

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP

Minister for Veterans
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Youth



Friday, 12 May 2023

COMMEMORATIVE PROJECTS HONOURING OUR VETERANS

An equine therapy upgrade and a video series capturing the stories of Chinese Australians who have served in war are among dozens of projects receiving funding to support and honour Victorian veterans and their families.

The Andrews Labor Government has announced more than \$1.4 million funding for 55 projects offering practical support for the veteran community as well as commemorating their incredible contributions.

Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman today announced the Labor Government will fund 31 projects through the *Veterans Capital Works Grant Program*, which funds facility upgrades of up to \$50,000 for not-for-profit and ex-service organisations.

Equine therapy service Path of the Horse is among the beneficiaries receiving \$50,000 to create a covered area on their site north-west of Melbourne, allowing them to work with more clients while maintaining privacy. A range of RSL Sub-Branches and other organisations are also receiving funding to install solar panels, reducing power costs.

Moyne Shire Council in Victoria's south-west is receiving \$50,000 to replant 105 trees commemorating World War I, which needed to be removed after a significant wind event in early 2022.

A further 11 organisations will receive funding through the *Victoria Remembers program*, which provides grants of up to \$30,000 for projects commemorating veterans' service or educating Victorians about the contributions that veterans and their families have made. Applications are assessed by the Victorian Veterans Council, an independent body that provides advice to the Government on issues affecting the Victorian veteran community.

The Museum of Chinese Australian History is receiving \$20,250 through the program to create a range of videos about the stories of Chinese Australians who served during World War I and World War II.

Other projects include restoring and displaying a Wackett trainer aircraft at the Trafalgar Holden Museum. The project will display the first Australian designed aircraft to see major service in the RAAF and tell the story of Sergeant Leonard Victor 'Len' Waters, Australia's only Aboriginal fighter pilot during World War Two.

Quote attributable to Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman

"We're proud to support projects that provide veterans and their families with access to modern, accessible and efficient facilities and all Victorians can pay their respects, learn about history and acknowledge the service and sacrifice of our veterans."

Quote attributable to Victorian Veterans Council Chair Commodore Greg Yorke

"We always look forward to seeing these projects come to life, knowing they will make a difference to the veteran community and help ensure their service is honoured."