

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ENEWS



January 2021

Coffee catch up with three of our members on Friday 8 January in the Corey Room



Les Cook, Terri Lessels and Constance Aronson. The bond in the trio was found in Les Cook who fought in Crete with Rolf Aronsen, the late spouse of Constance. She was very keen to meet the gentleman who had been through similar challenges as her husband. Les was also in Japan when Terri Lessels was stationed there as a nurse. Les was in the 65th Battalion and Terri worked in the hospital, both on Etajima, an island in Japan.

Despite both being there after the war as part of the Occupation Forces, they only met for the very first time many years later here at the RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch.

As a bonus we had a small cake to celebrate the birthday of Les (a couple of days early). We exchanged stories, had a few laughs and completely enjoyed our afternoon together. Between the five of us, we totalled 420 years of life. When you think about it, that is an average age of 84.

The day highlighted that it is never too late in life to make new friends.



Photos above : Constance Aronson, Les Cook, Terri Lessels, Peter Eveille, Rania Kalimeris, Rolf Aronson.



**Woden Valley RSL
Sub-Branch
Ordinary General Meeting Dinner
1830 for 1900 23 February 2021
Southern Cross Club Woden**

The Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch is pleased to invite members and their guests to our next **OGM Dinner**. Dress is smart casual.

Guest Speaker: Matt Anderson PSM



Mr Matt Anderson PSM commenced as Director of the Australian War Memorial in April 2020. Mr Anderson joined Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as a graduate in 1995. He was most recently the Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (2016-20). He is also a former Ambassador to Afghanistan (2015-16) and High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands (2011-13) as well as Samoa (2007-11). He has also had postings to South Africa, Papua New Guinea and served as the Chief Negotiator of the Peace Monitoring group on Bougainville (2001-02). Mr Anderson was awarded the Public Service Medal for his role in leading the humanitarian and consular response to the 2009 Pacific tsunami. He has a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Strategic Studies from Deakin University, and a Master's Degree in Foreign Affairs and Trade from Monash University.

He is also a Graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon (1988). Matt served with the Royal Australian Engineers as a Troop Commander, and also undertook instructional and staff appointments. He is married to Lou, a currently serving DFAT Officer, and has three children.

Where: Corinna Room 2, Southern Cross Club, Phillip

When: 1830 for 1900, Tuesday 23 February 2021

Cost: \$32 per head; drinks at own expense

Menu: MAIN COURSE

- Bread Roll and Butter

- Roast lamb, potato, pumpkin, steamed greens and mint gravy

DESSERT

- Chef's selection

- Freshly brewed Tea and Coffee and mints

Payment: **EFT: (Please don't forget to include your name)**

A/c Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch

Bsb 06 2908 Account 1084 1897

Cheque: Mail to 14/27 Mulley Street HOLDER ACT 2611

Or phone the office to pay by credit card, also advise us any dietary requirements. Please note that the club does not allow refunds after 16 February.

RSVP: Please register with your payment at the office or by email to events@rslwoden.org.au by 15 February.



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.**

Dear members,

Please note the following advice from AVM (Retd) Mac Weller regarding a planned RAAF Centenary event on 26 March 2021.

Due to numbers being restricted, members should notify the Sub-Branch Office Manager, Joyce O'Brien at joyce.obrien@rslwoden.org.au of their interest in attending the event. With the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch being limited to 10 attendees, there might be a need for a ballot to be held. Expressions of interest should be sent to Joyce O'Brien by cob on Friday 12 March 2021.

Dear Secretary,

You will be aware from a recent Circular of a Branch initiative to place a plaque in the RAAF Memorial Grove, Federal Highway ACT commemorating the RAAF's Centenary that will be achieved on 31st March this year.

The plaque will be unveiled and dedicated in a brief ceremony at 1100 on Friday 26th March by Air Marshal Warren McDonald and this email seeks expressions of interest from Sub branches of those likely to attend. The format will also include a welcome to the Grove by the President RAAF Association ACT Division), an invitation by President RSL ACT Branch for the plaque to be unveiled & dedicated, a blessing by a RAAF Chaplain, the Ode by the oldest, ablest ex RAAFie we can find from amongst Branch membership, Last Post & Rouse. Appropriate dress standard will be coat/tie with medals. Proceedings of course will be conducted in line with applicable Covid19 protocols.

Attendance particularly will have to be controlled due to Covid requirements and together with the restricted parking & space at the Grove, limited in numbers to around 50 to 60. Sub Branches are therefore invited to provide expressions of interest in attending direct to the undersigned of members that are allocated broadly on the basis of ten from Woden Valley and five each from other sub branches. Hopefully, preference could be given to ex RAAF members.

I also take the liberty to advise that I have prepared a very short history of the RAAF's 100 years (about 18,000 words in total) that has been appearing as instalments in recent Belconnen Newsletters. A consolidated version is freely available to other sub branches if so desired for use to foster interest in the Centenary amongst Branch members & perhaps schools.

Sincerely & with thanks for your consideration & assistance,
Mac Weller RAAF Centenary Plaque project coordinator (0414 842 701)



RSL

Woden Valley Sub Branch

Greg Kennett

Secretary

Woden Valley Sub-Branch

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.





RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH DIARY 2021

4 Jan	Office reopens	
12 Jan	WV SB Board Meeting	11am Corey Room
19 Jan	WV SB OGM	2pm Corey Room
26 Jan	Australia Day public holiday	Office closed
05 Feb	17 th Birthday Eddison Club	Irish Club
9 Feb	WV SB Board Meeting	1900 Southern Cross Corinna 4
23 Feb	WV SB OGM Dinner meeting	1830 for 1900 CSCC Corinna 2
8 Mar	Canberra Day public holiday	Office closed
9 Mar	WV SB Board Meeting	1900 CSCC Corinna 4
30 Mar	WV SB OGM	1900 CSCC Rainbow Room
31 March	RAAF Centenary	AWM
2 Apr	Good Friday public holiday	Office closed
5 Apr	Easter Monday public holiday	Office closed
10-11 Apr	80 th anniversary Siege of Tobruk	
13 Apr	WV SB Board Meeting	1900 CSCC Corinna 4
24 Apr	ANZAC Eve Dinner	1800 CSCC Top of the Cross
25 Apr TBC	WV SB ANZAC Day Service	0830 Eddison Park TBC
25 Apr	ANZAC Day March AWM	1000 Sub-Branch Contingent
26 Apr	ANZAC DAY public holiday	Office closed
11 May	WV SB Board Meeting	1900 CSCC Corinna 4
25 May	WV SB AGM/OGM	1900 CSCC Rainbow Room
31 May	Reconciliation Day public holiday	Office closed
8 Jun	WV SB Board Meeting	1900 CSCC Corinna 4
14 June	Queen's birthday public holiday	Office closed
29 Jun	WV SB OGM Dinner meeting	1830 for 1900 CSCC Corinna 2
13 Jul	WV SB Board Meeting	1900 CSCC Corinna 4
27 Jul	WV SB OGM	1900 CSCC Corinna 2
10 Aug	WV SB Board Meeting	1900 CSCC Corinna 4
31 Aug	WV SB OGM	1900 CSCC Corinna 2
14 Sep	WV SB Board Meeting	1900 CSCC Corinna 4
28 Sep	WV SB OGM	1900 CSCC Corinna 2
04 Oct	Labour Day public holiday	Office closed
12 Oct	WV SB Board Meeting	1900 CSCC Corinna 4
26 Oct	WV OGM Dinner Meeting	1830 for 1900 CSCC Corinna 2
5-10 Nov	Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal	Canberra
9 Nov	WV SB Board Meeting	1900 CSCC Corinna 4
11 Nov	Remembrance Day Service	1030 at Australian War Memorial
30 Nov	WV SB OGM	1900 CSCC Corinna 2
08 Dec TBC	WV SB Christmas lunch	1200 for 1230 CSCC TBA
14 Dec	WV SB Board Meeting	1900 CSCC Corinna 4
17 Dec	Christmas closedown	From midday

We are starting our 2021 Carers Friendship Group meetings on Tuesday 2 February at 10.30am.

Starting from our first meeting we will continue to gather on the first Tuesday of the month. We will meet in the Corey Room, 2nd Floor of the Grant Cameron Community Centre.

Enter through the glass doors at the Mulley Street Entrance, where there is a lift to take you to the Corey Room. There are signs to direct you. We will be waiting to greet you.

Any ideas you might have to enrich our meetings would be gratefully received. We have a few ideas to put forward and we would love your feedback.

We look forward to seeing you, and to lovely conversations and lots of fun and laughter.

Rani and Jill

See you then. RSVP for catering by COB 27th January 21
Phone number : 02 6285 1931



The corridor OGM held on 19 January 21 was the last meeting in Holder.

Our next OGM Dinner will be held on 23 February at The Southern Cross Club.

Please don't forget book a place : Call 6285 1931 with your credit card details.





**Coffee Catchup on
Friday 8 January**

**RSL Sub-Branch
celebrates Cora
O`Donnell`s and Bill
Smith`s birthdays.**

**Left photo : Jim
Gilchrist presented
Cora`s O.B.E
Certificate**



Above: Cora and Mick O`Donnell



Above: Cora O`Donnell and Bill Smith

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

**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 from 10.00am

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