

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ENEWS



June 2020

COREY ROOM OPENING CEREMONY



The long-awaited naming and dedication of the RSL WV S-B lounge as *The Corey Room* went ahead during the COVID-lockdown, with the result this room became a film studio as we had to cancel the planned public event. Speeches were recorded by the former Director of the AWM, Dr Brendan Nelson, President Jim Gilchrist and former President Bill Smith. Bill and our dear friend and member, the late Alex Reynolds, had worked for years to have CPL Ernie Corey recognised as the only man in the Commonwealth to have been awarded a Military Medal and three Bars. We can be proud that Ernie was an inaugural member of the Sub-Branch. Thanks to Dave Jenkins and his remarkable expertise, we will be

showing you the subsequent film at the postponed public opening celebration as soon as we can. Mick O'Donnell and Bob Cremer helped keep us on course prior to and during the filming. Thanks to everyone who was involved and, for the rest of us, be prepared for the premiere of the video of this momentous occasion.



ERNEST ALBERT COREY



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL F10290 001

Ernest Albert Corey (1891-1972), soldier and labourer, was born on 20 December 1891 at Green Hills near Cooma, New South Wales, eighth child of Thomas Corey, selector, and his wife Ellen, née Burke, both of whom were native-born. He was educated at Thubergal Lake Public School and then worked as a labourer in the Cooma district. On 13 January 1916 he left his job as a blacksmith's striker to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force, marching to Goulburn with the 'Men from Snowy River' in a recruiting march.

Corey was allotted to the 55th Battalion and embarked for overseas service in September. He joined his unit in France on 8 February 1917 and in April, as a private in 'C' Company, took part in the capture of Doignies. On 15 May, in an action near Quéant, his brigade suffered heavy casualties and Corey volunteered to serve as a stretcher-bearer: showing 'great courage' he worked for seventeen hours in no man's land and was awarded the Military Medal. He became a regular stretcher-bearer and won a Bar to his medal for 'devotion to duty' in the battle of Polygon Wood on 26 September, carrying out his duties under 'very heavy artillery and machine-gun fire'. He was awarded a second Bar for 'conspicuous gallantry' at Péronne on 1-2 September 1918 and a third during the attack on the Hindenburg Line north of Bellicourt on 30 September. At Bellicourt, Corey, who had been promoted corporal nine days earlier, was in charge of the battalion's stretcher-bearers and, despite intense machine-gun and shell-fire, directed them 'with the utmost skill and bravery'; 'regardless of personal danger ... he attended to men and carried them from the most exposed positions' until he himself was severely wounded and evacuated. He returned to Australia on 30 April 1919.

After demobilization Corey worked at Cooma as a contract rabbitier, and in 1922 moved to Canberra as a camp caretaker. On 23 September 1924, at St Gregory's Catholic Church, Queanbeyan, New South Wales, he married Sarah Jane Fisher;

there was one daughter of the marriage which was dissolved in 1935. In 1927-40 he worked in Canberra as an office cleaner with the Department of the Interior, then served with the 2nd Garrison Battalion in World War II. He was later employed as a caretaker, as cook for a departmental survey party and as leading hand at the Canberra incinerator. By 1951 he was almost crippled with osteoarthritis. Survived by his daughter, he died at Queanbeyan Private Nursing Home on 25 August 1972 and was buried with full military honours in Canberra cemetery.

Though small in stature Corey was powerfully built and had a lively personality. He is believed to be the only man to have won three Bars to a Military Medal. Corey Place in the Canberra suburb of Gowrie is named after him, also a fountain in Cooma Centennial Park.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL SHO/71/0167/HQ



Queanbeyan, NSW. May 1971. Informal portrait of veteran Mr Ernest Corey in a Queanbeyan Nursing Home, with Sister Mary Hawkins. Mr Corey was the only soldier in the British Commonwealth to have been awarded the Military Medal (MM) four times. 2143 Corporal Ernest Albert Corey of Cooma, NSW, enlisted on 13 January 1916 into the 55th Battalion



Ernest Corey's medals on display at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.



Peter Eveille, AM

After a long career as a volunteer, advocate and welfare supporter of the RSL, DFWA, VVFA and Legacy, including a stint as RSL ACT President and influencer at RSL National, we were delighted to see Peter Eveille be appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Atta boy, Peter, and well done from all of us.

Jim Gilchrist

COVID19 – calming and coping



[https://www.openarms.gov.au/about/news/2020/covid19-calming-and-coping?
fbclid=IwAR2x8aiRP9gMLLkXqBo7uzT9c0GG_u2PL5t-
SMeGWTQqPh0cCSWpKrhJhA8](https://www.openarms.gov.au/about/news/2020/covid19-calming-and-coping?fbclid=IwAR2x8aiRP9gMLLkXqBo7uzT9c0GG_u2PL5t-SMeGWTQqPh0cCSWpKrhJhA8)

Across Australia people are feeling anxious - which is a completely normal reaction to the uncertainty we are facing around the impacts of COVID19. Importantly, as long as this anxiety does not become overwhelming, it can be channelled into positive actions to help us cope and maintain our wellbeing.

Key at this time is looking after ourselves and those around us. It is especially important that we are checking in with people who have an existing mental health issue. If anxiety becomes overwhelming it can lead to feelings of hopelessness and depression. Thankfully, there are actions we can all take to strengthen personal wellbeing and assist others.

Remember these are not new skills for veterans and their families. Service members and families face change and challenges throughout their service career. This is about refocusing coping strategies to face a new challenge.

OPEN ARMS
Veterans & Families
Counselling

24hr CRISIS SUPPORT

Call us 24Hr 1800 011 046

A service founded by Vietnam Veterans
now for all veterans

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn icons



The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

Thursday, 14 May 2020

STATEMENT – VALE DR PATRICK SIMON AO

Australia lost a true friend today with the passing of Dr Patrick Simon AO in France.

As Mayor of Villers-Bretonneux in Northern France, close to the memorial sites so significant for many Australians, Dr Simon continued the tradition established by former Mayors of Villers-Bretonneux of holding commemorative activities in the town each year to mark Anzac Day.

Dr Simon oversaw the renovation of the Franco-Australian First World War museum in Villers-Bretonneux, was a strong supporter and voice in the establishment of Australia's Sir John Monash Centre, and always extended a warm and hospitable welcome to Australian visitors.

In recognition of his continued efforts to strengthen the Franco-Australian relationship, Dr Simon was awarded an Order of Australia on 26 April 2015 by then Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

With his passion and commitment to Australia, he launched a fundraiser after seeing reports of the devastating bushfires across Australia earlier this year.

"The idea came from my heart. Everyone here was talking about the fires, and we were all appalled," Dr Simon said at the time.

By late February Dr Simon had organised for some \$37,000 to be collected from the school children and residents of Villers-Bretonneux.

Dr Simon will be greatly missed by all Australians who met and worked with him.

I thank him for all his work in promoting the Franco-Australian shared history, particularly in future generations, and welcoming Australians to the region each year.

ENDS

MEDIA CONTACTS

Rachel Tharratt: 02 6277 7820

DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

Office of the Hon. Darren Chester, Canberra ACT.



Villers - Bretonneux mayor who led bushfire commemorations dies of COVID-19

Villagers from Villers-Bretonneux, in France, march in solidarity with Australian bushfire victims earlier this year.
Photo: Supplied.

The Mayor of Villers-Bretonneux, a French village inextricably linked with Australia since WWI, and with the Bega Valley in particular, has died from COVID-19.

Dr Patrick Simon died on Wednesday, and a statement from his family described him as their “hero”.

He had been the village’s mayor since 2008 and recently led fundraising and commemorative efforts that recognised the devastating toll of the past summer’s bushfires in Australia. He was awarded an honorary Order of Australia medal in 2015.

Villagers from the northern French hamlet of Villers-Bretonneux have tended the friendship with Australia for more than a century. The village is the final resting place for more than 2000 Australian and Commonwealth servicemen, and the people of Victoria paid to rebuild the local school after the devastation of the Great War.

A sign above the L’Ecole Victoria (Victoria School) playground reads “Do Not Forget Australia”.

Dr Simon also oversaw the renovation of the Franco-Australian Museum in the township.

As bushfires engulfed the Bega Valley, the people of Villiers-Bretonneux rallied to Australia’s call for help from the mayor.

An online fundraising page received donations from more than 800 people, and more than 1000 people braved the winter chill for a solidarity march from the centre of the village to the Sir John Monash Centre Australian National Memorial, where a school choir sang a song specially written for the appeal entitled *Australia, Stop Burning*.

By late February, more than \$37,000 had been raised. The proceeds are being shared between the firefighters of Robinvale in Victoria – which has enjoyed a longstanding relationship with Villers-Bretonneux – and the Bega Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund.

At the request of the Villers-Bretonneux community, the Bega Valley funds will be used within the Cobargo area.

Anzac Day this year marked 102 years since Australian diggers played a key role in liberating the French hamlet from German occupation as the carnage of the Western Front raged on during WWI.

Bega Valley Shire Mayor Sharon Tapscott described Dr Simon as a great friend of Australia and the Bega Valley.

“We have lost a great man and someone our community will forever be indebted to,” she said. “Our sincerest condolences go to Patrick’s family and the people of Villers-Bretonneux.”

Flags at the Australian embassy in Paris flew at half-mast in Dr Simon’s honour, and he has also been remembered in Robinvale, where Swan Hill Rural City Council Mayor Bill Moar said councillors had developed many close friendships with him and his colleagues.

Robinvale was named after Lieutenant George Robin Cuttle, who was killed in combat at Caix during the fight to liberate Villers-Bretonneux in May 1918.



The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday, 10 May 2020

VETERANS TAKE HOME THEIR ASSISTANCE DOGS

AN important step forward in supporting veterans and their families has been reached with the first two dogs, Zuma and Leon, provided to veterans under the Federal Government's Psychiatric Assistance Dogs program.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the Government has listened to veterans, ex-service organisations and the wider ex-service community about the role psychiatric assistance dogs can play in improving the lives of veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"This program will change lives and it will save lives, and I have no doubt Zuma and Leon will make a difference to their new owners and help them to manage their mental health and wellbeing," Mr Chester said.

"The dogs will now begin their next phase of training together with their owner and within their own environment, and importantly, as part of the veterans PTSD management plan.

"This is just one of the ways we are putting veterans and their families first, and I look forward to seeing more eligible veterans signing up to experience the difference an assistance dog can make to their mental health and to their overall quality of life."

The first two dogs handed over are from one of the approved providers based in Queensland, Smart Pups, which is supplying eligible veterans nationwide with trained psychiatric assistance dogs through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) program.

"The program is available to eligible veterans who have a diagnosis of PTSD and forms part of their PTSD management plan, along with financial assistance from DVA for the upkeep of the dog," Mr Chester said.

"Since the program was announced in September 2019, there has been more than 130 requests from veterans interested in adding an assistance dog to their treatment plan.

"The psychiatric assistance dogs are specially trained to perform tasks that contribute to the clinical recovery goals of their handler (veteran), including detecting signs of distress in their handler and performing specific tasks to help alleviate those symptoms.

Australian Army veteran Andrew Glebow was one of the first to receive his dog and said that when he met Leon, he knew he was the right dog for him.

"I got a good vibe from him straight away, so I know that we're going to have a good relationship together. I'm really excited about him being a part of my life now," Mr Glebow said.

"So from this point, having Leon as a part of my life is going to give me first and foremost companionship. It's going to ease my anxiety and my depression a lot having him around. And he already has!

Open Arms — Veterans & Families Counselling provides free and confidential support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Help is available 24/7 on 1800 011 046 (international: +61 1800 011 046 or +61 8 8241 4546) or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au

“The DVA and Smart Pups process up until now has been really easy to understand, straight-forward, and with a person such as myself suffering from PTSD I’ve had no problems at all, it’s been great.”

Mr Chester said that as part of DVA’s program, participating veterans are encouraged to be involved in an evaluation process designed to understand the individual program benefits experienced by veterans living with complex mental health conditions.

“I encourage veterans who are participating in the program to provide their feedback so that we can continue to improve what we are doing and meet the changing needs of the veteran community,” Mr Chester said.

Veterans currently accessing treatment for PTSD are encouraged to speak to their mental health professional in regards to gaining access to a psychiatric assistance dog, or for more information about DVA’s Psychiatric Assistance Dog program visit the [DVA website](#).

VISION AND PHOTOS HERE https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZDUCvMu_04CafsshPyuLfmAk1-fvsxcq?usp=sharing



Photos above : Andrew Glebow and his dog Leon



**FLU
vaccine**

Photo above : WV RSL member John Bullen with wife Yvonne

**GET THE 2020 FLU VACCINE NOW
DON'T RISK GETTING THE FLU
AND COVID-19 AT THE SAME TIME**

Have you had this year's flu vaccine? If you are 65 years and older, you are at high risk of developing serious complications from the flu. Getting vaccinated will help protect you and your loved ones from influenza this winter.

The influenza vaccine is free and strongly recommended for all adults 65 years and older.

It's important to make an appointment first, talk to your health care professional and visit health.act.gov.au/flu

ACT Government Economic survival package

Families and households

14 April 2020

[Residential rates](#)

[Hardship rates deferral arrangements](#)

[Residential tenancy relief](#)

[Vehicle and public transport fees](#)

[Household utilities and concessions](#)

The ACT Government is taking a range of actions and providing practical support, such as rebates and the freezing of some government fees to reduce pressure on household budgets.

Residential rates

The ACT government will reduce pressure on household budgets by delaying issuing 2019-20 quarter 4 residential general instalments and land tax assessments by four weeks. This will be payable one month after issue.

The government will also:

- apply a \$150 rebate to the fixed charge component of all residential rates bills in 2020-21
- freeze the Fire and Emergency Services Levy in 2020-21 at the current 2019-20 level.

These will be automatically applied to 2020-21 rates bills. You do not need to apply.

Hardship rates deferral arrangements

The ACT Revenue Office will implement a new process for rates deferrals for owner occupiers experiencing hardship because of COVID-19. No interest will apply to the deferred amount.

The deferral will be for 12 months where household income has been *significantly* (at least 25%) reduced by circumstances such as:

- unemployment;
- reduction in hours of work; or
- a loss of small business income.

Eligibility criteria will include income testing (household incomes less than \$160,000 before tax).

The ACT Government will reprioritise existing resources and provide any additional resources to the ACT Revenue Office to ensure quick and timely responses are provided to households seeking COVID-19 hardship support.

Residential tenancy relief

The government will provide a land tax and rates rebate to landlords of residential properties who reduce rents by at least 25 per cent for tenants impacted by COVID-19.

The rebate will be equal to 50 per cent of the rent reduction, capped at \$1,300 per quarter (around \$100 per week), for up to six months. This will provide rental relief to impacted tenants of up to \$200 per week.

To access the rebate, landlords will need to complete a [simple online application form](#) on the [ACT Revenue Office website](#).

Read the [fact sheets](#) for [residential tenants](#), [landlords](#) and [real estate agents](#) which set out rights and obligations if a tenant cannot pay their rent due to the impact of COVID-19.

Vehicle and public transport fees

The government will automatically freeze all 2020-21 vehicle registration, parking and public transport fee increases at the current 2019-20 levels.

Household utilities and concessions

Households already receiving the Utilities Concession will receive an additional \$200 rebate through their electricity bill.

This includes: Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card holders, Centrelink Low Income Health Care Card holders and Veteran's Affairs Pensioner Concession Card or Gold Card holders.

This will be automatically applied to the next electricity bill in June or July 2020. You do not need to contact your electricity supplier.

The government will also contribute up to \$250,000 to a new fund to assist households severely impacted by COVID-19.

Details on how the fund will operate will be determined in consultation with electricity retailers, who will be asked to make a co-contribution in order to access the fund.

Utilities Network Facilities Tax

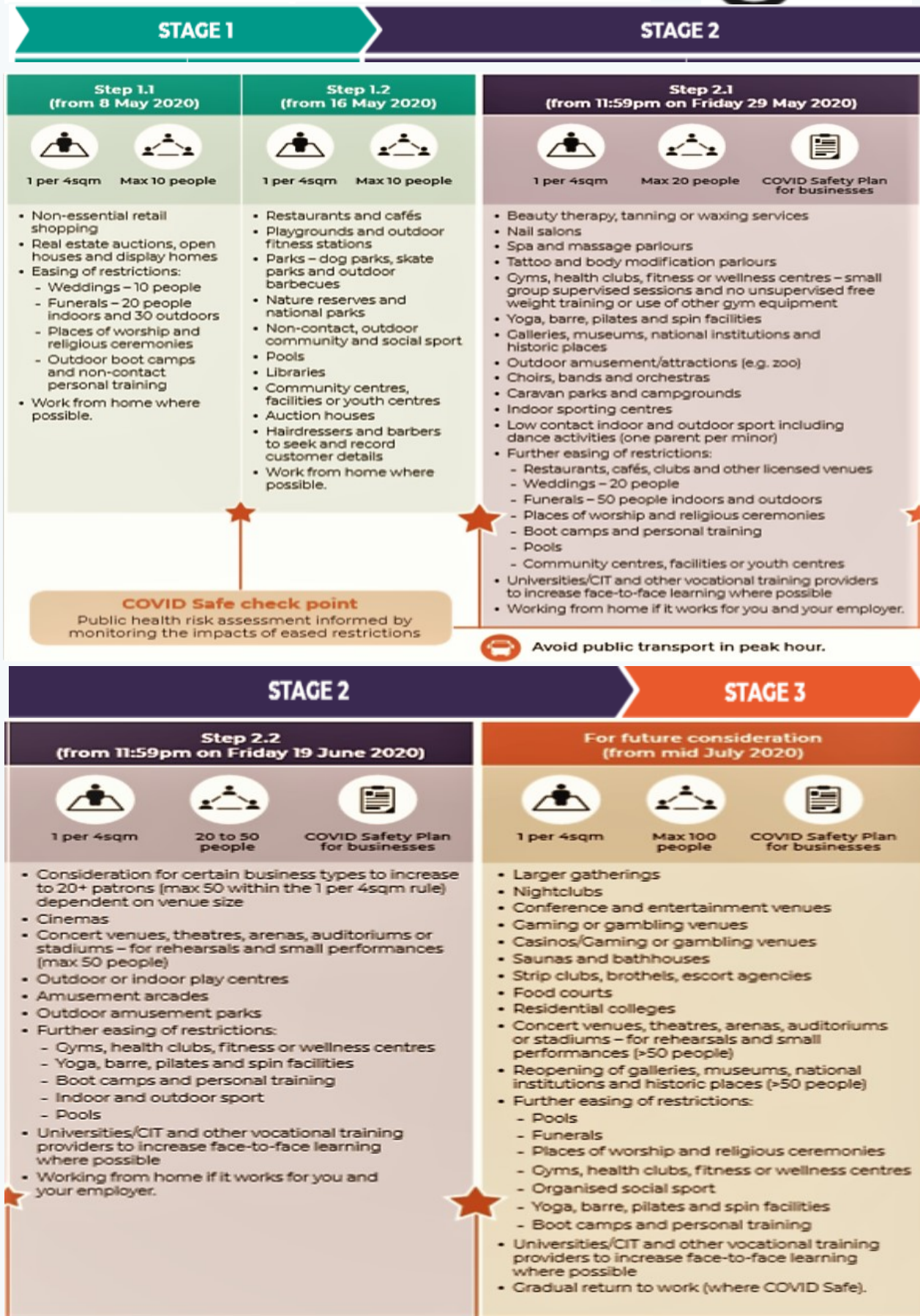
The government will freeze the Utilities Network Facilities Tax (UNFT) at the current level. The UNFT is paid by utility providers and applies to any network facility on land in the ACT, including networks for transmitting and distributing electricity, gas, sewage, water and telecommunications.

Freezing the UNFT will enable utility providers to pass on savings to customers and support improved hardship measures for ACT customers.

<https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/business-hub/economic-survival-package/families-and-households>

CANBERRA'S RECOVERY PLAN

COVID-19 Easing of Restrictions Roadmap



From ACT Seniors and Veterans Newsletter - May 2020

Financial Support - Federal Government

NEWSLETTER



Support for Individuals

The Australian Government will provide two payments of \$750 to around 6.5 million social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders. Around half of those that benefit are pensioners.

The first instalment was paid between 31 March and 17 April 2020.

The second payment will be made from 13 July 2020.

For the second payment, you must be receiving an eligible payment or have an eligible concession card. You also won't receive the second payment if you're receiving the Coronavirus Supplement from Services Australia or the Department of Veterans' Affairs. More information about this is below.

Payments and concessions that would make you eligible include:

- Age Pension
- Carer Allowance
- Commonwealth Seniors Card holders
- Disability Support Pension
- Pensioner Concession card holders
- Newstart Allowance
- Veteran Gold Card Holders
- Veteran Service Pension
- Youth Allowance.

There will be one payment per eligible recipient per round, even if you qualify for a payment in multiple ways. The payment will be exempt from taxation and will not count as income for Social Security, Farm Household Allowance and Veteran payments.

Individuals who have lost their employment qualify for the Centrelink Jobseeker payment. Services Australia has expanded the eligibility for some payments and waived the asset testing for six months from 25 March 2020. During the pandemic, people receiving the Jobseeker payment will also receive the temporary Coronavirus Supplement of \$550 a fortnight.

Self-funded Retirees

The Government is temporarily reducing superannuation minimum drawdown requirements for account-based pensions and similar products by 50 per cent for 2019–20 and 2020–21. This measure will help retirees conserve their superannuation balances.

Australian Government Business Hotline

The Australian Government has also established a dedicated hotline to provide support to small and medium businesses impacted by coronavirus. Call 13 28 46 for more information.

Support for Mental Health Services

The Australian Government has also committed \$74 million to support mental health services, including:

- a dedicated coronavirus wellbeing support line, delivered by Beyond Blue, to support those who may feel anxious or have experienced stress due to the impacts of the virus;
- increasing the capacity of mental health services such as Lifeline and Kids Helpline;

- as well as other digital mental health services, digital training of front-line health workers to enable them to provide mental health support; and
- expanding the Community Visitors Scheme to provide the capability for staff and volunteer visitors to connect with older people in aged care online and by phone, and assist older Australians keep in touch with the community and loved ones.

Contact details for mental health support services are provided later in this bulletin.

More Information

For more information on the federal government stimulus package please visit the following websites:

- Treasury: <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus>
- Services Australia: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/news/more-financial-support-people-affected-coronavirus>

Staying socially connected and physically active

Virtual Exercise

The Council on the Ageing (COTA) ACT will be offering free online exercise sessions led by Diane, the Strength for Life Coordinator in the ACT.

This is a great opportunity for older Canberrans (and anyone around the world) to participate in an exercise class specifically designed for older people. We hope that you will join us in an effort to stay active and well!

New Dedicated Libraries ACT Digital Helpline

Our library branches may be closed due to COVID-19, but their online services are always open! In response to the growing demand for their FREE digital resources, Libraries ACT has launched a new dedicated helpline, available 9:30am – 5:00pm, Monday to Friday (except public holidays).

Get easy access to eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital magazines, literacy games, language learning and online databases. You can also stream children’s stories, movies and documentaries, or download and stream music. All for FREE!

With close to 18,000 eBooks and more than 9,000 eAudiobooks, there’s something for everyone.

If it’s your first time using the library online or you just need some extra help accessing online resources, give the Libraries ACT Digital Helpline a call on 6207 7265 and one of their friendly staff will help step you through what to do.

In addition to providing over-the-phone support, the helpline team will also develop new online information (such as how-to-guides) to further aid customers with their digital resource access needs. This information will be made available on the Libraries ACT website, www.library.act.gov.au.

Join the ACT Seniors Card Facebook Page!

The [ACT Seniors Card Facebook](#) provides information on discounts and services that can be accessed with an ACT Seniors Card. We also share great content and engage with the ACT Seniors Card community through replies and comments, assisting people to use their ACT Seniors Card to the fullest. We will share deals and offers from our community of supporting businesses partners.

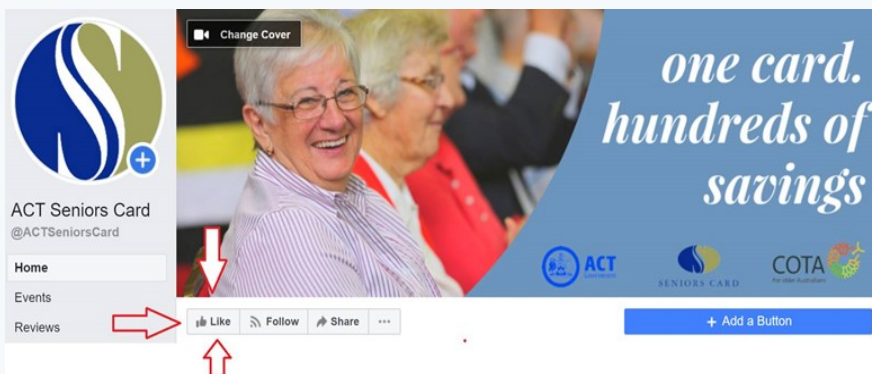
If you use Facebook we encourage you to visit the [ACT Seniors Card Facebook](#) page today and ‘like’ the page.



Visit the page regularly to see updates on the discounted products and services and upcoming events. To sign up to the [ACT Seniors Card Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ACTSeniorsCard/) page, follow these easy steps:

From you smartphone, computer or iPad put the following web link into the browser - <https://www.facebook.com/ACTSeniorsCard/>

Click on the 'like' button:



- Once you have 'liked' the page, come back and visit the page from time-to-time and scroll down the page to check out the discounts to products and services from our business partners.
- For more information email seniorscard@cotaact.org.au

National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention

On 5 February 2020, the Prime Minister announced that the Australian Government will establish a new National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention (National Commissioner).

The National Commissioner will work to identify and understand the factors and systemic issues that may contribute to suicide risk among serving and former ADF members, and will make recommendations to government about actions and strategies to prevent future suicides.

A dedicated taskforce has been formed to progress the establishment of the National Commissioner, their office, and supporting legislation, as quickly as possible. The Australian Government intends to appoint an interim National Commissioner to begin an independent review of past defence and veteran suicides. Families affected by veteran suicide will be invited to participate in the work of the National Commissioner, including by making submissions, and will be supported to do so.

More information about the National Commissioner is available on the website at <https://www.ag.gov.au/About/Pages/national-commissioner-defence-veteran-suicide-prevention.aspx>.

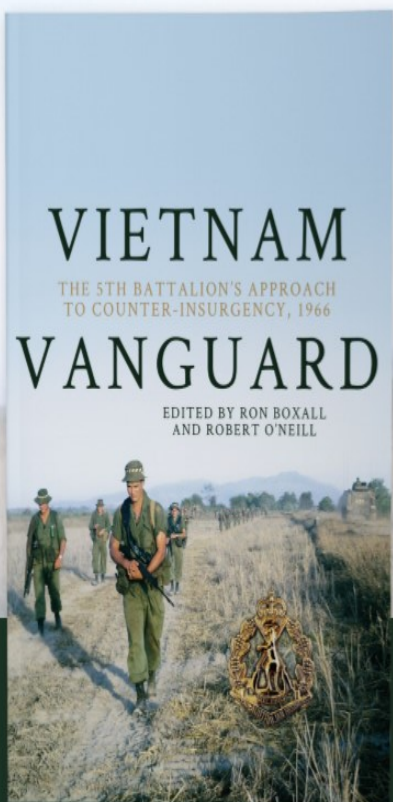
Support from Department of Veterans' Affairs

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has a Pandemic Business Continuity Plan in place to provide critical support and services to veterans and their families during the COVID-19 crisis.

Older and at-risk veterans, or those in self-isolation, can access shopping provided via Veterans' Home Care and Household Services. The Australian Government has also advised that vulnerable people, including eligible veterans, can order their Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme prescriptions online or remotely, and have their medicines home delivered. Veterans should contact their pharmacies for more information. While those who need to visit their doctor face-to-face can continue to do so, veterans and their families can also access health services from medical professionals, specialists and mental health professionals at home via video link or telephone.

Veterans are also able to access a number of economic stimulus and health measures announced by the Australian Government. These are detailed above under the heading Financial Support – Federal Government.

New 5 RAR Book - Vietnam Vanguard

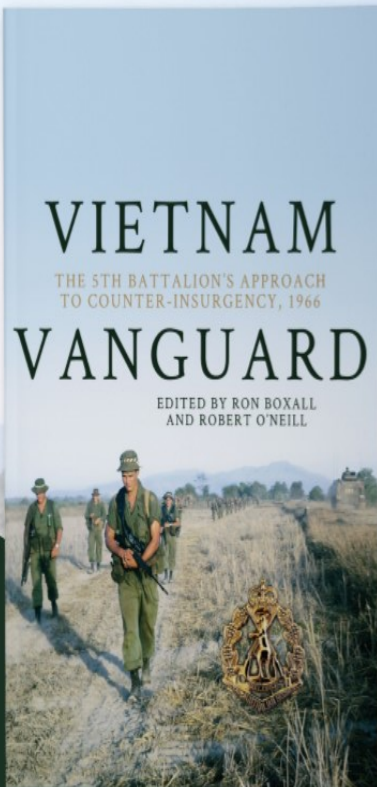


The pivotal role of Australian forces in the Vietnam War remains largely unknown to the Australian public. Providing a rare, vivid, and personal account of 5 RAR, 'Vietnam Vanguard' offers a compelling insight into the realities of war.

Buy now or download for free:
press.anu.edu.au/publications/vietnam-vanguard



PRESS



PRESS

For many reasons, the Australian public know relatively little about what our Army did in Vietnam during the war, particularly during the years of our peak commitment, 1966-72. This book attempts to make the true nature of the war clearer to readers, emphasising how hard fought it was during major operations.

Twenty-seven of the contributing authors of this book were involved in the 1968 deployment of the 1st Australian Task Force into Phuoc Tuy Province. This formation was the first Australian Army force larger than an infantry battalion group to be deployed into a major war since World War II. 5th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (5 RAR), was in the vanguard as the task force's first element committed to operations to seize and occupy Nui Dat base and embark on establishing dominance over the enemy.

The narratives presented in this book give rare insights into thoughts of the soldiers at the time and how they have come to view the Australian Government's hurried expansion of its initial commitment to that war, the Army's state of preparedness for that wider involvement, and how those in its forefront adapted to get the job done, both in and out of operations, despite numerous shortcomings in higher level planning.

Buy now or download for free: press.anu.edu.au/publications/vietnam-vanguard

Roger Wainwright

Vice-President

5RAR Association Inc

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Email: roger.w@netspeed.com.au

Web: www.5rar.asn.au



What do I do if ...

My hearing provider suggests that the devices from the HSP do not meet my hearing needs?

Check with your hearing provider that they have looked at all devices available through the Hearing Services Program.

The range of devices and technology available through the HSP is extensive – there should be hearing aids to meet your hearing needs.

Also ask your hearing provider to explore ALD options appropriate for your hearing needs. ALDs are available to you through DVA.

My hearing provider requests payment for a hearing device?

Ask your hearing provider if they have considered all the devices and combinations available through both the HSP and DVA-funded ALDs.

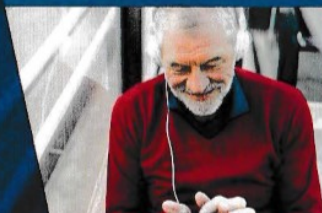
HSP and DVA-funded ALDs, are provided to you at no cost.

If a cost or payment is still required, ask your hearing provider to contact DVA to discuss your circumstances.

DVA does not reimburse for hearing devices already purchased.

I am unsure about using hearing aids and ALDs?

Your hearing provider will provide support and training for all devices prescribed to you.



For more information

For more information about the Hearing Services Program, please contact:

Australian Government Hearing Services Program

Phone: 1800 500 726
Email: hearing@health.gov.au
Website: www.hearingservices.gov.au

If you would like more information about ALDs, Tinnitus treatment or other DVA services, contact:

DVA General Enquiries

Phone: 1800 555 254
Email: GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au
Website: www.dva.gov.au



DVA health provider enquiries

Hearing providers can contact DVA if they have any queries:

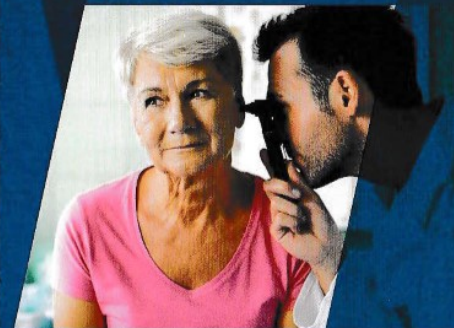
Phone: 1800 550 457
Email: Health.Approval@dva.gov.au

Hearing or speech impairment assistance

TTY users: 1800 555 677
ask for the 1800 numbers above
Speak and Listen user: 1800 555 727
ask for the 1800 numbers above
Internet relay users connect to the National Relay Service for the 1800 numbers above



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Guide to Hearing Services

Hearing loss and tinnitus are two of the most common conditions experienced by former Australian Defence Force personnel.

Hearing services for veterans

The Australian Government provides hearing services to veterans in two ways. The first is the Hearing Services Program (HSP), administered by the Department of Health. The second is via the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

Hearing Services Program

The HSP offers more than 250 high-quality hearing aids. It is available to all eligible Australians, including veterans. These hearing aids meet the needs of the vast majority of DVA clients.

Devices through the HSP are free.

For more information, and to find a hearing provider in your area, go to the HSP website (www.hearingservices.gov.au).



DVA's hearing services

DVA supports veterans with service-related hearing loss and tinnitus by funding:

- tests to determine if your hearing loss or tinnitus is service-related
- Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)
- replacement batteries and hearing aid maintenance
- treatment for tinnitus.



Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)

ALDs work in combination with hearing aids and are designed to help you hear better in specific circumstances, such as watching television or being out in social situations. ALDs must be prescribed by your hearing provider.

Using ALDs and hearing aids together has been shown to provide superior hearing when compared to using hearing aids alone.

Types of ALDs include television listening devices, microphone/FM listening systems and wireless streaming devices.

Ask your hearing provider whether you need an ALD, particularly if you're finding your hearing aid isn't very effective.

For more information, and to find a hearing provider in your area, go to the ALD page on the DVA website (www.dva.gov.au/ALDs).

REMEMBER

You can arrange an appointment with the hearing provider of your choice.

Take your DVA Gold or White Card to the appointment and let your hearing provider know you have a DVA card.



Tinnitus treatment

DVA funds a range of services and devices for tinnitus.

Your GP can refer you to a hearing provider, such as an audiologist or an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist, for an assessment and possible treatment. This might involve:

- a rehabilitation plan
- devices to help with sleep
- hearing aids with tinnitus settings.

They will need to seek approval for funding from DVA before they treat you. Otherwise, you will have to pay for it.



Exceptional circumstances

Your hearing provider may feel that your hearing needs are exceptional and cannot be met by HSP hearing aids and/or DVA-covered assistive listening devices. If so, ask them to submit a request to DVA.

Check with your hearing provider to make sure DVA has approved the request **before** they sell you any devices that are not part of either the HSP or DVA-funded ALDs.

DVA does not reimburse you for hearing devices you've already bought without our approval.

For more information, go to the hearing services page on the DVA website (www.dva.gov.au/hearing).



75th Anniversary of the End of the Second World War

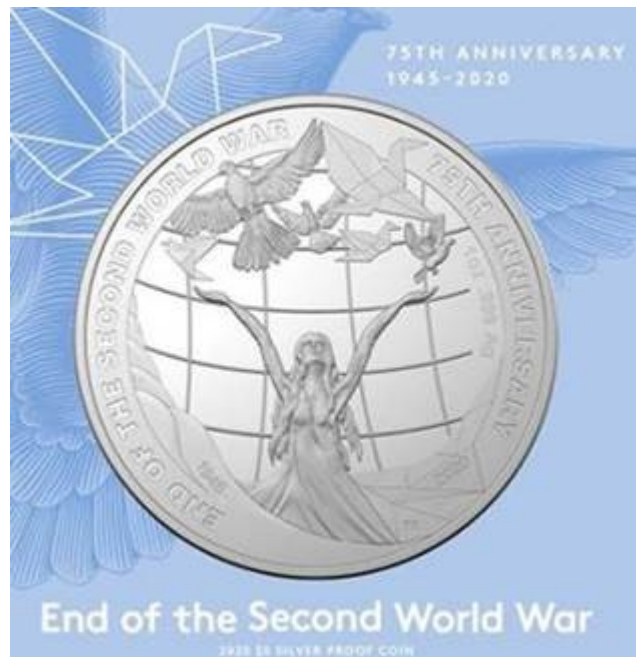
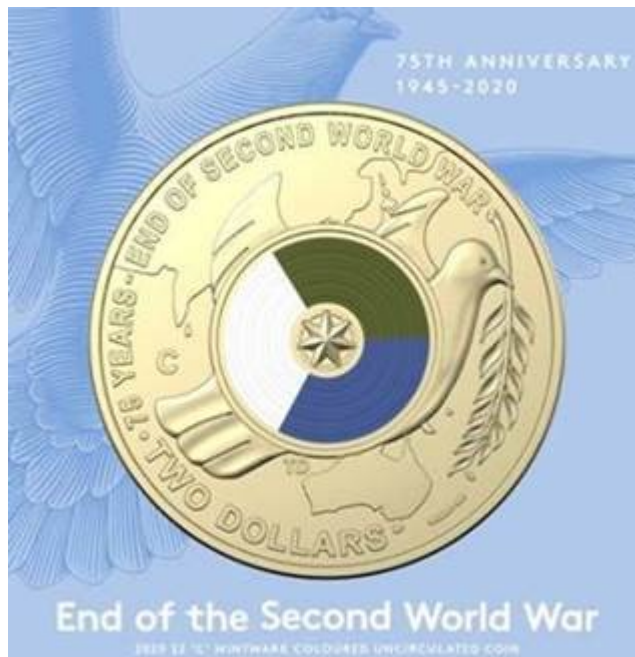
Members of the Returned Service League (RSL),

THESE 2020 COMMEMORATIVE COINS ARE A MEMORABLE TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. To commemorate this important milestone, as well as Anzac Day 2020, the Royal Australian Mint has released two limited-edition collectible coins, as well as a new circulating \$2 coin.

This year, Australians will observe Anzac Day without many of its traditional ceremonies. While we deal with the challenges of COVID-19, we should reflect on the sacrifices made by generations before us.

The beautiful \$2 collectible and circulating coin features the dove of peace and colours representing the three Australian forces that served from 1939 to 1945. The \$5 Silver Proof Coin displays a woman releasing doves, representing peace, and origami cranes: a reference to the Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima, Japan. These coin designs represent the triumph of peace over war, and solemnly commemorates those who fell during the Second World War.



If you are not interested in receiving emails of this nature in the future, please respond to info@ramint.gov.au

Thank you,
Royal Australian Mint
info@ramint.gov.au



HEART HEALTH
GETTING VETERANS FITTER, HAPPIER AND HEALTHIER

Health & Fitness

The Heart Health program aims to increase your physical health, fitness and wellbeing by providing practical exercise resources, nutritional and lifestyle coaching for 12 months.

The Heart Health Program is free and open to all veterans and peacekeepers who have had operational service and who have not participated in the program before.

Physical health is vital to your mental health and your overall quality of life. There are a number of benefits for those taking part in the program.

Participants will:

- Increase energy levels
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Improve strength, flexibility and coordination
- Learn healthy eating practices
- Prevent chronic disease
- Increase mobility
- Manage Stress and improve sleep
- Create and maintain social connections

Fully Funded.



For more information and to check your eligibility contact CHM at hearthealth@chm.com.au
1300 246 262 | www.veteranshearthealth.com.au

www.veteranshearthealth.com.au

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- **Friday Coffee Catch up**

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FURTHER NOTICE**

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 at 10.30am

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