

# RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ENEWS



**ANZAC  
DAY**

May 2021

## Annual Anzac Eve Dinner 2021

Nearly 90 Sub-Branch members and guests gathered at the Canberra Southern Cross Club at the Top of the Cross room for our Annual ANZAC Eve Commemoration and Rededication Dinner. This year our guest speaker was Bruce Armstrong, Group Chief Executive Officer at Aspen Medical.



Photo above from left: RSL WV Sub-Branch Deputy President Peter Eveille, Guest Speaker Bruce Armstrong and RSL WV Sub-Branch President Jim Gilchrist.



### ANZAC APPEAL WEEK

A Big Thank You to those willing Volunteers who assisted with the ANZAC Appeal at Cooleman Court, Kambah, Mawson and Woden. From these four sites, a total of \$15,886 was raised.

Jan Properjohn

# Anzac Eve Dinner 2021 photos





## Anzac Eve Dinner prayer , Rev Mick O'Donnell, Honorary Chaplain

REFLECTION AND GRACE,

ANZAC DINNER - 2021

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT,  
ANZAC DAY WILL ALWAYS FOCUS ON  
THE COLLECTIVE SENSE OF DEATH  
OR SACRIFICE AS WE CALL IT, *IN THE  
SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY*;  
RECALLING MATESHIP GROUNDED IN  
ADVERSITY.



THE ANZAC TRADITION CAME OUT OF THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN WHEN  
RELIGION WAS THE PUBLIC EXPRESSION AND PRIVATE RESPONSE TO  
THE MASSIVE LOSS OF LIFE.

FAST FORWARD AND NOW WE'RE PREPARING FOR THE FINAL EXIT  
FROM AFGHANISTAN, REMEMBERING THE 41 WHO WERE KILLED, AND  
WE PRAY FOR PEACE OF MIND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED, AND  
THEIR FAMILIES WHO NURTURE THEM.

THINK ABOUT IT ...

IN THESE FEW MOMENTS OF REFLECTION, PRAYER BECOMES A  
POWERFUL INTERPRETATIVE LENS FOR UNDERSTANDING ANZAC, ONE  
THAT MIRRORS OUR AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY AT ANY  
PARTICULAR TIME; FROM GALLIPOLI TO TARNANTAN, AND DOZENS  
OF PEACEKEEPING AND HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS – THE ERA OF  
THESE ACTIONS REFLECT OUR PARTICULAR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD,  
WHO WE STILL CALL FOR SOLACE WHEN THE HORROR OF WAR IS  
REMEMBERED, OR AT THE MANY RAMP CEREMONIES WHEN WE BRING  
THE BODIES HOME.



Photos above : Mick O'Donnell and Ceremonial Piper Jen Hamer.



# ANZAC MORNING REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

on Sunday 25 April in The Eddison Park







**Left photo: RSL WV Sub-Branch Deputy President Peter Eveille and Rania Kalimeris attending the Rugby League First Grade match of the Woden Valley Rams at Phillip Oval where Peter Eveille AM recited the Ode in respect and acknowledgement of our Veterans for ANZAC Day.**

**Photo Below: Michael Davies, Ken Neil, Fay Neil and Rania Kalimeris on Anzac Day 2021 Canberra Service.**





**RSL**  
Australia

30 April 2021

Ref: O 011/21

Ms Lyn Beverley

Committee Secretary

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Email: [fadt.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:fadt.sen@aph.gov.au)

Submission to the Inquiry into the accuracy of information provided to Defence Force Retirement  
and Death Benefits (DFRDB) members

Dear Ms Beverley

Thank you for the opportunity for the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) to contribute to the Inquiry into the accuracy of information provided to Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) members.

RSL members have contributed to this overall RSL response individually, and via their Branches and SubBranches, noting our volunteer base has also been busy with Anzac Day preparations over the period available for contributions from our membership.

The RSL notes there are long standing concerns among our membership regarding the DFRDB Scheme – especially a perceived reduction of DRFB pensions, based on the amounts commuted and calculations used in actuary tables, and a potential lack of relativity with indexation tables used by the Commonwealth.

The RSL provided a detailed prior submission to the Government's 2007 Review into Military Superannuation Arrangements (refer Annex A). This submission raised several concerns relating to the DFRDB Scheme and although written some years ago it offers a strong explanation of these legacy issues – many of which remain current. Specific concerns relating to the DFRDB Scheme are detailed on Page 2 of the submission and in the attachments to the submission as listed below.

Attachment One (Indexation)

Attachment Two (Contemporary Life Tables Pension Calculations) □ Attachment Three (Life Expectancy and Commutations Calculations) □ Attachment Six (Calculation of DFRDB Pensions).

A significant concern is that DFRDB recipients understood that once their lump sum was received their retirement pay would be reduced (by an amount linked to rank and time in service) until a Notional Life Expectancy point (often around the age 72) , when the reduction would cease – but this has not been the case.

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The Returned and Services League of Australia Ltd  
PATRON: Her Majesty The Queen

National President: Greg Melick AO | CEO: Brigadier Phil Winter AM CSC ADC | PH: 02 6280 4079 | POST: PO Box 30, CAMPBELL ACT 2612  
WEB: [www.rsinational.org](http://www.rsinational.org) | ABN: 63 008 488 097

THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE

Many RSL members believe this aspect of how commutation worked on reaching Notional Life Expectancy age was never fully understood nor explained at resettlement seminars, otherwise commutation would not have been such a popular option for Australian Defence Force members. Of note there has been very little documentation to review any information that was passed to the DFRDB members as part of the discharge and resettlement seminar process, and of concern is estimates of 50,000 veterans affected by this perceived inequity.

RSL members have advised they have also contributed to a separate submission by the Australian Defence Force Retirees Association (ADFRA) dated 25 April 2021, and hence there is some synergies with the RSL response and the ADFRA commentary.

The RSL (and ADFRA) have also noted the comments by the Commonwealth Ombudsman in 2014 that the lack of clear guidelines and misunderstanding of the DFRB Scheme may have amounted to defective administration by the relevant authorities involved in administering the Scheme.

The RSL recommends a retrospective review of the DFRDB Scheme and a review of whether there should be restoration of losses to DFRB contributors who opted for the commutation plan in the DFRDB Scheme, and may have been disadvantaged.

Yours sincerely



Greg Melick

National President

Enclosure:

Annex A – RSL Submission to the 2007 Review into Military Superannuation Arrangements



**RSL**  
Australia



# 2022 AVCAT Scholarships including the Long Tan Bursary

Applications for 2022 AVCAT Scholarships, including the Long Tan Bursary, **open 18 August 2021**, Vietnam Veterans' Day, and **close at midnight 31 October 2021**.

Applications must be made online at [avcat.org.au](http://avcat.org.au).

AVCAT Scholarships are for the children and grandchildren of Australian ex-serving veterans. Long Tan Bursaries are funded by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs, and AVCAT Scholarships are sponsored by ex-service organisations, corporate sponsors, and individual donations. Sponsors can be viewed at [avcat.org.au](http://avcat.org.au).

AVCAT Scholarships provide up to \$4000 per year, for three years, to full-time students at university, TAFE or registered training organisation.

To be eligible students must be:

- The child, stepchild, foster child, or grandchild of an Australian ex-serving veteran
- An Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Enrolled, or planning to enrol in a full-time course at an Australian university, TAFE or registered training organisation in 2022

In receipt of, or eligible to receive, Centrelink payments including Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY, Austudy or an accepted means-tested Commonwealth government payment in 2022

Some scholarships have specific eligibility criteria, for further information go to [avcat.org.au](http://avcat.org.au).

Download and print promotional material (poster, flyer, newsletter ad) from the [website](http://avcat.org.au).

Contact [info@avcat.org.au](mailto:info@avcat.org.au) for further information.

**Kind Regards**

**Len Russell**  
CEO AVCAT

[Website](http://avcat.org.au) . [Insta](#) . [Facebook](#) . [LinkedIn](#)

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02 9213 7999

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AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'  
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

**OPEN**  
Veterans & Families  
Counselling  
**ARMS**

**Coras**  
Coffee connections  
Free for Veterans and their families

When: Every Thursday, from 25 March 2021

Time: 10 am - 11:30 am

Where: Suite 108, 27 Lonsdale St, Braddon ACT





**The Army in Concert** – those that have been before have been very pleased that they did and this year's Masterworks for Winds is not to be missed. This is an opportunity for Legatees to get their culture injection and surprise their partners that they have another side.

**What:** RMC Band present 'Army in Concert', Masterworks for Winds

**When:** Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 7pm

**Where:** Llewellyn Hall, Canberra School of Music, ANU, Acton, ACT

**Cost:** Entry is by gold coin donation will all proceeds going to Legacy

**Bookings:** Bookings are essential. Please visit [bit.ly/armyinconcert2021](http://bit.ly/armyinconcert2021)



**The Band of the Royal Military College**  
**Army in Concert**  
Masterworks for Winds

*'Capriccio Italien'* - Tchaikovsky  
*'First Suite in Eb'* - Holst  
*'Lord of the Rings' - Symphony No.1* - De Meij *plus more*

**7pm, Thursday 20th May 2021**  
**Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music, Acton ACT**

Entry via gold coin donation with proceeds going to Legacy  
Bookings essential (Please visit [www.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.eventbrite.com.au))



# A message from the ACT Chief Health Officer

Dr Kerryn Coleman



09 April 2021

Dear Colleagues

## Important update on the COVID-19 vaccination program

You may be aware that last night the Commonwealth Government accepted new recommendations from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) about the COVID-19 vaccines.

That advice is that the Pfizer vaccine is currently preferred over the AstraZeneca vaccine for adults aged under 50 years of age who have not already received a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

ATAGI has issued this advice after noting further evidence of a rare, but serious side effect involving blood clotting (thrombosis) with low blood platelet count (thrombocytopenia) following AstraZeneca vaccination.

In response to the announcements, the ACT Government has made adjustments to its clinics, effective today 9 April 2021, to implement the ATAGI advice.

Anyone over 50 years of age who is booked in for an AstraZeneca vaccination will still receive this vaccine, as recommended by ATAGI. Anyone under 50 years of age who has a first dose AstraZeneca appointment booked in will be offered a Pfizer vaccination.

Please refer to the consumer information on the AstraZeneca vaccine. [COVID-19 vaccination – Information on COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

Providing access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines continues to be the ACT Government's priority. We will continue work closely with the Commonwealth Government and I will keep you updated as new information becomes available.

In the meantime, I encourage you to stay up to date on the evolving situation by visiting the [Commonwealth Government's COVID-19 vaccine website](#). Further information and advice will also be available on the [ACT Government COVID-19 website](#).

Yours sincerely,

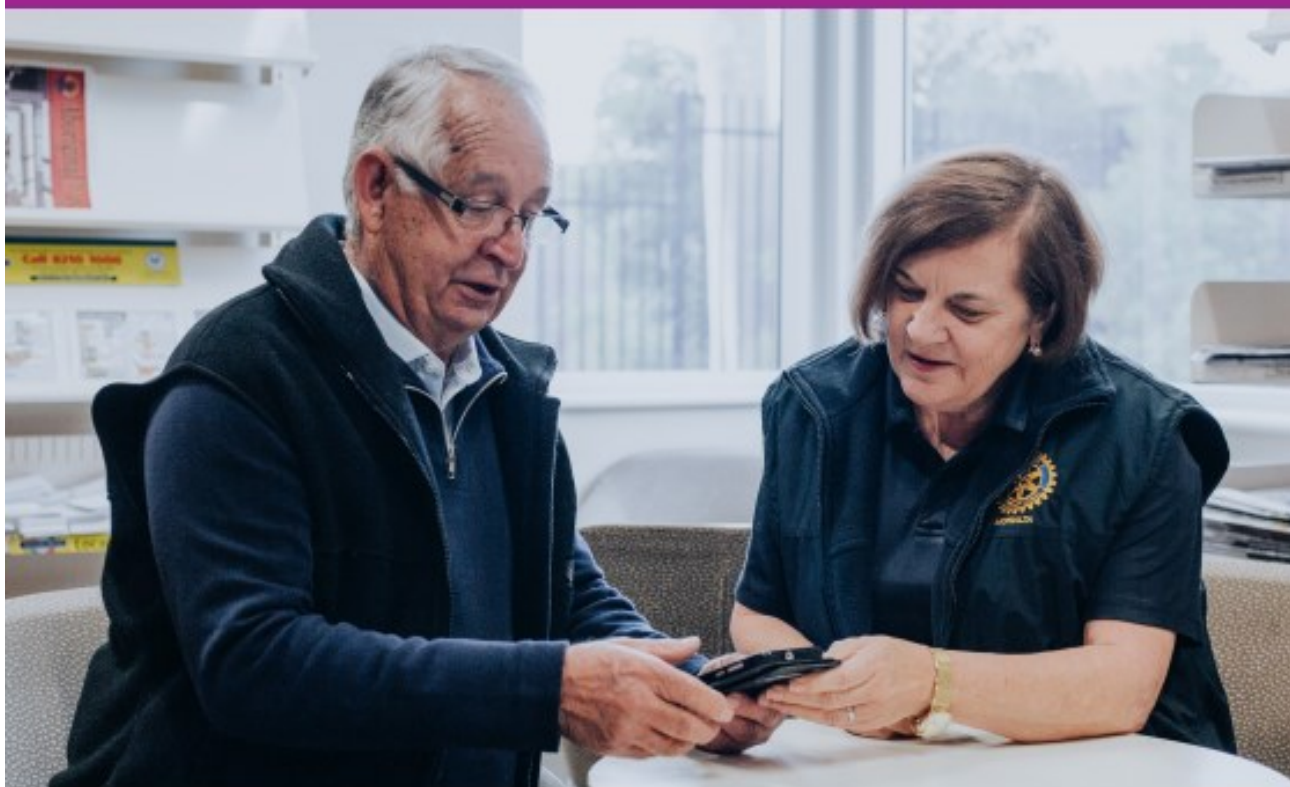
**Dr Kerryn Coleman**  
ACT Chief Health Officer  
ACT Health Directorate

Learn more  
[covid19.act.gov.au/vaccine](https://covid19.act.gov.au/vaccine)





# Want to learn more about your smartphone or tablet?



RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch  
can assist with your IT questions,  
get you started, even loan you a device  
call the office on 6285 1931 to make a booking  
It's free, fun and informative  
Get connected now



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.**





## **Francis Charles BOYLE**

The President and members of the **Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch** regret to advise the death of their member, **Frank Boyle.**

*Lest We Forget*

**Greg Kennett  
Secretary**



## **Canberra Southern Cross Club**

It is with great sadness that we advise of the passing of Frank Boyle.

Frank was a highly respected member of the Canberra Southern Cross Club Board of Directors from 1977 to 1996.

Frank assisted in putting in place many of the practices we see today.

Some of these firsts include reducing membership fees for aged pensioners and forming the first sub-committee to develop guidelines and distribution of monies to charities.

Frank was also appointed President of the Licensed Club's Association of the ACT in 1987.

Frank served a one-year term as President before reaching the compulsory retiring age of 72 years. Frank's significant contribution to the Southern Cross Club and Clubs movement was recognised with the bestowment of an Order of Australia Medal for services to the Clubs industry on 10 June 1991.

Until very recently Frank remained a regular visitor to the Canberra Southern Cross Club and was usually engaged in lively and entertaining banter with our staff and other members.

Frank's commitment to ensuring a strong future for the Club has provided a legacy that lives on and will continue to benefit the Canberra community for decades to come.

**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.**



**Members and guests are 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](http://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](http://www.rslwoden.org.au)

Or drop in for a coffee  
Fridays from 10.00am

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