

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ENEWS



MARCH 2022



WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ANZAC MORNING REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY



**Join us at Eddison Park,
Phillip
Monday 25 April 2022
Commencing at 08:00am
BYO chair and umbrella,
please note due to
renovations there will be
NO BUS this year to AWM**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANZAC APPEAL WEEK

19 - 24 April

Please contact us on 62851931

**if you can help staff a
booth for the ANZAC Appeal.**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 31

Dear Members

Thanks to the more than 40 members who contributed, in person or by proxy, to the OGM earlier this week. The resolution passed at that meeting will contribute significantly to the Board's continued implementation of a succession plan for the Board itself and more importantly to the Sub-Branch as a whole. After some fruitful and constructive debate, the meeting overwhelmingly supported the Board's recommendation to amend the By-Law that limited the tenure of the Executive. As noted in the papers issued prior to the meeting and discussed at the meeting, this amendment will provide more freedom for the Board to continue the managed development of the capabilities we require to support our members and other members of the Veteran Community in the ACT and region.

I also thank the ACT Branch President, John King, who briefed the meeting on some key issues and developments at the National (RSLA) and Branch levels. While most of these issues have been and will continue to be reported in media releases and other notices we distribute through our newsletters and direct emails, I believe the initiatives John mentioned demonstrate the commitment of RSLA and the various branches to meet our shared objects.

Otherwise, within the Sub-Branch, our staff and volunteers continue to support our members and other clients through our member services, and compensation and welfare support.

As we approach ANZAC Day, we are planning and supporting various activities associated with commemoration, including our ANZAC Eve Dinner and the ANZAC Day service at Eddison Park. Please look out for notices of these events and join in as many as you wish and assist in whatever way you feel you are able.

Best wishes to all,

Jim Gilchrist

President

RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch OGM on Tuesday 29 March 2022

The March OGM were briefed by President Jim Gilchrist on the recent developments in Veteran Wellbeing Centres. Jim said that their focus appeared to be centred on transitional employment opportunities, while for Sub-Branches our focus would remain on looking after members.

ACT President John King attended the OGM at Jim Gilchrist's invitation and spoke about RSL Employment Centre activities having been extended to families of veterans. He also mentioned a list of ESOs by location would, for the first time, be taken outside the Defence website for wider use. The Qld and NSW Branches had funded its compilation and update to take the whole ex-Defence network.

Mr King also advised the Sub-Branch of the difficulties expected in this year's AWM march due to ongoing renovations at the War Memorial which precluded use of ANZAC Parade or a national Commemoration. The steeply inclined access from Reid Park would present a challenge to vets with walking difficulties or anyone attempting to push a wheelchair to the AWM salute, followed in an hour (with no seating provided) by the annual speech. Instead, there were various screens to transmit the speech to standing observers in Reid Park and around the AWM.

Peter Sutton was confirmed at the OGM in his appointment as Vice President Welfare and the tenure of office restrictions were removed from the By-Laws with board participation by "new blood" nominations to be encouraged by other means, including at this year's AGM. The meeting accepted that corporate knowledge is currently essential through this time of flux and change in wellbeing centres and during the Royal Commission.

The Eddison Park service has been confirmed for 8am on ANZAC Day with participants encouraged by bring a chair if they wish to be seated.





**WODEN VALLEY RSL
SUB-BRANCH ANZAC
EVE DINNER
24 APRIL 2022**



The President and Board of the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch have pleasure in inviting you and your guests to the annual ANZAC Eve Dinner and Rededication Ceremony at the Canberra Southern Cross Club in Woden on **Sunday 24 April at 6pm**

Our guest Speaker is the RSL National President Greg Melick AO RFD FANZCN SC



The son of a WWII veteran, Major General Melick, a former Australian Army commando, was elected as National President in 2019. Greg Melick enjoyed a stellar career in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) rising through the ranks to Major General. He was the ADF's senior Reserve Officer, a role responsible for Reserves and Cadets before retiring in December 2018 after 52 years' service. He is Colonel Commandant, 1st Commando Regiment and is a member on the Council of the Australian War Memorial Commission.

Please book and pay by cob Thursday 14 April.

Cost is \$42 per person, drinks at own expense.

Phone us on 6285 1931 with your credit card details; or call in person for cash, cheque or credit/debit card payment at the Sub-Branch Office, Level 2A, 27 Mulley Street HOLDER ACT 2611.

By direct credit (EFT) to: **BSB 062 908 Account number 1084 1897 A/C name: Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch** include your name and advise the office of your booking by e-mail to admin@rslwoden.org.au to make sure we cater for you and your dietary requirements.

Menu

Mains: alternate serve

**Roasted Riverine lamb rump, crispy Kipfler potato, grilled broccolini, salsa verde (GF)
Grilled Chicken Breast, sour cream and chive mash, honey roasted carrot, creamy mushroom sauce.**

Dessert: alternate serve

**Passionfruit tart, fresh passionfruit, mint, crème chantilly (NF)
Warm sticky date pudding, salted caramel sauce and vanilla bean icecream
Complimentary Basket of sourdough rolls with cultured butter
Freshly brewed Lonsdale Street Roasters coffee and selection of teas.**

Dress: Jacket and tie + military medals



This year the Australian War Memorial will mark the 107th anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli with an Anzac Day Dawn Service at 5.30am.

The Returned Services League will coordinate a full Veterans' March to proceed through the western grounds of the Memorial at 9.30am.

Tickets will not be required to attend the Anzac Day Dawn Service or Veterans' March.

The Memorial galleries will open at midday, and the Anzac Day Last Post Ceremony will be held in the Commemorative Area at 4.45 pm. Tickets are required to enter the Memorial galleries and Last Post Ceremony.

Find out more: <https://www.awm.gov.au/anzac>



UNOFFICIAL



The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister

The Hon. Peter Dutton MP
Minister for Defence

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 29 March 2022

**BUDGET 2022-23 DELIVERS RECORD INVESTMENT IN DEFENCE AND
SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS**

As part of our plan for a stronger future, the Morrison Government's 2022-23 Budget continues its record investment in Australia's national security by building Defence capability and creating jobs, boosting Australia's cyber resilience, supporting Australia's sovereign Defence industry and improving the lives of Defence Force members, veterans and their families.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the government's investments in Australia's national security spanned air, land, sea, space and cyber capabilities.

"In these uncertain times it is vital that Australia is well-positioned to tackle the challenges our country and our region face," the Prime Minister said.

"This Budget sets out the investments we're making that will boost the Defence budget above 2 per cent of GDP not only helping keep Australians safe, but supporting local jobs and industries right here at home.

"The capabilities we're backing with our investments mean an even stronger Australian Defence Force, an even stronger local defence industry, and an even stronger pipeline of jobs and skilled workers.

"This Budget also continues to build on support for our veterans and their families, in recognition of the service and sacrifice they've made to keep our nation safe and secure."

Minister for Defence Peter Dutton said the Government remained committed to building a strong, sustainable and secure Australia through Defence's 10 year funding model.

"The 2022-23 Budget continues this Government's strong investment in Defence and the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD). This includes a \$9.9 billion investment over the next decade in new national cyber and intelligence capabilities," Minister Dutton said.

"Project REDSPICE – Resilience, Effects, Defence, Space, Intelligence, Cyber, and Enablers – is the largest ever investment in the capabilities of the ASD.

"REDSPICE will increase ASD's offensive cyber capabilities, its ability to detect and respond to cyber-attacks, and introduce new intelligence capabilities. It will also create over 1,900 new jobs, almost doubling the ASD's size.

"This investment in ASD recognises the deteriorating strategic circumstances in our region, characterised by rapid military expansion, growing coercive behaviour and increased cyber-attacks. It acknowledges the nature of conflict has changed, with cyber-attacks now commonly preceding other forms of military intervention – most recently demonstrated by offensive cyber activity against Ukraine.

"REDSPICE ensures Australia keeps pace with the rapid growth of cyber capabilities of potential adversaries. It provides new intelligence capabilities, new cyber defences to protect our most critical systems, and is a real increase in the potency of ASD's ability to strike back in cyberspace."

Assistant Minister for Defence the Hon Andrew Hastie MP said through the \$270 billion investment into the capability and potency of our Defence force, we continue to ensure Australia remains ready and adaptable to the changing nature of warfare.

"Project REDSPICE is a critical investment in our digital sovereignty. There are growing cyber threats and we are acting to secure our nation," Assistant Minister Hastie said.

"This will create highly skilled jobs, and will equip the next generation of Australians to defend our critical infrastructure.

"The Morrison Government's investment in the ASD will allow our cyber operators to punch back at our adversaries and protect Australia and our interests online."

The Government's investment into national security actively protects Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests, and supports Australians in domestic crisis situations.

"The Government will invest \$126.4 million for Operation FLOOD ASSIST in 2021-22. At its peak, over 7,000 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel were made available to support flood-affected communities in New South Wales and Queensland," Minister Dutton said.

"The Morrison Government will also invest an additional \$74.7 million in 2022-23 for Operation RESOLUTE to protect Australia's maritime interests.

"We will continue to support ongoing operations and activities in the Middle East with an additional investment of \$104.2 million in 2022-23 for Operation ACCORDION."

The Government is committed to meeting Navy's future requirements through Australia's first large-vessel dry berth precinct and a new submarine Base to be built on the east-coast.

"The development of ship building infrastructure, including a new submarine base, on the east-coast of Australia will see a 20-year investment estimated at more than \$10 billion," Minister Dutton said.

"The Australian Army will be a future ready fighting force with investment into new uncrewed aerial surveillance systems, Ch-47F Chinook helicopters, Abrams tanks and combat engineering vehicles.

"The Government will also upgrade and extend in-service support for the Hawk 127 Lead-In Fighter Training System that will result in a \$1.5 billion investment in the Air Force's future aviation capability."

To support Defence's growing capabilities, the Government will increase its permanent ADF and Defence civilian workforce by 18,500 by 2039-40.

"This growth in workforce will enable us to deliver our nuclear powered submarines, ships, aircraft and advanced weapons. It will mean we can build warfighting capabilities in the domains of space, information and cyber," Minister Dutton said.

Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price said the 2022-23 Budget built on the Morrison Government's commitment to keep Australians safe and secure, now and into the future, by growing our sovereign defence industry.

"COVID-19 and the resultant disruption to international supply chains has shown how vital it is that we ensure Australia has a local defence industry that can build what we need to defend ourselves," Minister Price said.

"That is why we are not only investing in highly advanced equipment for our service men and women, but ensuring as much of it as possible is being built right here in our own backyard in Australia.

"Our record investment in developing and building the equipment we need to defend our nation is creating more than 100,000 jobs across the country.

"It will ensure our diggers are equipped with the state-of-the-art Australian made ships, armoured vehicles, and other weapons they need to keep Australians safe for decades to come."

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said as Australia's military capability grows, so too will the support provided to the men and women who serve our nation, and their families.

"An initial \$22.8 million will fund 90 extra Department of Veterans' Affairs staff to cut the backlog of unprocessed claims, and this will be followed by a further \$73.2 million for additional staff and other measures to further improve the veteran claims processing system and reduce waiting times," Minister Gee said.

"This takes the total new spending to \$96 million with 145 new staff, building on our significant investment in the 2021-22 Budget.

"We will increase the fees paid to providers in the Veterans' Home Care program through a \$70.5 million investment, further improving support for 37,000 Australian veterans.

"There is an additional \$22 million to grow the life-changing Psychiatric Assistance Dogs Program, including support for veterans with privately-sourced assistance dogs.

"The successful Kookaburra Kids 'Defence Kids' program is being expanded to more regional areas and the service will now be available to Defence and veteran families in Tasmania for the first time.

"A \$2 million injection will support the work of Bravery Trust in providing financial counselling to serving & ex-serving members of the ADF.

"We're also backing in our Invictus Australia athletes participating at the 2023 Invictus Games and bi-annual Warrior Games with \$9.0 million in new support.

"This Government continues to ensure those who have fought for our nation and our values are appropriately recognised, and this Budget includes \$5.1 million to build a new pavilion at the Sandakan Memorial Park in Borneo to honour WWII Prisoners of War. There is also \$4.9 million to create a Remembrance Trail on the Greek Island of Lemnos, in recognition of the Australian doctors, nurses and other service personnel who served there during the First World War.

"The women and men who serve this nation in uniform make incredible sacrifices for our country and we are ensuring that we repay our debt to them by providing the support they, and their families, need."

Through this record investment in national security and our veterans, the Morrison Government is committed to building a more secure Australia and protecting our way of life for future generations.

Press Office of the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister, Canberra

Your Library News

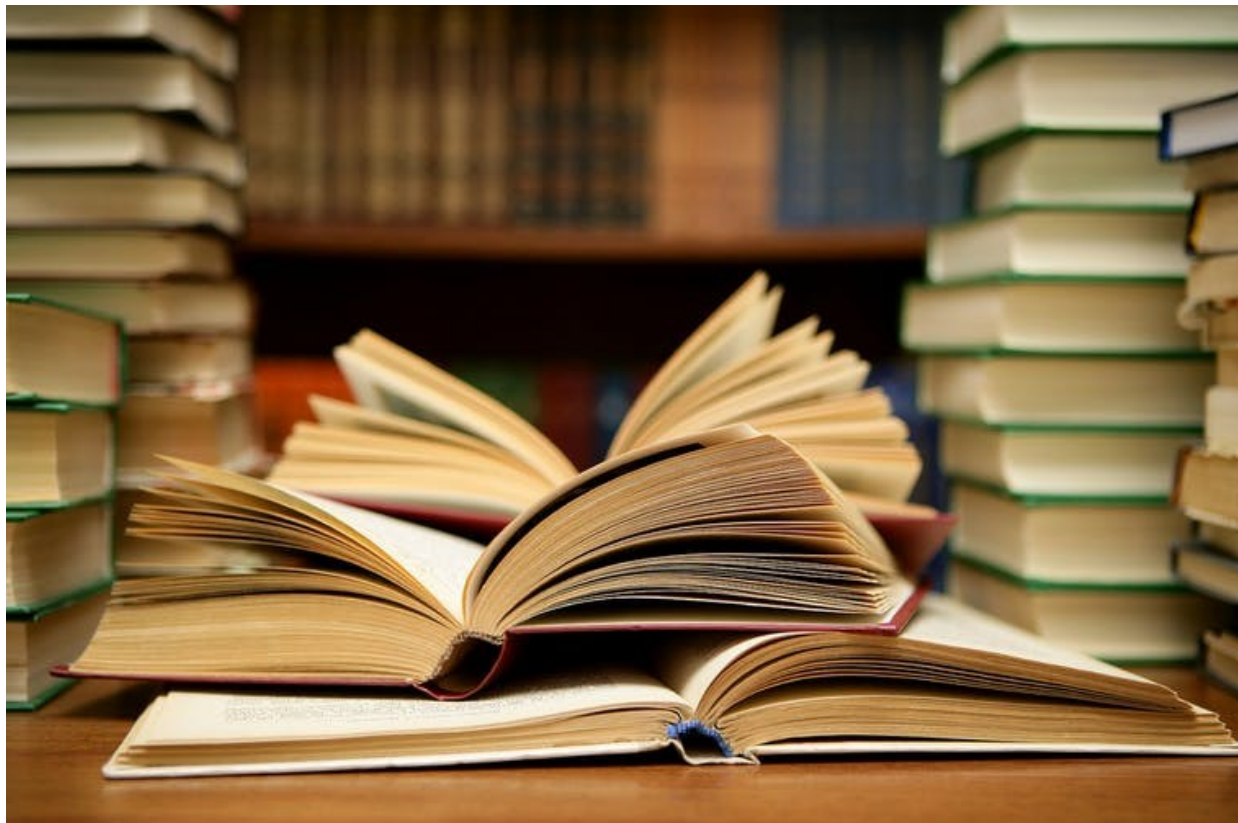
By Bill Kelly

A big thank you for the recent donations to the Sub-Branch Library from members including Brooke Thorpe, Terry Colhoun, Don Skinner, Warren Barsley, John Tracey, Bill Smith, Ray Machan and Ross Howarth and Ian Mansfield, plus others who have dropped off books.

These have supplemented the existing collection which was greatly enhanced last year by a very generous donation of over 200 books from the estate of a former Sub-Branch President Alex Reynolds. There are now over 1100 books in the Library covering all genres of military writing, biographies, campaigns and history, including copies of the official histories of World War I and World War II.

All books are available for borrowing with a simple 'sign out/sign in book' system in operation.

Donations are always welcome and can be dropped off at the Sub-Branch Office.



FRIDAY'S COFFEE CATCH UP ACTIVE AGAIN

Last Friday we had a special guest Lt Col Gavin Keating, who has served in all the recent conflict zones.

Gavin Keating is an infantry officer who has served in the regular Army for 30 years, including postings to the Second and Third Battalions, Royal Australian Regiment. He has deployed on various operations in the South Pacific, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. He is transitioning to become an Army chaplain and hopes to be ordained as a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church later this year. He is currently completing a pastoral placement at the Corpus Christi parish in Gowrie. He is married to Myra, a former navy officer, and they have two teenage sons.





Australian War Memorial

We wish a very happy birthday to the Royal Australian Air Force

Over the past 101 years, the RAAF has established a proud record of service encompassing the Second World War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, as well as more recent involvement in East Timor, the Solomon Islands, and the Middle East.

Thousands of Australians have served in the RAAF, operating in conjunction with other air forces across the globe.

Today we thank the dedicated servicemen and servicewomen of the RAAF for their continued commitment to Australia, and thank the families that love and support them.

The first Battle of Gaza: 105 years on

Saturday, March 26 2022

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

Today marks the 105th anniversary of the first Battle of Gaza during World War I, the first of three attempts launched by Allied forces to capture the city in 1917.

The coastal city was a strategically important Ottoman defensive stronghold in southern Palestine, but the initial attempt to take it proved costly, with more than 4,000 Allied casualties.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said that while the first battle ended in a withdrawal, the Australians involved fought with distinction.

"Two Australian Light Horse Brigades, two battalions of Australian cameleers in the Imperial Camel Corps, along with the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade played a crucial role in the attack," Minister Gee said.

"The courageous men of the Australian Light Horse were among the first to move in on the city from the north, in the early hours of 26 March 1917. They captured the high ground quickly and pressed on into the outskirts of Gaza.

"But before they could proceed further, the call came to withdraw. Some of the infantry divisions that were to attack the southern part of Gaza had been delayed due to bad weather, and the Ottoman garrison and reinforcements were thought to be larger in number than originally estimated.

"The Australians and the other Allied troops were forced to give up the areas they had seized during the battle, and retreat back to their own lines. An attempt to recommence the attack was made the next day, but this also proved unsuccessful.

"The Allied forces would attempt to take Gaza again less than a month later, with even more disastrous results, again failing to capture the city and losing more than 6,000 troops.

"The city would eventually be taken on 7 November 1917, after a feint battle at Gaza allowed Allied forces to capture nearby Beersheba, breaking the Ottoman stronghold in the region and eventually outflanking Gaza.

"The Australians who fought alongside their Allied counterparts played a critical role in the extended and repeated campaign to take Gaza.

"May we always remember their service and acknowledge the sacrifices they made.

"Lest we forget."

To learn more about the battles for Gaza, and the Sinai and Palestine campaign, visit the Department of Veterans' Affairs [Anzac Portal](#).

Photo: Major Arthur Frank Chambers of the 2nd Australian Light Horse, who died of wounds sustained in the second Battle of Gaza in 1917



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H19190

Children of veterans are now supported to find work they'll enjoy by the RSL Veterans' Employment Program, which is free for all veterans and their partners and kids.

The program helps veteran kids with all aspects of career coaching, from finding available jobs and writing their CV and cover letter, to interview techniques, training pathways and more. They program also has an employer network to link participants directly to employers.

Whether you're a school leaver or an older 'kid' of a veteran, the program can help.

Follow the link to get in touch with RSL Australia <https://bit.ly/3qwx2GR>

RSL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

*Rewarding work for every veteran
and their immediate family*



Coffee Catch Up



COFFEE CATCH UP ACTIVE AGAIN

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.

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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Visit us on the web at
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PS.

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