

# The Bosun's Call



Vol 30 No 3

Once Navy, Always Navy

April 2025





### HMAS Canberra to the rescue

On 11 March HMAS Canberra welcomed Welsh tourists Mr Thomas Watkins and Miss Elinor Thomas on board. The pair were kayaking in Sydney Harbour on Wednesday 5 March 2025, when Mr Watkins suffered from a seizure. Fortunately, members of ships' company were training in RHIB's and were able to provide lifesaving medical attention

Left;: (Right-Left) Commanding Officer HMAS Canberra, Captain Brendan O'Hara welcomes Mr Thomas Watkins and Miss Elinor Thomas on-board the ship while alongside Fleet Base East in Sydney,

Photo: LSIS Daniel Goodman

#### Events coming up



Last Post AWM AB Lance Rosevear HMAS Sydney (II) ANZAC Day



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the Naval Association of Australia

Hardcopy printed by CopyQik Civic

### **Naval Association of Australia**

## ACT Section

Founded 1 July 1944

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

#### Office Bearers 2024–2025

David Manolas	0427 504 564			
Alex McGown	02 6258 6167			
Alan Masters	02 6281 5630			
Alaric O'Neill;				
Committee Members				
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Peter Cooke-Russell John Small	0412 757 505 02 6258 1216			
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	Alex McGown Alan Masters Alaric O'Neill; embers			

### **Contact Details**

The President ACT Section 0427 504 564 stbdstayportgiveway@gmail.com

The Secretary ACT Section NAA ACT Section 26 Nelson Place, CURTIN ACT 2605.

secretary.naa.act@gmail.com Tel 02 6281 5630

Membership Registrar/BC Editor peter.cookerussell@gmail.com 0412 757 505

#### General Meetings Dates and Locations Programme

#### 2025

3 Apr Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
3 Apr AGM Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1400
1 May Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
5 Jun Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
7 Aug Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
4 Sep Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
2 Oct Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
6 Nov Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330

Tables are normally booked for drinks and lunch in the host club from 1200 prior to the meeting.

If you need assistance getting to the meeting and/or functions, call Alan Masters on 6281 5630 who will try to organise transport for you. Vale

## **Ross Alfred Smith**

30 October 1945 to 18 July 2024

### **Editor's Note**

The following is a reminder that the AGM for 2025 has been postponed to 3 April 2-025

Extracted from the minutes of the General meeting held on 6 March 2025

"Annual General Meeting. This was not held as scheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. It will be held following the 3 April General Meeting."

Minutes of the 2024 AGM were circulated to all members in the March 2025 Bosun's Call.

Editor

### Committee meeting Eastlakes Gungahlin 1100 Thursday 3 April 2025

## Budget 2025-26 – Outcomes for the veteran community Extracted from a DVA PowerPoint briefing

#### The 2025-26 Budget builds on the 2024-25 MYEFO process, which provided:

- \$1.8 billion over four years to 2027-28 for compensation payments for veterans following a significant increase in demand for DVA's services
- \$4.5 million to engage with the veteran community on key Royal Commission recommendations

#### DVA is continuing to engage with the veteran community on key Royal Commission recommendations.

- As a priority the veteran community are being engaged on the co-design of an agency focussed on wellbeing and a national peak body for ex-service organisations.
- This was supported by **\$4.5 million** funding in **2024-25**
- The consultation and co-design will culminate in proposals for Government consideration in relation to these bodies.

## Further work is being undertaken to inform the implementation of the Government Response.

 DVA is collaborating with Commonwealth agencies and state and territory government to develop strategies and options for implementing the recommendations of the Final Report.

Key to this is the collaboration between DVA, the Department of Defence and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Taskforce to deliver a coordinated implementation plan for Government consideration

## The Government also provided \$5 million to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to:

- support the Interim Defence and Veteran Service Commissioner in establishing the Defence and Veteran Service Commission
- establish a new cross-agency taskforce to provide advice to Government on the implementation of the Government response to the Royal Commission

## The 2025-26 Budget continues to build on previous investments, including additional funding for:

- \$47.6 million in 2025-26 for critical service delivery areas in DVA to continue to meet increased demand for services
- \$11.9 million to support continued access to valuable health and support programs.
- Maintaining DVA's service-delivery workforce will help address increased demand for DVA services and improve the timeliness in which veterans and their families can access support
- Allows DVA to meet increased demand by supporting staff in key areas, including the Veteran Access Network, Veteran Support Officers, complex case management, information access and mental health support.

#### Volunteer training in suicide recognition and intervention program

**\$11.9 million** to support continued access to valuable health and support programs.

• Veteran Employment Program

## Budget 2025-26 – Outcomes for the veteran community Extracted from a DVA PowerPoint briefing

(Continued from page 3)

- Volunteer training in suicide recognition and intervention program
- Veterans' Chaplaincy Pilot Program
- Military and Veteran Psychiatry Training Program
- Invictus Australia
- Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation

#### Continuation of key elements of the Veteran Employment Program

- Benefits ADF members transitioning out of the ADF, as well as all veterans in civilian workplaces
- Funding includes delivery of the 2025 Prime Minister's National Veteran Employment Awards, maintenance of the Veteran Employment Program website, and continuation of key outreach activities.

#### Extension of the program to 30 June 2026

- A key priority for the Australian Government and the veteran community
- Up to 2,000 participants are expected to participate in this training and support the veteran community.

#### Veterans' Chaplaincy Pilot Program - Extension of the program to 30 June 2026

- Program is delivered to veterans and families in Brisbane, Townsville and Perth
- Extension will allow continuing support to be provided to the veteran community in these locations

#### Continuation of support to Invictus Australia to 30 June 2026

- This initiative provides an additional year of grant funding to Invictus Australia to continue to support wounded, injured or ill veterans on their recovery journey through participation in adaptive sports, including the Invictus Games and the Warrior Games
- The benefits of sport for physical and mental health are widely acknowledged, including during recovery and rehabilitation.

#### Continuation of support to the Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation to 30 June 2026

• The Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation will continue to deliver mental health support to children aged 8 to 18 years old from Defence and veteran families through the *De*-fence Kids Program.



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs

To support those who serve or have served in the defence of our nation and commemorate their service and sacrifice.

## ANZAC Day– ANZAC Parade Canberra

Participants must follow the directions of the volunteer march marshals on the day.

#### Eligibility

There are four ways to participate in the march:

- as a current or former serving Australian . Defence Force (ADF) member, or deployed civilian\*
- as the relative of an ADF veteran
- as a veteran of a Commonwealth or Allied force
- as a contingent of ADF school aged cadets

\*For the purposes of the march, any current or former serving ADF member is defined as a veteran

#### Information

The RSL ACT Branch Anzac Day Veterans' March is not a parade and therefore no vehicle, animal, weaponry or memorabilia (including historical uniforms) may be included without prior approval by RSL ACT. Political slogans are not



may represent a single veteran and march as part of the family contingent. To ensure the safety of all participants, it is recommended that any young people marching as part of the family contingent should be highschool aged and capable of keeping pace with the march

> The march is conducted out-

to be displayed by march participants

Escorts to Colours and service contingents may only carry arms when authorised by RSL ACT

Due to the number of participants and their safety, prams and strollers are not permitted in the march

RSL ACT does not keep, or arrange to have made, any military banners or flags for veterans to march behind

A carer may accompany a veteran who is participating in the march (up to two per veteran marching). Carers must be over the age of 18 and physically capable of assisting the veteran who is marching should they require support

For awareness, some contingents may be required to march over approximately one kilodoors, dress to weather conditions. Business/ smart attire or appropriate service dress is suggested

metre. There will not be seating available as

contingents form up on Anzac Parade, how-

ever they will be directed to allocated seating

and join their contingent before they march on

to be reviewed. Participants can outline their

Veterans of a Commonwealth or Allied force

All ADF, Commonwealth or Allied force rela-

ily groups contingent. One family member

tives are to march behind veterans in the fam-

should be clearly identifiable by their campaign medals and should be at the head of

accessibility needs when completing the

online registration form

each national group

after they have marched across the Parade

Ground. Participants with accessibility re-

quirements have the option to muster at a holding point closer to the Parade Ground,

Medals should be worn on the left breast only by the person who has been awarded those medals. Relatives should wear medals that are not their own on their right breast. Medal groups should not be broken up and worn by several family members. Some veterans may wear medals on both sides: their own and those of a relative. For further information regarding medal protocol, please visit the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website

Out of respect for the occasion, we ask that participants do not film or photograph proceedings while marching. Family or friends are welcome to capture your participation as spectators

## **ANZAC Day March—Registered Contingents**

The following contingents have registered to march as part of the 2025 Anzac Day RSL ACT Branch Veterans' March. Registrations close on Monday, 14 April 2025.

- AUSTRALIAN RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH 1970 1989
- 11 MOVEMENT CONTROL GROUP ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS
- 2 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION
- 241 ARMY CADET UNIT CANBERRA
- 224ACU Australian Army Cadets
- 2ND/4TH BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT (1973-1995)
- 8 SIGNALS REGIMENT AND ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS
- AFGHANISTAN (2001-2021)
- AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
- AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION WANDERERS BRANCH
- AIRFIELD DEFENCE ASSOCIATION (FOUNDED 1991)
- ALLIED ALLIANCE FORCE (AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOC. CANBERRA DIVISION
- AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM (DEPLOYED 1962-72)
- AUSTRALIAN CIVIL PEACEKEEPERS AND PEACEMAKERS
- AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE NURSING
- AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE CORPS
- COMMANDO ASSOCIATION
- FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION (FOUNDED 1977)
- HMAS SYDNEY ESCORTS VIETNAM LOGISTIC SUPPORT VETERANS ASSOCIATION
- LEMNIAN ASSOCIATION OF NSW
- MALAYA AND BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION AND SANDAKAN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION
- MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
- MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS (1981 TO PRESENT)
- NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (FOUNDED 1920)
- NAVAL WARFARE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (FOUNDED 1946)
- ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
- ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS ASSOCIATION
- ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS ASSOCIATION
- ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION
- ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
- ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ASSOCIATION
- ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
- ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOCIATION
- ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
- SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD DEFENCE SERVICES
- SIKH COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC
- SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY VETERANS ORGANISATION OF AUSTRALASIA
- SPECIAL OPERATIONS ENGINEER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
- SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA
- VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION AND FEDERATION
- VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
- WRANS (NAVAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION ACT) (FOUNDED 2003)

## **ASWEX 25**



#### 25 March 2025

ASWEX is the annual, Navy led, joint enabled Field Training Exercise (FTX) primarily focused on Under Sea Warfare (USW) and enabled by the RAAF, and Five Eye partner nations. ASWEX25 was conducted on the West Coast of Australia.

HMA Ships *Hobart, Warramunga, Toowoomba, Arunta, Stuart* and *Choules* formed a Task Group to conduct high-end anti-submarine warfighting training. Royal New Zealand Air Force P8s (5 Squadron), RAN Fleet Air Arm 808 and 816 Squadron and RAAF platforms supported the exercise.

Above: HMAS Choules, HMAS Stuart, HMAS Arunta, HMAS Warramunga, HMAS Toowoomba, HMAS Stalwart and the forecastle of HMAS Hobart in the foreground alongside Fleet Base West as the sun rises

*Right: HMAS Stuart and HMAS Choules leaving Fleet Base West to conduct ASWEX 25.* 

Photos: LSIS Iggy Roberts



## **Naval Emerging Leaders' Forum**



Above; Director Navy Culture, Captain Jace Hutchison, RAN (Immediate Past CO HMAS Canberra) speaks during the Navy Emerging Leaders Forum held at the Gary Holland Centre in Rockingham, Western Australia.

Photo: LSIS Rikki Lea Phillip

#### 12 March 2025

The Directorate of Navy Culture held the Navy Emerging Leaders Forum (NELF). The NELF is part of Next Generation Navy and builds on the success of previous forums. The NELF brings together junior leaders to develop leadership awareness and social mastery. Through engagement with peers, senior Navy leaders and influential speakers, NELF encourages open dialogue and group discussions about authentic leadership, people management, selfawareness and culture



## **Legal Aid for Veterans**

#### Have you or your partner:

- Served in the Australian Defence Force?
- Served overseas in a Australian Government sponsored Peacekeeping role?
- Have a medical condition related to this service?

Legal Aid ACT can help veterans and their partners seek entitlements and lodge claims with The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

#### We can help you with:

- Rights and entitlements under Commonwealth laws relating to veterans and families
- Completing claim forms, questionnaires and writing statements in support of claims
- · Your dealings with DVA and, if necessary, review tribunals.

Legal Aid ACT advice services are free, confidential and independent of the DVA and Department of Defence



#### **Defending the Arts Festival— Canberra**

Midshipman Alex Agnew at the Defending the Arts Festival in Canberra.

Photos: Cpl Michael Rogers

The Australian Defence Force Creative Arts Association held the Defending the Arts Festival, an annual exhibition and performance event carnival, at the Australian Defence Force Academy from March 10- 14. The festival displayed 39 artworks from 20 ADF artists in an exhibition held in the Adams Auditorium throughout the week, as well as workshops for participating Defence artists. It culminated with a performing arts night on March 14 with nine performers showcasing song, music, poetry and dance





Left: Private Keith Ross with his art piece "Heavy is the head that wears the 381 (?) crown." exhibited during the Defending The Arts Festival in Canberra

NAAACT Cooffee	Subseriation and Decords Hadata 2025
NAA AU Section	Subscription and records optiate 2023
<b>Nomination Form</b>	Annual Subscription for 2025 \$40.00 (Due now)
2025 Committee Elections	Surname
Position	Given Names
	Signature
Nominee	Please complete the following details to bring our rec-
Proposer: Name (Block Letters)	ords up to date Preferred TitlePost Nominals
Signature	Home Address
Seconder: Name (Block Letters)	Town/SuburbState/Territory
Signature	Post Code
Date:	Telephoner (H)
	Fax
Endorsement by Nominee	Email
Nominations are to be delivered to	Spouse/Partner Given Name
The Secretary, s NAA ACT Section	Note When completed please return this form together with
not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting to take place; ie by 1.30 pm Thursday 27 February 2025	your payment to; The Membership Registrar, either at a General meeting or by post to 4 McFachern Crescent MFI BA 2615 or pay via the ebank-
	ing system to Nav Direct transfer of funds to the NAA (ACT Section). transfer funds to Naval Association of Australia –ACT Section Account BSB: 633 000 Account Number 162 834 097

### Minutes of NAA (ACT) General Meeting held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 6 March 2025

**Meeting opened** at 1335 with a welcome to all present, congratulations to members celebrating a March birthday, and condolences to the family of late-member Richard Waring. In the absence of the President, Alaric O'Neill took the Chair and recited the Odes.

Present: 9 members as per attendance book.

**Apologies:** D.Manolas, J.Small, M. Hardwick, J. Slaats, P. Gillin, Pauline Gribble, Heather Milward, S. Gordon, B. Joce

**Minute of Last Meeting.** The minutes of the General meeting on 6 February 2025 appeared in the March 2025 edition of the Bosun's Call. It was considered there was no outstanding business from that meeting.

Motion: The minutes of the General Meeting held on 6 February 2025 be accepted.

Moved: Darren Rush Seconded: Harry Beardsell Carried.

#### Reports.

President Nil report due to absence.

Vice President Nil report due to absence at medical appointment.

Secretary Business as usual.

**Treasurer** The funds remain in a healthy state.

**Membership** The membership stands at 40 financial members, 12 unfinancial, and the remaining being Honorary, Honorary Life and Club members

Motion The Reports be received.

Moved Alaric O'Neill Seconded Peter Cooke-Russell Carried

Welfare Nil..

Social Nil.

Motion The Reports be received.

Moved Alaric O'Neill Seconded Peter Cooke-Russell Carried

#### **General Business**

**New Membership** An application received from Mark Fullick to transfer from the Greenbank, Queensland Sub-Section to the ACT was accepted.

Motion The transfer of Mark Fullick to the ACT Section be approved as from today.

Moved: Peter Cooke-Russell Seconded: Tony Vickers Carried

Honorary Memberships. In accordance with the NAA Constitution Honorary Memberships are approved annually

Motion: Honorary memberships be offered to:

Sir William Deane Patron

VADM Mark Hammond RAN CN

Commanding Officer HMAS Canberra (name to confirmed)

Senior Naval Representative United States of America Embassy (name to be confirmed)

LCOL Olly Gray Royal Marines British High Commission

Defence Attache New Zealand High Commission (if RNZN)

CMDR Michael Collinson RNZN Naval Representative (NZ High Commission)

Mat Anderson Director AWM

Moved: Alaric O'Neill Seconded Harry Beardsell Carried

#### Veterans' Lounge, The Canberra Hospital.

This facility is in its final preparation and KOC (Kindred Organisations Committee) is liaising with hospital staff in the provision of additional items. KOC does not have any funds and as HMAS Sydney Association has donated \$100 for KOC 's use, it was discussed whether ACT Section would respond in a similar manner

Motion: NAA ACT Section donate \$100 to KOC for use in providing items for Veterans' Lounge at The Canberra Hospital.

Moved. Dennis Lyons Seconded Peter Cooke-Russell Carried.

- NAA Website. Some members have experienced difficulties in accessing the website or delays in having changes to content effected. Acknowledgement was given to the current situation whereby the Webmaster has been granted a leave of absence for an extended period and his replacement is to address matters relating to the site. Our shipmate, Darren Rush, will play a significant role during this period and will keep the Section up to date with website matters.
- NAA (ACT) Website. Discussion was initiated by Alaric O'Neill as to the possibility of the Section having a website. Many potential younger members are digital savvy and utilize their mobile phones as their principal communication device. Without a website we may be limiting our prospects of gaining and retaining new members. Further research will be needed to ensure the worthiness of this idea and the measures needed to implement it.
- **Meeting Formats**. While our lunches always precede our General Meetings it was discussed that there is a need beyond discussing NAA matters to entice additional members to our monthly gatherings. Activities such as

### Minutes of NAA (ACT) General Meeting held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 6 March 2025

#### (Continued from page 11)

quizzes, get to know me talks and visiting speakers are to be considered in more detail at our next meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, then please offer suggestions if you have them.

- White Ensign Magazine Distribution. Concern was raised that not all eligible members were receiving their WEM in either electronic or hard copy format. If this is the case, it is most probable that omissions of personal data are not in the NAA records. If you change your personal details, then please inform the secretary or membership registrar so they can be entered into the NAA data bank. In the meantime the section membership registrar and Darren Rush will check both sets of data to determine where a problem, if any, exists.
- Annual General Meeting. This was not held as scheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. It will be held following the 3 April General Meeting.
- Nominations for NAA (ACT) Executive. Nominations have already been submitted for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and two for Committee. Thus a nomination or nominations for the position of Secretary are sought and also for other committee positions. Nominations can be e-mailed to the Secretary or delivered at the meeting. The outgoing secretary advised the position is not arduous and time consuming.

**Next Meeting** The next General Meeting will be held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Cub on Thursday, 3 April 2025 starting at 1330.

**Close of Meeting** There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 1336.

Alan F Masters Secretary NAA (ACT)

### **Notes from Committee Meeting**

Present: Alex McGown, Alan Masters, Peter Cooke-Russell, , Dennis Lyons, Alaric O'Neill

Apology: David Manolas

Discussions ranged from ideas for making the meetings more enticing and interesting for members to ways of better connecting with younger veterans.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 3 April 2025 at 1100.

Alan Masters Secretary / Treasurer NAA (ACT



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

#### \$40 for 2025

Action to renew membership for 2025 can now undertaken in a number of different ways. The following, in order of preference for the Treasurer, are listed below, but any of them can be utilised.

The use of e-banking provides for ease of payment and your bank records act as your receipt. The annual subscription for 2025 is \$40

- 1. Direct transfer of funds to the NAA (ACT Section). Using e-bank facilities, transfer funds to Naval Association of Australia –ACT Section Account BSB: 633 000. Account Number 162 834 097 Please ensure you have identified yourself as the payer in order that the Treasurer can correctly credit your payment.
- Payment using the mail system. Please do not send cash through the mail system. Cheques can be forwarded to Membership Registrar, 4 McEachern Crescent, MELBA ACT 2615. Receipts will NOT be mailed to payers.
- Direct payment to Treasurer. The Treasurer will gladly accept cheques or cash from members at General Meetings. A receipt will be given to payers.

IF YOU HAVE CHANGED ANY OF YOUR CON-TACT DETAILS SUCH AS HOME ADDRESS, E-MAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBERS PLEASE ADVISE THE MEMBERSHIP REGIS-TRAR.

## Social Trogram

Fish 'n Chips is on the program, Snapper has reopened . Sun will shine.

#### 2025

17 Apr	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
15 May	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
19 Jun	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
3 Jul	Xmas in July Place to be advised
17 Jul	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200

Bev Joce Social Secretary

## **DVA CONTACTS**

Information on health services may be obtained from DVA. The contact numbers for health care providers requiring further information or prior financial authorisation for all States & Territories are listed below:

#### PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone: <u>1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)</u>

International callers:

+61 2 6289 1133

## POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES: D

Health Approvals & Home Care Section Department of Veterans' Affairs GPO Box 9998 BRISBANE QLD 4001

#### **DVA WEBSITE:**

http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-

healthprofessionals

DVA email for prior financial authorisation: health.approval@dva.gov.au

The appropriate prior approval request form can be found at: https:// www.dva.gov.au/providers/ servicesrequiring-prior-approval

#### CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

For information about claims for payment visit: www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim



## A Happy Birthday to you April 2025

Alaric O'Neill

## NB

## **DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES** Annual General Meeting will now be held on

## 3 April 2025

## Approx 1415

## Eastlakes Football Club, Gungahlin



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