

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ENEWS



February 2021



On Friday, 5th February, the Eddison Day Club celebrated its 17th Birthday. Mrs Mary Collier, the President of the Canberra Irish Club, made a birthday cake and iced it in the colours of the Irish National Flag – green, white and orange. This cake was cut by Mary and our patron, Mrs Sue Sarantos, who is the daughter of Mrs Pam Yonge. Pam was the last surviving member of the Eddison family after which the Day Club is named. Mr Jim Gilchrist attended the lunch and offered some kind words about the work of the Day Club.



AUSTRALIA DAY MEDALLIONS AWARDED

Recognition of our Sub-Branch staff and volunteers was celebrated at ACT Branch with the 2021 Australia Day Achievement Medallions.

Recipients this year were our **President, Jim Gilchrist** (pictured with wife Kay). Jim has provided and maintained front-line leadership, commitment and dedication to the Woden Valley Sub-Branch for seven years. Jim has been the catalyst in improving governance procedures, setting policy and strategic direction, and negotiating and liaising with government departments regarding the advocacy and welfare of veterans and their families. His performance has been a primary reason the Sub-Branch is held in high esteem within the veteran, medical and government spheres.

Andrew Properjohn is pictured with his medallion. Andrew has been the first point of contact for veterans enquiring about the claims process for six years, from first enquiry through the whole claims and appeals process. He is also responsible for the general oversight and coordination of the advocacy team, its administration and many of its processes. Andrew's diligence, dedication and professionalism greatly assist the success of this critical element of our Sub-Branch.

A great double act in the service of the Eddison Day Club for a decade, **Julie Cronin and husband Max Brennan** were individually awarded Australia Day Achievement Medallions. Julie applies her knowledge and love of music, her personal contacts and her ability to engage people to become one of the key volunteers in this wonderful organisation. In particular, Julie sources the guests and speakers who entertain and inform our Day Club members at each of the 48 meetings they hold each year. Julie's contribution to these meetings is a major factor in making the Eddison Day Club one of the most successful Day Clubs in NSW and the ACT.

A Sub-Branch member since 1997, Max initially trained and worked as a volunteer pension officer who helped veterans obtain their entitlements. In February 2004, Max became one of the founding members of the Eddison Day Club and has remained a member and volunteer for the ensuing 17 years. Max gradually took on senior roles as a coordinator and then the Chair of the Day Club Committee, a position he held for three years. In the past few years, Max has worked with other senior volunteers to encourage younger volunteers to assume the key leadership roles. With others, Max mentored the new leaders while continuing to assist with the general tasks required to support this vibrant organisation.

AUSTRALIA DAY MEDALLIONS AWARDED

Photos below from left: - Max Brennan, Julie Cronin, Jim Gilchrist, Peter Sutton with Max and Julie, Kay and Jim Gilchrist and Andrew Properjohn with Jim Gilchrist.





Jim Gilchrist presenting to newly appointed Member in the Order of Australia, Bill Kelly, a letter of congratulations from the President and members of the RSL Woden Valley Sub-branch.



Carers Friendship Group meetings on Tuesday 2 February

At the beginning of February we took up another intern from University of Canberra, Andrew Wyman, who follows Scott Powers.

Andrew attends activities such as the Carers Friendship Group held on Tuesday 2nd February.



Photo above from left: Fay Neil, Val Brown, Jill Kelly, Andrew Wyman, and Ailsa Brooke.

Dear members,

The following is provide for your information.

We have been advised that there will be a special pre-sale ticketing opportunity for this event for Vietnam Veterans (and guests) and donors from 22 February until 14 March 2021; we will inform you of those details when advised. Thereafter, tickets will be released to the general public. Ticketek ([ticketek.com.au](https://www.ticketek.com.au)) is the supplier of ticketing services at Llewellyn Hall and they will be managing all the sales.

THE FLOWERS OF WAR

Vietnam Requiem (5 & 6 June)

- Sunday, June 6, 2021
- 1:30 PM 4:15 PM



Llewellyn Hall - ANU School of Music 100 William Herbert Place, Canberra, ACT, 2601 Australia ([map](#))

[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)

MARKING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CONFLICT IN 1971. TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE EARLY IN 2021.

The premiere of the *Vietnam Requiem* will be the next creation in the Australian War Memorial's (AWM) project to create a free national commemorative repertoire, remembering the conflicts that Australia has been involved in. Created and directed by **Chris Latham**, Artist-in-Residence at the AWM, the Flowers of War team brings together Australia's leading composers and performing artists to create this memorable theatrical concert. The *Requiem* will be deeply moving as it retells our stories from both abroad and at home, on the 50th anniversary of our withdrawal. It is being designed to help heal the great wound created by this war in response to extensive veteran and community consultation, deep listening and research. It will honour veterans' service and their families, and the price paid by all who were touched by this war, including South Vietnamese Veterans and Boat People. We believe it will honour their sacrifices.

The *Requiem* will tell the stories, through music and projected imagery, of Australian and New Zealand personnel on the battlefield; the effects of war on the civilian and military medical staff and entertainers who toured; the protest movement; journalists and photojournalists, and the South Vietnamese refugees who fled to freedom and endured a perilous journey to re-settle and become integrated into our culture.

The concert will have two distinct halves. The 1st half being a fusion of iconic pop songs from the era performed by Little Pattie, John Schumann, Normie Rowe and others under the direction of Australia's most versatile and experienced jazz musician Bill Risby. The 2nd half will be the *Vietnam Requiem*, commissioned by the AWM and created by Australia's leading composers Elena Kats-Chernin, Ross Edwards, Graeme Koehne, Andrew Schultz and others. It will be performed by Van-Anh Vo on Vietnamese instruments, William Barton on didgeridu, members of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, military musicians and choirs.

This concert is made possible through our partnership with the AWM, National Archives, Vietnam Veteran charities and Vietnamese community organisations.

Earlier Event: June 5

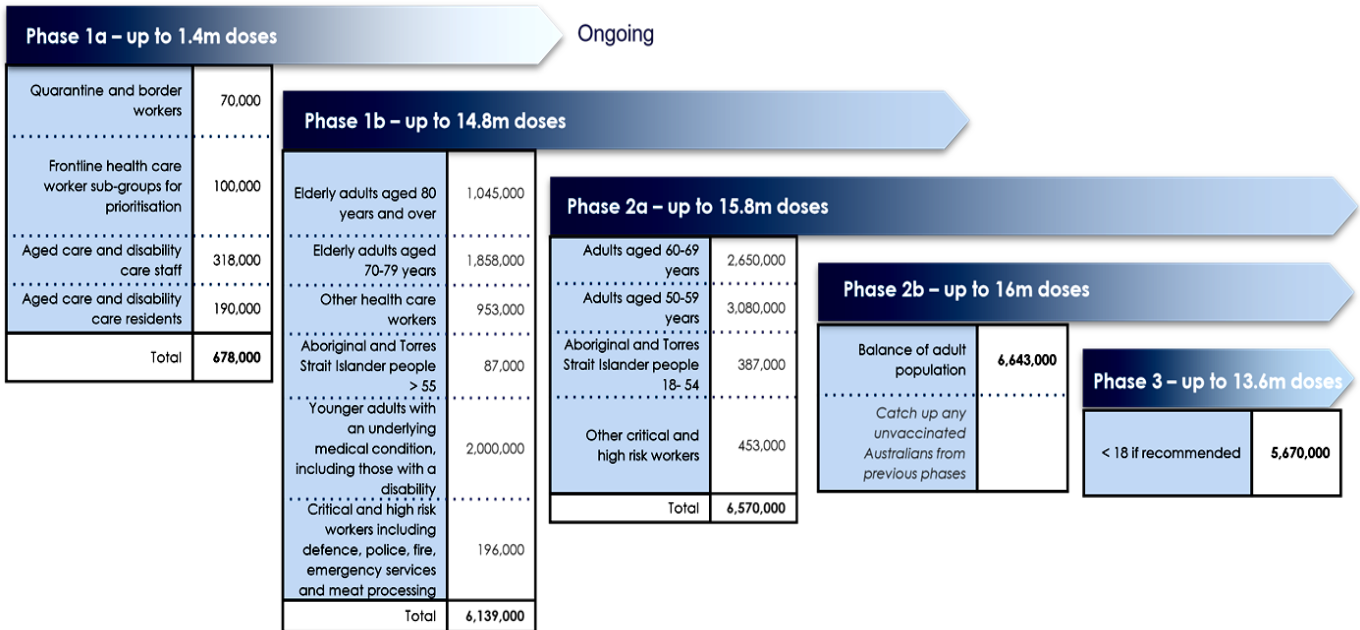
FLOWERS OF WAR, 178 ATHERTON STREET, DOWNER, ACT, 2602, AUSTRALIA+61 408 440 426

TEAM@THEFLOWERSOFWAR.ORG

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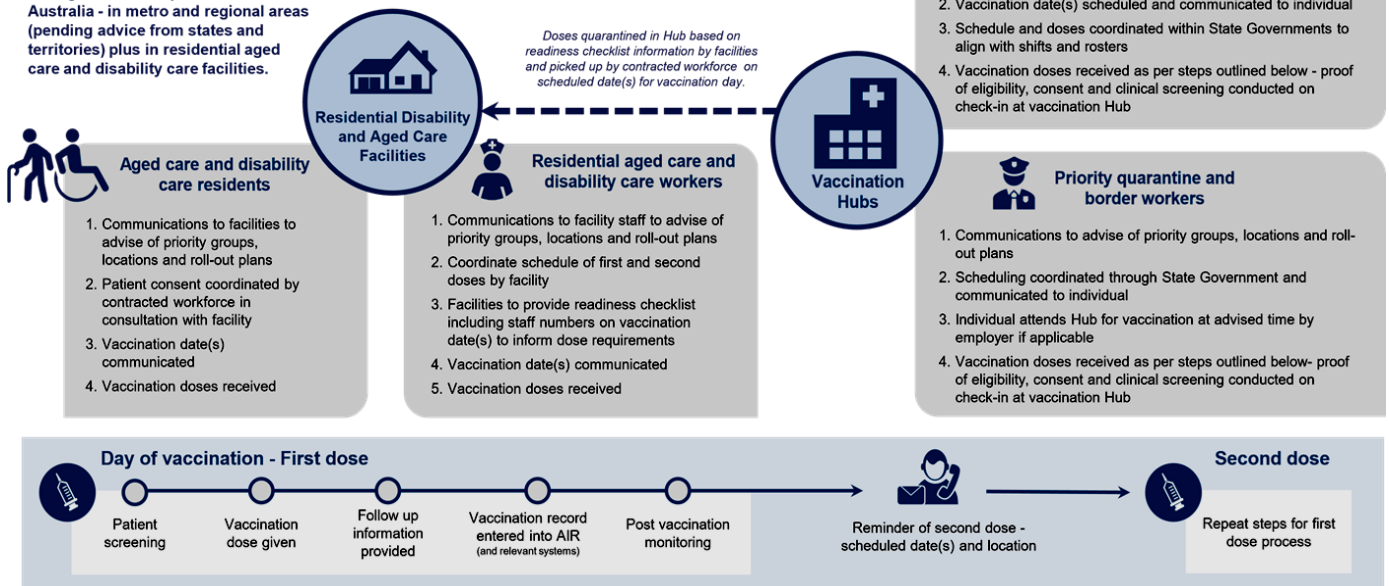
Australia's COVID-19 vaccine national roll-out strategy



Population numbers are current estimates for each category.

The Australian COVID-19 vaccination program will commence with priority populations including aged care and disability care residents and workers, frontline healthcare workers and quarantine and border workers.

Vaccine doses will be available through 30 - 50 hospital sites across Australia - in metro and regional areas (pending advice from states and territories) plus in residential aged care and disability care facilities.



COVID-19 vaccine national roll-out strategy Pfizer Hubs

30-50 ongoing hospital hubs in urban and rural Australia

Hub locations to be finalised in conjunction with States and Territories

- Will manage cold chain storage and administer Pfizer vaccine only
- Will provide a distribution hub for roll-out to:

Frontline healthcare workers , Quarantine and border staff , Residential aged care and disability residents and staff.

13 Feb 2021 9:00 AM AEST - Remembering our 'Nashos'

The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday, 13 February 2021

REMEMBERING OUR 'NASHOS'

TOMMOROW, on National Servicemen's Day, we honour those who have served our nation through compulsory military service, recognising their contribution to the nation's defence.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said it was important to remember the significance of their service, stepping up to meet the nation's needs.

"Australia has had four periods of compulsory national service, most recently between 1951–1959 and 1964–1972," Mr Chester said.

"The last National Service Scheme was introduced in 1964 due to increasing fears about Australia's security as there were tensions in nearby regions and therefore a need to bolster Australia's defences.

"Unlike universal conscription, the National Service Scheme required most men who turned 20 years old to register for the Scheme and twice a year men were selected to serve through the 'birthday ballot'.

"More than 804,000 men registered for national service between 1964 and 1972, with more than 60,000 called up to serve. Those who served between 1951 and 1972 became affectionately known as 'Nashos'."

Of these, nearly 19,500 served in Borneo and Vietnam and the remainder in support units in Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Australia. More than 15,000 served in the Vietnam War where some 200 died and more than 1,200 were wounded. Two 'Nashos' also died in Borneo in 1966.

"This year we mark 55 years since the first national servicemen arrived in Vietnam and I encourage all Australians to take the time to reflect on the special nature of the service and sacrifice of our Nashos and ensure they are remembered," Mr Chester said.

The service of Nashos will be remembered during the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial tomorrow. A representative from the National Servicemen's Association of Australia will lay a wreath. A second wreath will be laid on behalf of widows.

To learn more about the National Service Scheme of 1964, visit the Department of Veterans' Affairs [Anzac Portal](https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/vietnam-war-1962-1975/events/conscription/birthday-ballot) - <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/vietnam-war-1962-1975/events/conscription/birthday-ballot>

ENDS

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Rachel Tharratt: 02 6277 7820
DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

Australia Post has released its new stamps commemorating the Centenary of Air Force.

The series depicts our first fighter, the S.E.5A, and our latest fighter, the F-35A, at Point Cook, the birthplace of the RAAF.

Keep an eye out for the new stamps at AusPost shops or on an envelope near you!



The Canberra Museum and Gallery seeks your support!

William Dargie is an Australian artist who painted depictions of the Australian War Memorial. One of Dargie's paintings, pictured below, has become available for purchase and the Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) is looking for donations in order to purchase the piece.

The Australian War Memorial is a site of significance in the ACT and CMAG purchasing this piece of art would bring it home to its home city. This piece is also significant as this ceremony depicted in 1970 would have taken place while Australian troops were serving in Vietnam. This adds an additional layer of historical significance to the work and a further point for engagement with the local Veteran community.

CMAG is calling for donations of any value from community members and organisations to secure this piece in its archives for Veterans and the wider local community to enjoy.

Donations are tax deductible and donors can be recorded as contributing to purchase of the artwork.

To donate, send an email with the subject heading **William Dargie Donation to Sarah.Schmidt@act.gov.au with your address details and contact email and phone as well as how much you wish to donate.**

Thank you for assistance.





Australian Government

Be Connected
Every Australian online.

Network Partners

RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch has joined the national network of community organisations helping older Australians thrive in a digital world. We know it's not easy keeping up with new devices, new services, and new applications.

As a Be Connected Network Partner, we are able to access resources, grants and collaborative opportunities to help improve your digital skills.



So far, around 30 Sub-Branch members have benefitted from attending classes led by member and tutor Scott Powers, assisted by Marion Kossatz.

You are invited to attend these classes, held fortnightly from noon to 2pm in our new training room at the Sub-Branch. Bring your own device if you have one, or borrow one of ours. Call the office on 62851931 to enrol.



**Be Connected -
IT sessions with
knowledgeable
volunteer tutor,
Scott Powers.**

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.

**◆ Eddison Day Club meetings
with Peter Sutton**

**Active again from
15 January 2021**

**Carers Friendship Groups are
back in business**

**For details call Rania Kalimeris
6285 1931**

Did you know?

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

Or drop in for a coffee
Fridays from 10.00am

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