

# RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH ENEWS



MAY 2022



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 31

Dear Members,

What better way to end Autumn and breeze into a cold and chilly Winter in the ACT, than to hold our AGM and the May OGM in *The Corey Room* last Tuesday afternoon.

Some 35 Members attended and were able to complete both meetings; while some started the journey but had to leave due to other commitments. It's a sign of a healthy organisation when so many are prepared to brave adverse weather and risk being stuck in lengthy meetings. It's even better when we had such open and meaningful discussion.

Thank you re-electing the Members of our previous Board and electing a new Member to continue the leadership of your Sub-Branch. The Board now comprises: President, Jim Gilchrist; Deputy President, Anthony John; Secretary, Greg Kennett; Treasurer, Jan Properjohn; Vice President Welfare, Peter Sutton; Editor of *The Serviceman*, Bob Cremer; Directors, Les Bienkiewicz, Bill Kelly and Rob Macaulay.

Key points that flowed from the AGM included:

- Endorsement of the motion that was passed at the last AGM and gave the Board the ability to drawdown up to \$417,000 in Financial Year 2022 (i.e. Jan-Dec 22), subject to a review of the continued need for those funds to be available.
- The passing of a similar motion regarding the drawdown of up to \$417,000 for FY 2023, subject to a review of this requirement at the end of 2022;
- The President advised that the Sub-Branch remained in a sound financial position and the AMF was holding up well, particularly as we haven't had to draw down on any AMF funds in the first four months of 2022; and
- Significant discussion about the desirability of attracting new members and volunteers and options to do so. The President advised Members that recent DVA policy decisions that had been on the advice of some ESOs, are continuing to adversely affect our ability to attract, induct, train and accredit new advocates. He advised Members that he had raised this issue in various forums within the League and elsewhere, and was hopeful that some solutions could be found. The President noted that, pending any changes to these policies, the Sub-Branch would continue to develop and apply its own processes to recharge these critical capabilities.



Key points, some of which are noted elsewhere in this newsletter, that flowed from the May OGM included:

- At the recent Branch AGM the following Members were elected to the Branch Executive: President, John King (Tuggeranong S-B), who defeated Peter Baldwin (Peacekeepers S-B) in a ballot; Deputy President, Mickey Michaelis (Peacekeepers S-B); Treasurer, Doug Brown (Belconnen S-B); and Vice President, Jill Lewis (Tuggeranong S-B);
- Ms Kimberley Hicks had recently been appointed CEO of the ACT Branch, with this appointment being an upgrade from an office manager type of role, and being commensurate with other Branches;
- Although not mentioned during the Woden OGM, Jan Paulga, (Belconnen S-B) advised the Branch AGM that Belconnen and Gungahlin Sub-Branched were discussing a merger;
- The President and John King remain active on RSLA's (formerly RSL HQ or the National Office) Working Group that is monitoring and liaising with the *Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans' Suicide*. This provides an opportunity to engage with other Branches and discuss issues of significance to the ACT Branch as a whole and to the Woden Sub-Branch in particular.
- The meeting and the Board remain keen to identify options to restore the *Eddison Day Club* to match the intent and the requirements of By-Law 5, as this has been one of our success stories for the past 18 years;
- As seen in a following article, the Sub-Branch is working with Terry Colhoun and Chris Latham regarding the development of the *Flowers of Peace, POW Requiem* as had been forecast when Chris addressed our OGM Dinner last June. This liaison will result in proposals being canvassed with RSLA in due course.
- The Sub-Branch is hosting a GEARS Program for which we were awarded a grant in 2020.
- Lastly, the Board reluctantly cancelled the OGM Dinner scheduled for 28 June and has replaced it with an afternoon tea in *The Corey Room*, that is continuing to provide its worth for such functions.

In closing this newsletter, I again thank our staff and volunteers who do so much to keep the wheels of our little industry turning; and our Members for getting or staying involved. In noting the last point, I encourage anyone who might have some spare time, to call the office to see what opportunities we might be able to offer them to fill any time voids.

Best wishes to Members and friends of the Sub-Branch.

Please keep up the good work and stay in touch especially as Winter sets in and loneliness raises its head.

Jim Gilchrist  
President

# RSL Woden Valley Sub-Branch AGM/OGM on Tuesday 31 May 2022



## Meeting with Chris Latham

*By Terry Colhoun*

On May 18, Jim Gilchrist hosted a lunch-meeting in our sub-branch rooms to meet Chris Latham and discuss his plans for the "POW Requiem", a concert that will be presented in Canberra in October this year. Chris is the Artist-in-Residence at the Australian War Memorial and Director of "Flowers of war", which will present the concert, as it did the "Vietnam Requiem" last year, and "The Flowers of the Great War" earlier.

Chris had previously approached our Sub-branch President for advice and assistance with what promises to be a significant event, and we all agreed it needs to be honest, courteous and sensitive, with a strong RSL input that will be clearly identified in the concert.

Those present were Dr Keiko Tamura (ANU) Maj Gen Peter Phillips (Rtd), a former National President of the RSL, Jim Gilchrist, Anthony John, Terry Colhoun and Chris Latham.

Chris asked this group to be an ongoing advisory committee and all present agreed to this request with Jim being the chairman.



# Eddison Family Display Updated

By Bill Kelly

Our Sub-Branch is privileged to have within its ranks members who generously offer up their time and talents to further the remembrance of their colleagues, either past or present and in the spirit of mateship.

And now, thanks to the generosity and talent of Sub-Branch Member Ross Smith, the Eddison Family display in *The Corey Room* has been enhanced by the addition of the Service Ribbons of each of the three brothers tragically taken in World War 2, as well as those of their father Captain Walter Eddison who served, and was WIA, in World War 1.

A small *Lest We Forget* remembrance poppy badge completes the display which, with the picture and brief details of the three Eddison brothers, was originally compiled by Sub-Branch Member Bob Cremer and his wife Jan.

This latest updated display is part of the continued development of *The Corey Room* as the 'heart' of our Sub-Branch. A place where we can proudly display our growing collection of memorabilia and ever-expanding library (now over 1300 titles) of military books benefited by the generous donations of our Members.

But *The Corey Room* is much more than that. It is where we can meet, be it in the formality of an AGM/OGM or for the more informal Fridays' Coffee Catch Ups, and espouse the spirits of mateship, friendship and support.



# **CANCELLATION OF THE OGM DINNER SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY 28 JUNE 2022 - PROPOSED AFTERNOON TEA**

Dear members,

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the COVID situation in the ACT, the Sub-Branch Board has decided to cancel the OGM dinner scheduled for Tuesday 28 June 2022. We regret having to make this decision but feel that it is the most prudent course to take for our members.

In lieu of the dinner and to offer an opportunity for camaraderie to members, the Board has suggested that an afternoon tea be held from 1500-1700 hours on Tuesday 28 June 2022 in the Corey Room at the Sub-Branch office, Holder with light refreshments provided.

To gauge the level of interest in the above proposal, I would be grateful if you would advise if you might attend.

Regards,

Greg



**Greg Kennett**  
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## **WODEN VALLEY RSL SUB-BRANCH: GEARS PROGRAM, INVITATION TO NOMINATE**

Dear All,

With my apologies for chasing some of you previously and thanking you all for your patience, I now advise that we have delayed the start of the GEARS Program from 02 Jun until 15 Aug 22. While this delay will be subject to the extension of the grant that is paying for the course, I'm confident that we will be able to conduct the course as planned. Please also note that we have changed the day from Thursdays to Mondays as Thursdays seemed to have fewer possible diary conflicts.

Although I'm sending this email to organisations and individuals as BCCs, I'm sure, that once a panel is confirmed, communications will become more transparent.

Please note that MESHHA Has confirmed that a referral from your treating GP or Psychiatrist is required. They will issue a revised Referral form in due course as that will provide ample time to complete the document.

In the meantime, I'd appreciate it if you could advise the Sub-Branch Welfare Team of your interest in attending this course. Please also share the invitation with any colleagues and friends whom you think might be interested in attending or in finding out more about the course.

We are looking for 10-12 participants for each panel and will consider conducting two courses in parallel if we receive sufficient interest.

The following information provides an outline of the course and some basic administrative matters:

The course will be conducted at the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch rooms at 27 Mulley Street, Holder;

Course dates/timings are each Monday night between 1800-2000 for 12 weeks from 15 August 2022;

Light refreshments will be provided from 1715;

Training Manuals/workbooks will be provided at the first session;

As the course is funded through a DVA grant to the Sub-Branch, there is no charge to participants;

An outline of the GEARS Program is shown at the end of this email with additional information being available at <https://mesha.org.au/about-us/> ;

Representatives of the Sub-Branch will be available to facilitate entry to the building and access to facilities during each session;

As some of you will have other commitments that you will need to juggle through the 12 weeks of the course, there will be an option to join a session using ZOOM as and when required;

We will issue Nomination/Referral forms by late June/early July.

In closing, I again apologise for this late change, and encourage you to contact either MESHHA or me if you have any questions.

Please also contact me if you have any friends or colleagues whom you think might be interested in nominating for this or any subsequent course.

**Jim Gilchrist**

## **What is the GEARS Program?**

**GEARS is a refined 12-week program (2 hours a week) which has evolved from the highly successful Skills Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR) program.**

**The GEARS program is tailored specifically for current or former serving military members and emergency service personnel and issues they face including identity in transitioning back to civilian life, improving mood regulation, interpersonal communication skills and relationship skills.**

**The GEARS program was developed by Dr Jon Lane, Psychiatrist, current ADF Reservist and Afghanistan Veteran.**

**You will learn how to:**

- **Become more aware and comfortable with your emotions**
- **Develop positive, healthy coping skills for distressing feelings**
- **Identify unhealthy relationship patterns**
- **Build skills to improve your relationships**

**Build resilience and confidence.**

**To be eligible for a place in the program, you must:**

- **Be a current or former military or emergency services member**
- **Have mental health symptoms that concern you**

**Obtain a referral from your GP, psychologist or psychiatrist to attend the program – [GP Referral Form](#).**

**The GEARS program is held in Adelaide, Darwin, Canberra and Hobart and online sessions are also available via Zoom.**

**Dates for upcoming sessions will be announced soon. For more information or to be put on the waitlist for our next program, please contact [programs@mesha.org.au](mailto:programs@mesha.org.au) or call us on [\(08\) 7002 0880](tel:0870020880).**

**Please note GP Referral is mandatory to participate for ethics requirements of the project. [GP Referral Form](#)**

**Dear Members**

The DVA Secretary has provided the following information.

**New Ministry**

As you may be aware, the Prime Minister has just announced his new Ministry, which is being sworn in by the Governor-General, today 1 June, at 0930am AEST. A copy of the Albanese Ministry is attached.

**New Minister for Veterans' Affairs**

Mr Matt Keogh MP will be appointed as the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel. Mr Keogh was first elected to the House of Representatives as the Member for Burt, Western Australia in 2016, and previously held a number of Shadow Minister positions, including as the Shadow Minister for Defence Industry. He has also served in a wide range of Parliamentary Committees.

Mr Keogh has a strong legal background specialising in corporate crime, and before entering Federal politics, worked in both the public and private sector, including as a Prosecutor at the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. He was also awarded the Australian Young Lawyer of the Year by the Law Council of Australia in 2009.

**Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs**

The Prime Minister has also announced that the Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP will be appointed Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs as well as Assistant Minister for Defence and Assistant Minister for the Republic. Mr Thistlethwaite was first elected to the Senate for New South Wales in 2010 and resigned in 2013 to successfully contest the House of Representatives division of Kingsford Smith, New South Wales. Mr Thistlethwaite has held Parliamentary Secretary positions for Pacific Island Affairs, Multicultural Affairs and Infrastructure and Transport, and was also Shadow Minister for a range of portfolios, including Foreign Affairs and Immigration. He also had a legal background prior to entering Federal politics and has been an active surf lifesaver for over 30 years.

**Incoming Minister briefings**

I welcome the new Minister and Assistant Minister and the Senior Executive and I look forward to working with them and their teams. I have written to the Minister-designate to congratulate him on his appointment and to offer to brief him and his staff on the portfolio.

We will update you further on arrangements at our next meetings or out-of-session.

**Regards**

**Liz**

***Liz Cosson AM CSC***

Secretary

Department of Veterans' Affairs

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**ANTHONY ALBANESE MP  
PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

The Prime Minister the Hon. Anthony Albanese has announced his Government's first full Ministry.

<b>CABINET</b>	
The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP	Prime Minister
The Hon. Richard Marles MP	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Defence
Senator the Hon. Penny Wong	Minister for Foreign Affairs
The Hon. Dr Jim Chalmers MP	Treasurer
Senator the Hon. Katy Gallagher	Minister for Finance Minister for the Public Service Minister for Women
Senator the Hon. Don Farrell	Minister for Trade and Tourism Special Minister of State
The Hon. Tony Burke MP	Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Minister for the Arts
The Hon. Mark Butler MP	Minister for Health and Aged Care
The Hon. Chris Bowen MP	Minister for Climate Change and Energy
The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP	Minister for the Environment and Water
The Hon. Catherine King MP	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
The Hon. Linda Burney MP	Minister for Indigenous Australians
The Hon. Amanda Rishworth MP	Minister for Social Services
The Hon. Bill Shorten MP	Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme Minister for Government Services
The Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP	Attorney-General Cabinet Secretary
The Hon. Brendan O'Connor MP	Minister for Skills and Training
The Hon. Jason Clare MP	Minister for Education
The Hon. Julie Collins MP	Minister for Housing Minister for Homelessness Minister for Small Business

Michelle Rowland MP	Minister for Communications
Madeleine King MP	Minister for Resources Minister for Northern Australia
Senator Murray Watt	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister for Emergency Management
Ed Husic MP	Minister for Industry and Science
Clare O'Neil MP	Minister for Home Affairs Minister for Cyber Security
<b>OUTER MINISTRY</b>	
Matt Keogh MP	Minister for Veterans' Affairs Minister for Defence Personnel
Pat Conroy MP	Minister for Defence Industry Minister for International Development and the Pacific
Stephen Jones MP	Assistant Treasurer Minister for Financial Services
Andrew Giles MP	Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs
Anne Aly MP	Minister for Early Childhood Education Minister for Youth
Anika Wells MP	Minister for Aged Care Minister for Sport
Kristy McBain MP	Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
<b>ASSISTANT MINISTERS</b>	
The Hon. Justine Elliot MP	Assistant Minister for Social Services Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
The Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite MP	Assistant Minister for Defence Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs Assistant Minister for the Republic
The Hon. Dr Andrew Leigh MP	Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury
Patrick Gorman MP	Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister
Senator Jenny McAllister	Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy
Senator Carol Brown	Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Ged Kearney MP	Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care

Emma McBride MP	Assistant Minister for Mental Health Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health
Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health
Senator Tim Ayres	Assistant Minister for Trade Assistant Minister for Manufacturing
Senator Anthony Chisholm	Assistant Minister for Education Assistant Minister for Regional Development
Tim Watts MP	Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs



## Australian War Memorial

*From AWM facebook page:*

A series of works by renowned artist Tony Albert are showcased in Art in Conflict; the Australian War Memorial's major survey exhibition of the contemporary art collection.

In 2012, Tony Albert became the Australian War Memorial's first official war artist to deploy with the Army's Regional Force Surveillance Unit, North West Mobile Force (NORFORCE).

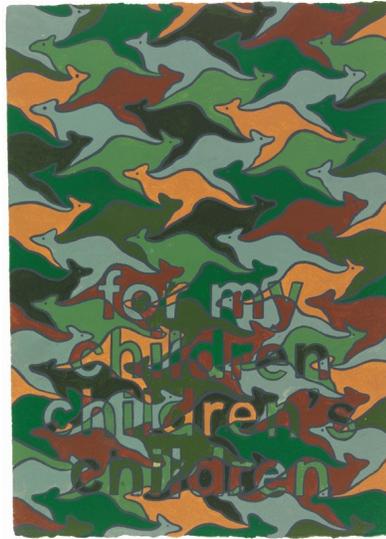
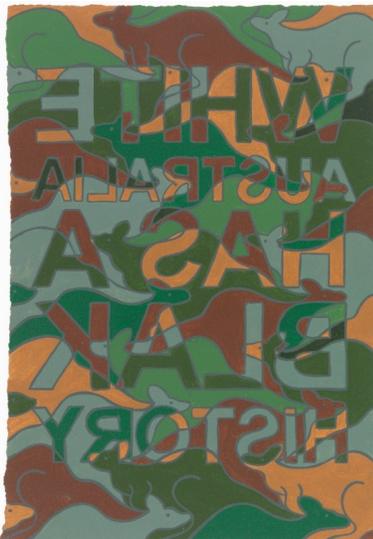
In response to his experience in the Northern Territory Albert created a series of 20 small works he titled "Gangurru Camouflage" which address the invisibility of Indigenous Military Service within our national museums and military histories.

Albert has customised his own "gangurru camouflage" (gangurru is a Girramay word used by Tony's family meaning "grey kangaroo"). For the pattern he uses the shape of a kangaroo in the same camouflage colours used by NORFORCE. This design acts as a visual metaphor for the unit and for Indigenous military service. Carefully interwoven into his camouflage is a series of terms which include slang, patriotic phrases, political slogans, song lyrics, and vernacular used by NORFORCE soldiers.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists are featured throughout this exhibition including Megan Cope, Paddy Nyunkuny Bedford, Robert Campbell Jr, Michael Cook, Shirley Macnamara, Betty Muffler, Alick Tipoti and many others.

Art in Conflict runs at [Shepparton Art Museum](#) from 26th March to 31st July then [Ipswich Art Gallery](#) from 13 August to 23 October 2022.

Image credits: Tony Albert (Girramay/Yidinji/Kuku Yalanji peoples), 'Gangurru Camouflage series', 2013, acrylic on paper, ART94989, ART94994, ART95003.



Friday 20 May 2022

Hello,

**Influenza vaccinations at the Access and Sensory clinic**

The Access and Sensory clinic is a valued and specialised vaccination service for people living with disability, their carers and family members.

I am pleased to let you know that the Access and Sensory clinic will also soon offer free influenza vaccines to people aged 10 years and over with disability, and their carers.

As we head into winter it's important that Canberrans are protected from influenza (flu), noting that the 2022 flu season is expected to be more severe than the last two years.

Please be aware that:

- bookings for all vaccinations at the Access and Sensory clinic are essential.
- influenza vaccinations bookings will open from Monday 23 May 2022 – with appointments available from Monday 6 June 2022.
- vaccination bookings can be made by calling the ACT COVID-19 vaccination priority booking line on (02) 5124 3999, between 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday.

the clinic continues providing COVID-19 vaccination services to people who need it.

The clinic will increase its operating hours to help meet vaccination demand over the winter months.

From Monday 6 June 2022, the Access and Sensory Clinic will open 3-days a week:

- Monday – 8:30am to 3:00pm
- Tuesday – 8:30am to 3:00pm
- Saturday – 8:30am to 3:00pm

The clinic is located at 24 Parkinson Street, Weston. Accessible parking and building access is available.

I encourage you to please share this information with your stakeholder networks and service users.

I want to thank the sector for the commitment and dedication you have shown to making sure all Canberrans have equitable access to vaccination services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful for your continued support.

Regards,

*Dr Kerry Coleman*  
ACT Chief Health Officer

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people.  
I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.*



AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'  
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

## AVCAT Scholarships

Hello,

**AVCAT scholarships**, including the **Long Tan Bursary**, are tertiary scholarships for the children and grandchildren of Australian ex-serving veterans. Scholarships are \$4000–\$6000 per year for three years.

Applications open on 18 August 2022, Vietnam Veterans' Day, and close at midnight AEDT on 31 October 2022.

**Apply online at [avcat.org.au](https://avcat.org.au)**

Applicants must be:

- Enrolled or planning to enrol in a full-time course for one or more academic year's duration at university TAFE, or RTO in 2023
- The child, stepchild, foster child, or grandchild of an Australian ex-serving veteran
- An Australian citizen or permanent resident
- In receipt of, or eligible to receive, Centrelink payments including Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY, Austudy, VCES or an accepted means-tested Commonwealth government payment in 2023
- The Long Tan Bursary is sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs. View the complete list of AVCAT Scholarship sponsors [here](#).

Find information about scholarships, the application process or scholarship eligibility at [avcat.org.au](https://avcat.org.au).

### Spread The Word

Share on [socials](#), hang a [poster](#), hand out a [flyer](#), or drop [this notice](#) into your newsletter.

- Find Out More : [Scholarships | Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust \(avcat.org.au\)](https://avcat.org.au)

Kind Regards  
Len Russell  
CEO AVCAT



## COFFEE CATCH UP EVERY FRIDAY 10-12

Members and guests are welcome to join us for a chat and enjoy freshly brewed coffee & cake with former service mates. Every Friday from 10 to 12 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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Office hours are  
9am-3pm Mon-Fri

### PS.

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