

QUEENSLAND

RSI NEWS

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WWI'S WAR
ANIMALS
RECOGNISED
AT POZIERES

INVICTUS 2017 GAMES

**CELEBRATING VETERANS'
FIGHTING SPIRIT**



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RSL (Queensland Branch)
current membership: 34,815

Qld RSL News average
distribution: 33,000

Submissions: Editorial and photographic contributions are welcome. Please contact the editor for guidelines. Preference will be given to electronic submissions and those articles adhering to word limits. Originals of all material should be retained by contributors and only copies sent to Qld RSL News.

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This year's Aussie team won a total of 52 medals, with 33 individual medals brought home by Queensland athletes.

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A permanent memorial to the millions of animals killed or wounded in WWI has been unveiled in Pozieres, France.

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A significant Australian presence in the Solomon Islands in August underlined the importance of the Battle of Guadalcanal in WWII.

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Front Cover



COVER IMAGE:

Australian athletes Chris Clark, left, Leading Aircraftwoman Melissa Roberts, Jason McNulty and Sarah Watson enter the 2017 Invictus Games opening ceremony at the Air Canada Centre.



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WE SUPPORT MORE VETERANS THAN EVER BEFORE

For this edition of *Queensland RSL News*, perhaps we need to pause and consider some of our many recent achievements. Currently, RSL Queensland is supporting the veteran community on a much wider front than any other period in its history.

We teamed up with Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation at Greenslopes Private Hospital to research post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the issues and culture around separating from the Australian Defence Force.

The PTSD findings were published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* and our contribution to the ground-breaking work has brought RSL Queensland much praise at the national and international level.

The research into transition – which is also ground-breaking – continues. While it will take some years, preliminary results have been discussed locally and globally.

We have been very active engaging with current serving men and women, particularly through our support of 3rd and 7th Brigades and the Soldier Recovery Centres established by the Australian Army. We have now begun formal discussions to support 1st Brigade in Darwin.

We also established several scholarships for serving junior

officers and senior non-commissioned officers for all three services and received letters of appreciation from the Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force. The Chief of Army handwrote this postscript on his letter: “I very much appreciate the generosity and vision implicit in your proposal, thank you RSL Qld”.

We must remember that RSL Queensland recognised that current and former servicemen and women need more assistance with their recovery and established Mates4Mates in 2014 with this philosophy in mind.

Mates4Mates focuses on veterans who are wounded, injured or ill as a result of their service. While owned by RSL Queensland, the organisation is operated as a separate company to support those who may not want to seek support from the traditional League.

We now have a serving member on the Board of Mates4Mates – Commander of 7th Brigade, Brigadier Tony Rawlins DSC. Tony joined the Board after Mates4Mates Chair Rick Ralph and I met with Chief of Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC to discuss the work of RSL Queensland and Mates4Mates.

Today, RSL Queensland looks after thousands of veterans

whose service spans from WWII up to those who have just qualified to join the RSL. As such, RSL must be flexible and adaptable in how it provides support to veterans and their families.

As a grassroots organisation, we were established on the fundamental principle that Sub Branch members carry out League work in their local communities. This principle has enabled us to operate successfully for the past 100 years. While our methods of communication have changed, we remain focused on supporting our members so they can carry out this work.

Looking to the future, we are reviewing our State Board structure. Many of you would be aware of this if you attended our State Congress in Brisbane or participated in District workshops facilitated by Deloitte. The RSL membership, in partnership with the Deloitte team, will report back to the State Board in December.

We are also rolling out several veteran support programs, including a collaboration with the Salvation Army addressing the issue of veteran homelessness and a pilot employment program in Townsville. You can read more about the pilot program in the State Secretary's column on page 8.

The Townsville initiative

has national potential and representatives from the Prime Minister's Veterans Employment Program visited RSL recently to discuss our program, including Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM, Ben Roberts-Smith VC, MG, and Colin McDowell.

Following a briefing on the RSL initiative, led by Transition to Employment Project Manager Julieann Keyser, the group asked to bring the entire Prime Minister's Veteran Employment Program Board to ANZAC House in November so they could be briefed on the program and our approach to supporting veterans.

RSL Queensland remains focused on our core objectives and, through the work of thousands of volunteers across the state, we continue to go about our business, quietly supporting those in need. On behalf of the State Board and ANZAC House staff, I would like to thank you for your dedication and commitment.



Stewart Cameron CSC
State President
RSL (Queensland Branch)

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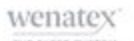
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CPAP Therapy can be provided to Department of Veterans' Affairs entitled persons with an appropriate prescription



WORKING FOR A POSITIVE FUTURE

It's been some time since I provided an update on our progress with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and the work we are undertaking.

On August 24, ACNC Assistant Commissioner David Locke and Senior Compliance Officer Jillian Pritchard visited ANZAC House to speak with the RSL Queensland Board, Chief Financial Officer Joy Murray, General Counsel Maria Forgione and myself.

The meeting was organised to articulate the findings of the RSL Queensland investigation and establish with the ACNC a best practice approach to corporate governance.

WE MUST LOOK BACK BEFORE WE CAN STEP FORWARD

During the meeting, RSL Queensland demonstrated its commitment to working with the Commission on a way forward. In fact, we want to lead the way among RSL State Branches when it comes to strong corporate governance and ensure we use funds to support veterans in the best way possible.

One of the key learnings of the ACNC discussion was that "we must look back before we can step forward". To that end, our first task is to review the out-of-pocket payments and certain categories of credit card expenditure of RSL directors who

**"WE SHOULD NEVER BE
AFRAID TO TALK ABOUT THE
MAGNIFICENT WORK RSL DOES
IN THE COMMUNITY EACH AND
EVERY DAY OR HOW STAFF AND
VOLUNTEERS CARRYING OUT THIS
WORK ARE GOVERNED. ENSURING
A COMPLETELY UP FRONT AND
TRANSPARENT APPROACH WILL
HELP BUILD TRUST AMONG
OUR MEMBERS, THE PUBLIC
SUPPORTING OUR FUNDRAISING
AND REGULATORS GOVERNING OUR
CHARITABLE STATUS."**

served during 2012-2017.

Once we have collected this data, we will submit an action plan to the ACNC and, if approved, we can move on to the next substantial phase.

RSL GOOD GOVERNANCE GUIDE

Developing a Good Governance Guide is pivotal to the transparent and robust corporate governance of RSL Queensland,

as well as how public money is spent and how the Objects of the League are fulfilled.

This involves a complete rewrite of our corporate governance approach, and this guide will ultimately be published on our website for members and the public to read.

We should never be afraid to talk about the magnificent work RSL does in the community each and every day or how

staff and volunteers carrying out this work are governed. Ensuring a completely up front and transparent approach will help build trust among our members, the public supporting our fundraising and regulators governing our charitable status.

UPDATE ON PRIVATE BINDING RULING

Some time ago, I told you about our plans to get a private binding ruling (PBR) from the Australian Tax Office (ATO) to provide clarity and certainty around how Sub Branches should utilise honorariums or out-of-pocket expense payments.

The team has worked hard to understand both the role of directors and the hours they spend undertaking these roles. We submitted an application to the ATO in October and expect the Government to respond in two to three months. We look forward to providing an update when this occurs and ensuring you remain engaged on the important topic of governance.



Luke Traini
Chief Executive Officer
RSL (Queensland Branch)



Imagine ... Comfort Shoes That Make You Feel Great!

How to Get Footwear Through DVA Easily, Effortlessly and With Minimal Hassle

"Ever wondered how some of your veteran mates seem to get all the help, yet no-one in your camp seems to know or want to help you."

"Have you been looking for a way to get access to footwear through DVA but never knew how?"

Or...

"You have often thought you might like shoes that are covered by DVA but just didn't know where to start"

If you want access to footwear through DVA, visit:

www.yourcomfortshoes.com/RSLshoes

Enter your first name, last name and email address and you will receive your DVA footwear application starter pack.

"These shoes have been one of the most comfortable and supportive pair of shoes I have ever worn. They arrived in the mail about 5 days before our Tasmania trip and I wore them constantly while I was away. I normally suffered with tired feet and swelling but after wearing these shoes I had none of these problems. I would give them a 10/10 for comfort and support. I have been really happy with the service from Your Comfort Shoes and their footwear provider ... the only downside I would say is that it took a little while for the shoes to come. But it was certainly worth the wait."

Bruce Fraser - Morayfield, QLD



Podiatrist Ben Sibley, pictured right, from Your Podiatrist Brisbane is a 20-year veteran of prescribing DVA registered footwear. Ben explains to Bruce Fraser of Morayfield the benefits of the recreational shoe he recommends for gym, exercise, golf and bowls players. Bruce recently used this shoe for trekking in Tasmania.

To start your application process and get access to footwear like Bruce, visit:

www.yourcomfortshoes.com/RSLshoes

Your first step towards DVA footwear begins with a doctors D904 referral to a qualified podiatrist. The podiatrist must be registered with the Department of Veterans Affairs as a footwear prescriber. Please note that not all podiatrists are qualified to provide this service.

A CLOSER LOOK AT RSL OPERATIONS

As well as being the State Secretary, I also hold the role of General Manager of Operations for RSL (Queensland Branch). There are five main capability areas within operations, and each area comprises a team of people who work diligently to ensure excellent delivery of our traditional services, and to develop new services to support younger veterans and their families.

Over the next six editions of *Queensland RSL News*, we will introduce some of these programs and the staff members delivering them. The highlighted

team in the wire diagram below shows the capability area responsible for delivering the project being presented, which in this case is our Employment Program.



Scott Denner
State Secretary
RSL (Queensland Branch)

PILOT VETERAN EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Townsville's transitioning and ex-service personnel will be the first in Australia to participate in an innovative new employment program developed by RSL Queensland.

RSL Queensland launched the pilot of its Employment Program in Townsville on September 25, with the aim of running the program until February 2018 and rolling it out across the state in 2018.

RSL Queensland Veteran Services Manager Rob Skoda said the program would help former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members transition into meaningful civilian employment.

"RSL Queensland has invested heavily in research to determine the factors that contribute to successfully transitioning out of Defence. Our Employment Program has been shaped by that research," Rob said. ►

OPERATIONS

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VETERAN
SERVICES
SUPPORT

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DISTRICT
SUPPORT
SERVICES

TRANSFORMATION
& PROJECT
DELIVERY

This is the first article in a three-part series on RSL Queensland's new Employment Program. In the December edition of *Queensland RSL News*, read about how this program is making a real difference in the lives of veterans.

◀ This five-year Veteran Reintegration Study – conducted by Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation and funded by RSL Queensland – has already been underway for two years.

Although Defence personnel are highly employable, they can have difficulty translating the skills they gained during service to the civilian job market.

“The RSL Queensland Employment Program aims to help ex-service personnel highlight their transferable skills so civilian employers can more easily see where they can fit into their organisations,” Rob said. “In addition, we will be offering career counselling and help with writing CVs and making connections with employers.”

Rob said RSL Queensland would also provide assistance to the partners of serving and ex-serving Defence personnel.

“We know how important family support is in the transition process. Families move extensively while Defence personnel are serving, which means that partners’ careers are often interrupted. It’s vital to ensure that both partners in a transitioning family have meaningful employment.”

Australian Army 3rd Brigade Commander Brigadier Chris Field said the program would ensure former ADF personnel are recognised as valued members of the civilian community.

“The RSL Queensland Employment Program complements existing ADF, government and community programs, enabling former ADF personnel to reach their personal and professional potential beyond Defence,” BRIG Field said.

“One of the keys to success for our former ADF people is for them to obtain employment. This program assists them to build the foundations for a future beyond Defence, and empowers their futures with meaning and purpose.”



Some of the team behind RSL Queensland's Employment Program: Cameron Hemming, left, Julieann Keyser, Rob Skoda, Kathleen Davis and Katie Maloney.

MEET THE TEAM BEHIND THE PROGRAM

Rob Skoda

Veteran Services Manager

Rob is responsible for the delivery of veteran services across Queensland and chairs the Employment Project Steering Committee, which oversees the approach and key milestones of the project.

Julieann Keyser

Transition to Employment Project Manager

Julieann and her careers team lead the project and have been busy developing the employment framework and the three key program initiatives: 'Employee Ready', 'Partner Ready' and 'Employer Ready'. The team acts as the first point of contact for the program and builds industry relationships to support veterans into meaningful employment opportunities.

Kathleen Davis

Wellbeing Coordinator

Kathleen has been instrumental in developing a case management approach for the Employment Program, ensuring it is centred around the person being helped. Kathleen's team supports individuals who require further support in addition to employment assistance, through the 'support the journey' pathway.

Katie Maloney

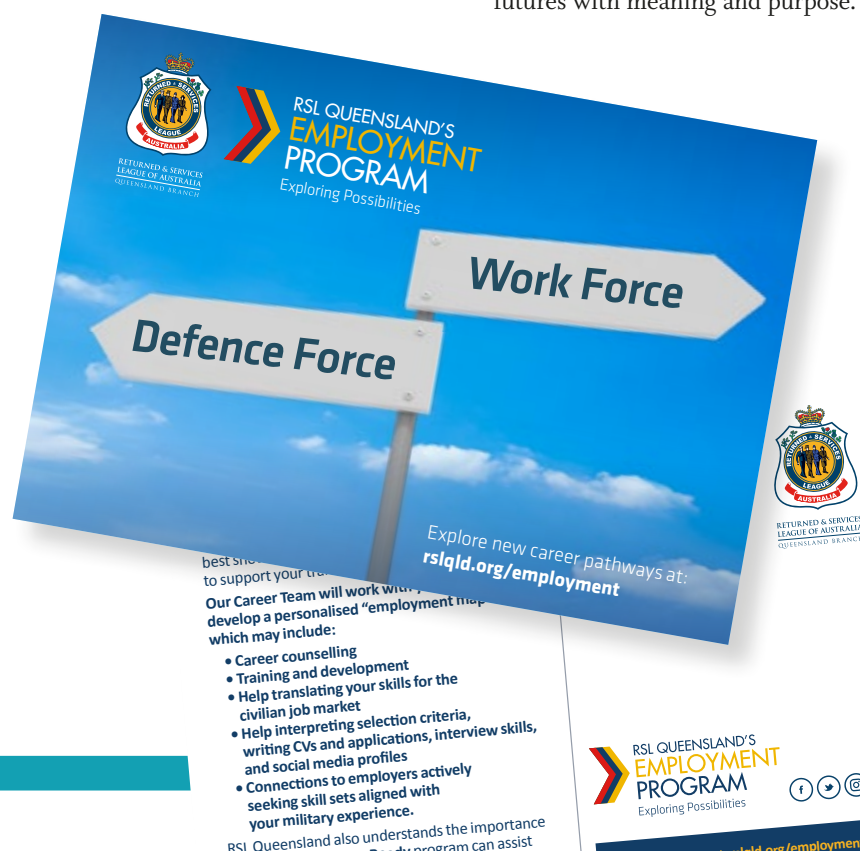
Partnership Manager

Katie and her partnerships team provide support to the program by managing the RSL Queensland Scholarship scheme and engagement activities with ADF. The team provides connections and support to current and ex-serving members and their families.

Cameron Hemming

Project Manager Operations

Cameron provided expert guidance in phase one of the program, ensuring the project's framework connects to RSL Queensland's wider transformational goals.



CAN WE REALLY EXPECT PERFECTION?

RSL Queensland is vastly different today than it was during the early days of conception, largely due to many dedicated and adaptable members. Many factors influenced these changes, but the organisation has retained its respected position thanks to solid management principles.

Today, state board members are rightly held accountable for how they conduct RSL business. If board members are not fully qualified to undertake their portfolios, they wisely seek external advice.

Running RSL Queensland is a mammoth task undertaken largely by volunteers who relinquish a lot of personal time. They should be credited for ensuring our current strong position. While transparency is a common criticism, if errors in the financials are as miniscule as we heard at the State Congress, this criticism has no credibility.

There may be some items of expenditure that make members unhappy, but are they really a justified imposition on state finances? After all, RSL Queensland is getting a management team at a hugely reduced price compared to the value volunteers provide. In many cases, volunteers use their own pocketbook to back up their portfolio.

Both directors and members are fallible – they are human beings who make mistakes. But there are government departments and stringent regulatory guidelines that offer support. We must accept that we will never have 100 per cent compliance or adherence to government regulations. No one is that perfect, especially as laws are open to a variety of interpretations by enforcers themselves.

Allan Petersen
Home Hill

TWO GREAT INITIATIVES

I am writing to compliment RSL Queensland on two initiatives mentioned in the Secretary's report in *Queensland RSL News* (Edition 04, 2017) – the move on veterans' homelessness and the scholarship program to support children and spouses of veterans where the family is in need. I think both initiatives are great ideas.

I would further like to compliment the RSL on not 'reinventing the wheel' and spending money needlessly by setting up a whole new structure to run these initiatives. Instead, RSL Queensland has partnered with Salvation Army and the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust, who already have the expertise and the infrastructure in place. I find this clever and a thoughtful use of our scarce money and resources.

Bruce Jay
Kingaroy



SEYMOUR MEMORIAL WORTH A VISIT

Will you please write an article in *Queensland RSL News* to advise all Vietnam veterans there stands a wonderful memorial to them in Seymour, Victoria. It is a Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk dedicated to the 60,267 service personnel and 11 tracker dogs who served in South Vietnam. I am sure this will be of interest to those who served, as every name is on this wall. We only learned of this from friends who happened to be visiting.

David and Dawn
Clapperton
Tarong

Great idea, David and Dawn. The walk was officially opened in 2011 to honour the service of everyone who played a role in a tumultuous part of Australia's history.

A red earth path meanders through native trees and grasses that resemble rubber trees and rice paddies, plants synonymous with Vietnam. There are areas for contemplation at various points along the walk.

The interpretive centre provides a history prior to military commitment, the period of Australia's involvement and the aftermath.

For more information, visit
www.vietnamvetwalk.org.au

Editor
Queensland RSL News

UNITAF WRITTEN OUT OF MILITARY HISTORY

Yet again, the RSL perpetuates the misinformation in relation to the 1 RAR led mission into Somalia. In your list of UN missions (page 36, *Queensland RSL News*, Edition 04, 2017) you list 'Unified Task Force' (Somalia) UNITAF as a UN mission.

I was part of this mission, which was UN 'sanctioned', but not a UN mission. The mission, code named 'Restore Hope', was a United States initiative that aimed to create a protected environment for conducting humanitarian operations in the southern half of the country.

After deploying, the Security Council didn't commit to decreeing UNITAF as a UN mission, but it did endorse a decree that mission troops could use "all necessary measures" to guarantee the delivery of humanitarian aid. As a result, Australian soldiers identified potential risks to the delivery of humanitarian aid – these risks included 'war lords' commanding trained militants with AK47s, landmines and RPGs. Australian soldiers used conventional infantry training, tactics and weaponry, including loaded automatic rifles, machine guns and rocket launchers, to eliminate those risks.

UNITAF did not receive a UN medal or wear UN insignia, as 'sanctioning' by the UN did not qualify or deem the mission as a UN enterprise.

The mission has been described as 'peace making', at best, but never 'peace keeping'.

UNITAF has been written out of the Australian military history. There are no monuments to it; the Australian War Memorial completely skips it, although they recognise UNISOM. UNITAF is the conflict that never happened. But, *RSL News*, don't despair, veterans of the Somalia mission have long since given up trying to correct this wrong and given up trying to get medallic recognition for our tour.

Dr Timothy White

Cairns

Somali Civil War veteran

MEMORIES OF KASTELLORIZO

The article 'Kastellorizo: The Little Big Island' (*Queensland RSL News*, Edition 04, 2017) re-awoke a memory that may interest some readers.

I was serving in an Australian Navy corvette, HMAS *Ipswich*, in October 1943. Following the invasion of Sicily and the Italian surrender, we were directed to the eastern Mediterranean port of Famagusta in Cypress. We escorted a small convoy of merchant ships to relieve the small Greek island of Kastellorizo, which was under attack from German aircraft. We did this on two occasions, reaching the island after dark and departing before dawn to avoid the daylight bombing. We carried supplies to the island and brought back wounded POWs and evacuees for offloading at Beirut. We never got ashore or saw the island in daylight. They were exciting times in an interesting part of the world.

I enjoy your publication.

Alan R Grimmer

Kenmore

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Thank you for publishing the story on the WWI German tank Mephisto (*Queensland RSL News*, Edition 04, 2017). The article brought back many happy childhood memories.

I clearly remember visiting Queensland Museum many times in the 1950s and climbing all over and (shock horror) even inside this wonderful example of German manufacturing. I guess the public are now kept a reasonable distance away from this great exhibit.

I seem to remember a gaping hole on top of the tank, as though it was hit by an artillery shell. It was stored externally and there was only a very low picket fence surrounding it, giving us easy access.

We pretended to drive it and it provided wonderful stimulation for our imagination.

Thank you again for the trip down memory lane.

David Peel

Noosaville

WARHAVEN WINS BUILDING AWARD

RSL Queensland's newly transformed Warhaven housing complex has won a coveted 2017 Master Builders Association Award. Presented to builders Hansen Yuncken, the award is confirmation of the exceptional quality of this \$18m makeover.

The new Warhaven provides modern, resort-style housing for needy defence community members looking for medium to long-term accommodation. The complex has 74 units, including 56 completely new homes in two three-storey blocks.

The complex includes a common room, bar with widescreen TV, library and barbecue area – all set within landscaped grounds and a community garden. The communal areas encourage an atmosphere of friendliness and camaraderie among residents. Individual units have been fitted out to high standards and include video intercom systems.



DVA URGED TO LOOK CLOSER AT MEFLOQUINE

RSL Queensland has strongly urged the Department of Veterans' Affairs to fund further research into possible links between mefloquine and chemically acquired brain injury in Defence personnel. RSL Queensland President Stewart Cameron said anecdotal evidence from veterans who had been prescribed mefloquine during operational service indicated there might be previously unrecognised side effects that are causing significant problems in their lives.

Mr Cameron said veterans believe their exposure to mefloquine has caused a chemically acquired brain injury, with a range of symptoms including insomnia, depression, anxiety, impaired cognition, abnormally vivid dreams or nightmares, dizziness or tinnitus. However, without further scientific research to support their claims, veterans are left in medical limbo.

Mr Cameron said the recent decision by the Repatriation Medical Authority not to recognise the link between mefloquine and chemically acquired brain injury should not mean investigation ceases entirely but should instead result in more comprehensive studies being undertaken.



NEW WEBSITE SUPPORTS ADF

RSL Queensland is one of many providers listed on the new website Engage, which aims to improve support for wounded, injured and sick ADF personnel and their families and carers.

Our listing includes information about our purpose, together with the services we provide, including support with emergencies, health and wellbeing, financial and legal assistance, housing, and veteran affairs claims support for current and ex-service personnel, partners, parents and families.

Engage simplifies the process of accessing support and enables users to search based on a broad range of criteria, including their needs, geographical location and support required.

Visit engage.forcenet.gov.au

VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

In an Australian first, RSL Queensland has partnered with Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF) to research how veterans transition from the military into civilian life.

The Veteran Mental Health Initiative comprises a three-stage study into veteran reintegration and adjustment, which will provide an evidence base for developing procedures and practices to improve the mental health and wellbeing of transitioning Defence personnel.

Stage 1 is well underway and involves researchers conducting qualitative research into the issues and challenges facing personnel who have recently separated from Defence, with the objective of identifying the success factors for transitioning.

Based on the findings of this research, Stage 2 will develop a tool for assessing discharging personnel's 'readiness for civilian life'. This tool would be used to identify people who may struggle to adjust to civilian life at an early stage – either before they discharge or shortly afterwards.

Finally, the knowledge gained during the initial stages will be used to develop a reintegration training program for those identified as at risk. The Veteran Mental Health Initiative will be conducted over five years.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM EXTENDED

Our military family stands behind Defence personnel, so RSL Queensland is taking a stand for our military family. We've extended our support to the broader military family with the RSL Queensland scholarship program.

Through the program, children of ex-serving ADF personnel and partners of current and ex-serving ADF personnel can receive financial

support to help them achieve tertiary or vocational qualifications.

Each scholarship is for \$4000 annually for up to three years, however, if the applicant's chosen course is less than 12 months of full time study, the scholarship will be reduced accordingly.

Registrations for the needs-based program have opened. Visit rslqld.org for more information.



RESOLVE EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY

- ✓ **Reduce** the amount of **fatal heart attacks** by up to 50%
- ✓ Help **combat depression** & the effects of medication
- ✓ **Reduce** the **risk** of type 2 **diabetes** by almost 60%

It's important to exercise right for who you are. If you live with any chronic condition or injury, our Accredited Exercise Physiologists can help you.



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INVICTUS GAMES

**CELEBRATES
VETERANS'
FIGHTING SPIRIT**



AUSTRALIAN veterans truly embodied the unconquered spirit at the third Invictus Games in Toronto, Canada, from September 23-30. The Aussie team won a total of 52 medals at the event, with 33 individual medals brought home by Queensland athletes.

The week-long Games help wounded soldiers with their recovery and are a celebration of their fighting spirit. The inspirational event brought together 550 tenacious athletes from 17 countries to compete in 12 different sports.

RSL Queensland provided financial support via RSL National to help train the Queensland team.

During the opening ceremony, founder Prince Harry announced that Toronto was hosting the largest Invictus Games yet, with more competitors, more sports, more nations and more people watching at home than ever before.

“Some of you have cheated death and come back stronger than before. You are all winners. You are proving to the world anything is possible,” Prince Harry told the competitors.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau thanked the servicemen and women and reflected on the impact of the Games on spectators. “Thinking about what each of us can do in our lives to make the kind of difference that you make in the world every day,” Trudeau said.

Captain (retired) Trevor Greene also shared his recovery journey, saying the support of his military family helped him believe in himself after he was struck in the head with an axe during an ambush in Afghanistan.

“I chose to be captain of my destiny, master of my fate,” Trevor said, echoing lines from the poem *Invictus* – the inspiration behind the name of the Games. “All of you were faced with the same choice and you all made the same decision. You chose to believe in yourself – and I believe in you.”

During the Games, athletes competed in both individual and team sports, including swimming, archery, cycling, track and field, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, wheelchair tennis, powerlifting, indoor rowing and golf.

At the closing ceremony, Prince Harry spoke about the far-reaching effects of the event.

“I told you to be ready to see lives changed right before your eyes, but I didn’t tell you some of those would be your own. Let these Games inspire you to do something bigger in your family, in your community and across the world,” Prince Harry said.

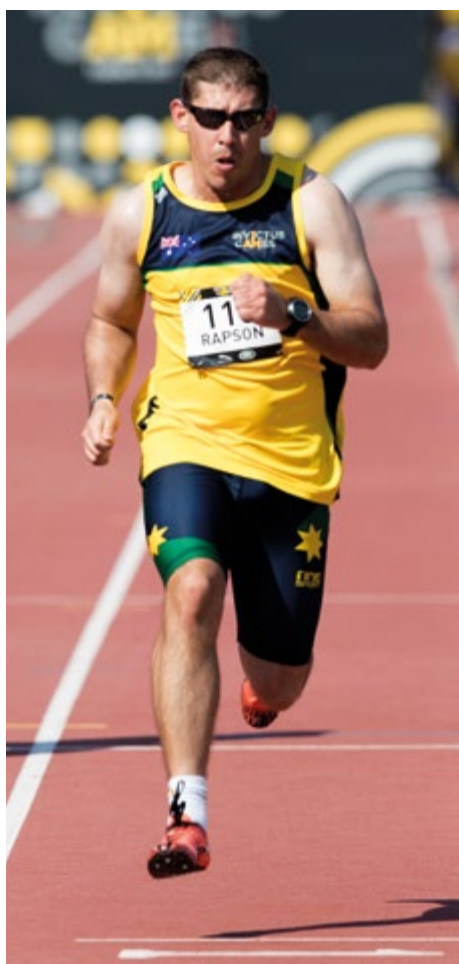
The baton was passed to Sydney for the Invictus Games in 2018, with Prince Harry telling a cheering crowd, “It’s going to be *Game On Down Under*. I’ll see you in Australia.”

OPPOSITE TOP:

Australian Army officer and Invictus Australian co-captain Captain Emma Kadziolka accepts the Invictus flag alongside her family Michael, Angela and Mark, with her co-captain Army Sergeant Peter Rudland with his wife Tammy and son Talon during the closing ceremony of the Toronto Invictus Games at the Air Canada Centre, Toronto, Canada.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM:

His Royal Highness Prince Harry speaks to the 550 athletes at the during the 2017 Invictus Games closing ceremony



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

Australian Army soldier Chris Rapson participating in the 200-metre sprint; Indoor rowing medallists Leading Aircraftwoman Melissa Roberts (left) and Private Danielle Close (right) celebrating their win; Australian Army Soldier Samantha Gould prepares for a lift in the women's midweight powerlifting final; Australian Army soldier Sapper Curtis McGrath OAM (left) celebrates winning a silver medal in the indoor rowing competition; Australian Army Captain Emma Kadziolka competes in the women's IF4 discus heat; Australian Invictus athletes Tyrone Gawthorne and Sarah Sliwka with their silver medals for the men's middle-weight and women's light-weight categories in powerlifting.





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Former soldier Michael Lyddiard with his gold medal for the 200m sprint; Former Australian Army soldier and track silver medalist Heidi Joosten; Invictus Games athletes Danielle Close, left, Nathan Parker and Richard Wassell congratulate each other after the relay race at York University athletics track.



CLOCKWISE ABOVE RIGHT: Australian athletes Chris Clark, left, Leading Aircraftwoman Melissa Roberts, Jason McNulty and Sarah Watson enter the 2017 Invictus Games opening ceremony at the Air Canada Centre; Richard Wassell competes in the indoor rowing competition; Australian Army soldier Lance Corporal Gary Wilson enjoys his final training session as he prepares to compete in indoor rowing at the Invictus Games.



REMEMBERANCE DAY 2017

In 2017, November 11 marks the 99th anniversary of the Armistice that ended WWI (1914–18). Each year on this day Australians observe one minute's silence at 11 am, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

REMEMBERING AUSTRALIANS ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Marcus Mahy makes a yearly pilgrimage to the battlefields and cemeteries of WWI to pay his respects.

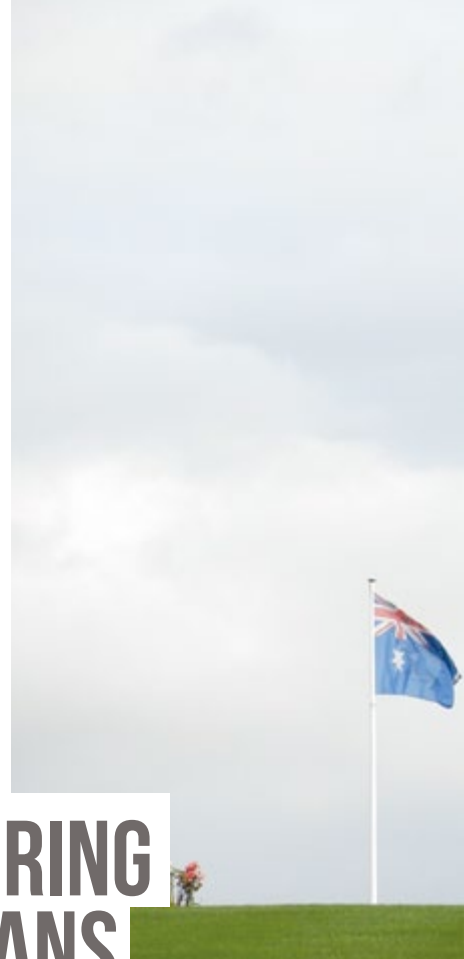
 Marcus Mahy

I'M a recent import to the great land of Australia. A couple of years ago, my wife and I emigrated from the United Kingdom and bought a house in the Brisbane suburb of Wynnum. My first point of call was to join the local RSL club.

In the UK, I served in the Royal Air Force, and am still proud of that fact.

The RSL system is a credit to Australia and sets an example the UK should emulate. The UK has the British Legion and the Royal Air Force Association, but neither have club premises anywhere close to the number or standard in Queensland and across Australia.

But I digress. Every year, at the beginning of November, I travel with two former 'mob' to the battlefields and cemeteries of WWI. One of my companions is ex-Army and the other is ex-Royal Military Police.





The Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux in France.

We alternate our trips between the Ypres salient and the Somme. I lost my great-grandfather at Passchendaele and my great-uncle at Ypres. Both are remembered on the walls of the Tyne Cot cemetery. Because of this, the Ypres salient has always been an important place for me to visit and pay my respects. My colleague from the Army lost a great-uncle at Ginchy, and he is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial. That was the destination of our 2016 trip. While there, I wanted to see the Australian memorials and cemeteries in the Somme, so we hired a local war guide. Rodney Bedford of Battlefield Experience was a former member of the British Army, and I was amazed at how much extra knowledge and understanding of the events he provided.

Continued on page 21 ➤

2017 QUEENSLAND REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES

Sub Branch	Time	Address
Agnes Water/1770 Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Cnr Round Hill Rd & Captain Cook Dr, Agnes Water
Airlie Beach–Whitsunday Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cannonvale Cenotaph, Coral Esplanade, Cannonvale
Allora Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	22 Warwick St, Allora
Ashgrove District Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Stewart Place, Stewart Rd, Ashgrove
Atherton Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Cnr Cook & Main Sts, Atherton
Ayr Sub Branch	10:45 AM	ANZAC Park, MacMillan St, Ayr
Banyo Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cnr St Vincents Rd & Royal Pde, Banyo
Barcaldine Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Shire Hall Memorial Gates, 71 Ash St, Barcaldine
Bardon Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Bardon Bowls Club, 69 Bowman Pde, Bardon
Beachmere Sub Branch Inc	10:45 AM	Clayton Park, Cnr Main St and Moreton Tce, Beachmere
Beaudesert Sub Branch Inc.	10:40 AM	Cenotaph, Cnr William and Brisbane Sts, Beaudesert
Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Beenleigh War Memorial, Cnr Crete and James Sts, Beenleigh
Beerwah and District Sub Branch	10:50 AM	RSL Cenotaph, Turner Park, Beerwah

Sub Branch	Time	Address
Bell Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Bell Memorial, Dennis St, Bell
Biggenden Sub Branch Inc.	10:50AM	Memorial Hall, Cnr Victoria & Frederick Sts, Biggenden
Biloela Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Biloela RSL Park, Callide St, Biloela
Blackall Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Shamrock St, Blackall
Blackbutt Sub Branch Inc.	10:50 AM	Les Muller Park, Cnr Hart St and D'Aguilar Hwy, Blackbutt
Boonah Sub Branch	10:50 AM	Boonah Memorial, Cnr Yeates Ave and Park St, Boonah
Bowen Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Herbert St, Bowen
Boyne-Tannum Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cenotaph, Stirling Park, Malpas St, Boyne Island
Bray Park–Strathpine Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cnr Sparkes and Francis Rds, Bray Park
Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	RSL Club, 99 Toorbul St, Bongaree
Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.	10:55 AM	ANZAC Park, Quay St, Bundaberg
Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.	10:50 AM	Memorial Park Cenotaph, Cnr Gold Coast Hwy and Connor St, Burleigh Heads

Service Listing continued on page 20 ➤

Sub Branch	Time	Address
Burrum District Sub Branch Inc.	10:50 AM	Cenotaph, Cnr William & Steley Sts, Howard
Caboolture-Morayfield & Dist Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	War Memorial, King St, Caboolture
Cairns Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cenotaph, Cairns Esplanade, Cairns
Calliope Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, RSL Memorial Hall, 32 Stirrat St, Calliope
Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.	10:15 AM	Caloundra RSL, 19 West Tce, Caloundra
Canungra Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	DJ Smith Park, Cnr Christie and Kidston Sts, Canungra
Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Inc.	10:15 AM	Frenchville Sports Club, 105 Clifton St, Rockhampton
Cardwell Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Bruce Hwy, Cardwell
Centenary Suburbs Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Centenary War Memorial Gardens, Cnr Arrabri Dr & Dandenong Rd, Mt Ommaney
Charleville Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Wills St, Charleville
Charters Towers Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Gill St, Charters Towers
Chinchilla Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Fuller Place, Heeney St, Chinchilla
Clifton Sub Branch Inc.	10:50 AM	Cenotaph, King and Edward Sts, Clifton
Cooktown Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	ANZAC Park, Charlotte St, Cooktown
Coolum-Peregian Sub Branch Inc.	10:40 AM	Coolum-Peregian RSL Memorial Park, 1906 David Low Way, Coolum
Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.	10:40 AM	Cenotaph, Diamond St, Cooroy
Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Coorparoo RSL, 45 Holdsworth St, Coorparoo
Crows Nest Sub Branch	11:00 AM	Centenary Park Memorial, Williams St, Crows Nest
Cunnamulla Sub Branch	11:00 AM	Cunnamulla Memorial Fountain, John, Jane and Emma Sts, Cunnamulla
Dalby Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	Dalby War Memorial, ANZAC Park, Patrick St, Dalby
Darra & District Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Darra Cementco Bowls Club, 4 Station Ave, Darra

Sub Branch	Time	Address
Dayboro Sub Branch	10:40 AM	WWI Cenotaph Roderick Cruise Park, Hay Rd, Dayboro
Deception Bay Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	War Memorial at Community Hall, Ewart St, Deception Bay
Eidsvold Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	RSL Memorial Hall, Moreton St, Eidsvold
Emerald Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	Emerald Cenotaph, Cnr Egerton and Anakie Sts, Emerald
Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cenotaph, 1 Emu St, Emu Park
Esk Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	Cenotaph, Ipswich St, Esk
Farleigh & Northern Beaches Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Bucasia Esplanade, Bucasia
Finch Hatton Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cenotaph, Eungella Rd, Finch Hatton
Forest Lake Sub Branch	10:45 AM	The Amphitheatre, Forest Lake Park, Forest Lake Blvd, Forest Lake
Gatton Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	Weeping Mothers Memorial, Littleton Park, Hickey St, Gatton
Gayndah Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Capper St, Gaydah
Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.	10:50 AM	Sid Loder Park, Tel-El-Kebir St, Mitchelton
Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.	10:55 AM	RSL Club, Newman Rd, Geebung
Gin Gin Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Gin Gin Memorial, Mulgrave St, Gin Gin
Gladstone Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	ANZAC Park, Cnr Goondoon & Tank Sts, Gladstone
Glasshouse Country Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Visitors Information Centre Cenotaph, Reed St, Glasshouse Mountains
Goodna Sub Branch Inc.	10:40 AM	Soldier's Memorial Stone, Cnr Queen & Church Sts, Goodna
Goombungee Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Hartwig St, Goombungee
Goomeri Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Memorial, Burnett Hwy, Goomeri
Goondiwindi Sub Branch	11:00 AM	Lehman Park, Marshall St, Goondiwindi
Gracemere	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, 12 James St, Gracemere

Service Listing continued on page 22 ➤



“THE TOWER IS A MEMORIAL TO THE NEARLY 11,000 AUSTRALIANS KILLED ON THE WESTERN FRONT FROM 1916-1918 WITH NO KNOWN RESTING PLACE. YOU CAN CLIMB A VIEWING PLATFORM TO LOOK OVER THE QUIET COUNTRYSIDE THAT COST AUSTRALIA SO DEARLY.”



For years, my friends and I researched our destinations and explored areas on our own. But we just scratched the surface and things never really clicked into place. So, for the past few years we have hired local guides, and they have been well worth the money.

I visited two places that feature prominently in Australia’s wartime history. The first was the Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux, just east of Amiens in France. For those who have not seen it, the white tower designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens shines brightly in the crisp November sun and stands dramatically against a crystal blue sky.

The tower is a memorial to the nearly 11,000 Australians killed on the Western Front from 1916-1918 with no known resting place. You can climb a viewing platform to look over the quiet countryside that cost Australia so

dearly. On a sunny day, it is a stunning place and a definite must for anyone comfortable with heights.

Pozières was second on my itinerary; a town synonymous with Australia and her dead to this day. We stood atop the ruins of the old windmill, which, being the highest point in the Somme, was hotly contested during the war. The Germans were reluctant to let it go and, over the three weeks it took to take the village, Australia lost some 25,000 men, who were killed, wounded or went missing.

From our view atop the ruins, we could see how the German machine gunners had crisscrossed the entire attack front. It was sobering to realise just how far the guns could accurately reach – an astounding three kilometres.

I also visited Pozières Cemetery to place crosses on several graves of unknown Australian soldiers. While

their identities may not be known, their sacrifice has not been forgotten.

The final part of our trip was a service at Thiepval Memorial to remember the Allied troops killed in the Somme whose remains were never found. Staggeringly, it has over 72,000 names.

We attended the service on two consecutive days. On day one, I was asked to read the valediction, while my colleagues acted as the wreath party and laid a wreath on behalf of their services. On day two, I joined the wreath party and laid a wreath on behalf of all Commonwealth soldiers killed.

For me, visiting war cemeteries is a profoundly moving and humbling experience. In some small way I feel that I, and everyone else who visits these sites, let the fallen know they did not die in vain and that their sacrifice is not forgotten. ←

TOP LEFT: Marcus Mahy atop the Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux in France.

ABOVE: The Thiepval Memorial, which contains the 72,000 names of the Allied troops killed in the Somme whose remains were never found.

Sub Branch	Time	Address
Grantham-Ma Ma Creek Sub Branch	10:30 AM	Cemetery, Ma Ma Creek Community Hall, 815 Gatton-Clifton Rd, Ma Ma Creek
Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.	10:55 AM	Memorial Gardens, 54 Anzac Ave, Hillcrest
Gympie Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Memorial flame at the cenotaph, Reef St, Gympie
Harlaxton Sub Branch	10:30 AM	Mother's Memorial, Margaret & Kitchener Sts, Toowoomba
Helidon Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Helidon Cenotaph, Railway & Turner Sts, Helidon
Herbert River Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Palm Terrace, Ingham
Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Freedom Park, Main St, Pialba
Highfields Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Community Memorial Highfields, Highfields Cultural Centre, Community Ct, Highfields
Holland Park-Mt Gravatt Sub Branch	10:15 AM	Memorial Hall, 58 Arnold St, Holland Park
Home Hill Sub Branch	10:50 AM	Memorial Hall School of Arts Honour Rolls, 9th Avenue, Home Hill
Hughenden Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Resolution St, Hughenden
Injune Sub Branch	11:00 AM	Injune War Memorial, Hutton St, Injune
Innisfail Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, 18 Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail
Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Ipswich Rail Workshops Museum, 1A North St, North Ipswich
Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	RSL Memorial Hall, 63 Nicholas St, Ipswich
Isis Sub Branch Inc.	10:40AM	Gun emplacement, Soldiers Memorial Room, 45 Churchill St, Childers
Jandowae Sub Branch	11:00 AM	George St, Jandowae
Jimboomba Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	WWI Cenotaph, Jimboomba Library, Honora St, Jimboomba
Julia Creek Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Goldring, Julia Creek
Kalbar Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Engelsburg Park, Edward St, Kalbar
Kawana Waters Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Kawana Waters War Memorial, Pacific Boulevard, Kawana Waters
Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cenotaph, 21 Kittyhawk Dr, Chermside

Sub Branch	Time	Address
Kenilworth Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Peter Dobson Park, Maleny-Kenilworth Rd, Kenilworth
Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch	10:30 AM	Kenmore Memorial, Cnr Phillipa St and Moggill Rd, Kenmore
Kilcoy Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Memorial Wall, Cnr McCauley and Kennedy Sts, Kilcoy
Kilkivan Sub Branch	10:50 AM	Memorial Park, Bligh St, Kilkivan
Killarney Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Cnr Ivy & Claydons Rds, Killarney
Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Memorial Park, Haly St, Kingaroy
Kooralbyn Valley Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Community Centre Garden, Ogilvie Pl, Kooralbyn Valley
Laidley Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	Cenotaph, Corner Patrick St and White Rd, Laidley
Leyburn Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	Liberator Park, Macalister St, Leyburn
Logan & District Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Council Chambers, Cnr Jacaranda and Wembly Rds, Logan
Logan Village Sub Branch	10:30 AM	Logan Village Green, Wharf St, Logan Village
Longreach Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Galah St, Longreach
Lowood Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Lowood RSL Sub Branch, 2819 Forest Hill Fernvale Rd, Lowood
Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cenotaph, Jubilee Park, Alfred St, Mackay
Macleay Island Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Pat's Park, Beelong St, Macleay Island
Magnetic Island Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Alma Bay Park, Armand Way, Alma Bay
Malanda Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Eacham Park Gates, Catherine St, Malanda
Maleny Sub Branch Inc.	10:40 AM	Maleny Cenotaph, 1 Bunya St, Maleny
Manly-Lota Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Richard Russell Park, Ferguson St, Manly
Marian Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Marian State School, 137 ANZAC Ave, Marian
Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cotton Tree Cenotaph, The Esplanade, Cotton Tree
Mary Valley Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Memorial Park, Kandanga Memorial Park, Main St, Kandanga
Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.	10:40AM	Cenotaph, Sussex St, Maryborough

Sub Branch	Time	Address
Meandarra/ Glenmorgan Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Godfrey St, Meandarra
Miles Sub Branch	11:00 AM	ANZAC Park, Warrego and Leichhardt Highways, Miles
Millmerran Sub Branch	10:45 AM	ANZAC Park, Campbell St, Millmerran
Mirani Sub Branch	10:30 AM	Mirani Cenotaph, Alexandria St, Mirani
Mitchell Sub Branch	11:00 AM	Memorial Park, Cambridge St, Mitchell
Monto Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Memorial at RSL, Rutherford St, Monto
Moranbah Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Town Square, Griffin St, Moranbah
Mount Isa Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cenotaph, Mount Isa City Council Civic Centre Lawn, West St, Mount Isa
Moura Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Moura RSL, Cnr Marshall & Young Sts, Moura
Mt Larcom Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Mount Larcom Showgrounds, The Narrows Rd, Mt Larcom
Mt Molloy Sub Branch	10:30 AM	Memorial Hall, Main St, Mt Molloy
Mt Morgan Sub Branch	10:45 AM	ANZAC Park, Morgan St, Mt Morgan
Mt Perry Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Heusman St, Mt Perry
Mudjimba Sub Branch Inc.	10:40 AM	Power Park Cenotaph, The Esplanade, Mudjimba
Mundubbera Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	Cenotaph, Lyons St, Mundubbera
Murgon Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Monument, Lamb St, Murgon
Nambour Sub Branch Inc.	10:40 AM	Quota Memorial Park Cenotaph, Matthew St, Nambour
Nanango Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Cnr Drayton & Henry St, Nanango
NASHO CC Sub Branch	10:45 AM	John Leak WWI Memorial, Huish Dr, Rockhampton
National Servicemens Sub Branch Inc.	10:35 AM	Memorial Gardens, Norman Ave, Norman Park
Nerang Sub Branch	10:30 AM	Nerang RSL Memorial Cenotaph, 69 Nerang St, Nerang
North Gold Coast Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Club Helensvale, 20 Discovery Dr, Helensvale

Sub Branch	Time	Address
Nundah-Northgate Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Nundah Memorial Park, Cnr Buckland Rd and Bage St, Nundah
Oakey Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Bicentennial Park, Campbell & McDonald Sts, Oakey
Palmwoods & District Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Memorial Hall, Main St, Palmwoods
Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Memorial Garden, North's Leagues Club, 1347 Anzac Ave, Kallangur
Pittsworth Sub Branch	10:50AM	Pittsworth Shrine, Yandilla St, Pittsworth
Proserpine Sub Branch Inc.	10:50 AM	Cenotaph, Main St, Proserpine
Quilpie Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Bob Young Memorial Park, Brolga St, Quilpie
Rainbow Beach Sub Branch	10:50 AM	Cenotaph, Cnr Wide Bay Esplanade & Rainbow Beach Rd, Rainbow Beach
Ravenshoe Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Cnr John and Monument Sts, Ravenshoe
Redbank Plains Sub Branch	10:45 AM	15 Argyle St, Redbank Plains
Redbank Sub Branch	10:30 AM	Redbank Memorial, Cnr Bridge St and Brisbane Rd, Redbank
Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	ANZAC Place, Redcliffe Pde, Redcliffe
Redlands Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	ANZAC Memorial Park, Passage St, Cleveland
Rollingstone Sub Branch Inc.	10:40 AM	Cenotaph at The Landing, The Esplanade, Bungal Beach
Roma Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	Roma Memorial Park Cenotaph, Queens Park, Bungil St, Roma
Rosedale Chapter of Wide Bay	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, 77 James St, Rosedale
Rosewood Sub Branch Inc.	10:15 AM	RSL Memorial Hall, Mill St, Rosewood
Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Runaway Bay Cenotaph, Lae Dr, Runaway Bay
Russell Island Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	Russell Island RSL Sub Branch, 9 ANZAC Dr, Russell Island
Salisbury Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	RSL Memorial Park, Industries Rd, Salisbury
Samford Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Avenue of Honour, Mount Samson Rd & Burton Lane, Samford

Service Listing continued on page 24 ►

Sub Branch	Time	Address
Sandgate Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Sandgate Memorial Park, Brighton Rd. Sandgate
Sarina Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	34 Central St, Sarina
Seaforth Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Palm Ave, Seaforth
Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.	10:20 AM	2 Clewley St, Corinda
Southport Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	ANZAC Park, Broadwater Parklands, Southport
Springsure Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Eclipse St, Springsure
Springwood Tri-Service Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Diggers Service Club, 42-48 Blackwood Rd, Logan Central
St George Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cenotaph, Apex Park, St Georges Tce, St George
St Helens Sub Branch	11:00 AM	Calen Community Hall, McIntyre St, Calen
Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	Weeroona Park, Marsh St, Stanthorpe
Stephens Sub Branch	10:30 AM	Yeronga Memorial Park, 78A Park Rd, Anerley
Sunnybank Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Sunnybank RSL Memorial Hall, 19 Gager St, Sunnybank
Surat Sub Branch	11:00 AM	Surat Memorial Park, Cenotaph, Marcus St, Surat
Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	Cavill Park Cenotaph, Cavill Ave, Surfers Paradise
Tamborine Mountain Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Tamborine Mountain War Memorial, Cnr Main St and Geissman Rd, North Tamborine
Tara Chapter of the Chinchilla Sub Branch	11:00 AM	Tara Memorial Hall, off Gore Hwy, Tara
Taroom Sub Branch	10:50 AM	Yaldwyn St, Taroom
Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.	10:40 AM	Tewantin Cenotaph, 1 Memorial Ave, Tewantin
Texas Chapter of the Stanthorpe Sub Branch	11:00 AM	Texas and District Memorial, Cnr Avon and St George Sts, Texas
The Gap Chapter of the Gaythorne Sub Branch	10:40 AM	Walton Bridge Reserve, Glenaffric St, The Gap
Thuringowa Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Thuringowa War Memorial, 2 Sporting Drive, Thuringowa Central

Sub Branch	Time	Address
Tiaro Sub Branch Inc.	11:00 AM	Cenotaph, Memorial Gardens, Mayne St, Tiaro
Tin Can Bay Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	ANZAC Memorial Park, Gympie Rd, Tin Can Bay
Toogoolawah Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	McConnell Park, Cressbrook St, Toogoolawah
Toogoom and District Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Wall of Remembrance Toogoom Hall, Toogoom Rd, Toogoom
Toowong Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Toowong Memorial Park, Sylvan Rd, Toowong
Toowoomba United Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Mothers Memorial, Cnr. Burstow and Margaret Sts, Toowoomba
Townsville Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cenotaph ANZAC Park, The Strand, Townsville
Tully Sub Branch	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Bryant St, Tully
Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.	10:55 AM	Chris Cunningham Park, Wharf St, Tweed Heads
Walkerston-Pleystowe Sub Branch Inc.	10:50 AM	ANZAC Park, Walkerston
Wallangarra Sub Branch Inc.	10:50 AM	RSL Hall, 69 Barawell St, Wallangarra
Warwick Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Cenotaph, Leslie Park, Palmerin St, Warwick
Weipa Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Cenotaph, Memorial Sq, Weipa
Wondai Sub Branch Inc.	10:50 AM	Cenotaph, Cnr McKenzie & Scott Sts, Wondai
Woodford Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Woodford Memorial Park, 123 Archer St, Woodford
Woodgate Beach Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Centenary of ANZAC Memorial, The Esplanade, Woodgate Beach
Wowan Sub Branch	11:00 AM	Cenotaph, Don St, Wowan
Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Pandanus Room, Wynnum RSL, 174 Tingal Rd, Wynnum
Yandina/Eumundi Sub Branch Inc.	10:40 AM	Yandina Cenotaph, Steven St, Yandina
Yarraman Sub Branch Inc.	10:45 AM	Yarraman Cenotaph, Corner of Toomey and Barr Smith Sts, Yarraman
Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.	10:30 AM	Yeppoon Cenotaph at Beaman Park, James St, Yeppoon



THE IPSWICH TRAIN TEA SOCIETY

This Remembrance Day, the Joint Ipswich Region ANZAC Centenary Committee will honour a special group of local ladies who made a valuable contribution to WWI. The Ipswich Train Tea Society was a caring and committed crew of women who demonstrated their appreciation to soldiers when they returned from the Western Front.

At all hours of the day, the dedicated ladies met trains travelling through Ipswich to nourish Diggers with tea and refreshments. At the time, the rail route from Sydney to Brisbane passed through Wallangarra, Warwick, Toowoomba and Ipswich. When the train passed, many Ipswich residents also gathered to acknowledge the sacrifice of Australian servicemen.

On July 1919, as part of Ipswich's peace celebrations, 187 returned soldiers were entertained at the Town Hall, where Returned Sailor's & Soldier's Imperial

League (RSSILA) member Mr Wilson expressed gratitude for the "kindnesses shown by the Tea Ladies to the returnees".

RSSILA member Mr Barbat also noted that "the returned soldiers could never do enough in recognition of the wonderful and noble work the Tea Ladies had done".

Aside from their valuable wartime contribution, the ladies were also the driving force behind establishing the Soldiers Memorial Hall as a place for returning soldiers to meet and remember.

Their patriotic work helped raise funds to build the hall, assisted by Ipswich City Council and the local community. In September 1919, there were 24 members of the society, however, numbers fluctuated and at one stage decreased to six as the ladies married (often to returned soldiers).

The inspiring group organised functions to raise funds to furnish the hall and install a magnificent stained glass window. The memorial window was unveiled on

November 30, 1922 by Governor Sir Walter Nathan and at the time was claimed to be the "finest example of stained glass produced in Australasia".

The commemorative service and re-enactment in honour of the Ipswich Train Tea Society begins at 11:45am at the Ipswich Workshops Rail Museum and includes choir performances, speakers, tea and refreshments. ←

ABOVE: The inspiring group of ladies who made up the Ipswich Train Tea Society installed a stained glass window in the Soldiers Memorial Hall on November 30, 1922 "in grateful memory of the men who gave their lives to keep our Empire, liberty and homes inviolate". The window depicts St Michael as the Angel of Victory, with outspread wings embracing four soldier figures representing the 9th, 15th, and 26th Battalions and the 5th Light Horse.



POPPY SERVICES PROVIDE A FITTING FAREWELL

Each year, hardworking Sub Branch volunteers provide hundreds of poppy services around Queensland to honour the contribution of servicemen and women who have passed away.



Chaplain Andrew Thornburn leads the funeral service of Commander Rodney John Withers, RTD, at St Marks Church, HMAS *Cerberus*, Victoria.



Greenbank RSL Sub Branch President Gary Aldridge has carried out numerous poppy services to recognise the service of Australian veterans.

“THROUGH THE POPPY SERVICE, A SERVICEMAN OR WOMAN DOES NOT DEPART THIS WORLD ON THEIR OWN. THIS SERVICE COMMEMORATES THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENCE AND FREEDOM OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATION.”



Manly Lota RSL Sub Branch President Peter Beauchamp OAM feels a profound sense of pride in being able to assist with poppy services.

THE poppy service is a deeply moving component of the funeral that offers some solace to grieving family and friends.

“It is a tribute that we as RSL members use to salute their service,” Manly Lota RSL Sub Branch President Peter Beauchamp OAM said. Since becoming an advocate in 1994, Peter estimates he has conducted around 100 poppy services.

“I personally – and others from my Sub Branch – have a great sense of pride in being able to assist in this ceremony for our departed comrades.”

Peter finds the experience emotional, especially if he knows them personally.

“You feel that lump swelling in your

throat choking off your voice, and at times the tears well up in your eyes, but you know that you must continue for the family’s sake.”

WHAT IS A POPPY SERVICE?

As part of the ceremony, an RSL representative delivers a eulogy describing the deceased veteran’s service and recites *The Ode. The Last Post* and *Reveille* are played and mourners are invited to place a poppy on the coffin in recognition of their service.

Poppy services date back to Flanders Fields in WWI, when red poppies grew on the graves of servicemen killed in action.

Greenbank RSL Sub Branch advocate Neil Finlay said poppies symbolise the

An Australian Army soldier lays a poppy on the coffin during the funeral service for the late Major General 'Digger' James at Pinaroo Cemetery in Brisbane's north on 22 October 2015.



NO VETERAN SHOULD BE BURIED ALONE

A small group of RSL Queensland executive, staff and volunteers sat quietly in the chapel at Mount Gravatt Crematorium, listening to *Amazing Grace* and contemplating the life of the fallen soldier who lay in a casket at the front of them.

Although he was a stranger, they soon learned that 92-year-old James Georges had served as a radio operator with the Royal Australian Air Force in the South Pacific from 1942-46.

Sadly, James had no family or friends by his side when he passed away at Greenslopes Private Hospital, and this is where RSL Queensland stepped in to help. An RSL representative helped manage his affairs, organised the funeral and conducted a poppy service, ensuring James had the dignified farewell he deserved.

If the veteran is not able to pay for their funeral, RSL Queensland often provides funds to make it possible.

struggle and sacrifice of war.

"In soldier's folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their fallen comrades soaking into the ground," Neil said.

While President Gary Aldridge carries out most of Greenbank's poppy services, Neil has conducted a few over the years, describing it as "an honour and a privilege to participate in such an important service".

"Through the poppy service, a serviceman or woman does not depart this world on their own. This service commemorates their contribution to the defence and freedom of the Australian nation," Neil said.

Generally, family members contact their local Sub Branch to request the service, which is available to all veterans regardless of whether they are members of the RSL. ←



Gympie RSL Sub Branch President Frank Bantoft JP conducts a modified poppy service at the funeral of Corporal Ashley Birt, who was killed on operations in Afghanistan on October 29, 2011.



WWI ANIMAL WAR MEMORIAL

ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

A permanent memorial to the millions of animals killed or wounded in WWI has been unveiled in Pozieres, France.

WWI was one of the deadliest conflicts in human history – not only for the 18 million people who lost their lives, but also for the estimated nine million animals that were killed or wounded. These innocent animals from around the world have finally been recognised in the first war animal memorial erected on the Western Front.

The memorial stands in Pozieres, France, the scene of some of the most bitter and costly fighting for Australian troops during the war. It was officially opened on July 21 by the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO), in cooperation with Pozieres residents.

AWAMO raises awareness of the deeds and sacrifices of animals in war, and the memorial was designed by the

charity's president Nigel Allsopp. It has been a momentous year for Nigel, who was also named 2017 Queensland ANZAC of the Year.

"We should never forget that not only two-legged, but four-legged Diggers served this nation, and continue to do so today," Nigel said. "These animals have demonstrated true valour and an enduring partnership with humans, and they will now be honoured with this beautiful new memorial and rose garden."

Nigel represented AWAMO at the opening in Pozieres, alongside several hundred people. Other special guests included Director of the Australian War Memorial Dr Brendan Nelson, veterinarian and television personality Dr Harry Cooper, Pozieres Mayor Bernard Delattre, Australian Defence

Force Veterinarian Major Kendall Crocker, and Australian couple Barry Gracey and Yvonne Gracey-Hall, who were awarded the Legion of Honour in 2016 for their work in Pozieres.

Novato artist Susan Bahary, who specialises in animal sculptures, created two pieces for the memorial. The main sculpture is a bronze horse called *Emerging Spirit*, with a mule, donkey, pigeon and dog carved into its mane; while the second sculpture of a German shepherd has "our spirits live on" inscribed on a dog tag around its neck.

The memorial in Pozieres also includes a stone of remembrance for the Australian Army Veterinary Corps, who saved and cared for thousands of war animals, cast iron seats for contemplation, and rose bushes honouring animals and soldiers.

Brisbane artist Suzanne Bosanquet played a vital role in the day, delivering an installation of 250 pinwheel poppies inscribed with messages of love from Australian school children.

"The pinwheel poppies came alive at

OPPOSITE:
The WWI War Animal Memorial constructed in Pozieres includes animal sculptures, a stone of remembrance, seats for contemplation and rose bushes.

"WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT NOT ONLY TWO-LEGGED, BUT FOUR-LEGGED DIGGERS SERVED THIS NATION, AND CONTINUE TO DO SO TODAY."



CLOCKWISE LEFT: The main Australian war animal memorial, flanked by a pinwheel poppy installation created by Brisbane artist Suzanne Bosanquet; AWAMO President Nigel Allsopp, left, with a WWI local French army re-enactor and his pigeons; Australian school students made poppy neck bands that were hung around the necks of donkeys and heavy horse; Purple poppies handmade by people from around the world, including school children and ladies clubs, were sewn together into a horse rug by AWAMO Director Wendy Harrison; Special guests at the opening of the memorial included (L-R) Director of the Australian War Memorial Dr Brendan Nelson, veterinarian and television personality Dr Harry Cooper, Pozieres Mayor Bernard Delattre, Australian Defence Force veterinarian Major Kendall Crocker, Australian couple Barry Gracey and Yvonne Gracey-Hall, who received the Legion of Honour in 2016 for their work in Poziers, and AWAMO President Nigel Allsopp.



the windmill site at Pozieres, whirling the messages of love into the air, thus creating a dynamic installation that framed the memorial site," Suzanne said.

After the opening, the installation was given to the Pozieres community and it now resides at the Town Hall in Albert.

Numerous Australian and French school children made wreaths and sent them to Pozieres for the opening, and a host of animals were part of the day, including military dogs, horses and donkeys.

Nigel expressed his appreciation to everyone for their passion and commitment.

"Together, we have made a lasting memorial to honour the winged and four-legged soldiers of WWI." ←



REMEMBERING *the Battle of Guadalcanal*

The Battle of Guadalcanal was the first major offensive by Allied forces against the Empire of Japan in WWII.

  Gillian Vine

A significant Australian presence in the Solomon Islands in early August underlined the importance of the Battle of Guadalcanal in WWII, as the Allied fought to hold Henderson airfield.

Starting six months after the bombing of Darwin in February 1942, the battle raged between August 1942 and February 1943. Marking a turning point in the Pacific War, Allied victory was imperative if the Japanese were to

be prevented from isolating Australia.

Marking the battle's 75th anniversary, were five days of commemorative events that concluded on August 9 with a memorial service on board HMAS *Success* to remember the 84 men lost when HMAS *Canberra* sank.

Taking part in the packed program of events were military and diplomatic personnel from Australia, the United States, New Zealand and other nations, including Japan.

On August 7, Australian Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells and

Australian Naval, Army and police representatives attended a dawn service at the United States war memorial on Skyline Ridge, Honiara.

"The Solomon Islands was centre stage for one of the fiercest battles of WWII," Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare said, before laying a wreath in memory of the fallen.

Later that morning, at the Solomon Scouts and Coastwatchers memorial in Honiara, Australian Defence Commander Stephen Woodall presented medallions to the Solomon Islands' sole surviving Scout, Timoti Urobo, aged 110, and the descendants of those who, like him, risked their lives reporting enemy activity to the Allies.

Local men, the 'Scouts', reported to the Coastwatchers, an Australian-run network headed by Queensland-

ABOVE:
WWII veteran, Mr Bill Quinn, pays his respects at the commemorative service for the loss of HMAS *Canberra* (I) in the waters off the Solomon Islands. (Department of Defence)

born Eric Feldt. Pre-war planters, officials and missionaries, mainly from Australia and New Zealand, went into hiding in Pacific nations, including the Solomon Islands, after the Japanese invasion in 1942. Their underground communications system monitored enemy shipping and planes for the Allies and they rescued stranded Allied personnel.

“The Coastwatchers would have been unable to do their jobs without the Solomon Scouts,” Cdr Woodall said, before presenting the Australian-made medallions.

Alexandra Clemens laid a wreath in memory of her Scots-born father Martin Clemens – one of the most prominent Coastwatchers – who settled in Australia, his wife’s homeland, after the war.

A Coastwatchers and Scouts museum project was launched after the service.

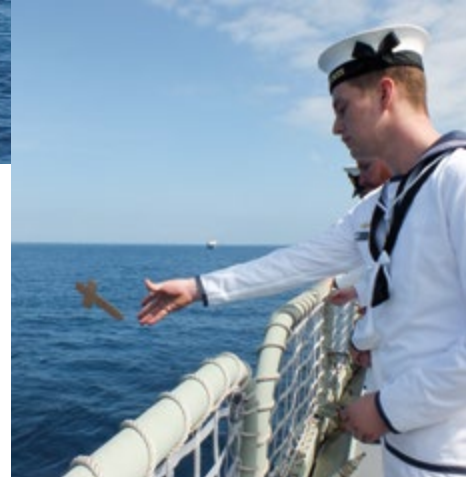
A plaque honouring Signalman First Class Douglas Munro, of the US Coastguard, was unveiled at Point Cruz, off which Munro was killed when he put his vessel between US Marines and the Japanese, an action that saved 500 Americans. He was awarded the US Medal of Honour – the only member of the Coastguard to have received it.

At a Bloody Ridge service the following morning, Japanese Ambassador Kenichi Kimiya referred to the huge losses suffered, saying: “With my whole heart, I wish for eternal peace.” This was a sentiment echoed by other speakers, including US Ambassador Catherine Ebert-Gray.

Prime Minister Sogavare then unveiled a monument and announced that the area would be the Solomon Islands’ first national park.

“Families of the fallen can come to Bloody Ridge to remember their loved ones,” Prime Minister Sogavare said. ←





A MOVING SERVICE

For Julie Webb of Nerang, August 9 was a memorable day. With her husband Barry, Julie took part in a memorial service on board HMAS *Success* over the place where HMAS *Canberra* lies.

"The service on board was extremely moving," Julie said. "It made me think of my Uncle Alf [who was killed] and what it must have been like on that fateful morning: shells raining down, confusion, panic and the dark sky lit up by gunfire.

"Contrast that with the service today – the sun shining, peaceful waters and such a beautiful silence. I thought my uncle would have been proud that we remembered him. I was very emotional."

It was exactly 75 years since the RAN heavy cruiser was severely damaged off Savo Island in the Solomon Islands. In the early hours of August 9, 1942, HMAS *Canberra* was hit 24 times in two minutes in a surprise attack by Japanese naval vessels. The attack left 84 of *Canberra's* crew dead, including Captain Frank Getting, who died

of wounds after refusing medical aid. In addition, 109 men were wounded. The US lost 939 men and three cruisers that night – USS *Quincey*, USS *Vincennes* and USS *Astoria*.

HMAS *Canberra* was crippled and unable to be moved, so the order was given to abandon ship and the following morning she was scuttled by a US torpedo. Now lying more than 700m down in Iron Bottom Sound, she was one of 32 ships and hundreds of aircraft that went to the bottom during the six-month Battle of Guadalcanal.

Among those killed on *Canberra* was Julie's uncle, Regulating Petty Officer Alfred Conners (33).

Born in Boolaroo, New South Wales, RPO Conners was married with two daughters, of whom Beverley Doolan (80) survives and lives in Perth.

RPO Conners was a long-serving naval man, having joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1925, when he was 16. He had served on various ships, including HMAS *Australia*, before joining

HMAS *Canberra*.

"It was his career," Julie said.

However, he was the "odd one out" in her family, she said, as everyone else joined the Army. A Nerang RSL member, Julie is now writing a book on her family's military service.

Her father had told her about the *Canberra* and how his brother's shipmate, who was behind RPO Conners when he was killed, came to tell him what had happened.

Despite being short for a boxer at 1.75m (5ft 9in), RPO Conners was the reigning boxing champion of the RAN and had "quite a reputation", his niece said.

Julie is the only Conners family member to have attended commemorations in the Solomon Islands, and was there for the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal.

At the service on HMAS *Success*, wreaths were released into the water, then 84 small wooden crosses, one for each man who died on HMAS *Canberra*.

TOP:

From the stern of HMAS *Success*, Julie Webb releases a wreath into the water above the final resting place of HMAS *Canberra*.

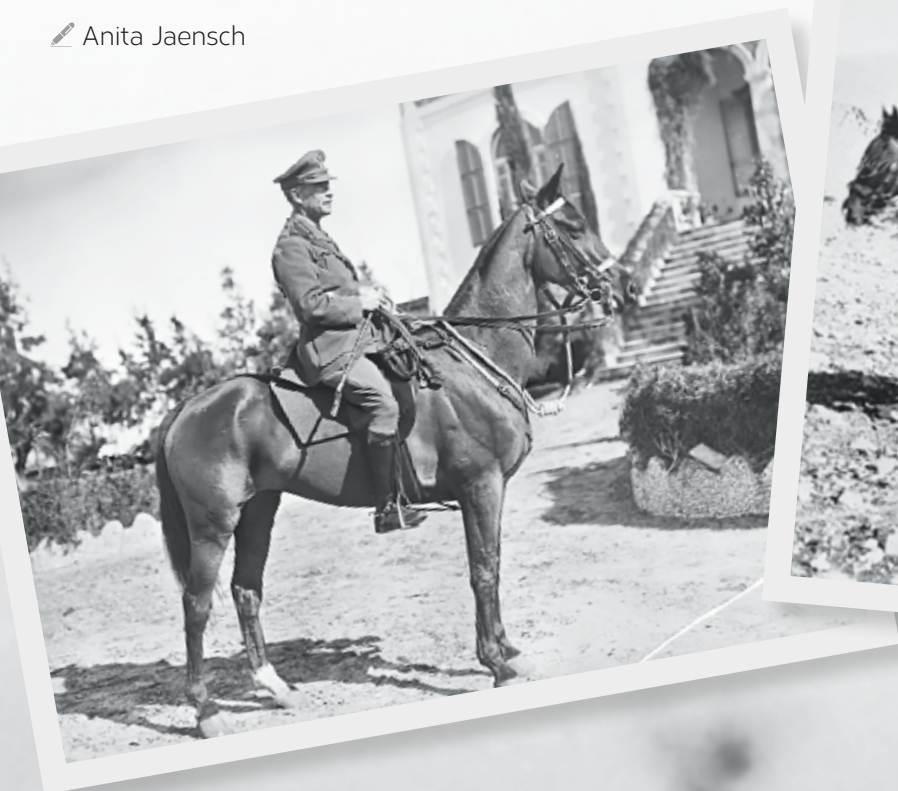
LEFT:

A cross is dropped into the water by a crew member of HMAS *Success*.

"LOCAL MEN, THE 'SCOUTS', REPORTED TO THE COASTWATCHERS, AN AUSTRALIAN-RUN NETWORK HEADED BY QUEENSLAND-BORN ERIC FELDT."

BEERSHE

✍ Anita Jaensch



BA *The Last Great Cavalry Charge*

October 31, 2017 marks the centenary of the Battle of Beersheba.

THE day was drawing to a close. Although the battle had been raging since dawn, the British and Commonwealth forces were no closer to taking Beersheba and securing its vital water supply. Decisive action was needed if the town was going to fall by nightfall.

With little more than an hour of daylight left, the commander of the Desert Mounted Corps, Lieutenant General Harry Chauvel, of the Australian Imperial Force, gave the order to charge.

Wielding their bayonets like swords, the 800 men of the Australian 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments galloped across five kilometres of open desert towards the enemy trenches.

Although the Turkish soldiers opened fire, they were so surprised by the horsemen's charge that they reacted too slowly, failing to adjust their sights. The Light Horsemen jumped the trenches, some dismounting to fight the enemy hand

to hand, while the others rode on to take the town.

In little more than an hour, the town of Beersheba and its precious wells had been secured and more than 1000 Turkish soldiers had been captured. The charge would become known as "the last great cavalry charge in history".

More importantly, the defensive Gaza-Beersheba line had been breached, providing the British and Commonwealth forces an opportunity to move first on Gaza and then Jerusalem.

October 31, 2017 marks the centenary of the Battle of Beersheba, which will be remembered with commemorations throughout Australia and Israel.

OPPOSITE FAR LEFT: Lieutenant-General Sir HG Chauvel, General Officer Commanding, AIF, mounted on his horse. (AWM: B01762)

OPPOSITE CENTRE: A large group of Turkish prisoners being led by an Australian soldier of the Light Horse following the charge. (AWM: P02572.005)

BELOW: 'Thunder of a light horse charge'. (AWM: P03723.001)



COMMEMORATING THE CENTENARY

The Australian Light Horse Association re-enacting the charge of Beersheba in 2007.



IN BRISBANE

On Saturday, October 28, the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) will commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Beersheba with a mounted Freedom of Entry to the City of Brisbane.

Adelaide Street will bear witness to the most extensive parade of armoured vehicles ever seen in Brisbane, including the M1A1 Main Battle Tank, Australian Light Armoured Vehicles (ASLAV) and M113 AS4 Armoured Personnel Carriers. The Lord Mayor will conduct an inspection outside King George Square – the most honourable distinction a city can bestow on a contingent of the Australian Defence Force.

Following the Freedom of Entry March, RSL Queensland will host the Beersheba Centenary Fun Day at Southbank Parklands, where visitors will have the opportunity to see and experience the armoured vehicles on display, step back in time with horses and riders in WWI uniform, listen to performances by the Band of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and enjoy a variety of other activities.

IN ISRAEL

One hundred riders from the Australian Light Horse Association will travel to Israel in October to commemorate the charge of Beersheba. The group also includes 77 non-riders.

Many of the participants are descendants of Light Horsemen who served in the Middle East during WWI, and several are descendants of those who participated in the charge. Among them are grandsons and granddaughters of Lieutenant General Harry Chauvel GCMG KCB.

From October 28-30, the riders will follow the route the Desert Mounted Corps took through the desert to Beersheba.

On October 31, the Light Horse riders will move into the town of Beersheba in half section formation to take part in the commemorative parade. After the parade, they will ride to Beit Eschel for a re-enactment of the charge (albeit over a shorter distance).

The centenary will also include the opening of an ANZAC Museum, an initiative of the Jewish National Fund, and the dedication of the memorial to the 19 members of the 11th Light Horse Regiment who were killed at Semack in September 1918.

“THE FINEST CAVALRY MOUNTS IN THE WORLD”

“ON OCTOBER 31, THE LIGHT HORSE RIDERS WILL MOVE INTO THE TOWN OF BEERSHEBA IN HALF SECTION FORMATION TO TAKE PART IN THE COMMEMORATIVE PARADE. AFTER THE PARADE, THEY WILL RIDE TO BEIT ESCHEL FOR A RE-ENACTMENT OF THE CHARGE.”

When they made the charge at Beersheba, the horses of the Desert Mounted Corps had not been watered or rested in more than 48 hours. The incredible stamina and courage of Australia's Waler horses had been more than proven.

Regular shipments of Australian horses to the British Army in India were being made even in the 1800s. The Walers, as they became known, were renowned as the finest cavalry horses in the world, due to their courage, intelligence, temperament, stamina and versatility.

“MORE THAN 130,000 HORSES WERE SENT TO THE GREAT WAR; ONLY ONE MADE IT HOME.”

More than 130,000 horses were sent to the Great War; only one made it home. Quarantine regulations were strict, even at the beginning of the 20th century. To prevent the possible spread of equine diseases, the 13,000 horses that survived the war were not allowed to return. Some 2000 were in such bad health that they had to be put down, but the remainder were purchased as remounts by the Indian and British Armies, or by British officers.

And the one horse who did return to Australia's shores? Sandy – who belonged to Australian 1st Division commander Major General Sir William Bridges – was shipped home in 1918 and lived out his days at the Central Remount Depot in Maribyrnong.



MARYBOROUGH MEMORIAL TO TELL THE ANZAC STORY

A unique memorial complex tracing the journey of the original ANZACs from Gallipoli through to the Western Front is being built in Maryborough's picturesque Queen's Park.



ABOVE:
An aerial view
of the planned
Gallipoli to
Armistice
memorial in
Queen's Park,
Maryborough.

 Nancy Bates

MARYBOROUGH'S Gallipoli to Armistice memorial will feature three lines of weathered steel blades representing the landscape of Gallipoli, forming an arbour and rising to a height of eight metres to symbolise 'The Sphinx' landmark.

A Western Front Memorial Walk, noting major battles fought by the ANZACs in France and Belgium, will

lead to Maryborough's celebrated cenotaph. A branch path will take visitors to an arbour memorial to Pozieres, described by historian Charles Bean as "more densely sown in Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth".

Funding from the Australian Government National Stronger Regions Fund and the Fraser Coast Regional Council will cover the initial cost of the structure. Further funds are being sought to cover the multimedia

interpretive works that will tell the story of the ANZACs in layered segments.

The project has evolved under Maryborough RSL Sub Branch through its Queen's Park Military Trail Project Committee. The committee was originally established to raise funds for the statue of Maryborough man Duncan Chapman, who, on April 25, 1915, was the first ANZAC to step ashore on the Gallipoli beach that would become known as ANZAC Cove.

Maryborough RSL President Jukka



“A WESTERN FRONT MEMORIAL WALK, NOTING MAJOR BATTLES FOUGHT BY THE ANZACS IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, WILL LEAD TO MARYBOROUGH’S CELEBRATED CENOTAPH.”



ABOVE:

An artist's impression of the Gallipoli to Armistice memorial being constructed in Queen's Park, Maryborough. The unique memorial complex will trace the journey of the ANZACs from Gallipoli through to the Western Front.

OPPOSITE:

Maryborough RSL Sub Branch President Jukka Manttari (left) and CEO Jason Scanes at the statue of Maryborough man Duncan Chapman, who was the first ANZAC to step ashore on the Gallipoli beach that would become known as ANZAC Cove.

Manttari said the Duncan Chapman statue did not confer hero status on an individual, but sought to capture a moment in time – essentially the birth of the ANZACs in battle.

During the campaign to raise funds for the statue, it became clear that many Australians had only sketchy knowledge of the role the ANZACs played in WWI.

"It also became clear that most wanted to know more," Jukka said. "They had heard the ANZACs had landed at the wrong place. They wondered why we were there, and why Gallipoli became synonymous with the forging of an Australian identity. What was Lone Pine and the Nek about? What happened in France?"

Jukka said a 'Dawn of the ANZAC' tribute – acclaimed to be of international standard – was held for

the unveiling of the statue the morning before the centenary of the landing. By then, the committee had already embarked on its ambitious venture to tell the stories of the first ANZACs in a simple, cohesive trail through the park.

"The statue was designed to depict Lt Chapman peering at the high cliffs our soldiers were not expecting to find, so it made sense to build a representation of that great barrier in front of the statue.

"Behind him we will have a 'why we were there' digest and representations of the three boats of the 9th Battalion that were first to land. Ahead, beyond the 'cliffs', will be the memorial walk through the Western Front and the path to the Pozieres memorial," Jukka said.

Maryborough RSL Sub Branch CEO Jason Scanes said the committee

decided to expand on one Western Front battle and chose Pozieres, because of the horrific Australian sacrifice noted by Charles Bean, and because that was where Duncan Chapman was killed, along with thousands of Australian comrades.

"During the weeks of the battle for Pozieres, as many Australians were killed as were lost in the eight months at Gallipoli," Jason said. "The cruel suffering in inhumane conditions along the Western Front is almost beyond our comprehension, and perhaps is one of the reasons WWI has tended to sit under a bleak cloud in our military history.

"Now, 100 years later, the horror has not diminished, but wounds are not so raw and people want to know more. We aim to tell that story in an easily understood, chronological order – to



“NOW, 100 YEARS LATER, THE HORROR HAS NOT DIMINISHED, BUT WOUNDS ARE NOT SO RAW AND PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW MORE. WE AIM TO TELL THAT STORY IN AN EASILY UNDERSTOOD, CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER — TO FILL IN THE GAPS AND ADDRESS THE MYTHS FOR AUSTRALIANS OF ALL AGES.”

fill in the gaps and address the myths for Australians of all ages.”

Jason said the memorial experience was designed to be educational and engaging, with layers of information tailored to varied interests, including visiting school parties. The main structural elements will be in place by the end of 2017, with interpretive layers developed as funds become available.

“The Middle East component of the ANZACs in WWI is planned to be told around the Hervey Bay RSL’s magnificent Light Horse sculpture, depicting the Battle of Beersheba,” Jason said. “That will become part of an evolving Fraser Coast military trail that will take visitors on a journey through our military history from the 1880s to Timor and Afghanistan.” ←





RSL WINS CHANCE TO HIGHLIGHT LOCAL HEROES

The history of military service and sacrifice in Toowoomba will help inform a redesign of the Bob Dodds Lookout on Tobruk Memorial Drive, after a design team led by RSL Queensland won second place in a Toowoomba Regional Council design competition.

✍ Matilda Dray

TOOWOOMBA United RSL Sub Branch was heavily involved in developing the Ribbon Lookout Scheme, designed by Bosanquet Foley Architects to weave together stories of community and landscape. The proposal pays tribute to the region's history

and involvement in conflicts over the past century.

RSL State President Stewart Cameron is delighted that Council has given RSL an opportunity to be part of the competition. "It is important to honour the sacrifice of the Toowoomba community and it helps deliver on one of our League Objects, which is erecting monuments to preserve the

memory of Australian veterans," Stewart said.

RSL Queensland's entry recommended creating a Ribbon of Remembrance along an existing bush path that follows the line of the escarpment and links Tobruk Memorial Drive Lookout to the existing Picnic Point Kiosk.

Toowoomba United RSL Sub Branch helped bring a local historical perspective to the design and the second place prize of \$4,000 will be donated to the Sub Branch to deliver welfare work in the local community. President Lindsay Morrison said the competition scheme comprises several stone benches with 20 indentations – a poignant reference to WWI.

"Toowoomba was a recruitment centre during WWI and on three different days around 20 soldiers who were recruited together in Toowoomba were killed together on foreign soil. It was a huge loss to our small community," Lindsay said.

RSL Queensland Project Manager Cameron Hemming said the competition judges commended the proposal

for respecting the heritage significance of the site and its ability to accommodate a community narrative through interpretative signage and plaques.

Suzanne Bosanquet from Bosanquet Foley Architects – who has worked on several design projects in the region – said the entry connects to some of the park's existing infrastructure. This includes the kiosk where the Australian Army had a camp in the 1940-50s and the previous lookout's namesake Bob Dodds, a Rat of Tobruk. "We are creating a community space for ceremonies and commemorations to take place that recognises the heroes of the region," Suzanne explained. The final design will draw on elements of the RSL competition entry, along with the ideas of Arup, and MUSA Landscape Architecture, who placed first and third respectively. Toowoomba Regional Council now put all three competition entries out to tender to find a company to incorporate the ideas and complete the lookout redesign, with construction likely to start in 2018-2019. ←

Tobruk Memorial Drive Lookout from the competition entry.

MATES 4 MATES

Issue 05. 2017

Magazine.

MATES 4 MATES

*Dan
Keighran VC*

begins his ADA
Kokoda journey

**Meet a
Mate**

Kevin Humphreys

**97.3 FM
DadBods**

Terry's workout
with our Mates



Rick Ralph Chairman's Message

The past few months have been very busy for the team at Mates4Mates with our Family Recovery Centres (FRCs) starting lots of new initiatives across the country, ranging from knee pain management programs, adaptive sports, and health challenges. Since the last edition we've delivered a number of successful Rehabilitation Adventure Challenges, including Dawson River Retreat in Central Queensland, Whitsundays Sea Kayaking Challenge, Big Battlefield Bike Ride across Europe with our friends from Help for Heroes and Equine Therapy courses.

We've also had some great events over the past few months that have raised awareness about what we do for our wounded, injured and ill veterans and their families. Starting with the Launch of Brain Injury Awareness Week in August, we then participated in the Gympie Music Muster, Oceanway Bike Ride on the Gold Coast, and the PTS17 International Forum, just to name a few. Thank you to all of the Mates and volunteers who helped out at these events!

Before the end of 2017, Mates using the Townsville Centre will be delighted to see refurbishments take place, to allow for new air conditioning in the gym and an outdoor recreational space. This will deliver the Centre a much-improved family amenity and provides the opportunity for greater utilisation of our services.

I would also like to introduce our newest Director on the Mates4Mates Board, in Brigadier Tony Rawlins, in his capacity as the Commander of the 7th Combat Brigade, at Enoggera. On behalf of all the Directors and the team at Mates4Mates we welcome Tony and look forward to his contribution.

As we draw closer to Remembrance Day and Mates Month in November, Mates4Mates remains committed to supporting all our current and ex-serving veterans and their families. We commemorate those who have lost their lives for our country, and this year will be selling poppies in each of our FRCs to support the RSL's Remembrance Day appeal.

ADA partner with Mates4Mates

for Kokoda

This year marks 75 years since the Kokoda Track Campaign during World War II. The four-month campaign was perhaps the most significant battle fought by Australians during the war and saw everyday Australians transformed into national heroes. Six hundred and twenty-five Australians lost their lives and over 1,000 soldiers were wounded defending our country from invasion.

Mates4Mates supports current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members, and their families, who are wounded, injured or ill as a result of their service.

We are an initiative of RSL Queensland.



If you would like to contribute to our magazine please contact the Mates4Mates Marketing and Fundraising team via marketing@mates4mates.org or call 1300 462 837.



Every year Mates4Mates joins nearly 5,000 other Australians to walk the Kokoda Track in memory of those thousands of Australians who fought to save our country and honour the courage, endurance and mateship our soldiers embodied during the bloody campaign.

In 2018, Australian Defence Apparel (ADA) have committed funding to ensure Mates4Mates can send our Mates to Papua New Guinea for this life-changing experience.

ADA's CEO Matt Graham said ADA were proud to be partnering with Mates4Mates to deliver this Rehabilitation Adventure Challenge to veterans and their families.

"ADA has always prioritised ways to give back to the veteran community, particularly those who have suffered through serving our country, and are pleased we could help by funding the Kokoda Rehabilitation Adventure Challenge next year," Matt said.

The Rehabilitation Adventure Challenges are a key part of the Mates4Mates service streams, and have proven to be an important part of our holistic approach to recovery. Our Adventure Challenges are open to Mates and their families and include trekking,

cycling, sailing and kayaking programs. Not only are Mates challenged physically in many of our challenges, particularly Kokoda, they are also pushed outside of their comfort zone. This allows our Mates to build their mental and physical strength and leave them with an accomplishment many thought they'd never achieve.

Our Ambassador Dan Keighran VC will join the group to trek Kokoda with Mates4Mates and ADA, and said he was looking forward to following in the footsteps of the brave Aussie diggers who fought on the Kokoda Track.

"I'm looking forward to challenging myself against the extremely difficult terrain and environment and learning about the campaign and the significant battlegrounds throughout the trek," Dan said.

The 96km eight-day trek sees participants walk for up to 10 hours each day, along narrow orange clay paths lined with trees, battling steep hills, dangerous creek crossing and hot humid conditions.

"My time in the ADF meant I spent a lot of time in different conditions, including the jungle. I have immense respect for the veterans of the Kokoda Trail because they had to fight for their lives and our country in such trying conditions. Battling the enemy and the elements of disease, wildlife and logistical challenges is almost unfathomable," Dan said.

The physical challenge is just one aspect of the trek. Our Mates learn about the key battles on the Kokoda Trail as part of the trip and hold poignant and emotional remembrance services at many of these memorials along the way.

"I am looking forward to gaining a greater understanding of the Kokoda campaign through the education of significant battles and battlegrounds," Dan said.

Our team head off to Kokoda in April 2018 and selection processes will be underway soon!

We are excited to have ADA on board and Dan helping us lead the charge for our Kokoda trek in 2018.



Looking at the soft and honest face of Brisbane veteran Kevin Humphreys you would never guess the struggles he's been through to still be here today. The Retired Black Hawk and Chinook helicopter pilot served in the Australian Army for 20 years and saw conflict during nine tours of duty, but it was the battle facing him when he returned home that really changed Kevin's life.

As the war in the Middle East began in the early 2000s, many Australian soldiers were called to leave their families and deploy as part of the multifaceted mission to debunk the terrorist organisation, the Taliban. Some of the unsung heroes of the war in the Middle East are those providing aviation support for ground troops, like Kevin, who normally go unnoticed but act as the backbone to the operation through their logistical and transport assistance.

Kevin was the Commander of a Task Group, based at Kandahar, that was responsible for the Chinook helicopter detachment embedded in an American helicopter battalion working across southern Afghanistan. Kevin looked after a team of approximately 100 people and made decisions to make sure they were safe every day.

"My number one priority every day was making sure everything I did supported the troops on the ground to get them what they needed whilst making sure that everyone in my detachment had the best possible chance of getting home to their families at the end of their tour," Kevin said.

The Hollywood representation of war has left people thinking that every day is gunshots and bombings, and in Kevin's case that could easily describe his tours of Afghanistan. Kandahar base at its peak

was large, and was home to close to 17,000 troops by the end of Kevin's second tour. The base would constantly and unexpectedly be targeted by rockets, some just missing Kevin.

"I remember one that whistled over my head and landed a couple of hundred metres away – only five or so metres from my bedroom that I had just been in, peppering my room and others with shrapnel," he said.

Every day of his four tours of Afghanistan was different and posed a risk to the safety of him and his team. Ramp ceremonies were common but the emotion never lessened as the number of ramp ceremonies grew week by week.

"Every time I lay down to sleep, and I mean every time, I wondered if I was going to be farewelling one of my team as part of the next ramp ceremony. I really worried about that. Unfortunately, that



Image Left: Kevin on deployment

Image Top: The team in Afghanistan

Image Right: Kevin in his current position as Chief Pilot Air-Sea Rescue



feeling of ultimate responsibility was part of what contributed to my psychological breakdown in 2008,” Kevin said.

Kevin survived his four tours of Afghanistan and returned home looking exactly like he did before he left, but even though he’d left the warzone the mental battle he was about to face would almost take his life.

In 2006, after his tour was over it was evident that something wasn’t right but it took two years for things to really hit rock bottom for Kevin. By 2008, his undiagnosed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) had sent him spiralling downhill so much so, that simple things such as hanging a picture on the wall were near impossible and drinking seemed like the only release. It pushed Kevin to breaking point.

It was in 2008 that Kevin started planning his suicide. He knew which two trees on what road he would go to. He knew what power tool from his shed he might use. If he’d been home alone, his wife checked the house to find him before the kids were allowed out of the car.

“26 May 2008. That was the day. That was the day I was going to do it,” Kevin says, remembering the exact day he was standing in front of the power tool in the backyard of his Brisbane home.

It was in that moment, Kevin stopped himself. It was the thought of his wife and three children that stopped him. He collapsed. He couldn’t do it.

It was that moment of clarity that made Kevin seek support from Army psychiatrists.

After six months recovering Kevin returned to work with the Army part-time. One year after the day that changed his life, he attended a flying course and was offered a job as a civilian working for CareFlight. The decision to leave Defence and work for CareFlight was uncomfortable, but set Kevin on a new path for success and now is the Chief Pilot of Queensland Government Air-Rescue. He’s working on property developments with his wife, is a Community Ambassador for R U OK? Day

and is a welfare representative with the Australian Federation of Air Pilots.

Kevin is keen to point out that Officers can succumb to mental illness too. Mental illness doesn’t discriminate and regardless of your rank, education or income, its the fact that you’re human that makes you susceptible.

In many cases PTSD is prolonging war for veterans and it’s important that we ask those people around us “R U OK?” and provide support so our veterans and their families can transition out of Defence smoothly and succeed in the civilian world.



Australian Defence Magazine (ADM) is proud to support the work of Mates4Mates in assisting the veteran community to overcome the physical and psychological injuries incurred as a result of their service in the ADF.



“This is important work and I urge Australia’s defence industry to show their support”

Judy Hinz, Publisher, ADM



Supporting injured Veterans From Mates

Australian Defence Magazine (ADM) is published monthly. Serving ADF members are entitled to a free subscription. Please contact judyhinz@yaffa.com.au to organise your subscription.

97.3FM DadBods & Mates4Mates

workout

Mates4Mates recently hosted the Brisbane DadBods group for a Sunday morning workout in our Brisbane gym. DadBods is a group of men who want to improve their physical health and is run by Terry Hansen from 97.3FM's popular Brisbane Breakfast Show, Bianca, Terry and Bob. Although the main purpose of the group is getting fit, they also focus on mental health and how important it is to speak up if you're struggling.

Just like Mates4Mates, each DadBod member is a sounding board for each other, and promoting social connection to improve mental health is their number one goal!

Terry Hansen said DadBods regularly talk about dads' issues and men's issues and just try to support each other along the way.

"It's what's going on inside your head and how you work with your mates to help out men to be the best blokes they can be," Terry said.



Image: Terry from 97.3 working out with Mates in the Brisbane Family Recovery Centre

The reason DadBods chose to come to Mates4Mates was because they wanted to show their members that struggling, like many current and ex-serving ADF personnel do, isn't the end and it is possible to recover and be okay.

Our Mates, Jethro and BJ shared their stories to the group after the session.

Jethro shared his story of standing on a landmine in Vietnam which resulted in him becoming a multiple amputee.

"It literally blew my leg off and everything else was part of the cleaning up process," Jethro said.

"It was a tough time and I got through it because I was supported by mates, the guys I served with, and we are still friends today."

BJ has been a long-time member of Mates4Mates and recently lost his leg in an accident.

"When I was in hospital, I was in a coma for a fair while. After I came out of the coma the team from Mates4Mates came and saw me regularly in hospital – they kept me going," BJ shared.

"Last week I was detoxing off all of the heavy pain killers I was on and I had four phone calls from Mates4Mates just checking I was alright and I was staying on track and not going under," he added.

Thanks to DadBods, the team at 97.3FM and APN Outdoor for working with us on this event.

Brain Injury Awareness Week 2017

Mates4Mates recently launched Brain Injury Awareness Week 2017, nationally in Brisbane, which focused on highlighting the prevalence of brain injuries in the military and aimed to raise awareness within the Defence and broader community about the lifechanging impact mild traumatic brain injuries can have on a person.

We were joined by Senator the Hon James McGrath, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister, Trevor Evans MP, Federal

Member for Brisbane, Jennifer Howard MP, Assistant Minister of State Assisting the Premier, and Air Vice Marshal Tracy Smart AM, Commander Joint Health and Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force.

Veteran Kiel Goodman shared his story about being in an IED explosion during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2008 and was only recently diagnosed with a brain injury from his time in the ADF.

Thank you to all the veterans and community groups who attended the



Image: Kiel Goodman, Nick Rushworth, Air Vice Marshal Tracy Smart AM

national launch. A very big thank you also to Nick Rushworth, CEO of Brain Injury Australia, along with his team, for partnering with Mates4Mates for this event.

Gympie Muster Success!

Mates4Mates were out in force at this year's Gympie Music Muster in Queensland. We have been lucky to be the official charity partner for the past two years, allowing us to collect generous donations on site during the four-day country music festival.

Over the past two years, Mates4Mates has raised close to \$25,000 as the charity partner, which has gone directly towards delivering our services to veterans and their families.

This year we were again supported by the Cooloola Coast Sub Branch of the Military Brotherhood Club, whose team of volunteers kindly ran a doughnut stall to raise funds to help our veterans.

Rex Brenneke, Military Brotherhood Liaison Officer and President of the Mary Valley RSL Sub Branch, was a leading force during the four days and organised the team to work close to 12 hours each day making doughnuts.

"We had a great weekend making the best doughnuts in the forest and raising some much-needed money for the Military Brotherhood and Mates4Mates," Rex said.

"I think we lost count of how many doughnuts we had sold by the end of day one!" Rex said.

Close to 30,000 fans attended the festival and were entertained by Jessica

Mauboy, Adam Brand, Amber Lawrence and local emerging talents the Dennis Sisters across the four days. So many patrons were generous in their donations to Mates4Mates with festival goers wearing their wristbands and stickers with pride.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help us at the Muster over the last two years and to the team from the Australian Firefighters Calendar who also collected donations for us, we are very grateful!



Image left:
Military Brotherhood volunteers and Kim McGrath (third on the right)

Image bottom right:
Two of our volunteers

Image bottom Left:
Our supporter
Fred Smith



GAME ON UNDER DOWN

INVICTUS
GAMES

SYDNEY 2018

FOR OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS

PRESENTED BY



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Mateship

ON THE HIGH SEA

Veteran and budding journalist Wayne Brown befriended a group of Vietnamese veterans while on a recent cruise to the South Pacific, and was amazed by their resilience.

WHEN friends ask me about the highlight of our latest cruise, I find it easy to respond. It is not Suva, Noumea or Lautoka; nor the *Windjammer's* salubrious buffet, where I gained a mere kilo, and not the variety shows or activities program (though each had merit). No, the highlight of our South Pacific cruise was meeting interesting, quality people from around the globe.

At breakfast on day seven, I could vaguely overhear conversation from four Asian couples nearby, but failed to decipher the language. With an amateur journo's curiosity, I pondered their origin. Gently tapping the nearest chap on the arm, I asked where he was from.

"Australia," he responded, accompanied by a cheeky grin.

"But before?" I persisted, with a smile.

"Vietnam."

"Chao Anh!" I responded.

"You speak Vietnamese!" he remarked with a huge smile.

Lucine, my Vietnamese wife, arrived at that moment, with her plate stacked with food, and immediately joined the conversation, which became full-on, multi-tonal Vietnamese. I sat back, unable to keep up.

I mentioned to Lucine that they all seemed a bit young to have been in the military. A brief flurry of questions soon revealed that the four men, aged from 66 to 70, had all been junior

Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) officers, training as classmates at Dalat's Military Academy, 308km north of Saigon, in the early 1970s.

My interest soared. I told them I'd been an infantry medic based at Nui Dat in then Phuoc Tuy Province back in 1968-69, and these days enjoyed writing short stories about veterans. Over the remaining five days I gathered their willingly-shared anecdotes – enough to cobble together the story of their enduring mateship and the reason they were cruising together.

Senior member, 70-year-old Mr Long, enlisted at 20 from his hometown of Saigon. I should mention that Vietnamese people use Mr with their first name, not their surname. So, I am Mr Wayne.

But, back to the story. Long trained at Dalat and then actively served around Kontum, Pleiku and Buon Ma Thuot in the Central Highlands on six-man reconnaissance-type patrols deep into Viet Cong territory.

Equipped and dressed like local force



ABOVE:
Vietnam War
veteran Wayne
Brown, far
right, formed
friendships
with a group
of Vietnamese
veterans he
met on a recent
cruise.

**HUSTLING
HIS WIFE,
DAUGHTER,
SISTER
TUYET AND
OTHERS ON
BOARD, THEY
HEADED
BRAZENLY
AWAY FROM
SAIGON IN
DAYLIGHT,
ARRIVING IN
INDONESIA
FIVE DAYS
LATER.**

Viet Cong, the squad carried AK47s, basic rations, a few claymores, a radio and little else on either five- or 10-day missions. By folding a red and yellow marker panel into various forms, they either confirmed ID or required re-supply at that location by chopper.

Insertions and extractions were similar to our Special Air Service Regiment, with dummy runs and rapid, non-landing, quick exit routines. Claymores were used in ambush or defence. Australian tactics were admired by Long, who dismissed the regular US GI as poorly trained and ill-disciplined on patrol.

Long's father passed away in his 50s, but his mother reached a grand 101 years. Long arrived in Australia in the general boat-people migration of 1985, with his wife Du finally able to join him in 1989. Their three children have all graduated from Macquarie University.

Operating a florist business in his late 40s, Long was given two years to live after stomach cancer required its full surgical removal. It's invariably fatal, he was told.

However, 22 years on, Long continues to survive by having small meals often, and no doubt his mother's longevity gene and the ongoing care of

attentive wife Du have played a part. He tires easily, but long afternoon naps recharge his batteries, enabling him to pursue his woodwork hobby and an occasional cleansing ale.

Mr Oanh (pronounced Wun), travelling with his sister Tuyet (pronounced Toowit), hailed from Vinh Long, 140km south-west of Saigon in the Mekong Delta. Attending Dalat's academy two years after Long, Oanh specialised in the political wing before posting back to Vinh Long.

Four years after his seven-year re-education period, Oanh managed to organise a boat-owning acquaintance with a special one-day travel pass, to leave Vietnam. Hustling his wife, daughter, sister Tuyet and others on board, they headed brazenly away from Saigon in daylight, arriving in Indonesia five days later.

After nine months in a transit camp, Oanh and his family reached Australia and settled down. Oanh became a heavy metal machinist. His

“A BRIEF FLURRY OF QUESTIONS SOON REVEALED THAT THE FOUR MEN, AGED FROM 66 TO 70, HAD ALL BEEN JUNIOR ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) OFFICERS, TRAINING AS CLASSMATES AT DALAT’S MILITARY ACADEMY IN THE EARLY 1970S.”



LEFT: Meeting a group of Vietnamese immigrants, who now call Australia home, was the highlight of a recent cruise for Vietnam War veteran Wayne Brown.

three children studied hard, with two qualifying as engineers and the other a doctor. On a recent return trip to Vietnam, Oanh found it difficult to sleep, but has no trouble sleeping at his Sydney home, where he dotes on his numerous pigeons and rosellas.

Mr Dong (pronounced Dom) and wife Van (pronounced Vun) reside in Melbourne now, but previously lived in My Tho, a Mekong riverside town 70km south of Saigon, where Dong enlisted, then headed for Dalat.

The 20-year-old recruit was a long way from home. As a platoon commander, Dong saw service in his hometown area as well as Tay Ninh, near the Cambodian border, and Cu Chi, which later gained notoriety for its tunnel complexes.

Years after his release from his seven-year incarceration, Dong and others escaped by boat. Robbed by pirates of all they had – and with a deliberately disabled engine – they drifted for days, with little food or water, until a kindly merchant vessel rescued them and eventually landed the big group in unwelcoming Thailand. Putting down permanent roots in Melbourne, Dong spends quality time with his bonsai, orchids, birds and multi-coloured koi.

Mr Huyen (pronounced Hwin), whose arm I tapped earlier, was cruising with his diminutive wife Thanh (pronounced Tang). Originally from Long Xuyen, 190km south-west of Saigon, Huyen trained at Dalat

with the others, winding up in the armoured corps, working with M113 APCs.

He was awaiting an active posting when Vietnam's undeclared war ended. Like the others, Huyen then commenced his seven-year sentence. His passion is fishing, a hobby that provides occasional rewards and lots of open space and freedom.

The mandatory seven-year re-education sentence, with hard labour, was standard for junior ARVN officers, whereas senior men fared much worse. This quartet entered camps near their hometowns and the only respite from the harsh conditions was a monthly visit from their families, when supplementary food was provided to balance the very poor camp ration.

Oanh was more fortunate than his widely-scattered classmates, as he could scrounge occasional items of seafood from the waterway near his camp. He gained fame as a mud crab expert. I mentioned that his fingers were still in place!

Flexing one hand, he showed me a jagged scar running across a middle finger – the result of an hour-long tug-of-war with a large buck muddy, wedged sideways in his underwater lair. A rising tide at chin level eventually forced Oanh to wrench his crushed and ripped finger from the crab's vice-like grip – it was either that or drown. Another time he was badly nipped on the leg, with the resultant

infection causing massive swelling.

And so, each man survived the long-term “washing of the brains”, as they termed it. They eventually undertook dangerous escapes to freedom, years after release, each with many tales to tell. I was curious as to how they'd re-connected, originally assuming they'd somehow kept in touch within Vietnam during those terrible years.

But it was the veterans' grapevine in Australia that re-ignited the special bond of mateship forged at Dalat's Military Academy all those years ago. Three still proudly wear their academy class rings. They are ornate, chunky gold items, with a large set ruby. Alas, Oanh said his fingers are now simply “too fat”. They meet regularly – Oanh and Long live only 30 minutes apart – and the others connect when possible.

They are now members of the Vietnam Veterans and Peacekeepers Association. I've visited each of their hometowns during my wanderings around Vietnam, and I guess my smattering of Vietnamese, their good English, and our mutual military histories put them at ease and allowed us to develop new friendships. The ladies added their perspectives at our two lengthy dinners, as we enjoyed good food, good company and lots of laughs.

What a wonderful coincidence it was to meet up with such a friendly, gentle group of people who'd literally been through the wars, found freedom, re-found mates, and then welcomed us into their circle – to share stories and enjoy retirement normality.

What a massive change from their original, desperate sea voyage on stinking, unsafe fishing boats – with added danger from pirates, huge container ships and storms – to now be on board a 130,000-tonne luxury palace, fully stocked with provisions, life rafts, life jackets and the guarantee of safe arrival at the planned destination.

Thank you, Long and Du, Dong and Van, Huyen and Thanh, Oanh and sister Tuyet – we'll certainly be keeping in touch. *Hen gap lai!* (See you again.) ←

“AND SO, EACH MAN SURVIVED THE LONG-TERM ‘WASHING OF THE BRAINS’, AS THEY TERMED IT. THEY EVENTUALLY UNDERTOOK DANGEROUS ESCAPES TO FREEDOM, YEARS AFTER RELEASE, EACH WITH MANY TALES TO TELL.”

THE YOUNGEST PRISONERS OF WAR

Born in an internment camp in Hong Kong in 1942, 75-year-old Barbara Laidlaw has begun making sense of her unusual childhood and is searching for others who share her unique story.

BARBARA

has flashbacks from the war years, but never really understood what her parents lived through. Several years ago, she returned to Hong Kong to meet other children who were born in Stanley Prison Camp or entered as toddlers. This helped Barbara piece together the story her parents wouldn't – or couldn't – talk about.

Barbara came into the world in unusual circumstances. Her mother was a society belle and her father held several positions – he served with the British Defence, was a member of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corp, worked for the Police and Health Department and studied medicine. Barbara was born in Tsan Yuk Hospital



Barbara Laidlaw with photos of her father at liberation and two years after liberation.



Police and Health Department entailed inspecting brothels.

While everyone was aware that Japan was occupying China during these years, they believed any attack on Hong Kong would happen by sea. On December 8, 1941, when Japan bombed Pearl Harbour, they also bombed Hong Kong Airport.

As a member of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corp, Tiny was sent into the New Territories near the China border. The Corp fought for 17 days, until Britain surrendered on Christmas Day, 1941 (known as Black Christmas). Military personnel were interned into a camp called Shamshuipo on the mainland.

Approximately 3000 civilians lived in Hong Kong at the time – 2400 British (including Australian and New Zealanders), approximately 500 Americans, 100 Canadians, and a small number of Dutch and Russians.

The Japanese assembled everyone in Murray Place while they decided where to put them. Eventually, many were marched through Hong Kong Island

ABOVE:
Repatriation to Australia.

RIGHT:
The Red Cross helped feed and cloth the children of prisoners.



in Stanley Prison Camp, and when the war ended in 1945 her family repatriated to Australia.

Barbara was overwhelmed to discover the story of her birth, and proud of her parents for surviving the war years. Barbara's grandfather was a seafaring captain working for Chinese Navigation in Hong Kong, and

when her mother, Kathleen, was 12 the family moved to Hong Kong to be closer to him.

After school, Kathleen worked for the Texas Oil Company and in 1932 met Barbara's father (known as Tiny, because he was two metres tall). They got married in 1936 and lived the high life in Hong Kong. Tiny's job with the



ABOVE:
Barbara's first pair
of shoes.

ABOVE RIGHT:
Barbara's 'birth
certificate'.

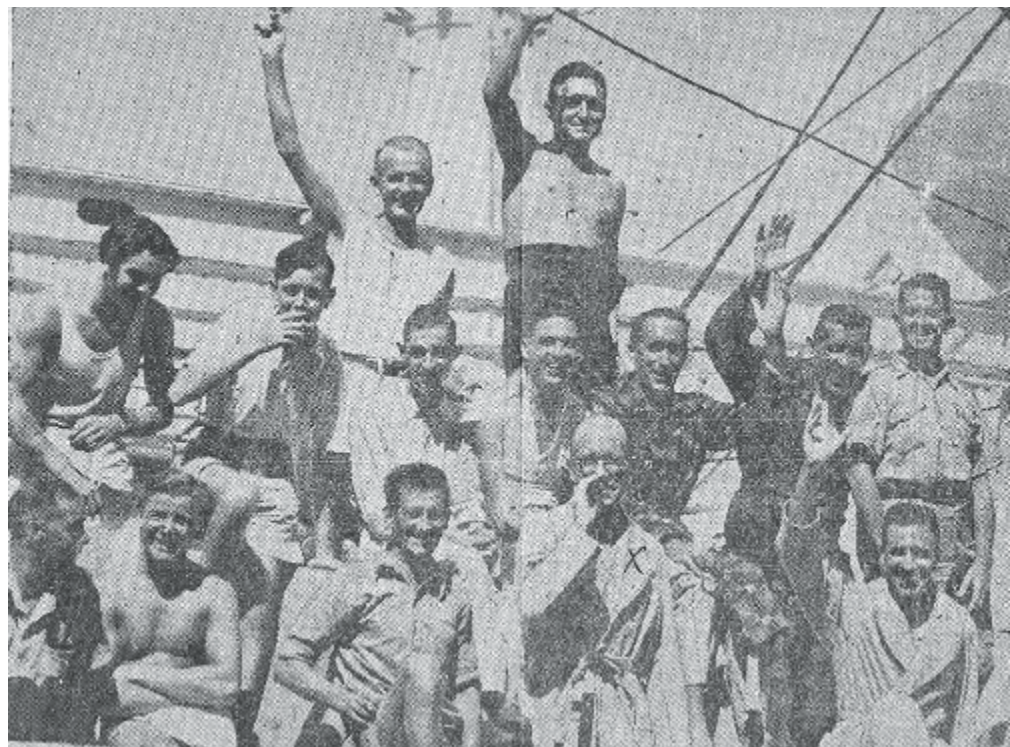
RIGHT:
The hospital ship
carrying Barbara's
father arrives in
Australia.



toward Stanley Bay, and some were taken by boat. They were housed in cheap brothels, where many slept in hallways and corridors, with no facilities.

Many Chinese people risked their lives to bring them rice and water. Finally, they reached Stanley, where the Japanese had cleared out the warden's quarters of the civilian prison. They also took possession of the boarding house of St Stephen's College and the library building, which had been used as a hospital for wounded troops from the New Territories.

In most cases, 15 people were allocated to one room (married couples and married women), eight to smaller rooms for single women, and single men were housed in the boarding rooms of the school. There were no facilities, bare floors with nothing to sleep on, no eating implements and one toilet per 12 rooms.



By then (January 1942), Kathleen was eight months pregnant with Barbara. One month later, she and her obstetrician, Sir Gordon King, who was interned with her, asked to be taken to a local Chinese hospital, because she needed a caesarean section. Kathleen was sent to the hospital in a truck with nine Japanese guards.

“BUT LIFE AT THE INTERNMENT CAMP WAS ALSO BRUTAL. PRISONERS CAUGHT TRYING TO BUILD RADIOS OR MAKE CONTACT THROUGH THE WIRE FENCE WERE EXECUTED, AND ONE PRISONER WAS BURNT IN AN OIL DRUM. CHILDREN WERE FORCED TO OBSERVE THESE TERRIBLE INCIDENTS.”

After Barbara was delivered, Sir Gordon whispered in Kathleen's ear that she would not see him again, but advised her to drink as much water as possible to enable her to breastfeed. Kathleen later learned that Tiny also intended to escape with Sir Gordon and two other men. However, after hearing it would endanger Kathleen and Barbara, he changed his mind.

The Japanese threatened that if anyone escaped from either camp they would kill another prisoner. Barbara has since learned that a message written on rice paper was pushed into a tin of jam and smuggled into Shamshuipo camp, letting Tiny know that his daughter had been delivered safely.

Tiny asked a friend to sketch a portrait of his baby girl in a diary hidden in his cell wall. He also wrote poems in his diary – about love, his spiritual beliefs, and some that were humorous.

On a recent trip to Hong Kong, organised by Professor Geoffrey Emmerson, Barbara discovered more about how her family survived the years in Stanley Prison. At the reunion, while Barbara met other child internees, whose parents also hadn't

shared details of those years, she also met some who entered the camp as toddlers and had better memories.

Some stories made them laugh, such as chasing cockroaches to add to their meals as a source of protein, while others detailed basic survival – parents grinding rice to get flour and rice milk for calcium. The daily ration was a bowl of rice and a spoon of stew twice a day.

The most important item missing from their diet was milk. When the Red Cross dropped food and clothing over the camp, the Japanese took what they wanted and left the rest for the prisoners. Fortunately, they didn't like condensed milk, so it was a reliable source of calcium for the children.

Many professionals were interned, including doctors, nurses, teachers and dentists, and while there was no paper or pencils, children learned to count and recognise colours on an abacus constructed from twigs, threads from rice sacks and buttons from clothing left by those who died. They tried to preserve as much normality as possible, organising church services and meetings for Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Freemasons.

“BARBARA DOES KNOW HER MOTHER HAD WAX TAPERS PUT UNDER HER FINGERNAILS AND LIT WHEN SHE COULD NOT ANSWER THE COMMANDANT'S QUESTIONS. BECAUSE SHE WAS BORN IN AUSTRALIA, THEY ASSUMED SHE COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT SYDNEY BUILDINGS AND AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES.”

But life at the internment camp was also brutal. Prisoners caught trying to build radios or make contact through the wire fence were executed, and one prisoner was burnt in an oil drum. Children were forced to observe these terrible incidents.

Barbara learned that her mother was tortured, although she didn't know the full details. A well-known author who

interviewed experts on the subject told Barbara it was likely the specifics would always remain a mystery.

Barbara does know her mother had wax tapers put under her fingernails and lit when she could not answer the Commandant's questions. Because she was born in Australia, they assumed she could provide information about Sydney buildings and Australian companies.

Kathleen was shown pictures of Japanese signs erected at Martin Place, and special Australian money printed in readiness for Australia's occupation. The type of torture carried out in Stanley Prison Camp occurred around the same time as the Battle of the Coral Sea, which represented a turning point in the Pacific campaign.

Japan also tried to negotiate with Australia to release Japanese prisoners of war, many of whom were pearl divers with a thorough knowledge of the Australian coast. Australia refused to negotiate, and Australians, New Zealanders and British were not released, while Americans and Canadians were returned home.

The only birth certificate Barbara holds is from the Emperor of Japan stating she is a “Daughter of the Emperor of Japan”. Fortunately, Sir Gordon King gave Kathleen a piece of paper stating Barbara's date, time and place of birth.

The POW camp took its toll on Tiny's health and, with the support of Lady Mountbatten, her family repatriated to Australia in 1945. Barbara was four when they set sail for their new home and she remembers her mother saying, “The fairies are coming.” Barbara was surprised to see women wearing gowns (they turned out to be ladies from the Red Cross) and she wore shoes for the first time in her life.

Barbara recently joined The Gap RSL Auxiliary, whose motto is “we served too”. On behalf of Barbara, the auxiliary is seeking other people who share a similar story. They are invited to contact Secretary Doug Parry on 0466 989 427. ←



IN SEARCH OF A WWI DIGGER: CAN YOU HELP?

Belgian Jean Van Campenhout was grieving his father's death when he discovered an old photograph, and with it a family mystery.

THE young geologist had found an Australian Imperial Force (AIF) group portrait, with a cross inked above a soldier in the photo – indicating the man who was his Australian great-grandfather. Sadly, no name was inscribed on the photo and Jean was left in the dark about his identity.

The unknown Australian soldier returned home in March 1919, before the young Belgian woman he had been courting was

even aware she was pregnant. The Digger never knew that on December 7, 1919, his son Robert was born.

At a loss about where to start to find a name for his Australian great-grandfather, Jean contacted Claire Dujardin, an historian at the University of Brussels who was experienced in researching the subject. Because the soldier was billeted at Marchienne-au-Pont during the winter of 1918-19, Claire suspected, from

battalion unit diaries and other archival records, that he might have been in the 26th Battalion.

LIFE IN BELGIUM FOR JEAN'S GREAT- GRANDFATHER

The battalion entered the Charleroi region of Belgium on December 20, 1918, along with the 27th and 28th Battalions. The soldiers marched behind battalion bands and were warmly welcomed by enthusiastic crowds

lining the streets.

Jean's great-grandfather was accommodated either in a public building, such as a school or industrial workshop, or possibly in a local home. If he was in a home, he would have been shown kindness and open-hearted hospitality, treated like a family member, slept in a real bed and spent pleasant evenings talking or playing cards around a comforting fire.

Each day he would have heard



TOP: Jean's great-grandfather, a member of the Australian Imperial Force.

ABOVE: Jean Van Campenhout, the great-grandson of the unknown Australian Digger.

LEFT: A group photo of the Australian Imperial Force soldiers of the 26th Battalion billeted at Marchienne-au-Pont, Belgium. A cross was made above Jean's great-grandfather – the man in the back row, second from the right.

the 26th Battalion band play for the citizens of Marchienne-au-Pont. On Christmas Day and New Year's Eve, he would have been invited to join family festivities, sampling Belgian beers and traditional Belgian waffles. On January 1, 1919, he would likely have danced with young women invited to a supper dance, the first of a series of entertainments conducted by the military.

Awaiting repatriation, he would have undergone regular

military exercises, including drills, rifle range target practice and route marches. He may have enjoyed soccer, football, boxing or skating, and travelled by electric tram into Charleroi to visit cafes, concert halls, theatres, dance halls and cinemas. He might have toured Charleroi factories and enrolled in technical and vocational education at the Université du Travail (University of Labour).

Gradually, AIF contingents

departed, and by the end of March, what remained of the battalion moved to Mont-sur-Marchienne. On May 31, 1919, the last of the 26th Battalion left for home.

DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION?

Jean would dearly love to know his great-grandfather's name and find his Australian descendants. If any of the following apply to you, please contact Claire via

diabie.detasmanie@skynet.be or Alison McCallum on 0400 063 718.

- Do you recognise the man in the back row of the group photo (second from the right)?
- Does your family have this group 26th Battalion portrait in an album with names inscribed, or any details as to the date and exact location where the photo was taken?
- Does your family have any 26th Battalion portraits with names? ←

WWII DIGGER

reunited with father's trench art legacy

Thanks to the help of an RSL staff member, 95-year-old Ben Blunderfield was reunited with an inkwell his father made in the trenches of WWI.

 Anita Jaensch |  Jessica Hinchliffe/ABC Radio Brisbane.

IT was a photo of a mystery object on Queensland Museum's Facebook page that drew the attention of an eagle-eyed member of RSL Queensland's marketing team.

"We need your help!" it said. "We want to uncover the love story behind this object... a piece of trench art with the names 'Charlie' and 'Ethel' etched into the ends..."

With Memberships Officer Sarah Jackson on the case, the mystery was soon solved. One of our existing members, Ben Blunderfield, a veteran

himself, was the son of Charlie and Ethel. With a little organising, a date was set for 95-year-old Ben and his daughter Rosslyn to visit Queensland Museum and view the century-old inkwell in person.

It also provided an opportunity for the three main players in the story to meet – Ben, Sarah and Queensland Museum curator Tracy Ryan, who had put out the original call on social media.

During the meeting, the story of Charles and Ethel emerged. From a disadvantaged background, Charles had been caught robbing a bank in Bundaberg and was given the chance

to redeem himself by enlisting in the Army.

He ended up on the Western Front, fighting in Ypres, where he was gassed, badly damaging his lungs and contributing to him contracting tuberculosis.

"We talked a lot about his war service," Ben said. "When he was gassed, some of the men more or less died that day. That really affected him, because he never knew when he was going to die."

Despite his ongoing health problems, when Charles returned to Brisbane he only received a half pension – two guineas a week, which was about half the minimum wage at the time.

"He was always very angry about that," Ben said. "He tried to [fight it] but nothing happened."

Charles was an enterprising man, though, and started a firewood business. It was hard, physical work and his wife Ethel and four children



LEFT:
Ben and his daughter look closely at the unique inkwell. (Photo: Jessica Hinchliffe, ABC Radio Brisbane)

BELOW:
An 1856 Napoleon coin was fixed to the top of the inkwell. (Photo: Jessica Hinchliffe, ABC Radio Brisbane)



LEFT:
The inkwell is made of bullets and artillery from WWI. (Photo: Jessica Hinchliffe, ABC Radio Brisbane)



had to help.

“We used to chop six tonne a week, and my mum and [sister] Jessie used to bag it in hessian bags,” Ben said.

Ethel also pitched in, baking 12 dozen pies on a Friday night, which Charles would sell for threepence each outside the racecourse the following day.

During the course of Ben’s recollections, it emerged that he too had participated in one of the iconic battles in Australia’s military history. Seventy-five years ago to the day, young Ben had been knee-deep in mud on the Kokoda Trail.

“We fought our way up to Kokoda; they were hard days,” Ben said. “Then right up through Buna and Gona. I went five weeks with wet feet.”

As well as sharing his story, Ben held the inkwell that his father had crafted for his mother, using materials he scavenged from the trenches – including bullets, cartridges, copper sheets and a coin from the reign of Napoleon III.

Ben was very pleased to see his father’s work, but said it wasn’t the only piece of his father’s craftsmanship in an Australian museum. When Ben donated his collection of war

“FROM A DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUND, CHARLES HAD BEEN CAUGHT ROBBING A BANK IN BUNDABERG AND WAS GIVEN THE CHANCE TO REDEEM HIMSELF BY ENLISTING IN THE ARMY.”

Queensland Museum curator Tracy Ryan, Ben Blunderfield and daughter Rosslyn inspect the inkwell Ben's father made for his wife in the trenches of the WWI. (Photo: Jessica Hinchliffe, ABC Radio Brisbane)



memorabilia to the Australian War Memorial three years ago, it included a cigar box on which Charles Blunderfield had carved the Australian Army emblem with a pen knife.

"That's really, really pleasing to me – to think I have my father's mementos in two lovely places," Ben said. 🇦🇺

"BEN HELD THE INKWELL THAT HIS FATHER HAD CRAFTED FOR HIS MOTHER, USING MATERIALS HE SCAVENGED FROM THE TRENCHES — INCLUDING BULLETS, CARTRIDGES, COPPER SHEETS AND A COIN FROM THE REIGN OF NAPOLEON III."

ABOVE:
A photo of Ethel and Charles Blunderfield six years before Charles passed away. (Photo: Jessica Hinchliffe, ABC Radio Brisbane)

MEET A MEMBER

Phillip Carter Wilkins
Age: 90 years old

Member of Kawana Waters RSL Sub Branch

What is your service history?

I enlisted in 1945 and did my basic training in Cowra and my engineers training at Kapooka. I was sent to the 13th Field Company AIF at Rabaul, New Britain (New Guinea) and transferred to 2/2 Forestry at Karavat, Rabaul. I discharged in December 1946.

When and why did you join your local RSL Sub Branch?

I transferred from Caloundra RSL Sub Branch to Kawana RSL Sub Branch in 1999. I found Kawana smaller, which created a closer and friendlier atmosphere.

How have you been involved with your Sub Branch over the years?

I ran computer classes teaching members basic computer skills and recently organised a gathering of WWII veterans called 'The Mouldy Oldies'. I thought there might be a few people in a similar position to me that were just sitting on the front porch watching the grass grow, so I contacted my local Sub Branch and found we had 15 WWII veterans in the area. I phoned around and invited them to join me for afternoon tea and a chat. (If you would like to join this group, contact Phillip on 07 5493 7821 or philwilkins27@optusnet.com.au.)

What Sub Branch activities are you passionate about?

I like social activities, such as bus outings, evening celebratory dinners and selling badges and poppies on ANZAC and Remembrance Day.

What role does your Sub Branch play in the lives of veterans?

It is all there for the asking – welfare, helping with pension claims and visiting veterans who can't attend the Sub Branch, particularly those living in retirement homes.

What role does your Sub Branch play in the local community?

We support local schools, provide shoes to the underprivileged and bursaries for the needy.

What should RSL's top priorities be over the next five to 10 years?

Supporting veterans, as we have been doing, and making sure DVA does the same.

What do you hear as the top three issues on RSL members' minds?

[The previous answer] covers most members' concerns, plus ensuring the veteran pension is not reduced through government cutbacks, as our needs are increasing with age.

What is your greatest achievement?

Living to the age of 90, sharing 83 years with a wonderful wife, who passed away two-and-a-half years ago, and raising three of the best children on this planet.

Which talent would you most like to have?

I don't really miss what I never had, although I would like to be multilingual as we live in such a multicultural society.

What is your most treasured possession?

My car and driver's licence are both very important to me. I love touring, and when I get bored with my solitary existence I get in the car and take off for a few days. This is a great comfort, as I can't walk long distances at my age.



Warren Lynam/News Corp

If you know
an RSL
member of
any age who we should
feature in our new 'Meet
a Member' section, please
email editor@rslqld.org.



MATES 4 MATES

Cameron Sherwood

RE-IGNITING THE SPARK

In this final article in a three-part series focusing on some of the veterans behind the RSL RAEMUS Rover program, we meet Cameron Sherwood, a car enthusiast who says the program has given him back the brotherhood and camaraderie he enjoyed in the military.

 Christina Underwood

ORIGINALLY from Western Australia, Cameron spent most of his life moving around the country with his father, who served in the Air Force for 23 years. Cameron's family has a rich history with the services, with at least three generations before him serving.

"My grandfathers were a big inspiration in my life. I guess I was always destined to be part of the services," he said.

Cameron was 18 years old when he enlisted in the Australian Army in 1991, and served for nearly 10 years. He spent his initial years in Singleton, NSW, undergoing training in the infantry. During his service, Cameron went on several deployments, including to Penang, Malaysia, at Rifle Company Butterworth in 1993. He also deployed to Scotland in 1995 and East Timor in 1999 to 2000.

After spending three years in Rifle Company as a frontline soldier in the infantry battalion, experiencing highly stressful situations and incidents, Cameron became involved in Pipes and Drums, a program that provides musical support for battalions.

Cameron would switch back over to rifle sections when required in the combat roles, including acting as a stretcher bearer when needed, or filling in as a crew commander of the armoured vehicles being used as ambulances to provide medical support to other rifle companies.

"I THINK MY ISSUES STARTED FROM BACK IN 1994, WHEN I WAS IN A PLATOON IN MALAYSIA AND THERE WAS AN INCIDENT WHERE WE LOST FIVE GUYS. IT WAS VERY HARD TO HANDLE... IT STILL IS NOW."

"I got to learn advanced medical skills. I really enjoyed it, and continued doing it for a further seven years. It was part of my role when I was in East Timor."

Sadly, Cameron was medically discharged in 2000 as he was struggling with severe physical injuries, as well as mental health issues, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). His battle with PTSD has been a long one.

"I think my issues started from back in 1994, when I was in a platoon in Malaysia and there was an incident where we lost

five guys. It was very hard to handle... it still is now."

Cameron struggled to reach out and talk to anyone about his troubles and battled alone for over 10 years.

"When I joined the military, I had this portrayal that I'm six-foot-tall, bulletproof, a man... and men don't cry. But everything wasn't fine with me. I was kidding myself," Cameron said.

Some of the crippling effects Cameron suffers from include depression, always feeling on edge, becoming angered easily, as well as avoiding social interaction.

Sadly, the deterioration of Cameron's mental health led to the breakdown of his marriage.

"My family knew the type of man I was before I went away, and when I came back I was a different person. I drove away quite a lot of friends."

Things started to improve when Cameron took a leap of faith and asked for help. After a fellow veteran suggested he get in touch with the RSL Queensland initiative Mates4Mates, he visited the Brisbane recovery centre.

"Half of me was just going to please my mate, but when I got there, it was enlightening. The staff are amazing. They recognised what was going on inside me – without having to say it – and they pointed me in the right direction to get the help I needed."

Mates4Mates put Cameron in touch with an RSL Queensland advocate, who reviewed his case and worked with the Department of Veterans' Affairs to ensure he received all his entitlements, such as a steady income stream and cover for medical expenses and healthcare needs.

"Having an RSL advocate took away all the stress and pressure," Cameron said. "They worked out

what I needed and sorted it all out."

At one of the Monday night barbecues at the Brisbane Mates4Mates recovery centre, Cameron's ears pricked when he heard Ian Baker talk about the RSL RAEMUS Rover program. Already a lover of cars, Cameron eagerly joined the track day at Willowbank.

"All I thought was, where do I get more of this?"

Cameron reflects how being involved with the RSL RAEMUS Rover program helped develop a bond of mateship and loyalty that has really helped with his recovery.


"There's a brotherhood in the military and this team has given me camaraderie back. I have a support network and people that understand what I've been through."

Cameron now lives in Brisbane with his 21-year-old daughter and teenage son, and has managed to rebuild his relationship with his ex-wife and family. He is actively involved in the RSL RAEMUS Rover team's jam-packed agenda, including helping to restore the three race cars, and he supported the team that participated in the Finke Desert Race in June.

Through being involved with the team, Cameron has his own aspirations to restore two of his own cars.

"Being in the team has brought a massive passion and spark back to my life. It's great and I absolutely love it."

As well as offering vital advocacy services to veterans, RSL Queensland also provides funding to initiatives such as Mates4Mates and RSL RAEMUS Rover, so they can help thousands of people like Cameron get their life back on track.

For more information on the program, visit www.rslqld.org 

OCT.

THIS MONTH IN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY HISTORY

01.10

1918

Australian Light Horsemen take Damascus

The Light Horse advances into Damascus, the Syrian capital, at the end of the long and victorious advance that ended WWI in the Middle East.

02.10

1943

9th Division captures Finschhafen

Finschhafen, in New Guinea, subsequently becomes the base for the protracted Huon Peninsula campaign, 1943-44.

03-08.10

1951

Battle of Maryang-San, Korea

The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, made a successful assault against Chinese positions on Hill 317 (Maryang-San) and held the important feature in the face of fierce counter-attacks.



05.10

1918

◀ Capture of Montbrehain, France

Montbrehain was the AIF's final action in France in WWI, in which the 2nd Division captured the village at a cost of 430 casualties.

05.10

1951

◀ HMAS Sydney in Korean waters

The commencement of the aircraft carrier HMAS Sydney's first patrol off Korea's west coast made Australia the third country (after the USA and Britain) to operate a carrier in the Korean War.



07.10

1951

Fighting continues at Maryang-San, Korea

The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, drives towards 'The Hinge' on Hill 317, the final obstacle to throwing the Chinese from the feature and fends off strong counter-attacks.

09.10

1950

United Nations forces advance into North Korea

Following the surprise landing at Inchon, behind North Korean lines, United Nations forces rapidly pushed back the North Koreans and advanced deep into North Korea.

10.10

1917

Battle of Poelcappelle, Western Front

Australian divisions continued to attack in the third battle of Ypres. The attack on Poelcappelle, launched amid heavy rain, was to cost 1250 casualties for no gain of ground.

11.10

1944

Australians land at Jacquinot Bay, New Britain

The Australians' arrival opened the successful New Britain campaign in which a small Militia force successfully contained the large Japanese garrison holding Rabaul.

15.10

1942

Fighting at Templeton's crossing

25th Brigade, 7th Division, drives Japanese attackers back from Templeton's crossing. Templeton's Crossing was named after an officer of the 39th Battalion, lost without trace in the retreat from Kokoda.

16.10

1967

Royal Australian Navy helicopters deploy to Vietnam

An RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHFV '67) joins the US Army's 135th Aviation Company at Vung Tau, supporting American troops in South Vietnam.

17.10

1950

► Sariwon, Korea

3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in action at Sariwon, Korea. In a bold bluff, the battalion's second-in-command, Major Ferguson, convinces at least 1500 North Korean soldiers to surrender at Sariwon during confused fighting.



<p>18.10 1944 HMAS <i>Geelong</i> sunk HMAS <i>Geelong</i> was one of four corvettes lost during WWII. It collided with an American merchant ship off New Guinea.</p>	<p>18.10 1967 HMAS <i>Perth</i> hit HMAS <i>Perth</i> struck by return fire near Cape Lai, Vietnam, while on the United States 7th Fleet 'gunline'. This was the only occasion where an Australian warship suffered casualties from enemy fire during the Vietnam War.</p>	<p>19.10 1945 War Widows' Guild of Australia founded The Guild's first President was Mrs Jessie Vasey, widow of Major General GA Vasey. It is still an active organisation today.</p>	<p>21.10 1915 Australian Red Cross Missing and Wounded Enquiry Bureau established The Missing and Wounded Enquiry Bureau handled many thousands of enquiries from Australian families seeking information on wounded and missing soldiers during WWI.</p>
<p>21.10 1916 5th Australian Division on Western Front The 5th Australian Division entered the front line near Flers on the Somme. By October, the Somme battlefield was a wasteland of mud-bound craters.</p>	<p>21.10 1944 ► HMAS <i>Australia</i> damaged by Kamikaze aircraft The Japanese first used special air units (Tokkō-tai) to undertake suicide attacks on warships in the Allied fleet supporting the American landings on Leyte in the Philippines.</p>		
<p>22.10 1950 Battle of the Apple Orchard, Yongju, Korea C Company, 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, involved in their first major action of the Korean War in an apple orchard near Yongju.</p>	<p>23.10 1942 Battle of El Alamein begins The battle of El Alamein, Egypt, one of the turning point battles of WWII, began with a massive artillery bombardment preceding attacks by British and Australian divisions.</p>	<p>24.10 1942 Eora Creek, Kokoda Trail The 16th Brigade, 7th Division, continued to drive the Japanese back along the Kokoda Trail, but met heavy resistance at Eora Creek.</p>	<p>27.10 1950 Chinese enter the Korean War Having secretly moved at least 180,000 men into North Korea, Chinese forces began attacking south, surprising UN Command.</p>
		<p>28.10 1916 ◀ First conscription referendum Dismayed by heavy losses at Fromelles and Pozières on the Western Front, Prime Minister WM Hughes proposed that conscription be introduced for overseas service. The proposal was defeated.</p>	<p>29–30.10 1950 Australians reach Chongju Australian troops of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, reach Chongju, the most northerly point of their advance into North Korea. In two days' fierce fighting, the Australians clear Chongju and the surrounding ridges.</p>
<p>30.10 1918 Armistice with Turkey Armistice signed with Turkey, ending Turkish involvement in WWI. Australian troops had taken a prominent part in the war against the Ottoman Empire, especially on Gallipoli and in Sinai-Palestine.</p>	<p>31.10 1917 ► Beersheba, Palestine The 4th Light Horse Brigade's bold charge against Turkish positions at Beersheba seized a critical well that enabled British Empire forces to break the Ottoman line near Gaza and advance into Palestine.</p>		

*All content included in this calendar of Australian Military History has been sourced from the Australian War Memorial.



BEERSHEBA EXHIBITION OPENS

Brisbane's Army Museum South Queensland launched the Australian Light Horse in WWI exhibition at Victoria Barracks in August. (Above) Guests at the opening included museum manager Captain Adele Catts, student intern Robyn Cosgrove. (Below) Commander of 7th Brigade, Brigadier Tony Rawlins and Jeanette O'Brien, daughter of the lead horseman in the Beersheba statue on permanent display in the officers' mess. The exhibition will run until December 2017.



WOODGATE HONOURS VIETNAM VETERANS

Goodwood State School Captain Nicholas, pictured, laid a wreath and read a tribute at the recent Vietnam Veterans Day service organised by Woodgate RSL Sub Branch. The service was emceed by LtCol Ian McKay (Ret) and the guest speaker was Major Jim Wieland BEM (Ret), who undertook two tours to Vietnam.



CURRUMBIN CENTRE SUPPORTS YOUNG VETERANS

The Veterans' Support Centre in Currumbin will provide additional help for young veterans and their families, thanks to the creation of two new paid positions, including a coordinator who will develop social, educational and employment opportunities. This brings the total number of paid positions at the centre to five. The centre, funded by Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch, provides professional advice and assistance to veterans, serving members, ex-members of the ADF and their dependents. The centre's welfare staff are volunteers who have attended DVA training courses.

COMMEMORATION OF VIETNAM CONFLICT

RSL Queensland Community Engagement Officer Mitchell Brodie attended the Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony in ANZAC Square on August 18 and presented Darryl Shipp, pictured, Secretary of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (Queensland Branch), with hundreds of thank you cards and bookmarks, generously handmade for veterans by local volunteer Margaret Colledge.



BURRUM FUNDRAISES AT FETE

Burrum District RSL Sub Branch raised money to help veterans by selling badges and lapel pins at the Torbanlea Primary School fete. They also promoted sales of the Purple Poppy, a tribute to war animals. George Adams, right, is pictured with volunteers from the Rural Fire Brigade and Sub Branch President Ricky Rowland, who wears many hats in the community.

DAD'S ARMY RAISES MONEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Emerald RSL Sub Branch's team Dad's Army entered the Central Highlands Relay for Life event on August 19-20 to raise funds for cancer research. The team of Sub Branch members, family and friends raised over \$4000.





ARTIST PAYS TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS

Granite Belt artist Joyce Gray, left, has seen firsthand some of the horrific impacts of war, and donated an artwork inspired by her experiences to the Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch. Joyce worked at the repatriation general hospital in Greenslopes during the Vietnam War and saw soldiers with both physical and mental injuries. She painted the soldier to pay tribute to all who gave selflessly in times of conflict. Pensions and Welfare Officer Martin Corbett accepted the donation on behalf of the Sub Branch.

WWII VETERAN ATTENDS VP DAY

Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch held a service at the Freedom Park cenotaph on August 15 to commemorate Victory in the Pacific Day, marking Japan's unconditional surrender after three years of war. Present at the service were Naval Association of Australia Fraser Coast Sub Section President Peter McDermott, left, WWII veteran Ken Haydon and Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch President Brian Tidyman. Local Member for Hervey Bay Ted Sorenson and Fraser Coast Deputy Mayor George Seymour also attended.



FUNDS FOR AIR FORCE CADETS

Marian RSL Sub Branch recently donated \$500 to the No. 105 (City of Mackay) Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets. President John Edwards, left, is pictured with Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) FM Andrews Commanding Officer. The Sub Branch expressed its appreciation to the cadets for providing professional flag party and catafalque duties at ANZAC Day ceremonies for several years.



MAGNETIC ISLAND SUPPORTS NAVY CADET

When the Navy Cadet unit on Magnetic Island folded due to lack of numbers, Magnetic Island RSL Sub Branch stepped in to offer financial support to enable ANC Cadet Jade Burton to continue pursuing her interest in the cadet movement. Jade, pictured at Magnetic Island's 2015 ANZAC Day Dawn Service, will receive up to \$1300 to assist her with travel and other expenses over the next 12 months.

TOOWOOMBA HONOURS STUDENTS' WARTIME SERVICE

Toowoomba United RSL Sub Branch helped Toowoomba Grammar School Army Cadet Unit secure over \$7000 in funding through the Queensland ANZAC Centenary grants program. The school will use the money to preserve the memory of brave servicemen who were once students. The program helps communities reflect on significant military anniversaries, particularly 100 years since WWI. The funding will support the development of a commemorative website that will create a directory of Toowoomba Grammar School Old Boys who served in the Boer War, WWI, WWII and in Vietnam. For more information or to apply for a grant visit www.qld.gov.au/anzac100.



MARIAN DONATES TO DRAGONS ABREAST

Marian RSL Sub Branch donated \$500 to Dragons Abreast, an organisation of breast cancer survivors who paddle dragon boats. A Canadian physiologist, whose wife survived breast cancer, discovered that paddling a dragon boat had a profound effect on mitigating the effect of lymphedema, a condition resulting from removing lymph glands during breast cancer surgery. Paddling also helps participants regain their sense of wellness, overcome the sense of isolation that a cancer sufferer can experience, rebuilds self-confidence and helps them regain control of their lives. Pictured are Dragons Abreast members Margaret Bazley, left, Karen Lean, Jewel Schmidt, Cheryl Machen, Barbara Riddel, Kim Heazlett and Luz Carleton.



SADDLE FOR EQUINE THERAPY

Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) President Nigel Allsopp, left, presented a saddle to Redlands RSL Sub Branch Vice President Ian Gray, centre, and Peter Riches of the equine therapy program Horses 4 Heroes. Peter has been working with the Australian Defence Force to offer returned service people an opportunity to seek welfare and companionship with horses. Equine therapy also assists riders with physical injuries, and the saddle is designed to aid veterans with leg amputations.



DONATION FOR RED CROSS TRAUMA TEDDIES

Marian RSL Sub Branch donated \$500 to the Trauma Teddies unit at the Mackay branch of Red Cross Australia. The Trauma Teddies initiative was developed by the NSW Ambulance Service when officers noticed that if teddy bears were provided to young children who had been involved in traffic accidents, the bears had a marked calming influence on the young casualties. Pictured is Marian RSL Sub Branch President John Edwards, left, Trauma Teddies Mackay Convenor Irene Osbourne and Red Cross Australia Mackay Branch President Shirley Martin.



PEACEKEEPERS HONOURED

Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch honoured peacekeepers from the Australian Defence Forces and Australian Police Service on National Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Day on September 14. Sub Branch President Brian Tidyman was joined by Karl Adolfsen, representing Federal Member for Hinkler Keith Pitt; Therese Adolfsen, representing Member for Hervey Bay Ted Sorensen; and Deputy Mayor Fraser Coast Regional Council George Seymour. Wreaths were also laid by the Hervey Bay and District Veterans' Association, Naval Association, Hervey Bay RSL and Services Memorial Club, Vietnam Veterans' Association, 9th Btn WWI Re-enactment Group and RSL Social Bowls Club.

FAMILY HISTORY INSPIRES STUDENT PROJECT

Mossman State High School student Jedd Kemp, pictured right, recently presented Mossman RSL Sub Branch member Wally Gray with a handmade timber war medal display cabinet. It took over 14 weeks for Jedd to construct the cabinet in his year 12 technology studies class, as part of a community-based project. His passion for the Defence Force and pride in a long line of family military history inspired the project. Jedd's great-grandfather Charles Hughes Redfearne was a stoker on HMAS *Sydney II*, while other ancestors included a member of the Dam Busters Raid, a prisoner of war in Changi, and a member of the Danish resistance, who helped Jews escape Germany.



REMEMBRANCE RIDE OZ IN TOWNSVILLE

Members of the local community met Rob Eade at ANZAC Park in Townsville when he passed through on his Remembrance Ride Oz. The Rollingstone RSL Sub Branch member and his service dog are on a three-year trip around Australia on a motorised trike in memory of fallen soldiers. In Townsville, he placed a flag in memory of local soldier Raymond Bruce Weston, who died on July 20, 1971.

MATESHIP



BEAUDESERT HONOURS VIETNAM VETERANS

Beaunesert RSL Sub Branch held a Vietnam Veterans Day Service to honour veterans.



TIN CAN BAY ORGANISES VARIOUS EVENTS

Once a month, Tin Can Bay RSL Sub Branch organises a veterans' welfare and community morning tea, providing an opportunity to mingle with the local community and RSL members. June Lynch is pictured serving tea to veteran Bill. The Sub Branch also organised a special lunch for RSL war widows and a Vietnam Veterans Day recently.



BILOELA FLIES FLAGS FOR VETERANS

Flags were flying high at Biloela RSL Sub Branch Vietnam Veterans Day Service, with solid attendance from members, local Scouts and the public.





PROMOTION OF STATE COUNCIL OF AUXILIARIES

RSL State Council of Auxiliaries members visited the Pioneer-Fitzroy-Highlands RSL Districts of Mackay, Rockhampton and Central Queensland recently to encourage Sub Branches to form auxiliaries.



BEENLEIGH REMEMBERS VIETNAM VETERANS

Beenleigh RSL Sub Branch's Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Service was attended by members and guests, including Alan Hendy, left, David Draper, Clifford Hodgson, Douglas Sullivan, Darryl Devantier, Bert Cox, Padre Peter Palmer, John Walsh, Bert van Manen MP and Norman Davies.



JOHN BROOKES AWARDED LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Tamborine Mountain RSL Sub Branch presented Vietnam veteran John Brookes, left, with a Member for Life award at its recent mid-winter luncheon and thanked him for his service. It was the first award of its kind given in the Sub Branch's 70-year history. He is pictured with RSL State President Stewart Cameron. John has been President of the Sub Branch for 15 years and demonstrated commitment and dedication over and above what would normally be expected. He showed great compassion and humanity in his tireless efforts, always making time to visit ageing and ailing veterans and their widows in hospitals, care facilities and their homes.



TOOGOOM SALUTES PRESIDENT

Toogoom RSL Sub Branch saluted Ken 'Henry' Higgins, who is stepping down from his role as President. Ken lived in Toogoom for 15 years and, with the support of his wife Vicki and other Sub Branch members, helped establish the Vietnam War Era Memorial Compound. FCRC Mayor Chris Loft and Division 5 Cr. Rolf Light extended their appreciation, while State MP for Maryborough Bruce Saunders commended Ken for his achievements. Ken is pictured with late WWII veteran Viv Rumph in 2016.

STRONG CROWD FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

Esk RSL Sub Branch and the Sunshine Coast Vietnam Veterans Association organised a commemoration for Vietnam Veterans Day, which included a march of around 70 people, led by Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band. One hundred people attended the service, including special guests Somerset Regional Council Mayor Graeme Lehmann, Father Hegarty and Nanango MP Deb Frecklington.



DEDICATION OF MEMORABILIA CABINETS

Pictured at the dedication of new memorabilia display cabinets in Emerald Bowls Club is Pioneer-Fitzroy-Highlands District President Barry Vains, left, Emerald Bowls Club President Mick Fehlhaber and Emerald Sub Branch President Noel Mallyon. The cabinets were funded by the local community, with assistance from the District.



BANYO SUPPORTS LOCAL INVICTUS ATHLETE

Invictus Games athlete Jason McNulty, second from right, was presented with cheques from Military Brotherhood member Kirk Stiffel, left, Banyo RSL Citizens Auxiliary member Fay Coman and Banyo RSL Sub Branch member Mick Frawley. The funds will be used in his quest for medals in cycling and indoor rowing. Brisbane City Council also recently awarded Banyo RSL Sub Branch a four-year lease of the Nudgee School of Arts. The hall will be used for pensions and welfare work, as well as social activities for veterans and the local community. It will also be available for hire once renovations have been completed.



GOODNA RECOGNISES VIETNAM VETERANS

The Long Tan Cross of the Goodna RSL Sub Branch at the Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorative Service hosted by Goodna Services and Community Club.



WUZZY THANKED FOR SERVICE

Gympie RSL Sub Branch congratulated Greg (Wuzzy) Alford for 15 years of exemplary service to the Sub Branch, including preserving and cataloguing its memorabilia.



GATTON REMEMBERS

Gatton RSL Sub Branch's Vietnam Veterans Day Service saw a lower turnout than previous years. The Lockyer Valley Pipes and Drums played for the marching veterans, while cadets from 205 SQN AAFC provided the catafalque guard. Sub Branch members helped raise over \$1000 during this year's annual Legacy Badge Week.



HONEST AND HUMOROUS ACCOUNT OF AFGHAN WAR

Fred Smith, second from left, gave an honest, humorous, powerful and, at times, confronting insight into the realities of the war in Afghanistan during an evening hosted by Gayndah RSL Sub Branch on August 25. Fred is pictured with Sub Branch Secretary Susan Johnston, left, Greg Eisel and Sandy Moerland. Fred told stories of Australian, Dutch and American soldiers and Afghan nationals, which led into songs about his experiences performed with his band. Fred believes the stories are necessary to help people understand the war.



FOREST LAKE COMMEMORATES

Forest Lake RSL Sub Branch members and visiting VIPs attended a commemoration service and dinner for Vietnam Veterans Day on August 18. The Sub Branch also proudly showed off progress on the new office, which was officially dedicated at the September AGM.



WWII VETERANS GATHER IN KAWANA

Kawana Waters RSL Sub Branch member Phil Wilkins, back right, organised a lunch for six WWII veterans at Kawana Waters Surf Club recently. He is pictured with Keith Buchan, back left, John Blount, Adrian Nall, front left, Margaret Hadlow and John Colston. Phil contacted his Sub Branch to locate surviving veterans in the area, arranging the gathering both to relieve his boredom and because all WWII veterans will be gone in the next 10 years. He hopes to hold the event twice a month. To participate, contact Phil on 07 5493 7821 or philwilkins27@optusnet.com.au.
(Photo: Warren Lynam/News Corp)



SANDGATE MARKS VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Sandgate RSL Sub Branch marked Vietnam Veterans Day with a service and barbecue lunch. Wreaths were laid by ex-Army veteran Bruce Renton, Councillor for the Deagon Ward Jared Cassidy, Member for Sandgate Stirling Hinchliffe and Sandgate Sub Branch Citizens Auxiliary Annie Lawrie.



VETERANS DAY CELEBRATED AT KILCOY RACES

Kilcoy RSL Sub Branch honoured the sacrifice of servicemen and women at the annual Veterans Race Day at Kilcoy Race Club. Sub Branch members of all ages, from 95-year-old life member Ken Kuhn, left, to newest member Bill Law, assisted with the fundraising day. Ken is pictured with Rob and Val Conrad.



NUNDAH NORTHGATE COMMEMORATES MILNE BAY

Nundah Northgate RSL Sub Branch commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay in Nundah Memorial Park. Attendance was up this year, with RSL Queensland State President Stewart Cameron CSC, left, Brisbane North District President Vic Reading, centre, and Sub Branch President Jean Bromham among those paying their respects. A catafalque party was provided by 6 RAR, Army Museum Southern Queensland provided a guest speaker and Brisbane Citizens Concert Band played music.

GOLD COAST WAR MUSEUM

The Gold Coast War Museum houses a large and varied collection, representing every conflict and deployment made by Australians since 1788.

 Talan Miller

SINCE 1975, the Gold Coast War Museum has housed one of the largest and most diverse collections of military equipment and historical artefacts in Australia. Every conflict and deployment made by Australian forces since 1788 has its own dedicated display. The Australian Army, Navy, Air Force and all corps within the Army are diligently and faithfully represented with uniforms, equipment, weapons and memorabilia brought back by service personnel.

The displays are also very warm, personal and up-close, as opposed to the minimalist and clinical approaches of many larger museums. Displays of military vehicles and larger field weapons are regularly rotated and updated by dedicated curator Bob Meehan OAM. Bob is a veteran himself (4 RAR Vietnam) and the author of five military-inspired books.

It's an extensive and truly amazing display of artefacts, including personal weapons, tanks, jeeps, field artillery and even aircraft.

A popular recent showcase on Australia's Indigenous servicemen and women, including the Norforce and Pilbara Regiments, is also worth reviewing.



Larger-scale displays include an impressive full-size diorama of a WWI trench, including Diggers, weapons, personal effects and equipment, as well as of the Gallipoli campaign. An interactive diorama of the Battle of Long Tan and a Viet Cong tunnel system also invite visitors to engage with history at the push of a button.

The museum is visited by large numbers of schools, social groups and by military enthusiasts from Australia



ABOVE: The hangar attached to the museum features additional displays and aircraft.

ABOVE RIGHT: WW1 Flying Corps uniforms and artifacts.

and overseas. Hands-on items, such as weapons and equipment, are provided to such groups on request by qualified and licensed staff in attendance.

The many volunteer curators and guides are returned servicemen, who carry a great deal of knowledge about their own fields and deployments, which they willingly share with school students and visitors.

Learn more about the museum at www.goldcoastwarmuseum.com.au. ←



LONG-TIME SUPPORT PAYS OFF FOR THE WINNER OF OUR \$2 MILLION CHOICE

A lucky VIP supporter from Canton Beach, NSW, received a life-changing phone call on the morning of August 30, with the news that she is now \$2 million richer! Julie Rollason* now has the enviable choice between a stunning beachside apartment in Bondi Beach, or a luxury three-bedroom townhouse in Byron Bay.

After her initial shock, exclaiming, "I beg your pardon... this is a joke call isn't

"CURRENTLY LIVING IN RENTAL ACCOMMODATION, JULIE NOW HAS THE OPTION TO MOVE IN TO HER OWN HOME, FREE OF FINANCIAL WORRIES."

it?" Julie is now letting the news sink in, telling us she needs to call her sister to share the news.

The win has come at the perfect time for Julie, after a tough start to the year. With her daughter living in Queensland, she is now weighing up the

option of moving to Byron to be closer to her. If she takes this option she will receive \$235,000 in gold bullion PLUS a further \$40,000 as a book buyer's prize for her \$20 purchase. Currently living in rental accommodation, Julie now has the option to

move in to her own home, free of financial worries. Of course, with such a big decision to make, Julie can take her time deciding and use her \$2000 travel voucher to visit both properties first.

Congratulations to Julie and all the winners of Draw 348. From all of us here at RSL Art Union, thank you for your support.

**Name changed for privacy reasons.*



DRAW
351

OPENS 1ST NOVEMBER 2017.
CLOSES 19TH DECEMBER 2017. DRAWN 22ND DECEMBER 2017.

RSL Art Union No. 351 Licence No. 29819 (by permission of the Queensland Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation). ACT Permit No. R17/00142. VIC Permit No. 10698/17. NSW Permit No. GOCAU/1947. TAS Permit 10am (AEST) 22/12/17 at ANZAC HOUSE, 283 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006. Prizes drawn in order (e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd). The total number of tickets available for AU 351 is 2,300,000. Promoter: Winners notified by Registered Mail. Results published in public notices of 'The Courier Mail' and 'The Australian' 28/12/17. Entrants must be 18 years or over to enter. Full terms and conditions are available at



Win this entire APARTMENT COMPLEX

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PENTHOUSE WITH OCEAN VIEWS!

IMAGINE NEVER HAVING TO WORK
AGAIN. **\$209,560 P.A. ESTIMATED
RENTAL INCOME.**

\$4.1 MILLION
FIRST PRIZE

TICKETS
ONLY
\$10

This Golden Treasure – RSL's biggest prize of the year – offers you the chance to win an entire apartment complex just steps from Queensland's iconic Palm Beach on the Gold Coast. This brand new, RSL-built complex, features five apartments, including a two storey penthouse!

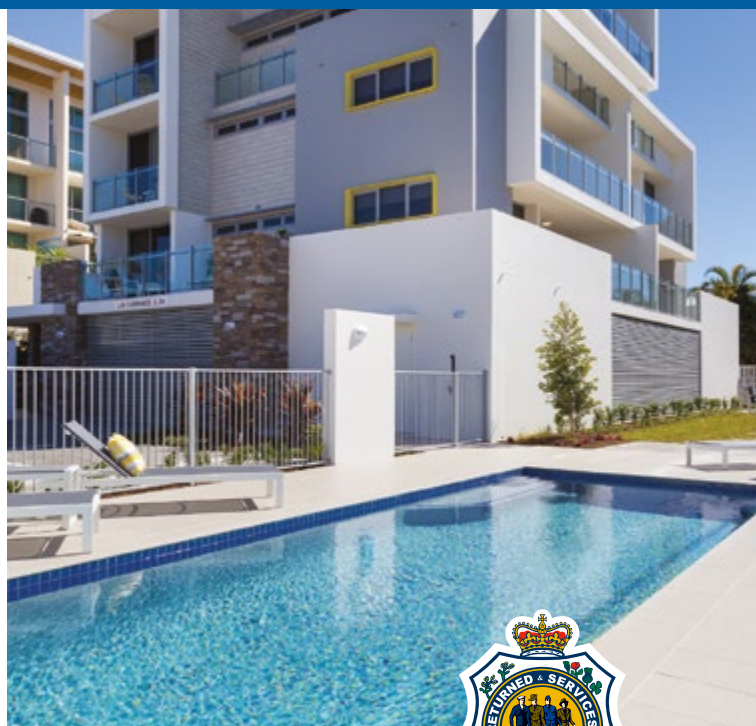
Imagine jumping straight to the top of the property ladder and owning not one, but five homes. You could set yourself up for life and earn an estimated rental income of over \$209,500 a year without having to work a day again! The choice is all yours whether you rent or sell the apartments, or live the life of luxury in your own penthouse.

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Come and visit the team and see what you could win. Display open 1st November – 19th December from 9am – 5pm (AEST), **seven days a week.**

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SECURE YOUR TICKETS EARLY SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT!
RSLartunion.com.au or 1300 775 888

Facing the physical symptoms of PTSD



 Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation



Irritable bowel syndrome, or IBS, can be a debilitating condition. It can affect how you feel, what you eat, and how you socialise and work.

RESEARCH published earlier this year in the *Medical Journal of Australia* by the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF), in partnership with RSL Queensland, found that participants with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) had a two to three times greater risk of suffering from gastrointestinal problems like IBS and its associated symptoms of constipation and diarrhoea, as well as other gastrointestinal problems such as stomach ulcers and reflux. We talk to two people with an interest in managing this condition.



DARLENE BROWN

Darlene Brown joined the navy in 1999 in the area of communications. In 2001, Darlene experienced depressive and adjustment disorder symptoms and was discharged in 2005.

“I had my breakdown in August 2003, and in the December started having problems. Until then I had always been regular, but I started getting cramps and bad wind and then I would purge everything. I had never experienced soft stools to this

DR INGRID HICKMAN

Dr Ingrid Hickman is a Principal Research Fellow and Director of Research with the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and the Mater Research Institute-UQ in Brisbane.

“The gastrointestinal symptoms commonly experienced with a PTSD diagnosis are generally associated with the autonomic nervous system in the regulation of a stress response or the flight/fight/freeze response. When this happens, the nervous system takes over our physical body and people can experience these gastrointestinal symptoms, irrespective of what they have eaten. It does not discriminate between ‘good’ and ‘bad’ diets. There is unlikely to be any particular food that you can include or exclude from your diet that will impact on acute bouts of gastro symptoms associated with this nervous system response.

“However, for long-term health, with a particular focus on gut health, it is important to include fresh fruit and vegetables daily and avoid processed foods and sugar-sweetened drinks. The use of probiotics, either as a drink or tablet, or fermented drinks, such as kombucha, can help to restore good gut bacteria after bouts of diarrhoea or constipation, but are also good to consume as part of a balanced diet. Adequate fluid intake is important for physical and mental health, and regular water as your drink of choice is recommended.

“Trauma processes may be stored in the body, and sometimes the gastrointestinal symptoms may be an early indicator of mental stress. Investigating mind-body approaches to eating, whereby you increase your mindfulness around how, when and why you eat, and the impact of other aspects of eating, such as unity, social connectedness and timing, may help you identify dietary triggers of these symptoms.”



extent and for so long. I was anxious and upset as this had never happened to me before. I saw a dietitian and had an endoscopy and colonoscopy, and was eventually diagnosed with IBS.

“When I was working on base, I didn’t make it to the toilet and had an accident in my white shorts, which was so embarrassing. After this, I always worried about what I was eating and where the closest toilet was. Within a half-hour of getting stressed I would be on the toilet purging. I remember the first time I went to Mates4Mates I purged four times before I went, and that was just one morning. It was horrendous, but now it’s a lot better. I have to change my diet from time to time as I am intolerant to certain foods. I keep an eye on it and have maintenance (colonoscopies) every five years.

“That’s why I value the research being done at GMRF. Research combined with increased awareness means GPs and other healthcare professionals are more likely to consider the physical symptoms of PTSD and treat it early. Also, my IBS symptoms are more likely to be recognised as a symptom of my PTSD diagnosis. There were times when I wanted to give up – it didn’t matter what I did, it didn’t last or it didn’t work, but now I’m getting the right treatment and drinking and eating the right things to fuel my body. The progress I’ve made makes me appreciate how far I’ve come.”

“THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I WANTED TO GIVE UP – IT DIDN’T MATTER WHAT I DID, IT DIDN’T LAST OR IT DIDN’T WORK, BUT NOW I’M GETTING THE RIGHT TREATMENT AND DRINKING AND EATING THE RIGHT THINGS TO FUEL MY BODY.”

Long considered a solely psychological condition, research conducted by GMRF’s PTSD Initiative found that PTSD contributed to long-term poor physical health outcomes for sufferers, including heart, liver and sleep issues. For more information visit www.gallipoliresearch.com.au/Site/VETERANS.





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NOVEMBER
2017

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- Free parking right next to the event

Five
or 10km
run or walk



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enjoy 10%
off the race
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Get involved and support
research into veteran mental
health and liver cancer
treatment by Red Run charity
partner the Gallipoli Medical
Research Foundation.

MILITARY
EQUIPMENT ON
DISPLAY



See the 7th Brigade Band
and the 2nd and 14th
Light Horsemen



One of the most decorated soldiers in Australian history, Keith Payne, VC, AM will lead the ode during the pre-race service. Payne was awarded the VC for his actions during the Vietnam War and is the last Australian recipient of the "Imperial" Victoria Cross.

"I am delighted to be involved in the Red Run 2017, an event that seeks to honour the spirit and sacrifice of the brave men and women who have served this country. The Red Run will bring the local community together, not just to remember a proud legacy, but to actively better the lives of our veterans and their families. I commend the Red Run fundraisers for going above and beyond to raise vital funds for GMRF's veteran mental health and liver cancer research."
– Keith Payne, VC, AM

Receive a
commemorative 'dog
tag' and poppies
to place on the
Remembrance Wall.



Reflect at the pre-race service,
including the Last Post,
Reveille and a minute silence.



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PTS17 FOCUSES ON TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Special Operations Commander Major General Adam Findlay gave a presentation about leading cultural change to improve mental fitness in the Australian Defence Force; Wrapping up the PTS17 Forum were Andrew Khoo (Toowong Private Hospital), Dr Walter Busuttil MBChB MPhil MRCPG FRCPsych (Combat Stress), Dr Robert Ursano (Uniformed Services University School of Medicine), Colonel Clare Bennett (New Zealand Defence Force), Scientia Professor Richard Bryant AC (University of New South Wales) and Dr Madeline Romaniuk (Gallipoli Medical Research Institute); RSL Queensland State President Stewart Cameron CSC and Jason Nelson, a Navy veteran and PTSD survivor from Perth who calls himself The Kilted Rogue Runner, at the PTS17 International Forum at Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on September 8-9; PTS17 Forum founder Tony Dell with Senior Sergeant Daryl Green from the Queensland Police Service, who gave his personal story of resilience at the PTS17 Forum.



THE PTS17 International Forum in September was a tremendous success, focusing on the themes of transition and recovery and drawing together specialists involved in researching, diagnosing and treating all aspects of post-traumatic stress. RSL Queensland was the patron partner for the event, which was attended by health practitioners, Defence personnel, ex-service organisations and first responder groups.

RSL Queensland State President Stewart Cameron CSC

spoke alongside others, including Professor David Forbes from Phoenix Australia – Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health. Professor Forbes discussed what is needed to improve mental health outcomes for military and veteran personnel and first responders.

Professor Bruce Lawford, Dr Divya Mehta and Dr Joanne Voisey presented on a world-first study that could help explain why some people develop PTSD after exposure to trauma while others do not. The research, conducted by

QUT in collaboration with the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF) and funded by RSL Queensland, identified biomarkers that contribute to a predisposition to PTSD and can be passed down to future generations.

The study involved a cohort of 96 Australian Vietnam veterans and 115 civilians exposed to urban violence from Atlanta, USA.

Other speakers were Dr Walter Busuttil from Combat Stress, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Hon Dan Tehan MP

and Director of the Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies Professor Sandy McFarlane.

The RSL Queensland Gala Dinner was littered with sports stars, including former test captains Ian Chappell, Greg Chappell, Nick Farr-Jones and Andrew Slack, Olympic champion Libby Trickett and current Australian cricket champions. It was also attended by Special Operations Commander Major General Adam Findlay and Commander Joint Health Air Vice Marshal Tracy Smart. ←



WAR FLOWER

From a Swinging Sixties Sydney to the killing fields of Vietnam, an epic story of love, war and forgiveness.

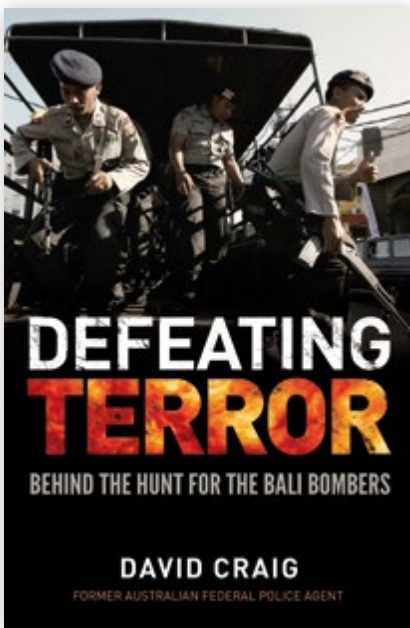
The 1960s are beating a fresh pulse of political and cultural upheaval through Sydney, but the sheltered life of awkward convent schoolgirl Poppy Flannery makes such changes redundant for her. That doesn't stop her from longing to join in, however, especially if that means spending time with the popular boy she secretly loves, Ben Williamson. So, when the opportunity for a dream escape to Surfers Paradise arrives, Poppy and her twin sister Rosemary seize it, and find themselves in the midst of the Swinging Sixties at last.

Rosemary embraces their secret new life with a vengeance, discovering drugs, boys and radical politics in a haze of parties, music festivals and protest marches. But such freedom is stolen when Rosemary's great love Angus, along with Ben, are sent to Vietnam.

Soon, a war fought thousands of kilometres away, will arrive on the twins' door in the form of orphaned refugee, Thuy. As many more victims begin to appear, including shattered versions of Australian soldiers, they must decide how far they will go for the men they adore, and ask themselves whether love really is all that you need.

War Flower by Mary-Anne O'Connor is published by Harlequin (RRP: \$32.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *War Flower*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'War Flower') or post to 'War Flower', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Competition closes November 27, 2017.



DEFEATING TERROR

Terrorism. Counter-terrorism. Radicalisation. What really happens behind the headlines?

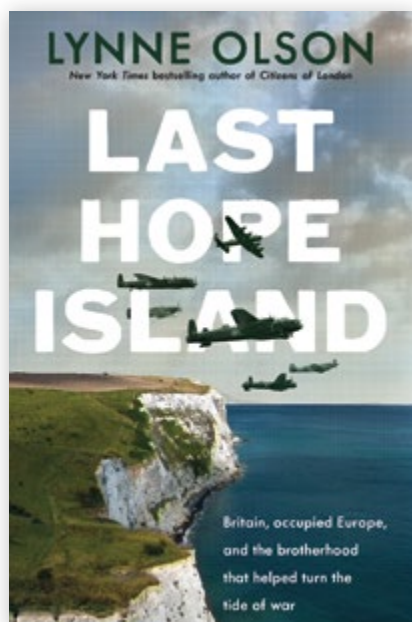
In 2002, Australia was rocked by the terrorist bombings in Bali that killed 202 people, including 88 Australians. Then, only three years later, another bombing in Bali claimed the lives of a further 20 people and injured 100 others. Who was behind the bombings, and how could they be stopped? In *Defeating Terror*, former Australian Federal Police agent David Craig draws on his first-hand involvement to tell the true story of the hunt for the Bali bombers.

Craig takes us behind the frontline fight, exposing the strengths, fears and vulnerabilities of both sides as they painstakingly piece together the backgrounds of the terrorists, their radicalisation, bomb-making abilities and methods of evasion.

Defeating Terror is a fast-paced and riveting account of the hunt for the masterminds behind the Bali bombings, and finally puts together the whole story.

Defeating Terror by David Craig is published by Hardie Grant Books (RRP: \$29.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Defeating Terror*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'Defeating Terror') or post to 'Defeating Terror', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Competition closes November 27, 2017.



LAST HOPE ISLAND

When the Nazi blitzkrieg rolled over continental Europe in the early days of WWII, the city of London became a refuge for the governments and armed forces of six occupied nations – Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Norway, Czechoslovakia and Poland – who escaped there to continue the fight. So, too, did General Charles de Gaulle, the self-appointed representative of free France. As the only European democracy still holding out against Hitler, Britain became known to occupied countries as ‘Last Hope Island’.

In this epic, character-driven narrative, acclaimed historian and *New York Times*–bestselling author Lynne Olson takes us back to those perilous days when the British and their European guests joined forces to combat the mightiest military force in history and restore order to a broken continent.

Last Hope Island by Lynne Olson is published by Scribe Publications (RRP: \$49.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of three copies of *Last Hope Island*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject ‘Last Hope Island’) or post to ‘Last Hope Island’, PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Competition closes November 27, 2017.



QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS WINNERS

Edition 4, 2017

GUERILLA AND COUNTER-GUERILLA

I Duda, Cairns

S Bradshaw, Tugun

J Schrader, Ningi

S Clarke, HMAS Cerberus

MARRIED QUARTER

S MacFarlane, Carrara

P Wildermuth, Hendra

M Sutton, Banyo

J Peterson, Birkendale

THE MAN INSIDE

B Rogers, Aspley

B Willett, Bray Park

V Atley, Forest Lake

E Casey, Zillmere

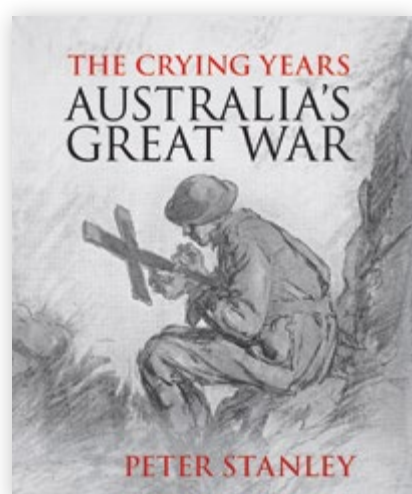
WATCH OVER ME

J Madsen, Ravenshoe

W Hodgetts, Deception Bay

F Pill, Wynnum

E Taylor, Barga



THE CRYING YEARS

The Great War of 1914-18 affected all Australians and decisively changed the new nation. They were the “Crying Years” according to writer Zora Cross, who lost her brother in 1917.

In the new book *The Crying Years: Australia's Great War*, award-winning historian Peter Stanley has compiled a unique visual history of the era, which weaves a compelling narrative around many striking, never-before-seen images.

Using documents, photographs, artefacts and images from the National Library's collection, Stanley connects the war overseas – the well-chronicled battles at Gallipoli, Fromelles, Passchendaele and Villers-Bretonneux – with the equally bitter war at home, for and against conscription, over ‘loyalty’ and ‘disloyalty’.

The Crying Years by Peter Stanley is published by NLA Publishing (RRP: \$44.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *The Crying Years*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject ‘The Crying Years’) or post to ‘The Crying Years’, PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Competition closes November 27, 2017.

COMMUNITY CONNECT

BEERSHEBA CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

On October 31, 1917, after riding through the desert for two days, the 4th and 12th Regiments of the Australian Light Horse were given the order to capture the wells at Beersheba. Their bold charge across five kilometres of open landscape against Turkish cannon and machine guns is remembered 100 years later as the last great cavalry charge. To commemorate the centenary of Beersheba, 2/14 Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) will lead a Freedom of Entry to the City of Brisbane March on the morning of October 28. This will be followed by a Family Fun Day hosted by RSL (Queensland Branch).

EXHIBITION COMMEMORATES BEERSHEBA

The Army Museum South Queensland at Victoria Barracks in Brisbane has opened a new exhibition that will run until December 2017. Highlighting the Australian Light Horse in WWI, the displays will also commemorate the 100th anniversary of the charge at Beersheba. A visit to the exhibition is by escorted tour. Each tour (Wednesdays only) of the historical Victoria Barracks precinct on Petrie Terrace includes a formal Devonshire tea served in the original officers' mess, a presentation, a souvenir booklet and group photo. Bookings can be made on the new website www.armymuseumsouthqueensland.com.au or by contacting Bev Smith via bsmithys@bigpond.net.au or 0429 954 663, or WO2 Stan Albert via stan.albert@defence.gov.au or 07 3233 4531.

ARMY MUSEUM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Army Museum South Queensland is seeking volunteers for the Barracks on Wednesdays. Various roles are available, depending on individual interests and capabilities. Tour guides are especially required, to assist with visitor information in a clear and confident manner. People with cataloguing and conservation experience are also needed. A background of Australian military procedures is an advantage, but not essential. All ages are welcome and training is provided. For more information visit www.armymuseumsouthqueensland.com.au or contact WO Stan Albert via stan.albert@defence.gov.au or 07 3233 4531, or Bev Smith via bsmithys@bigpond.net.au or 0429 954 663.

SUBMISSIONS WANTED FROM ADF WOMEN

Submissions are being sought from current or ex-serving women in the Australian Defence Forces from the 1970s onwards, in the following formats: Short stories, essays, poetry, diary entry/entries, emails or letters, artwork (paintings, drawings, sketches, illustration) with a short caption (up to 100 words) and photographs with a short caption (up to 100 words). The submissions are for a project called *Our Spirit* – an anthology telling the stories of recent and current service women. The content will focus on the positive, negative, mundane, tragic, humorous, unique and unusual aspects of life as a woman in the ADF. To find out more, including submission guidelines, contact ourspiritcollection@hotmail.com or visit www.ourspiritcollection.weebly.com. The project is a collaboration of Melanie Hill (nee Bird) and Jennifer Crane (nee Childs). Melanie was in the RAAF for 18 years and is a published author and poet, while Jennifer was in the army and is also a published author.

CALOUNDRA RSL MILITARY DISPLAY

Caloundra RSL Sub Branch Military Display continues to grow, with recent extensions allowing the collection to be seen after hours. It includes an extensive library with DVDs and thousands of books. The display first opened in 2010 and is manned by Sub Branch volunteers. It is open from 10am to 2pm Tuesday to Thursday, and entry is free. Guided tours are available after hours for schools, Scouts and ESOs. For enquiries or to book a tour, email billb@caloundrarsl.com.au or markg@caloundrarsl.com.au.

LOOKING FOR RAAF MEMBERS AT BUTTERWORTH

A Vietnam veteran is searching for anyone posted to RAAF base Butterworth between 1968 and 1969 who was a member of the burial party for British casualties. During the Vietnam War, British citizens who wanted to fight in Vietnam joined the ADF. Some of these veterans were killed during their service and sent to Butterworth for cremation on the Isle of Penang. Pat Bulbrook was OIC of the burial party during this time. If you were also posted to this base and can help Pat with a DVA matter, please contact him via aumax@tmtech.com.au, 0416 099 417 or 7 Gilford Crescent, Albany Creek, Qld, 4035.

DONATION OF MESS HALL ITEMS

Do you have any military mess hall items you wish to donate for a display at The Gap Sub Branch on 'A day in the life of a service person'? Organised by Sub Branch member Tony Everett, the display will begin with breakfast and include porcelain egg cups, such as the one pictured, and crockery used in various messes. Contact Tony on 0416 066 508 or 07 3300 2947.



MEDALS FOUND

- WWI medal of Private Edwin Clarence Diener, 14/BN AIF, service number 976. Contact CPL Scott McKenzie on 07 5361 5258 or scott.mckenzie4@defence.gov.au.
- WWII medal of Private Joseph Patrick Eustace, ASM 1939/45 QX48246 (Q146216). Contact Denis Hare on dhare@au104.org or 0419 334 535.
- WWII medal of Private William Norman Solway, ASM 1939/45 QX8172. Contact Denis Hare on dhare@au104.org or 0419 334 535.
- Medals of 3794569 PTE Gary Wayne Woodroff, 5 RAR, B Coy, 4 Pl from Aug 21 1969 to Mar 10 1970. Contact 0438 628 863 or nathanvb1969@bigpond.com.

MEDALS LOST

WWI medal of John William Laycock lost in 2015 ANZAC Day march, likely around Herschel or Quay Streets. King George 5th medal, serial number 2416, very tarnished. Contact conniebattley@yahoo.com.au or 0410 964 280.

RAASC VIETNAM SUPPLY PLATOONS ASSOCIATION REUNION

Attention Galloping Green Grocers, aka RAASC-RAAOC food stuffs platoon members. The next RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association Reunion is in Hobart this year to coincide with Armistice Day. Dates are November 6-9, 2017. Come along and connect with old mates. Even stay a while in the Apple Isle. For more details, phone Christina on 0430 125 195, write to PO Box 207, Mitchell, ACT, 2911, email bamberb01@bigpond.com or visit www.raascsupply.asn.au. No phone calls after 8pm, thanks.

27 INTAKE RAAF APPRENTICES

A 45th anniversary reunion of the 27 Intake RAAF Apprentices will be held on the Gold Coast in 2018, and the organiser is seeking all original members of the intake, which formed in Wagga Wagga in January 1973. Contact Martin 'Dutchy' Holland on 07 5522 2255.

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY REUNION BATTLES OF CORAL AND BALMORAL

The next 'Red Rat' reunion of the 1st Australian Task Force South Vietnam 1966-72 will be held on Phillip Island from November 15-19, 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the battles of Coral/Balmoral. It will take place at the BIG 4 Phillip Island Caravan Park at 24 Old Bridge Drive, Newhaven, Victoria. For more information on the reunion, phone John Verhelst on 0437 212 121 or Bob Sutton on 0400 825 386. For caravan park bookings, phone 03 5956 7227, email info@phillipislandcpk.com.au or visit www.phillipislandcpk.com.au.

WWII VETERANS REUNION

WWII veterans are invited to gather at Kawana Surf Club twice a month for an afternoon tea. For information about the next meeting contact Phil Wilkins on 07 5493 7821 or philwilkins27@optusnet.com.au.

NEW EVENTS WEBPAGE COMING SOON!



Do you have a reunion or important
Sub Branch event you would like on our
new RSL Queensland events webpage?

Let us help you promote it.
Email events@rslqld.org
with the details.

rslqld.org



Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Aked	Geoffrey	NX113715 (N22143)	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Albress	John	129907	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Allard*	Richard	NZ660581	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Andrews	Dennis	1892914	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Arch	Maurice	43350	Springwood Tri-Service Sub Branch Inc.
Ash	Raymond	1709715	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Baer	Walter	164270	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Bates	Edward	1739670	Woodgate Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Bath	Doreen	36665	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Batterby	James	QX55862	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Baulch	Edward	35578	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Baxter	John	133168	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.
Beard	George	-	Edmonton Sub Branch Inc.
Bell	Thomas	171621	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Bennett	Peter	035077	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Benson	Bruce	1203606	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Bevan	William	23323517	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Beverley	John	NX168260	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Billingham	Hazel	100998	Edge Hill/Cairns West Sub Branch Inc.
Blackwood	Robert	2/741819	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
Boneham	Bruce	4571	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Booth	Edgar	42946	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Boxall	George	1/21885	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Braby	Una	NF443207	Clayfield-Toombul Sub Branch
Branchett	James	VX35325	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Brierley	Norman	QX57492 (Q111987)	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Brown	Raymond	1708160	Djuan & District Sub Branch Inc.
Brown	Graham	A13999	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Bruce	Ian	18940	Ayr Sub Branch
Brunckhorst	Graham	A11871	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Buck	Maurice	QX13937	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Burchett	Richard	856308	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Burkin	Frank	82900	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Burton	Ronald	14683942	Goodna Sub Branch Inc.
Calder	Dorothea	F265235	Samford Sub Branch Inc.
Carberry	Hilda	-	Defence Service Nurses Sub Branch
Clarke	Clive	213426	Cooktown Sub Branch Inc.
Claydon	Gary	2/774620	Deception Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Cleighton-Hills	Glenn	3517241	Deception Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Coleman	Benjamin	NX179579	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Coles*	David	770779	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Cooper	John	215033	Gladstone Sub Branch Inc.
Cope	Ronald	22725945	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Costello	Bryan	NX92695	Innisfail Sub Branch Inc.
Cramp	Carmille	50324	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Crawford	Robert	QX23478	Atherton Sub Branch Inc.
Crole	Lawrence	A6285	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Cunningham	Lewis	A47189	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Cutts	Ronald	A57490	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
Dahl	James	8158038 / R107534	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Davidson	Rita	NF479269	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
De Bortoli	Valentino	1/712256	Texas Chapter of the Stanthorpe Sub Branch
Denton	David	14138566	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Dioth	William	138101	Djuan & District Sub Branch Inc.
Dobbs	Graham	335657	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Druery	Desmond	14196	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Edwards	Ronald	2/771511	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Ellem	Edwin	42707	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Enright	Denis	2784753	Manly-Lota Sub Branch Inc.
Evans	Evan	2/410689	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Fazldeen	Allan	QX21959	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Featherstone	Douglas	A38204	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Fleming	Elaine	F5/389	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Flynn	Robert	VX116352	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Fogarty	Emmet	Q138641	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Foster	Murty	36658	Lowood Sub Branch Inc.
Fowler	Leonard	QX49354	Kawana Waters Sub Branch Inc.
Frahm	Wallace	QX47058	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Fraser	Alexander	VX98321	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Frith	Errol	78712	Rosedale Chapter of Wide Bay & Burnett District
Fuller	Lorraine	W198131	Kawana Waters Sub Branch Inc.
Gallagher*	John	165985	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Gaylard	Arthur	QX58188	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Gerekink	Herman	R104129	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Gibbons	Walter	QX742	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Gibbs	Maurice	QX53739	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Gilbert	Alan	R58140	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Gilbertson	Keith	PA4814	Warwick Sub Branch Inc.
Goss*	John	1411274	Wallangarra Sub Branch Inc.
Grady	Brian	1/717956	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Graves	John	QX39423	Esk Sub Branch Inc.
Green	Roy	32570	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Green	Leslie	2/755656	Harlaxton Sub Branch
Green*	Robert	-	Babinda Sub Branch
Greenslade	Keith	435120	Sunnybank Sub Branch Inc.
Groessler	William	551402	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Gunn	Michael	B3919	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Hamilton	John	23230999	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Hamilton*	Murray	NZ11093	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Hanley	Robert	SX37277	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Hansen	Clifford	150609	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Harris	Graeme	282327	Thuringowa Sub Branch Inc.
Hay	Charles	TX15822	Logan & District Sub Branch Inc.
Heath	Brian	4410748	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Heron	Albert	PM1809	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Hill	Alexander	150536	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Hobbs	Francis	QX61023	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Hodge	Ray	150552	Wondai Sub Branch Inc.
Holland*	Mervyn	1/3393	Nanango Sub Branch Inc.
Holmes	Russell	6955	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Hore	Peter	926887	Cooktown Sub Branch Inc.
Isaacs	Donald	25665	Cunnamulla Sub Branch
James	Brian	NX176670	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Jeffery*	Frederick	QX4945	Herbert River Sub Branch Inc.
Jeffrey	Glenice	W19642	Isis Sub Branch Inc.
Jensen	John	A1681	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Johns	Alan	26633	Gatton Sub Branch Inc.
Johnston	Bruce	1/701526	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Jones	Keith	77431	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Kelly	William	146015	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Kendall	Edward	439153	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Kermode	Alfred	-	Manly-Lota Sub Branch Inc.
Kerslake	William	N105463 / NX10923	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
King	Peter	173548	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Kyle	George	402035	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Lane	Bernard	021482	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Leplaw	Norman	NX179469	Nambour Sub Branch Inc.
Lindley	Norman	-	Palmwoods & District Sub Branch
Little	Maurice	B4209	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Logan	Graham	1/71214113	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Love	Monica	F11596	North Gold Coast Sub Branch Inc.
Magee	Kenneth	QX64111	Bayside South Sub Branch Inc.
Marum	Thomas	3/779697	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Mathers	Thomas	MERCHANT NAVY	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
McArthur	Martha	QF269383	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
McColm	John	R58167	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
McCosker	Philip	A118448	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
McDonald*	Eric	14580	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
McDonnell*	Noel	Q113693	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
McDowell	Mervyn	QX60544	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
McEwan	Alfred	NX114705 (N224035)	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Mckay	Ian	19132448	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
McKeown	John	14452503	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
McLean	Alfred	R46556	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Mcleary	John	Q268203	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
McMurrich	Ray	3788274	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Mead	Ronald	22203973	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Messer	Dudley	QX54101	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Meyer	Patricia	QF271030	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Millard	Mavis	QF143310	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Missen	Clive	2/86477	Tin Can Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Moller	Gunnar	1217	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Montgomery	John	171824	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Morcom	Douglas	PM6587	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Morgan	James	37806	Caboolture-Morayfield & Dist Sub Branch Inc.
Morgan	George	A22241	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Morris	Francis	R522221	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Morton	Keith	A29809	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Musson	William	R62143	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Neal	Doreen	VF508827	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Newland	Norman	5/735	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Newman	John	NZ13386	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Nunn	Edwin	435265	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Olejniczak	Victor	39611	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
O'Rourke	Eugene	NX151090 (N243613)	Edge Hill/Cairns West Sub Branch Inc.
Pascoe	Raymond	B4924	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Paul*	Ian	3797521	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Payne	Herbert	QX40382 (Q124782)	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Pearcey	Ivan	89124	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Pearson	Douglas	N480832	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Peel*	John	14183997	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Pigdon	Donald	3/719603	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
Pollard	James	10594938	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Posthuma	Drew	539717	Bray Park-Strathpine Sub Branch Inc.
Powell	Sidney	1/59524	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Rae	Alan	1/21620	Sandgate Sub Branch Inc.
Randall	George	R48023	Nerang Sub Branch
Ratajczek	Oliver	3796781	Mudgeeraba-Robina Sub Branch Inc.
Rawnsley	Alfred	QX3690	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Ridings*	Leonard	Q268886	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Roberts	John	PM5593	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Robins	Anthony	21060277	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Robinson	Robert	1/704103	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.
Rodgers	Robert	O19122	Springwood Tri-Service Sub Branch Inc.
Roper	Kim	108412	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Rosengreen	Michael	R55263	Highfields Sub Branch Inc.
Rowe*	Thomas	QX28074	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Rumble	Willa	W22362	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Russell	Howard	R52639	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Sanderson	William	QX53783 (Q102726)	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Saville*	Ian	2784971	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Schonknecht	Mervyn	QX500555	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Scouller	Iris	101709	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Secrett	Robert	7121	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Sheridan	Thomas	22387	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Simpson	John	NX104714 (N169468)	Beautesert Sub Branch Inc.
Singleton	Ronald	78236	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Neville	215914	Bayside South Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Louis	NX111379	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Stuart	QX30055	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Kerry	3/3614	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	William	VX118016	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Sokoll	Merv	163115	Wondai Sub Branch Inc.
Spreadborough	John	QX50526	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Stenning	Clifton	VX110933	Caboolture-Morayfield & Dist Sub Branch Inc.
Stephens	Col	24979	Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch Inc.
Stockwell	John	682021	Tamborine Mountain Sub Branch Inc.
Stone	Francis	15790	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Strenzel	Lester	1703146	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Sykes	Michael	054880	Boonah Sub Branch
Thomas	Alfred	VX83099 (V206114)	Mitchell Sub Branch
Thomas	Graham	A218052	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Trott	Burnett	QX38747 (Q137144)	Mundubbera Sub Branch Inc.
Turner	Howard	R111418	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Underwood	Richard	VX12951	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Valentine	Brian	2/736322	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Valentine*	Vanda	93816	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Veltheim	Kenneth	1734794	Beautesert Sub Branch Inc.
Venaglia	Bernard	17734	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Vincent	Philip	2275269	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Walker	Marolyn	W128222	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Wallin	Keith	435892	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
Walters	Maxwell	A24284	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Watson	Albert	H2238	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Wendelin	Ronald	QX501114	Toowoomba United Sub Branch Inc.
Wenke	Roy	VX118385	Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch Inc.
Weston	Dudley	QX57830/ Q267083	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Westwood	Jeffrey	24104079	Redbank Plains Sub Branch
Wheat	Norman	3/781243	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Whitby	Francis	23707200	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
White	Stanley	11620A24711	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
White	Raymond	R28726	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Whittaker AM	Paul	94759 (8047612)	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Williamson	James	A19721	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Willison	Gregory	A323624	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Wines	Ronald	LTKX154639	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Woodham	Barry	R37830	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Woodman	Lloyd	29319	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Woodward	John	17783	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Woollard	Herbert	NX124688	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Wyvill	Noel	16234	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Yates	Edward	A100796	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Yeatman	Beryl	1174	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Young	Ronald	22448588	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Young	Donald	453116	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Young	William	37342	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Younger	Charles	405706	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2017

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Thank you to our volunteers
for their tireless support

rslqld.org



RETURNED & SERVICES
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND BRANCH