

Media Release

The Hon Shaun Leane MLC
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Suburban Development
Minister for Veterans



Tuesday, 22 February 2022

A STRONG VOICE FOR VICTORIAN VETERANS

Two new members have been appointed to the Victorian Veterans Council, renewing the veteran community's representation to the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Veterans Shaun Leane today announced the appointment of Commodore Greg Yorke CSC RAN to the position of Chair and Lucy Saaroni as a Board Member of the Victorian Veterans Council.

The council is an independent body that provides crucial advice to the Government on issues impacting the veteran community, ensuring the voices of the veteran community influence the Government's work supporting veterans and their families and recognising their service and sacrifice.

Commodore Yorke has more than 40 years' experience working for the Australian Government, primarily in Defence positions. He joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1974, completing more than eight sea postings, and has held numerous senior leadership positions in the Navy, including Senior Naval Officer Victoria since 2018.

Commodore Yorke was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross for his leadership role as Chief Staff Officer (Operations) Maritime Headquarters during Operation Falconer in 2003. He is also a non-executive board member for the Australian National Veterans Arts Museum and the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network.

Ms Saaroni is an executive with the Country Fire Authority and currently holds a Public Affairs Officer role in the Australian Army. She has worked in international policy at an executive level for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and held emergency and risk management roles for Yarra City and Frankston City Councils.

The Victorian Veterans Council distributes funds through two Victorian Government grant programs – the ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund and Victorian Veterans Fund. These grants support activities such as assistance transitioning to civilian life, health and wellbeing programs, and help finding housing and employment.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Veterans Shaun Leane

"I congratulate Commodore Greg Yorke and Lucy Saaroni on their appointments to the Victorian Veterans Council."

"Their extensive experience working across the Defence sector will make them invaluable voices for veterans."

Quotes attributable to Commodore Greg Yorke CSC RAN

"I am honoured to be appointed as Chair of the Victorian Veterans Council."

"I am committed to enhancing Victorians' understanding of the service and sacrifice of our veterans and look forward to providing impartial advice to the government on issues impacting the veteran community."