

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ENEWS



VALE COLONEL ADRIAN ROBERTS MG OAM (Rtd)



FUNERAL TRIBUTE AND ARRANGEMENTS

Our Sub-Branch member Colonel Adrian Roberts passed away on 29 December 2021. Colonel Roberts commanded 10 armoured personnel carriers which rescued soldiers who had been under heavy fire from Vietnamese soldiers during the battle of Long Tan on August 18, 1966.

His memorial service will commence at 1pm on Friday 28 January at Holy Trinity church Strangways Street Curtin ACT followed by interment at the Woden Cemetery.

The service will be streamed by White Lady Funerals. Details to come.



ACT
Government

Rapid Information for people who test positive for COVID-19

If you test positive for COVID-19 with a PCR test, you will be contacted by ACT Health via phone or text. If you test positive for COVID-19 with a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT), you will not be contacted unless you have [registered with ACT Health](#). The new online reporting form is now available.



**PLEASE NOTE RECENT CANCELLATIONS AT
RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH DUE TO
COVID SITUATION INCLUDE:**

OGM 25 January 2022

Friday coffee catch-ups EACH FRIDAY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JAN 2022

Dear Members,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022 following what I hope has been a peaceful and happy festive season for you all.

While we will continue to provide official/formal notices through these monthly bulletins and otherwise, I start the year by noting that all jurisdictions have been gradually easing their COVID-related restrictions and policies. As we expect that the evolving situation will concern and/or confuse some members, the Board has decided to take a cautious approach to our activities. For example, with the possibility that a Board member had been exposed to a contact, we cancelled the January meeting at short notice. Similarly, the Board has cancelled the OGM scheduled for 25 January. We are also monitoring the merits of holding the dinner scheduled for 22 February and, perhaps, having a low key event instead of the normal format.

The Board has also agreed to minimise the numbers who attend the GCCC for at least the next few weeks. Staff and volunteers will continue to attend the office as usual and will be available to assist members and other clients as needed. Thus, we ask that members use the phone and email as much as possible.

We will continue to require all attendees at GCCC to use the QR Code and to register their attendance on a sheet paper that will be available in the Welfare or E&A areas and at the SB office. The former is an ACT Government requirement, and the latter one for our records.

The Friday coffee catch ups are also cancelled until further notice.

In making these decisions, the Board was conscious of community feelings about wanting to break free from the COVID shackles while also remaining concerned about their own health and safety while doing so. We also noted that, as the rules regarding testing, isolation and mingling are changing frequently, it will be hard for any of us to keep up. The evolving situation also makes planning difficult, especially when we are making external bookings.

In closing, thank you for your patience and I wish you all the very best for a happy, healthy and safe 2022.

Jim Gilchrist
President

**PLEASE NOTE RECENT CANCELLATIONS AT
RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH INCLUDE:**

**OGM 25 January 2022
Friday coffee catch-ups**



**The Hon Andrew Gee MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs Minister for Defence Personnel**

MEDIA RELEASE 12 January 2022

COMMEMORATING THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF AUSTRALIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE VIETNAM WAR

Planning is underway for a range of significant events around the country to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War in 2023.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, Andrew Gee, announced that the Australian Government has committed \$6 million to ensure this important milestone is marked with appropriate respect and appreciation for all those who served and those who gave their lives in Vietnam.

"Australia owes our Vietnam veterans an enormous debt of gratitude," Minister Gee said.

"Almost 60,000 Australians served in the Vietnam War, 521 lost their lives and more than 3,000 were wounded. We honour and remember the service and sacrifice of each and every one of them. "At places like Long Tan, Nui Lei, Binh Ba, Coral and Balmoral, Ap My An and many others, Australians served with distinction, in the finest traditions of our armed forces. Our country should be very proud of all they achieved.

"Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam conflict will be an important opportunity for Australians to express the pride, gratitude and respect of the nation.

"The Vietnam War and its aftermath exacted a heavy toll on all those who served and their families. The treatment of our diggers upon their return home by some of their fellow Australians remains a source of hurt and pain for many. The 50 year commemoration is another important step in helping to heal the wounds that were inflicted back in Australia.



"The centrepiece will be a national commemorative service at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

We owe the men and women who served in Vietnam nothing less than a commemorative program that reflects their extraordinary service and sacrifice. Our country will always be grateful for it and we will never, ever, forget it," Minister Gee said.

Further announcements on the details of specific commemorations and the consultation process will be made on the Department of Veterans' Affairs website in due course.

11 January 2022

**The Hon Andrew Gee MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs Minister for Defence
Personnel**

Senator Jim Molan AO DSC
Senator for New South Wales

**CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON PERMANENT NOWRA
WELLBEING CENTRE**

Construction has begun on a new purpose built, state-of-the-art facility to permanently house the Nowra Veterans Wellbeing Centre, providing an expanded range of health and wellbeing services for our local veterans, current serving Australian Defence Force members and their families.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee visited the site at 124 Wallace Street today to officially launch the building works...

"RSL LifeCare, with the support of RSL NSW, has been doing a great job running the Nowra Wellbeing Centre out of their temporary premises and has already made a real difference in the lives of current ADF members, ex-service personnel, and their families. This new, permanent home will take those services to the next level. It will be a place of healing and connection, and a hub for accessing health, education and employment support.

"The facility has been carefully designed with a mix of communal, recreational and clinical spaces to meet the needs of veterans and their families. It is part of the Australian Government's \$43.2 million investment in a network of Wellbeing Centres across the country and demonstrates our commitment to providing local services to support veterans, defence personnel and their families wherever they live."

Senator for New South Wales Jim Molan said the new centre was a much needed addition to the region. "The Nowra Wellbeing Centre will provide critical services to more than 7,000 local veterans and their families in the Shoalhaven and neighbouring local government areas, as well as personnel from nearby HMAS Albatross and HMAS Creswell," Senator Molan said. "Being in the military is tough, and life after the military can be difficult to navigate. Having local support networks and a place where you can come together with others who are in a similar position is just so important."

RSL LifeCare Board Member and navy veteran Trevor Robertson said this Centre is the result of significant planning and consultation with local ex-service organisations and the veteran community to deliver a one-stop shop for service delivery that is veteran-centric and community driven. "The Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre will provide critical services to over 7,000 veterans and their families in the Shoalhaven and neighbouring local government areas, including education, health and ADF transition support and it will be an essential resource for the community for generations to come", Mr Robertson said.

"I would like to thank the DVA and the Federal Government for their support of the Veteran Wellbeing Centre model and RSL NSW, our partner charity, for supporting us in the delivery of services to veterans and their families."

RSL NSW President Ray James said the League has observed an increased need for support services this year and he expects this continue with the pressure of COVID-19 restrictions, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, and the ADF's withdrawal from the conflict in Afghanistan last year. "I take this opportunity to reassure veterans and their families across the Shoalhaven that local support and services are available to them at the Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre."

Construction on the Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre is expected to be finalised by mid-2022.

For more information on the National network of Veteran Wellbeing Centres visit: <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-treatment/work-and-social-life-programs/work-and-social-support/veteran-wellbeing>



RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH DIARY 2022

4 Jan	Office reopens	
CANCELLED	WV SB Board Meeting	1030 Corey Room
CANCELLED	WV SB OGM	1400 Corey Room
26 Jan	Australia Day public holiday	Office closed
04 Feb	18 th Birthday Eddison Club	Irish Club
8 Feb	WV SB Board Meeting	1330 Corey Room
22 Feb	WV SB OGM Dinner meetingTBC	
8 Mar	WV SB Board Meeting	1330 Corey Room
14 Mar	Canberra Day public holiday	Office closed
29 Mar	WV SB OGM	1400 Corey Room
12 Apr	WV SB Board Meeting	1330 Corey Room
15 Apr	Good Friday public holiday	Office closed
18 Apr	Easter Monday public holiday	Office closed
24 Apr	ANZAC Eve Dinner	1800 Orion Room CSCC
25 Apr TBC	WV SB ANZAC Day Service	0830 Eddison Park TBC
25 Apr	ANZAC Day March AWM	1000 Sub-Branch Contingent
25 Apr	ANZAC DAY public holiday	Office closed
10 May	WV SB Board Meeting	1330 Corey Room
30 May	Reconciliation Day public holiday	Office closed
31 May	WV SB AGM/OGM	1400 Corey Room
13 June	Queen's birthday public holiday	Office closed
14 Jun	WV SB Board Meeting	TBA
28 Jun	WV SB OGM Dinner meeting	1830 for 1900 CSCC Corinna 2
12 Jul	WV SB Board Meeting	TBA
26 Jul	WV SB OGM	TBA
9 Aug	WV SB Board Meeting	TBA
30 Aug	WV SB OGM	TBA
13 Sep	WV SB Board Meeting	TBA
27 Sep	WV SB OGM	TBA
03 Oct	Labour Day public holiday	Office closed
11 Oct	WV SB Board Meeting	TBA
25 Oct	WV OGM Dinner Meeting	1830 for 1900 CSCC Corinna 2
7-11 Nov	Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal	Canberra
8 Nov	WV SB Board Meeting	TBA
11 Nov	Remembrance Day Service	1030 at Australian War Memorial
29 Nov	WV SB OGM	TBA
13 Dec	WV SB Board Meeting	TBA
14 Dec TBC	WV SB Christmas lunch	1200 for 1230 CSCC TBA
16 Dec	Christmas closedown	From midday

As at January 2022

From RiotACT <https://the-riotact.com/valour-park-memorial-to-recognise-afghanistan-vc-recipients/522932>

Valour Park memorial to recognise Afghanistan VC recipients

By Ian Bushnell 10 January 2022
Victoria Cross Memorial

An artist's impression of the proposed Victoria Cross Memorial in Valour Park, Watson. Image: Moir Landscape Architecture.



Plans have been lodged for a major memorial to the Australian soldiers who were awarded the Victoria Cross in Afghanistan. The memorial is proposed for Valour Park in Watson, which the ACT Government and the National Capital Authority upgraded in 2017.

Valour Park already contains the the Apex Memorial which commemorates the 76 Apexians who died in World War II, and the Junior Farmers Memorial, recognising young farmers who died in service to Australia. Charitable organisation The Remembrance Driveway Council is behind the proposal, which is designed to enhance the experience of those visiting Valour Park by building on the presence of the existing memorials.

In 2019 the council ran a two-stage design competition for the development of a memorial to honour the four VC recipients from Afghanistan – Cameron Baird (deceased), Mark Donaldson, Daniel Keighran and Ben Roberts-Smith. The panel, which included the father of Cameron Baird, selected Moir Landscape Architecture as the successful consultant to proceed to develop the design.

The council's Carolyn Tallents said Moir Landscaping's entry got the nod for its poetic, peaceful response and organic form which offered containment and space for contemplation on an individual level but also enough room for small ceremonies. The DA says the concept builds on the symbolism of the Victoria Cross Medal, drawing from the laurel wreath and crown, and references Afghanistan...

The memorial will be composed of granite, concrete and weathered, engraved steel, while a Victoria Cross plaque will be in bronze. Ms Tallents said the council was in the early stages of fundraising for the project and has set a target of \$500,000. The Australian War Memorial may provide some assistance. DA approval will give the council two years to build the memorial, although it hopes to start construction in 12 months.

The council has been dedicating roadside rest areas between Sydney and Canberra to Australia's World War II and Vietnam VC recipients since 1995 and decided a few years ago that living recipients would be recognised as well. It has established 23 sites to-date, and a site has been picked to honour Keith Payne VC AM, although work cannot begin until the site has been redeveloped. Comments close on 28 January 2022..



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<https://mailchi.mp/hilltops/whats-on-in-the-hilltops-region-january-5516839?e=d0faa07a14>

Bill The Bastard Statue now on display in Murrumburrah

The long awaited time has come - Bill the Bastard bronzed sculpture has now been erected outside in Murrumburrah.

Sculpted by talented local artist, Carl Valerius, this life-sized tribute to the World War One hero stands proudly on Albury Street, Murrumburrah. It can be found opposite the The Light Horse Memorial, which commemorates the birthplace of the First Australian Light Horse at Murrumburrah in 1897.

The Hilltops Region is a must visit for those with an interest in war time history. Information on the project and the history of this famous war horse can be found [here](#).



Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs

From 1 January our education payments increased for veterans and their families. These payments are indexed each January to be in line with the increased cost of living, which is determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. For more information on the rates that have increased, visit the DVA website dva.gov.au/financial-support



We regret that Coffee Catch Up FRI-DAY has been cancelled due to the Covid situation.

Please note that the Eddison Day Club is currently meeting on only a very casual basis for lunch at midday Fridays.



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information
or access to our services

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PS.

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