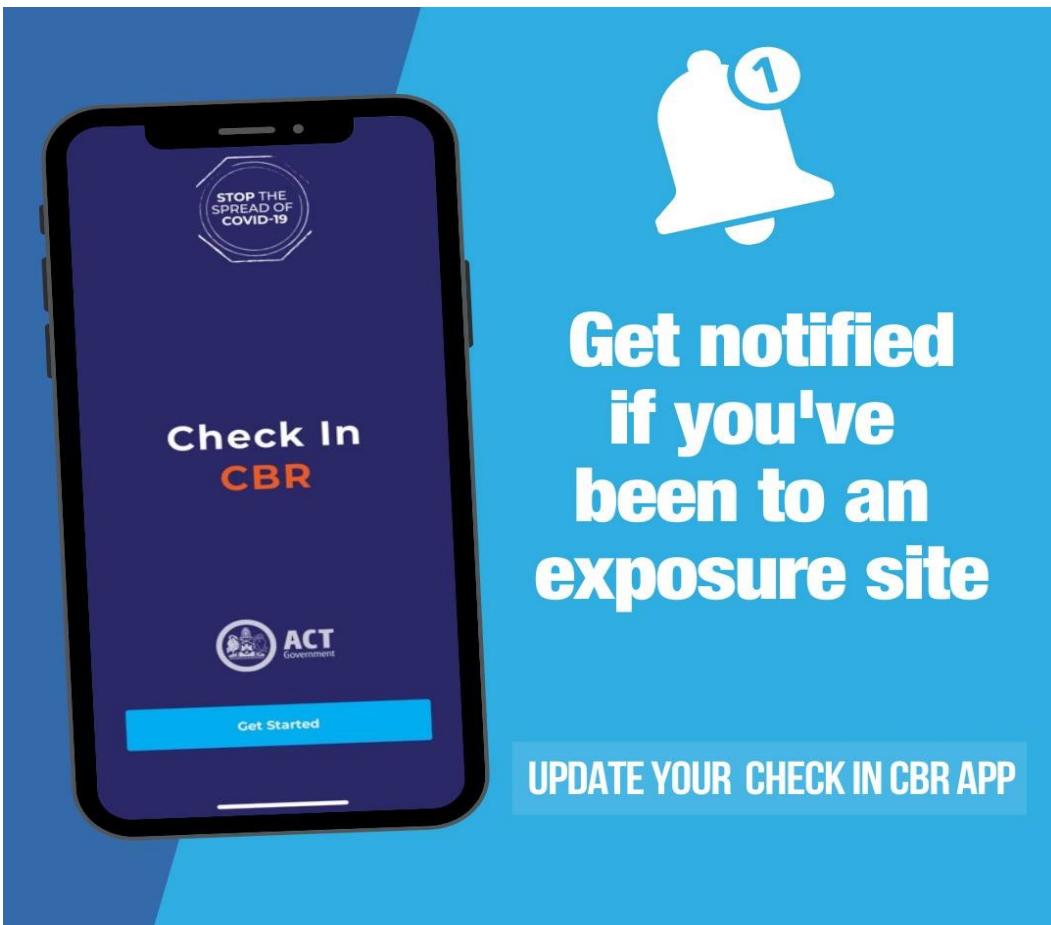
You can view more details on the reasons you can leave home below.

We encourage all Canberrans to buy only what they need, maintain social distancing and be considerate.

Anyone aged 12 years and over must wear a mask at all times upon leaving home. For some people this is not possible. For full details on [face masks and exemptions](#) here.

Read more: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/act-status-and-response/lockdown>





ACT Health

Happy 1st birthday to the Check In CBR app. Over the past 12 months the app has been downloaded more than 950,000 times and used for 47 million check-ins at nearly 20,000 registered businesses and venues across the ACT.

To mark this milestone, the app has been upgraded to include a new exposure location alert.

Users who have check-ins that match an exposure location during the relevant date and timeframe will be directly notified via SMS or push notification, as well as be notified by messages on the home screen's message bar, and with coloured identifiers in the check-in history page. The app will indicate if they're a close or casual contact so that they can quarantine and get a COVID test, or if they need to monitor for symptoms.

Users are encouraged to update their app at the relevant app store to ensure they are using the latest version.

The ACT Government is also launching a new Check In CBR card to make checking in even more accessible. The card will provide an alternative check-in method for people who don't have a smart phone or are unable to download or use the Check In CBR app.

Each Check In CBR card – which is the same size as a standard credit card – will include a QR code unique to the card holder. To check in to a business or venue, the customer simply presents the card to the venue staff to be scanned using the Check In CBR business profile.

Information for individuals and businesses about the Check In CBR card, including an online application form, is available at <http://www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe.../check-in-cbr-app> or on (02) 5124 5000

Members

The ACT Government has given those without a smart phone another option for the CBR Check-in app. Those Members who do not have an Android or I-phone are now able to obtain a credit-card sized personal QR code that can be scanned by Canberra's businesses and service providers.

Below is an extract from the ACT Government website on this. To apply for the card go to <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/check-in-cbr-app/check-in-cbr-app-form> or if you can't go there then call 5124 5000 for assistance.

“Check In CBR card

In addition, a Check In CBR card is now available. This is designed for those people who do not own a smartphone or who are unable to download and use the Check In CBR app. This free card contains a unique QR code which can be scanned at the majority of businesses and venues across the ACT. This will make checking in a quick and private process for card holders. Note that the Check In CBR card cannot be used at those locations where there is no-one to assist with scanning of the card (for example on public transport).

Applying for a Check In CBR card is a quick and simple process and can be done on behalf of an individual if they are unable to do so.

Apply for a Check In CBR card

If you are unable to apply for a Check In CBR card online, please contact the ACT Health Digital Solutions Support team on (02) 5124 5000 for assistance.

If you are unable to check in on public transport, please ensure that you have a registered MyWay card or keep good records of the services you have used.”



Read more [ACT Government COVID-19 website](#).

From Australian Services website - Covid-19 Vaccination

<https://www.myhealthrecord.gov.au/for-you-your-family/howtos/log-in>

As at 31 August 2021

Get free online proof of your COVID-19 vaccinations

Don't be scammed. Getting proof is free once you've had all required doses of a vaccine approved

for use in Australia .

[1]

Your vaccination provider first needs to add your vaccination details to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) so you can get proof. This can take up to 10 days. You can then go online to get either:

- **an immunisation history statement or COVID-19 digital certificate .**

Your immunisation history statement shows all the immunisations you've had that are on the AIR. This includes your COVID-19 vaccinations.

The COVID-19 digital certificate shows only your COVID-19 vaccinations.

You can use your device to show proof. You can also add your COVID-19 digital certificate to either your Apple Wallet or

Google Pay for easy storage. If you're using an iOS device, you can use the Safari or Chrome browsers. If

you're using an Android device, you need to use the Chrome browser.

Next steps

Use our handy tool to help you find out how to get proof of your COVID-19 vaccination . It can help you to set up online accounts if you haven't already.

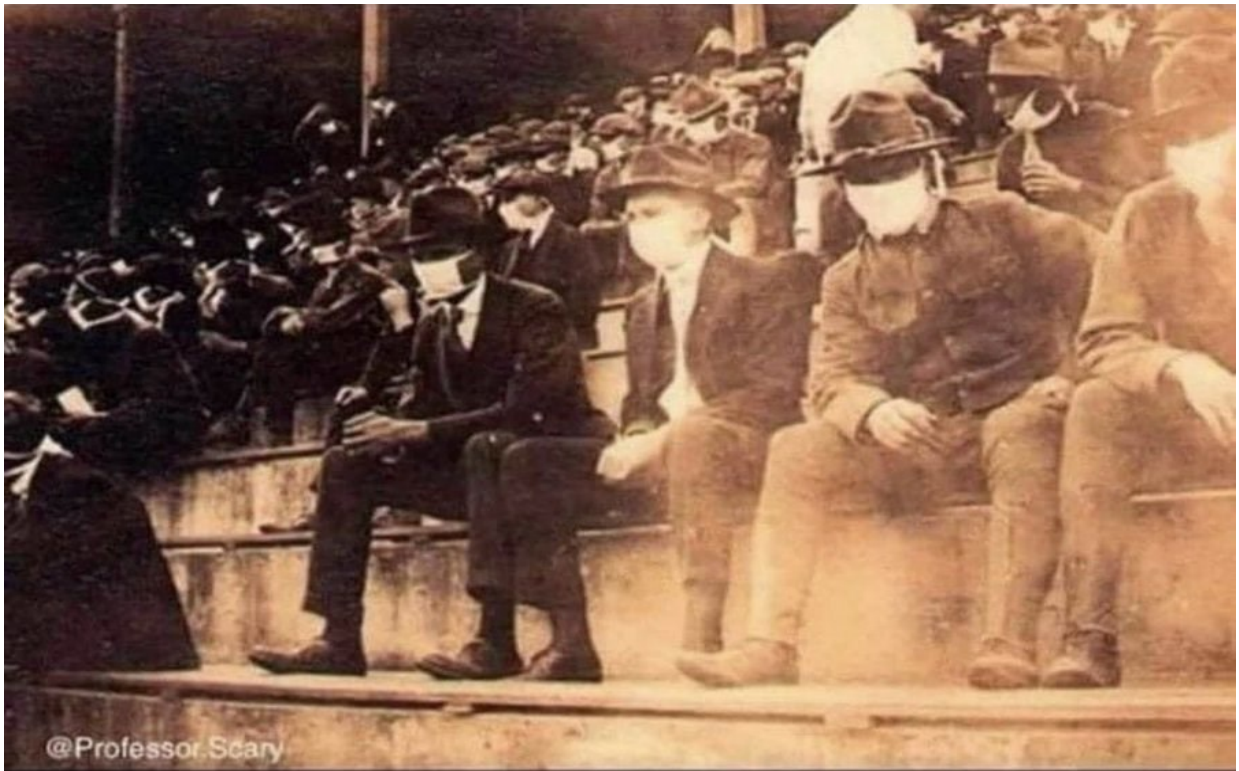
If you have myGov linked to Medicare, you can sign in and follow the links to access either:

- **your immunisation history statement
COVID-19 digital certificate.**

For the latest COVID-19 updates and advice , go to the Australian Government website <https://www.myhealthrecord.gov.au/for-you-your-family/howtos/frequently-asked-questions>

Hard copy: Australians who cannot access their vaccination certificates online can have their immunisation history printed and mailed to them. Call the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809 (Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm) and ask them to send your immunisation history statement to you. It can take up to 14 days to arrive in the post. You can also contact the Australian Immunisation Register through

[Australian Immunisation Register - Services Australia](#) or email: air@servicesaustralia.gov.au



@Professor.Scary

Everyone wearing a mask while attending a football game in 1918. (102 years ago)



What do you call a group of rabbits hopping backwards?

A receding hairline.

