

# RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ENEWS



Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

December 2020



## 9 December - RSL Woden Valley Annual Christmas Lunch



## Bus Trips in November 2020

To make use of the grants to Woden Valley R.S.L. Sub-Branch from the ACT Government to alleviate loneliness and isolation due to COVID-19.

These THREE bus trips were organised through Deane's Coach Company using their luxury coaches.

The coach tour for **Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> November** was to Goulburn via Bungendore;

The coach tour for **Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November** was to Yass; and the final tour on **Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November** was to Cooma and the Christmas Shop at Bredbo.

**Photos below: 12<sup>th</sup> November, Trip to Goulburn**



Photos below : 18th November, Trip to Yass



Photos below : 26th November, Trip to Cooma



## In case you missed, Sub-Branch member Dr Edward Fleming was featured in the AWM's Remembrance Day Stories.

Dr Edward Fleming was a 19-year-old training to be a Lancaster bomber pilot when he and his crew became horribly lost in bad weather over Britain during the Second World War. The flight almost ended in tragedy.

"We were in a Wellington, and we had been briefed to do a cross country operation down to Land's End, then up to St David's Head, and then back inland to a bombing range, and home," Dr Fleming said.

"Our base was a place called Moreton-in-Marsh, and we set off heading towards Land's End, but we ran in to appalling weather and got pushed right back towards Europe.

"In the end, some of our navigation aids failed, and we became completely lost at night, with no idea whatsoever of where we were.

"I had an instructor on board at the time and he broke the rules and gave a mayday call.

"He was an Englishman, and he had already completed operations, and had a Distinguished Flying Cross, and he did the unpardonable thing in the end which saved our lives.

"He started circling, and once you do that, the navigator can no longer keep a plot of where you are going – you can't draw a plot of an aircraft going around in circles, you've got to have straight lines – and that meant we were absolutely, totally lost.

"It was dark as anything – lightning and so forth – and in the end he broke the rules and issued the mayday call.

"A RAF fighter station on the south coast of England at a place called Warmwel – a fighter field; grass, no runway – answered us and put on their lights.

"We came in and landed there at about four o'clock in the morning, almost out of fuel, and we got away with it, but we had no right to survive that night."

The then 19-year-old Dr Fleming had learnt to fly in Tiger Moths with the Royal Australian Air Force before he could even drive a car. By 1944, he was flying Lancaster bombers over England with Bomber Command during the Second World War.

He is proud to be one of the "Odd Bods", a collective of 25,000 RAAF personnel who served in almost 250 units under Allied military commands during the Second World War, including the Royal Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force, Royal New Zealand Air Force and the South African Air Force.

"It was an interesting time to live through ... and I was very proud of my service in the air force ... but I wouldn't want to have another war," Dr Fleming said.

"There are so many situations that I think of that could have gone so differently, but we got away with it, so we were very fortunate.

"They were really terribly serious things, and I'm very grateful.

"I've had a wonderful life since, and I can only say, I've been very, very lucky."

Read Dr Fleming's story in full: <https://www.awm.gov.au/.../Second-World-War-veteran-Edward-Fl...#WeRememberThem#RemembranceDay>

Images: Dr Edward Fleming. AWM2017.520.1.796.

Image from a digital archive which

was gifted to the Australian War Memorial

by the Australian Institute of

Professional Photography in 2017

Dr Edward Fleming during the Second World War.

Photo: Courtesy Dr Edward Fleming



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2017.520.1.796



## Andrea Ruffy

Andrea was presented with replacement medals on Friday 13 November 2020. The presentation took place in the Corey Room at the sub-Branch offices.

Andrea's medals had been mislaid and she desperately wanted replacement medals to pass on to her sons. Her friend Sue started the ball rolling and within a week, with incredible assistance from Defence Honours and Awards, replacement medals were received. Ross Smith very kindly mounted them for her (overnight), and they were ready for presentation. Chief of Navy's Office were involved, and the presentation was made by Warrant Officer (Navy) Deb Butterworth. She was accompanied by Commodore Simon Ottaviano, who is the Navy Community Engagement representative. The medals were presented in a beautiful wooden box, carved with the RAN crest. Andrea was thrilled to bits, especially as she had served with Deb Butterworth.

*Sadly, that evening, Andrea was admitted to Clare Holland House. However, she was happy in the knowledge that she now had her medals. She passed away a week later and the Sub-Branch participated in her funeral tribute. She will be missed.*





**RSL**  
Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

12 November 2020

## **Due process must be afforded in ADF Inquiry outcome**

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) says all personnel suspected of alleged war crimes in Afghanistan are entitled to due process.

This follows the Government's announcement of the pending appointment of a special investigator on the release of the Inspector-General's report and the investigation by New South Wales' Justice Paul Brereton into alleged unlawful killings and other possible breaches of law.

The RSL views the allegations as extremely serious and speculation has already impacted adversely on veterans who served in Afghanistan and their families.

RSL National President Greg Melick said the organisation was aware of the significant strain this matter had placed on veterans, even those not involved in alleged incidents.

"Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel serve in a unique and highly challenging environment and the allegations, resulting inquiry and report have caused considerable distress and mental health concerns.

"The RSL is committed to supporting all serving and ex-serving members of the ADF through the provision of wellbeing and general support to veterans and their families.

"We encourage any former or serving personnel suffering adverse impacts and distress to immediately contact their local RSL Sub-Branch for direction to access wellbeing and other support services or call Open Arms on 1800 011 046," General Melick said.

**ENDS National media contact: Tony Harrison |**

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## **The Hon Darren Chester MP**

Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

10 November 2020

#### **NEW ALUMNI NETWORK FOR AUSTRALIAN VETERANS' CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST**

DESCENDANTS of Australian veterans are set to benefit from a new Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) Alumni Network launched today.

AVCAT administers a range of tertiary education scholarships and bursaries for the children and grandchildren of Australian veterans, assisting them to achieve academic and personal goals.

Launching the Alumni Network today, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the AVCAT Alumni Network would create a valuable support system for past and present AVCAT students.

"A recent survey of past AVCAT students suggested an Alumni support network would foster a sense of belonging and allow participants to reconnect, maintain relationships and establish a mentorship program for future AVCAT scholarship recipients," Mr Chester said.

"AVCAT Alumni are working in a wide range of careers and giving back to the community, including as a CEO, a nuclear medical scientist, a high school teacher, a paramedic, a nurse manager, a partner in a major law firm, and an opera singer."

The AVCAT Alumni Network will include recipients from a range of scholarships, including the Long Tan Bursary, funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"The Long Tan Bursary provides funding to help the children and grandchildren of Vietnam War veterans meet the cost of education after finishing high-school, supporting them to obtain formal qualifications and skills needed to pursue their chosen career," Mr Chester said.

"This year the Australian Government funded 50 bursaries, each worth up to \$12,000 over three years of continuous full-time study.

"Supporting the children and grandchildren of Vietnam War veterans to gain a tertiary education is just one of the ways the Australian Government continues to honour their service.

"We know that the bursaries and scholarships AVCAT manage have a very positive impact on the lives of recipients and their families.

"The launch of the AVCAT Alumni Network will only enhance this into the future."

**ENDS**

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

**Minister Chester, Rachel Tharratt: 02 6277 7820**





**RSL**  
Australia

Media Release

9 December 2020

## RSL Appoints New Chief Executive Officer

The Returned & Services League (RSL) has announced the appointment of the highly respected and experienced Australian Army officer, and Australian Federal Police (AFP) Executive Officer, Brigadier Philip Winter, AM, CSC, ADC as its new National Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Brigadier Winter will take up his appointment in late January 2021.

Brigadier Winter has had a stellar career as a leader. He joins the RSL from the AFP where he has worked in forensics and intelligence portfolios over the past 10 years. Before joining the AFP, he served in the Regular Army for more than three decades in artillery and intelligence appointments. More recently, he led a range of projects in the Army Reserve, including the Centenary of Anzac, Invictus Games and Defence's contribution to the 2019 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Sydney. Brigadier Winter is currently the Director General of the Australian Defence Force Sports Cell.

RSL National President Greg Melick said the RSL was delighted to welcome Brigadier Winter to the RSL and was confident he would make a major contribution supporting current and former serving personnel.

"Brigadier Winter has had an outstanding Army career, with recent appointments including the Director General for the Centenary of Anzac events both in Australia and overseas, and the Chef de Mission role for our Invictus Games Teams in Toronto in 2017, Sydney 2018 and the US Warrior Games in 2019," Major General Melick said.

"RSL National has recently developed a new Strategic Plan with a vision to deliver Australia's veterans and their families, better opportunities in all aspects of their lives. I am extremely confident that Brigadier Winter is the right person to help us convert our vision into reality."

Brigadier Winter expressed his excitement to be taking on this vital role with the RSL.

"I was raised in Ingleburn in New South Wales, where the RSL made a significant contribution to so many families of veterans, like ours, with the help of some excellent RSL members and community-minded leaders.

"The RSL has always played an important role in Australian society as the premier ex-service organisation for more than 100 years and continues to do so.

"I recognise the importance of this role not only for veterans and their families but for all Australians across the many communities where the RSL has a presence. I look forward to commencing this important work in 2021," Brigadier Winter said.

Ends

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## The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel

Major General Greg Melick AO RFD

National President

Returned and Services League

PO Box 721  
FYSHWICK ACT 2609

Dear Major General Melick

I am writing to advise you that the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF) has completed the Afghanistan Inquiry. The Inquiry was initiated in 2016 to determine whether there was any substance to rumours and allegations relating to possible breaches of the Law of Armed Conflict by members of the Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) in Afghanistan between 2005 and 2016.

The IGADF is a statutory authority appointed by the Minister for Defence that operates independently from the Australian Government and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Chain of Command. The Inspector-General, Mr James Gaynor CSC, directed Assistant IGADF, Major General the Honourable Justice Paul Brereton AM RFD, to lead the Inquiry.

The Inquiry has taken more than four years to complete due to the number and complexity of lines of inquiry; the number, location and availability of witnesses; the welfare of participants; and the need for thoroughness and fairness. The necessarily iterative process of identifying relevant lines of inquiry, and associated participants and witnesses, has required the Afghanistan Inquiry to be conducted in private. I understand that the time it has taken to complete the Inquiry, although necessary, has been a cause of concern for some current and former serving members of the ADF and their families.

The Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC, and the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF), General Angus Campbell AO DSC, have considered the Inquiry's findings and recommendations. The CDF and I have also met with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Veterans' Family Advocate, Repatriation Commissioner and Defence

Engagement Commissioner to discuss the outcomes. A redacted copy of the Afghanistan Inquiry Report, and other related documentation, will also be released via the Department of Defence Afghanistan Inquiry website: <https://afghanistainquiry.defence.gov.au>.

The ADF is developing a robust Implementation Plan in response to the recommendations, of which the Minister of Defence will have oversight. The Australian Government is determined to ensure the ADF emerges as a better, more accountable and capable organisation. This work is essential to ensuring ADF personnel always conduct themselves in the manner expected by the Australian people, and demanded by the Australian Government.

Some of the details of the Inquiry report are deeply disturbing, and the impact of the report's findings and recommendations will be far reaching. Nevertheless, current and former ADF members adversely affected by the Inquiry should continue to be treated with the utmost fairness as Defence administrative action or investigations by civilian authorities, and potential prosecution in the civil criminal jurisdiction, progress.

As the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, my priority is to ensure both current and former serving personnel, and their families, are able to access the support they need, when they need it, particularly following the release of the Afghanistan Inquiry Report. The provision of this support sits with Defence and DVA, who are crucially supported by ex-service and other veterans' organisations such as the Returned and Services League. These organisations will be a critical component of the support services available to those who are vulnerable or at risk, especially for those who are no longer with Defence.

It is important to note that people impacted by the Inquiry will stretch beyond those directly involved in the Inquiry, and will include people and their families who know those involved or are linked in some way through deployment or work experiences. I would encourage your members to avail themselves of the range of services which exist to support them. A full list of welfare support services is available at <https://afghanistainquiry.defence.gov.au/welfare-support>.

Yours sincerely



Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darren Chester'.

Darren Chester

# V VETERANS FILM FESTIVAL

30 Nov - 31 Dec

2020 online film festival

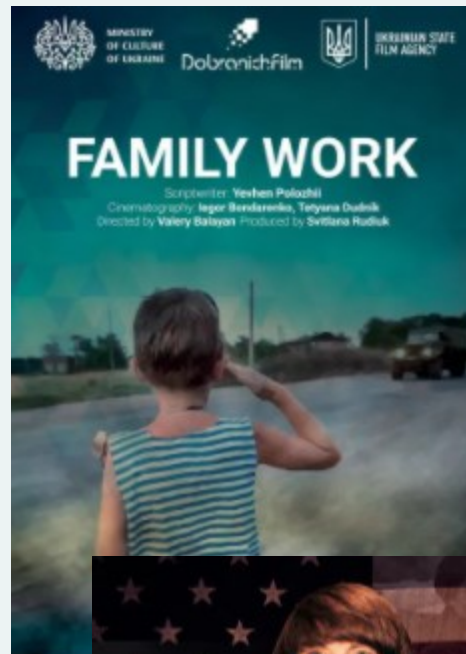
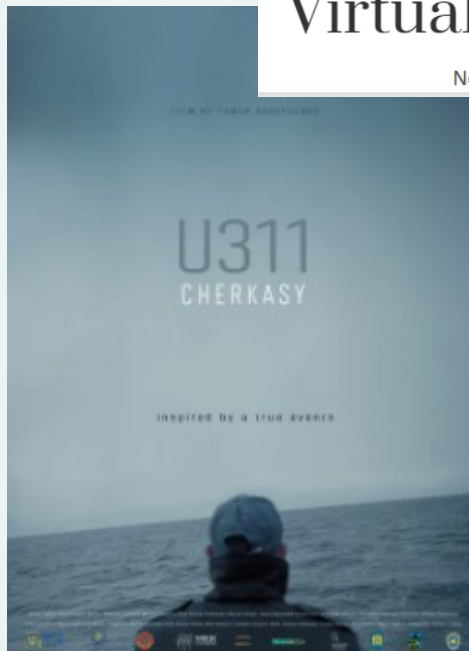
veteransfilmfestival.com

#veteransfilmfestival



## Virtual Festival 2020

November 30 - December 31





We are encouraging members of the veteran community to have their say on the veteran dental program.

We are reviewing the dental program to make sure it continues to meet current and future needs of the veteran community.

We know that maintaining oral health and regular dental attendance can contribute to an individual's overall health and wellbeing, so we want to hear your thoughts on the program.

Your feedback will contribute to the development of any changes to improve the dental program to better meet the needs of our veterans.

The consultation period closes 18 December 2020.

Follow this link to read a copy of the discussion paper and download the submission template: [dva.gov.au/dental-review](https://dva.gov.au/dental-review).



## What is covered by our Dental program

Our dental program provides eligible clients with access to a comprehensive suite of dental services including:

- preventive treatment such as examinations and cleaning
- simple treatment such as fillings and extractions
- complex treatment such as crowns, bridges, implants and dentures
- emergency treatment following unforeseen injuries

### Program eligibility is based on Veteran Card type:

Gold Card holders are entitled for treatment of all dental conditions

White Card holders are only eligible for treatment of their accepted dental condition or the dental consequences of cancer treatment.

## Why we are reviewing our Dental Program

We are undertaking a review of our dental program in 2020-21 to ensure it continues to meet the current and future needs of the veteran community. A key component of this review is consulting with key internal and external stakeholders to ensure a high quality and comprehensive review. The outcome sought from the review is a written report which:

1. Assesses the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of our dental program from a veteran, provider and Government perspectives, and
2. Provides findings and recommendations to inform any future program re-design.

The consultation process provides an opportunity for you to raise issues or concerns of relevance either to you or your stakeholders.

Feedback we are looking for

We are seeking feedback on a number of aspects of the dental program and have developed Discussion Papers for Ex-Service Organisations (ESO), veterans and their dependents and Dental Practitioners. These papers have been developed for the purpose of consultation and seek stakeholder feedback on two broad themes:

- the effectiveness of the current program
- options for future program re-design

Your input will help guide the development of any changes to the dental program and better meet the needs of our veterans.

# RAAF CENTENARY WATCH COMMISSION

## DEC 2020

### BAUSELE PRESS RELEASE: RAAF 100 YEAR CENTENARY WATCH

On 31 March 2021, the Royal Australian Air Force will mark 100 years of service to Australia.

**Bausele** has been chosen to create the OFFICIAL WATCH to mark the Royal Australian Air Force CENTENARY in 2021. The Australian watch company was considered amongst multiple globally recognised brands, so the selection reflects the coming of age of this boutique watchmaker.

*"We are truly excited about the opportunity to work with an Australian company to produce watches for this important occasion. Australia and Air Force have come so far in 100 years, and we hope these watches will be a fitting keepsake as we move into the next century."*

Air Commodore Andrew Elfverson, Director General, Air Force 2021.

Bausele Founder and Head Designer, Christophe Hoppe was inspired by the cornerstone themes of the Air Force Centenary: **Then. Now. Always.** Working in collaboration with the Air Force, these designs reflect Air Force heritage and offer inspiration for the future. The creation of two collector's edition watches will mark this impressive milestone, with each watch offering actual pieces from two of the aircraft flown by RAAF pilots across more than half a century: the dependable Caribou (DHC-4) battlefield transport aircraft and the "Classic" Hornet (F/A-18A) fighter jet, (when purchased during limited edition pre-sale).

On arrival in 1964, Caribou aircraft went straight into battle in Vietnam, going on to serve Air Force across the region for another 45 years. The F/A-18A Hornet became Australia's frontline fighter jet in 1985. Now after three decades, the 'Classic' Hornet fleet is due to be retired in 2021, during the Air Force centenary year. The inclusion of a fragment of these aircraft in the watches is a fitting tribute to all the people and aircrafts to have served the Air Force across the years.

*"We are hugely honoured to be chosen to create two unique timepieces in recognition of 100 years of the Royal Australian Air Force. We have designed the watches together with the Air Force, and we feel humbled to be granted the opportunity to pay tribute to the Air Force personnel that have represented Australia during the last 100 years. It has definitely been our most exciting project to date".*

Christophe Hoppe, Bausele Founder.

### **ABOUT THE WATCHES**

**The Airfield** watch takes inspiration from history - the official issue RAAF Pilot watches from the 1940s and 1950s by IWC and Jaeger. Included in the offering during the pre-sale period will be an actual piece of the Caribou (DHC-4) transport aircraft number A4-208 embedded into a Centennial key ring.

**RRP \$499 AUD**

**The Aviator** watch looks to the future. Designed by Bausele Founder, Christo Hoppe in collaboration with the Air Force Centenary team, the watch is a Swiss made automatic loaded with high end features. As an exclusive element, the watch back includes a piece from aircraft number A21-01, the first F/A-18A Hornet fighter jet made and flown in Australia.

**RRP \$1200 AUD**

**November and December 2020** buyers can secure a numbered, limited edition watch to wear, gift or as a keepsake, for delivery during Centenary celebrations in March 2021. The exclusive Presale Offering includes:

Limited edition issue number on back

AVIATOR – exclusive piece of F/A-18A in case back

AIRFIELD – exclusive Key ring with Caribou piece

Enquiries about purchasing a limited-edition watch with requested number can be made [here](#) directly. Offer available only in pre-sale period Nov/Dec 2020.

## WEBSITE:

<https://www.bausele.com/collections/raaf-timepieces>

## AF100 Centenary Site & Videos:

<https://www.airforce.gov.au/100> -<https://project2021.org/?c=58&k=c990be92aa>

For any further information or questions please contact:

Gary Walls – Bausele – Corporate / Bespoke Distribution - Global [gary@bausele.com.au](mailto:gary@bausele.com.au)

## WATCH DETAILS:

### THE AVIATOR

Constructed from surgical grade 316L stainless steel with gun metal IP (blue and black versions) this watch features a Sapphire crystal face with a Swiss Made bi-directional self-winding mechanical movement, Incabloc shock system and Nivaflex mainspring. There are 3 colour options available – White, Black or Blue.

The watch back includes a piece cut directly from aircraft number A21-01, the first F/A-18A Hornet fighter jet made and flown in Australia. The second hand has been designed in the shape of a F/A-18 Hornet and the crown at 4H contains actual soil from Point Cook base which was the first Air Force base in its hollow crown. The RAAF Centenary logo and the Australian Air Force roundel inserted in the crown at 2H under a crystal, completes this unique collector's edition keepsake.

The waterproof strap is made of high-performance recycled PET plastic and comes with an additional self-changeable band. The watch is secured by the most efficient deployed buckle.

It is presented in custom centenary packaging that has been designed, manufactured and assembled in Australia using 100% Australian ink and paper.

**RRP \$1200 AU**



## THE AIRFIELD

The unisex designed watch case is made of surgical grade 316L stainless steel with a Sapphire crystal face. The clean look of the dial with "syringe" hands makes it easy to quickly read the time. The hands have super-luminova to glow when its dark. The watch comes in black, blue and beige, which creates a vintage look.

It has been 70 years since the last RAAF watch collaboration with watch brands IWC and Jaegar LeCoultre and we have built this watch using the same manufacturing techniques as those historical watches. The original watches are now collector's items worth many times their value.

The limited- edition watch includes the Centenary logo and the Australian Air Force roundel inserted in the crown at 4H, under a crystal. We have strategically designed the crown at 4H position to make it easy and versatile for active men and women, to avoid any restriction of movement on the wrist when a crown is placed at traditionally at 3H.

The watch back has been embossed with the outline of the Caribou Aircraft and the second-hand reflects shape of the Caribou as a counter-weight.

The waterproof strap is made of high- performance recycled PET plastic which has been reinforced for longevity. Additional straps can be easily interchanged to create a versatile look and function for every occasion.

The custom packaging is designed and assembled in Australia using 100% Australian paper and ink.

The Pre-Sale offering includes a key ring embedded with a piece cut from the Caribou (DC-4) aircraft #208.

**RRP \$499**





**Don't forget our Coffee Catch Up is open again from 10-12 every Friday in The Corey Room, Level 2A, of the Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley Street, Holder.**



**Any member or prospective member is most welcome to join us for a chat and enjoy freshly brewed coffee with former service mates.**

## **Christmas Close Down**

**The RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch office at Holder will close from noon Friday 18 December - reopen for the year from Monday 4 January 2021.**

**For urgent assistance from the Sub-Branch please call Peter on mobile 0478 630 038**

**For emergencies, please call 000, Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Open Arms on 1800 011 046.**

**Did you know?**

**E-News and *The Serviceman* are also readily available to read on our website [www.rslwoden.org.au](http://www.rslwoden.org.au)**



### **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](http://www.rslwoden.org.au)

Or drop in for a coffee Fridays from 10.00am

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