

# RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ENEWS



January 2020



L. The Corey Helmet—the Sub-Branch was delighted to have artist Mark Lonsdale reproduce the famous Corey WW1 Helmet from the Australian War Memorial. Read all about it on page 3.

**The Board and staff of RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch wish all of our members, volunteers and veteran families a Happy New Year.**

**R. AWM photo illustrates our January days so far.**





## Australian War Memorial's New Director

Mr Matt Anderson PSM is the incoming Director of the Australian War Memorial. Mr Anderson will begin his tenure in March 2020.

Mr Anderson has been Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom since 2016 with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). He is also a former Ambassador to Afghanistan and High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands and Samoa. Prior to joining DFAT he spent eight years as an Australian Army officer, including three years as troop commander with the Royal Australian Engineers (1988–91), and four years as a careers adviser with the Soldier Career Management Agency in Melbourne (1992–95). Mr Anderson was awarded the Public Service Medal for his role in leading the humanitarian and consular response to the 2009 Pacific tsunami.

## A NOTE FROM FORMER RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch PRESIDENT BILL SMITH

G'Day,

The following article was sent to my daughter by friends in France. The link is below - but she translated the following for me.

The city of Villiers-Bretonneux in the Somme has had links with Australia for over 100 years. In addition to a twinning with an Australian town, Villiers-Bretonneux has decided to launch an appeal online. While fires are still ravaging

Australia, the town of Villiers-Bretonneux in the Somme is mobilizing. The city, which has 4,500 inhabitants, has launched an online appeal to help victims of fire. Mobilization and solidarity is far from new, since the links between the French commune and the mainland date back more than a century. "It is historical link" between Australia and Villiers-Bretonneux explains Yves Taté, one of the administrators of the Franco-Australian museum of the town. "It dates from the First World War, 101 years ago. Australian troops repelled a German attack at Villiers-Bretonneux." Twenty years later, a memorial was inaugurated to honor the thousands of Australian soldiers who came to liberate the town. Since then trips are organized regularly, hence the idea of this appeal which amounts to "around 8,500 euros after 24 hours". The mayor of Villiers-Bretonneux, Patrick Simon, ensures that direct aid will be paid. "We will also help our twin sister, whose firefighters have called for donations. We have been paired with Robinvale for more than 30 years."

'The universe is wider than our views of it' - Henry David Thoreau

**Subject: "Nos liens datent de la Première Guerre mondiale" : la commune de Villiers-Bretonneux lance une cagnotte après les incendies en Australie**

<https://mobile.francetvinfo.fr/monde/asie/incendies-en-australie/nos-liens-datent-de-la-premiere-guerre-mondiale->





## The Corey Helmet

Bill Smith and Alex Reynolds have for years researched and promoted the cause of the former Australian soldier Ernie Corey, who served in the First Australian Imperial Force during WW1 on the Western Front, the attack at Fromelles, the Battle of the Somme, the Battle of Passchendaele, the Battle of Arras, and WW2. Private Corey died in 1972 aged 81 and is buried in the



Military section at Woden Cemetery. He was awarded the Military Medal four times, being the only man in the Commonwealth to ever have been so honoured. Bill's son-in-law and artist, Mark Lonsdale, recently volunteered to paint the Sub-Branch iconic helmet (pictured left) which sits atop the .303 rifle to replicate the original hand-painted one owned by Corey many years ago. It includes the flags of participating nations, gum trees, and battle honours. Mark said that it was an honour; a gesture of thanks to all those who serve and served our country.

The Sub-Branch plans to officially rename our main meeting room the Ernest Albert Corey Room in 2020.

Sub Branch President Jim Gilchrist announced that the large room will be refurbished with suitable memorabilia, including trophy cases, conference facilities, banners and a military audio and pictorial library. A plan was agreed on to collate previously documented material and write it into a book that not only honours Corey, but remembers his RSL membership, and taps into the 103-year history of the Woden Valley Sub Branch.

Pictured above: Artist Mark Lonsdale, President Jim Gilchrist and former President Bill Smith.

## From RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch President Jim Gilchrist



For those of you curious about the ongoing issue of RSL Qld Art Union selling tickets around Canberra, I can advise that I wrote to the Qld RSL President on this matter on 29 November 2019. I received a reply from the General Manager of Lotteries RSL Qld (State Branch) to whom my letter had been referred. As this reply did not, in my opinion, address our main concerns, I again wrote to the Qld President Tony Ferris. I look forward to raising these issues directly with Mr Ferris in due course.

Users of CPAPs: With the recent extremely poor air quality in and around the ACT, all users of CPAPs are strongly advised to take special care of the filters, cushions and masks.

If you are in any doubt as to what to do or you need some assistance, please contact your respective sleep adviser.

### **UPCOMING DIARY DATES**

**Our next OGM will be held at the Southern Cross Club on Tuesday 28 January. ACT Branch President John King has accepted an invitation to address the meeting on a range of governance and management issues at the Branch and National levels.**



Don't forget to link your Southern Cross Membership card to the nomination of RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch as a community recipient of a portion of your spend.





## Two Sheds Workshop 2020 woodwork for women and kids

Read about the women's woodwork workshops for the first half of 2020 on their website: [www.twoshedsworkshop.com.au](http://www.twoshedsworkshop.com.au)

The Workshop is also adding more after school kids classes for term 1 in Canberra and there is now a homeschool group Wednesdays at 1.30 - 3 and after school classes from 4 to 5.30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The kids learn to make things with timber, learn wood-working skills, build confidence and willpower at the same time as making cool stuff to take home

like swords and shields, treasure chests, puppets, and lots more. So go to their website to see what is on offer. <https://www.twoshedsworkshop.com.au>

Their address is: 4/65 Sternberg Cres, Wanniasa

**Did you know? Our funeral tributes are given freely and respectfully.**

Our Sub-Branch has tried over the years to raise awareness amongst our members that their families need to know that the RSL Tribute at funerals is considered to be an honour and freely given by comrades to ease the pain of departure for those left behind. Members are asked to make their wishes for a tribute known to both the family and the WVSB as to whether or not they desire the service. It is too difficult to sort it out later!

## MORE SUB-BRANCH CALENDAR NEWS

This year's Volunteer Information Sessions will be held in 11 March, 24 June, 9 September and 25 November.

Start dates for our groups:

Eddison Day club	17 January
Friday Coffee Club	24 January
Burrangiri Veterans Get Together	20 February
Carers Friendship Group	24 February



# DVA disaster assistance- bushfire crisis

The impact of the bushfires is being felt across the nation, including by members of the veteran and defence communities. Health and safety is the priority during this time, and we encourage you to listen to the experts on how to be prepared.

The ABC, as the national broadcaster, provides [up-to-date information on all alerts and warnings](#).

Further information is also available on each of the state government websites.

Members of the veteran and defence communities can also access:

**The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment** – one-off financial assistance to eligible Australians adversely affected by the bushfires. For more information on eligibility, and how to claim, visit the [Department of Human Services website](#) or call **180 22 66**.

**Defence Service Homes Insurance** – to lodge a claim or for assistance please contact **1300 552 662** or visit the [Defence Service Homes Insurance website](#).

[Open Arms counselling support](#) (24/7) – veterans and their families requiring emergency counselling support can call **1800 011 046**.

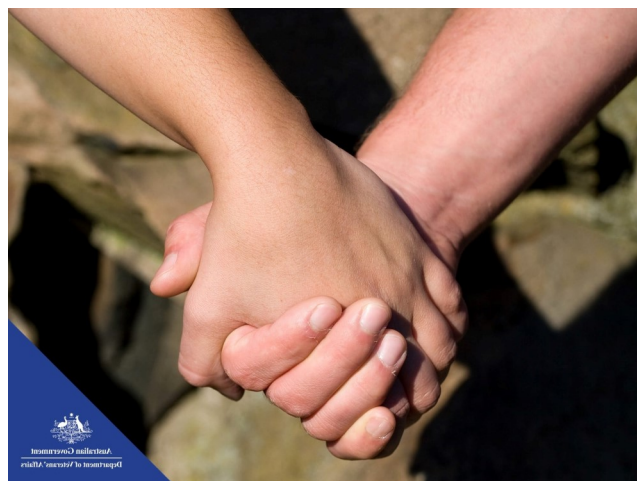
**Crisis payments** – a one-off payment to financially assist eligible people following a range of defined circumstances. For information about the crisis payments and eligibility please read [Factsheet IS121 - Crisis Payments](#)

- Other assistance – DVA's Veterans' Ac-

cess Network (VAN) can be contacted on **1800 555 254** to assist with a wide range of issues, including replacement of aids and appliances, ensuring availability of pharmaceuticals, and arranging transportation to medical appointments.

- **Veteran's Home Care** – assists you to continue living independently by providing a small amount of practical help including safety related home and garden maintenance that can help prevent health and safety hazards around the home. For program clients affected by the fires please contact your service providers or assessment agency. For eligible, affected veterans that need new services or services in a new location contact a VHC Assessment Agency on 1300 550 450.

If any other services or support you receive from the Department are being impacted by the fires, or if you need extra support in requesting these services, you can call DVA on **1800 555 254** for assistance.





# Burrangiri

***Social and recreation support.***

***Next RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch day visit and lunch takes place 20 February 2020 - 10.30 am***

***Call Rania on 02 62887470 to book.***

## **RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH**

**Next Carers Friendship Group 24 February 9.30 am**

**Call Rania on 02 6285 1931 to book.**

### **Carers Friendship Group**

**Open to all carers of our veterans. Please contact Rania Kalimeris for details Phone: 02 62887470**

## ***Volunteers information Day***

***11 March 10-12am***

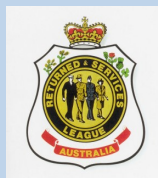
***Call Rania***

***on 02 62887470 to book***

**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

***RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch  
14/27 Mulley Street  
HOLDER ACT 2611***

***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)

Or drop in for a coffee Fridays at 10.30am

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