

QUEENSLAND

RSL NEWS

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, ALWAYS.

A new look for
RSL Queensland

IN IT TOGETHER

NORMIE ROWE OPENS
UP ABOUT SERVICE,
STARDOM AND
OVERCOMING
PTSD



BUILDING PURPOSE

Sunnybank
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men talking



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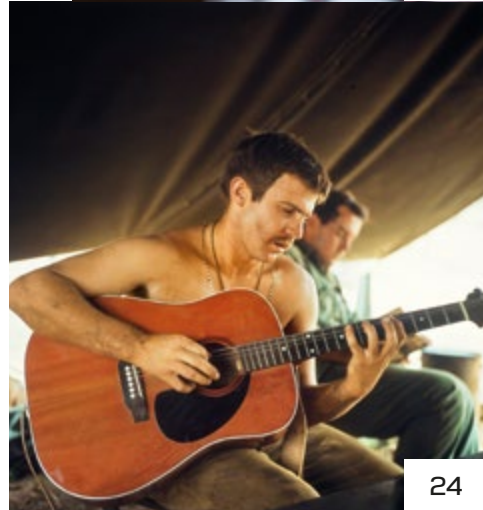
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Front Cover



COVER IMAGE:
RSL Queensland's new identity was unveiled in mid-March, with an exciting new campaign – Shoulder to Shoulder, Always.

THANKS FOR YOUR INPUT INTO OUR CONSTITUTION

Fellow members and friends,

By the time you read this column, the Constitution Working Party will have wrapped up its work and the final draft of the revised document will be public. I urge you to visit rslqld.org/constitution and take a look. You can also turn to page 22 to read some Q&As that outline the main changes and help explain why we need a new Constitution.

Once you've had a chance to read through and understand the new document, the next step will be to vote on it at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June. This will be your chance to decide whether it is the Constitution you want for our future.

I've been pleased with the level of engagement in this process from our members over the past eight months or so. Many of you provided feedback and the final document reflects your significant input.

DISTRICT AGMS ALMOST DONE

By the time you read this edition of *Queensland RSL News*, most District AGMs will also have been held. I attempted to attend as many of these meetings around the state as possible.

It's a great chance to learn about some of the interesting projects our Districts are undertaking. Keep up the great work!

I also want to welcome any newly elected District Board members and thank everyone who vacated their positions

“RSL QUEENSLAND STAFF ARE WORKING HARD TO ORGANISE A FANTASTIC 2019 STATE CONGRESS. WE HAVE MADE SEVERAL BIG CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THIS ANNUAL EVENT. FIRST, WE HAVE DECIDED TO HOLD THE EVENT IN BRISBANE FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SIMPLIFYING THE EVENT FROM A LOGISTICAL PERSPECTIVE IS A SMART MOVE. WE ESTIMATE IT WILL SAVE OUR ORGANISATION APPROXIMATELY 30 PER CENT IN EVENT COSTS EACH YEAR. THAT LEAVES US WITH MORE MONEY TO SPEND ON HELPING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.”

following the AGM elections. We couldn't achieve our goals without the passion of people like you and we appreciate the countless hours of work you dedicate to the RSL.

STATE CONGRESS

RSL Queensland staff are working

hard to organise a fantastic 2019 State Congress, which will be held in Brisbane from June 21-23. We have made several big changes and improvements to this annual event.

First, we have decided to hold the event in Brisbane for the next three years. There is no doubt

that simplifying the event from a logistical perspective is a smart move.

We estimate it will save our organisation approximately 30 per cent in event costs each year. That leaves us with more money to spend on helping veterans and their families.

Second, we will shorten the duration of official proceedings. A welcome reception will be held on Friday evening and the AGM and State Congress will be held on Saturday. A Gala Dinner will be held on Saturday evening and delegates will depart on Sunday.

FACEBOOK Q&A VIDEOS

If you follow us on Facebook @RSLQueensland – which I encourage you to do – you may have noticed I launched a video Q&A series in January.

Email your questions to info@rslqld.org with the subject line: 'President Q&A'. We will address the most commonly asked questions in regular Q&A videos on Facebook every couple of months.



*Tony Ferris
State President
RSL Queensland*

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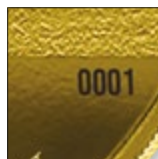
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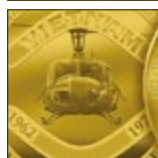
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CONSCIOUSLY MANAGING OUR GROWTH

I can't believe we're already in the month of March!

RSL Queensland is off to a flying start, after a busy few months preparing the organisation for the next stage of our journey. Our aim continues to be delivering more for the veteran community and extending our position as Australia's leading ex-service organisation.

Those who attended the 2018 AGM in Cairns will remember that I spoke about the care and balance required to manage both the revenue generating aspects of RSL Queensland and the growing service delivery demands placed on us to meet the broad needs of the Defence community.

I'm sure you have noticed the brilliant work of the RSL Art Union team over many years and watched it grow into the largest charitable lottery in the world. Hundreds of thousands of ordinary Australians support the RSL through a regular ticket purchase, with the hope of positively impacting the life of a veteran... and perhaps even becoming an instant millionaire themselves!

But it's unreasonable to expect stellar returns from our lottery business decade after decade. We're currently in a lower growth cycle of that business, but because of strategies we have implemented this is not a reason for concern.

We've been busy transforming

“WHAT THIS MEANS FOR RSL QUEENSLAND, HOWEVER, IS THAT WE MUST MANAGE OUR GROWTH CONSCIOUSLY, FOCUS ON MANAGING OUR EXPENDITURE PROFILE, CHOOSE OUR NEW SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS CAREFULLY AND ENSURE WE REMAIN FOCUSED ON DELIVERING OUR COMMON OBJECTS TO BENEFIT MEMBERS, SUB BRANCHES AND OUR DEFENCE FAMILY.”

the organisation, putting the right platforms and structures in place to ensure our main source of revenue remains robust for coming decades.

What this means for RSL Queensland, however, is that we must manage our growth consciously, focus on managing our expenditure profile, choose our new service delivery areas carefully and ensure we remain

focused on delivering our common Objects to benefit members, Sub Branches and our Defence family.

So, what are we doing on your behalf to meet these objectives?

First, we will continue to grow our famous Art Union business over the next five years to provide an even greater surplus for the organisation to use for delivering on the RSL mission. We don't

want to put all your eggs in one basket of course, so we're also improving our diversification profile. This will enable us to earn an income from a range of alternative sources.

Next, we're looking to take big strides in the delivery of services to members, Sub Branches and our veteran family. We're busy preparing for the next phase of growth, and much of this will rest on the new platforms and organisational capabilities delivered through the transformation works undertaken since 2016.

Our service delivery teams dream big, think about improving the positive impact within the veteran community and have the passion to grow RSL Queensland's footprint to benefit all in the state.

I look forward to keeping you fully informed of these exciting developments across the course of the year as our plans take shape!



*Luke Traini
Chief Executive Officer
RSL Queensland*

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CELEBRATING 2018 AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019

Welcome to 2019 and the first edition of *Queensland RSL News* for the year. I hope you had a rejuvenating break over the Christmas holidays and that 2019 is proving a year of enjoyable challenges and opportunities for you and your family.

RESEARCH TOLD US WHAT TO FOCUS ON

Over the past few years, we have made some significant strides forward as we work to continually improve our organisation and be more responsive to the needs of our Defence family. In early 2018, we conducted the Defence Family Research Project, which included surveys and interviews with 3000 current and ex-servicepeople and their families and provided hard evidence on the areas of need and opportunities for improvement.

The remainder of 2018 was extraordinarily busy as we focused on delivering our traditional services, while concurrently planning for and delivering new capabilities.

These new capabilities included **RSL Education**, which provides educational resources for students and teachers on Australia's rich military history, and the **RSL Employment Program**, which helps veterans and their partners find meaningful employment and encourages employers to see the value in employing veterans.

We also continued to partner with other ex-service organisations, such as **Trojan's Trek**, **Gallipoli Medical**

“DURING 2018, WE EXPERIENCED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR SERVICES, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE PROVIDED BY OUR TEAMS CONDUCTING ADVOCACY AND WELLNESS ACTIVITIES. IN FACT, WE RECORDED A YEAR-OVER-YEAR GROWTH OF DEMAND OF BETWEEN 25-35 PER CENT IN THOSE AREAS, WHICH HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT TREND FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.”

Research Foundation and **RSL RAEMUS Rover**, to help support current and ex-serving personnel and their families, and expanded our tertiary scholarship opportunities, which we now offer to veterans, their partners and children.

HUGE DEMAND FOR HELP IN 2018

During 2018, we experienced a significant increase in demand for services, particularly for those provided by our teams conducting advocacy and wellness activities. In fact, we recorded year-on-year

growth of demand of between 25-35 per cent in those areas. This has been a consistent trend for the past three years.

You can see an overview of last year's work on the opposite page. It is a huge amount of activity to support the Defence family, and I am very proud of the teams involved and what they have achieved.

ENHANCING OUR ACTIVITY REPORTING IN 2019

To provide enhanced awareness to you, as a member, regarding

the significant activities of RSL Queensland, going forward we will publish our major activities and service delivery statistics each quarter in *Queensland RSL News*.

I encourage you to share that performance reporting with the broader Defence family, and your community, to help inform them of the great work conducted by your League.

I am very conscious that the data we publish is only the activity of RSL Queensland staff spread throughout the state and does not include the hundreds of thousands of hours of volunteer effort across a range of activities and programs provided by Sub Branch volunteers.

We are working on a reporting mechanism that will allow us to collate and share the work of members in a timely manner. When this process is operational, we will start publishing that information in *Queensland RSL News* as well.

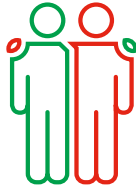


Scott Denner
State Secretary
RSL Queensland

Shoulder to shoulder with our Defence family, in 2018 and always.



Over \$1.4 million provided
for grassroots support by
Sub Branches and Districts



\$5 million committed
to physical and psychological
rehabilitation through
Mates4Mates



\$750,000+
provided in crisis funding



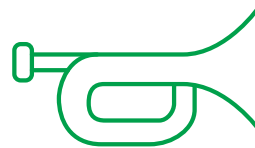
50 scholarships awarded
worth almost \$500,000



144 individuals and families
helped into safe, permanent
accommodation



Almost 35,000 members
across Queensland



**Thousands of
commemorative services**
and activities held
across Queensland



**Free, online education
resource launched**
for Queensland
schools and teachers



4,100+
calls handled



4,700 DVA
claims submitted



114 jobs found
for veterans and
their partners



\$1.6 million invested
in wellbeing programs

In 2018, RSL Queensland provided a broad range of programs and services to support current and former ADF members and their families.

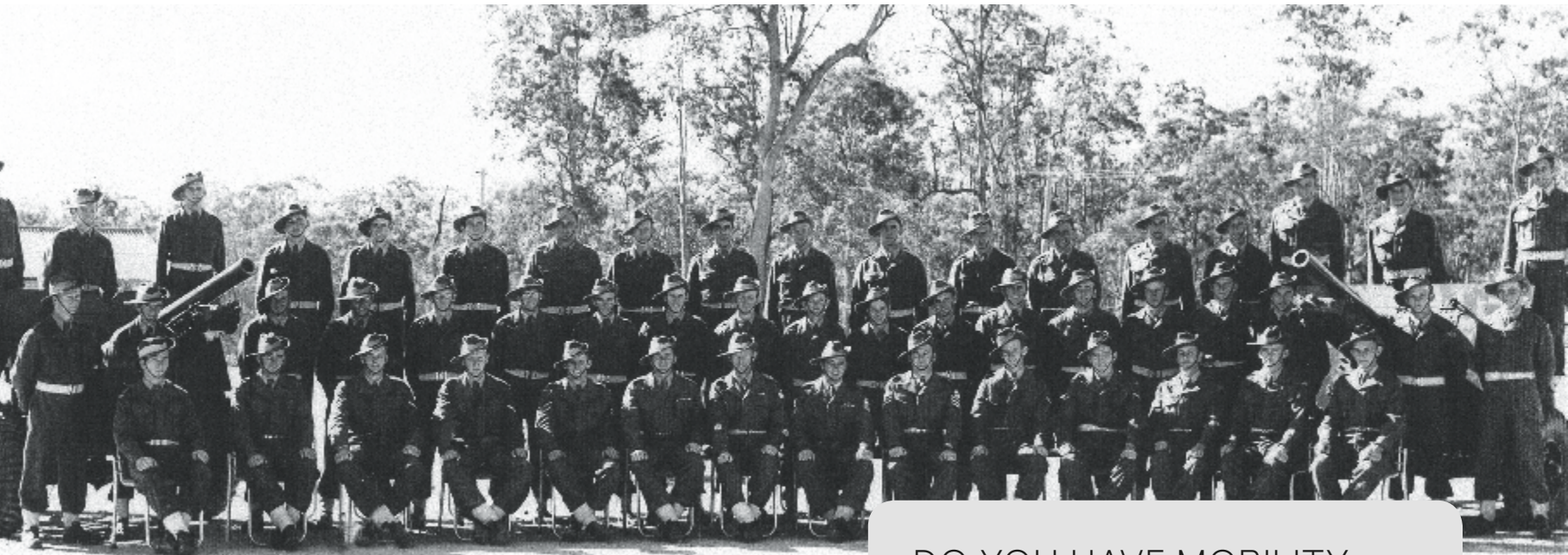
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RSL
Queensland

MAILBOX



GREAT MEMORIES OF NATIONAL SERVICE

IN YOUR latest edition of *Queensland RSL News*, I noted that National Service Day will be celebrated on February 14, 2019. I enclose a copy of an old photo of my platoon at Wacol in 1952 (above). That's me seated fourth from the right. Most of these trainees were from the Darling Downs. I was from Quilpie and originally registered for the Air Force but changed my mind. It was a great experience for me, training and in camp with such a great bunch of young blokes from a much different lifestyle than mine at the time. I do not have a computer so look forward to your excellent printed edition of RSL activities. Keep up the good work. If we had continued national service in the form that I trained through, I am sure we would have a different society outlook than that out there today. I have great memories of my time in national service.

Vince Challenor
Scarness

DO YOU HAVE MOBILITY PROBLEMS AND WANT TO LEARN TO FLY?

FOR some years I have been wondering about the number of returned personnel who would be interested in flying light aircrafts. The aircraft we would train people on are designed to be operated by people with mobility problems (amputees and paraplegics), subject to a medical check-up. We would like to hear from anyone who is dreaming of flying but is afraid of being turned back because of their problems. The type of aircraft we would use is very wheelchair friendly and has very safe flying characteristics – very easy to handle, extremely reliable and unable to spin. Write to amcrosswinds0@gmail.com or call me on 0428 210 309 and tell me your dream or flight experience, if any, and anything else you think would help us assess your personal case. Be assured that your information will be absolutely secure and not divulged to anyone. I am a member of Gympie RSL Sub Branch, an amateur builder and I've been a pilot since 1956.

Andre Maertens
Gympie

Andre Maertens in his workshop with a light aircraft he is rebuilding.



CLARIFICATION: SERVICE PHOTOS IN RSL NEWS

IN OUR last edition of *Queensland RSL News*, we provided Sub Branches with content deadlines for 2019. Due to the fact we are moving to a quarterly publication, there is only limited time available to submit photos from your memorial services. Because of this, we will accept one photo plus caption of each Sub Branch ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day service up to five days after the event. ANZAC Day submissions should be sent prior to **TUESDAY, APRIL 30** and Remembrance Day services no later than **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17**. We will also remind Sub Branches of these deadlines via their District Secretaries closer to the time.

POCKET DIARY CORRECTION

CORRECTION: The 2019 *Pocket Diary* incorrectly indicated that MG Donaldson had been awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously instead of C Baird. RSL Queensland sincerely regrets any offence caused by this mistake; it will be corrected in the next edition of the *Pocket Diary*.

Tweed Heads and Coolangatta RSL Sub Branch was also inadvertently left out of the diary and will be included in the next edition.

THE NEEDLESS LOSS OF VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES

ASSISTING veterans with pension submissions can be frustrating and often difficult, but nevertheless rewarding work for an advocate. It can be argued that this type of advocacy is the most significant work of the RSL. It has been RSL “core” business for a long time and is a significant source of membership.

Advocates face many challenges assisting veterans, but the situation has been exacerbated by the introduction of the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) and in particular the program approach to recognition of prior learning (RPL).

The ‘one-size-fits-all’ RPL training requirement has led to the loss of many volunteers with the skills and work experience that satisfy and/or exceed the requirements of the position. Why is the industry norm that such people cannot be RPL assessed by having their qualifications and work history evaluated? As for advocacy proficiency – surely DVA can assist.

Yes, more paid advocates can be employed, but this comes at a cost to the RSL. Of more concern is the likely escalation in the use of private law firms by veterans, particularly those that promote “no win no pay” services. As veterans are now finding, a successful DVA claim through these firms can result in up to 48 per cent of compensation being consumed by legal fees. For lawyers, it is business and they cannot be expected to address a veteran’s welfare and wellbeing as volunteer advocates have historically done.

The RSL has a long and proud history in representing veterans through the provision of voluntary advocacy services. The mandatory approach to RPL puts the RSL’s long-standing and arguably most significant and successful veteran support service at risk. The potential cost to veteran welfare, long-term membership and the RSL brand should not be underestimated.

Rob Johnson
Sinnamon Park

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

RSL Queensland certainly shares your concerns and has raised them with the Veterans Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study and the Productivity Commission.

The value of the support and services provided by volunteer ex-service advocates for veterans and their families (“mates helping mates”) is enormous, and RSL Queensland has advocated that fact strongly. RSL Queensland was a proud supporter of TIP, but was also open-minded about a move to a nationally accredited competency-based training model to ensure the quality of advice provided to veterans and their families.

The implementation of ATDP from an advocate perspective was poor, particularly in the first 18 months, and RSL Queensland was open and honest in expressing that opinion to DVA and the various ATDP governance groups; at the same time, we worked constructively on implementation. We have noticed that some issues have been resolved and a more professional model is evolving. We urge you to continue your very important role as a volunteer advocate. RSL Queensland works closely with ATDP and if we can provide any support for you to enter the ATDP process we would be more than happy to do so.



AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS VETERAN COMMUNITY

WE'RE very lucky to have many amazing people in our ranks who are dedicated to helping veterans and their families.

On Australia Day, the Governor-General recognised the service of several of our members and friends by awarding them Medals of the Order of Australia:

- **Brian Daley**, Vice President, Bulimba Sub Branch
- **Kevin Fitzgerald**, Vice President, Yeronga Dutton Park Sub Branch
- **Lynne Gambrill**, President, Council of Women's Auxiliaries, Queensland Branch
- **Denis Hare BEM**, Glasshouse Country Sub Branch member
- **Lorraine Hatton**, Army veteran and guest speaker at our 2018 Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony
- **Ruby Liddelow**, Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch member
- **LTCOL David Phillips (Retd)**, Tweed Heads-Coolangatta Sub Branch member
- **George Rant**, Redbank Sub Branch member
- **Donna Reggett**, founder of our partner organisation Operation PTSD Support
- **Jocelyn Slater**, Gaythorne RSL Citizens' Auxiliary.

Dr John O'Hagan, of Stephens Sub Branch, was also awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his service to medical science and innovation, and to the community.

Congratulations to you all for your well-deserved honours!

Pictured: A Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18A Hornet conducts a flypast of the Australia Day 2019 National Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony at Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra, ACT. (Photo: Department of Defence)



STATE CONGRESS AT BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS

THIS year's State Congress will be held at the Royal International Convention Centre at Brisbane Showgrounds from Friday 21 June to Saturday 22 June.

A welcome reception will be held on Friday evening and the Annual General Meeting and State Congress will be held on Saturday.

A Gala Dinner will be held on

Saturday evening, concluding the weekend's proceedings. Regional delegates will depart on Sunday morning.

Further details are available on the RSL Queensland website at rslqld.org and registrations can be made via your District Secretaries from the beginning of March. Please refer to them in the

first instance for any further enquiries.

As State President Tony Ferris noted in his column, the State Congress will be held in Brisbane for the next three years. It will save RSL Queensland approximately 30 per cent in event costs each year, leaving us with more money to spend on helping veterans and their families.

HACKATHON

HACKATHONS are well-known in the IT world, but what happens when a century-old charity takes on the challenge? Towards the end of 2018, RSL Queensland conducted its inaugural hackathon – RSLSpark.

Six teams comprising more than 45 team members from various departments took on the challenge of finding a solution to expanding RSL Queensland's reach to remote areas of the state. The staff members involved demonstrated incredible collaboration, creativity and hard work. In less than four hours, each team had come up with a thoughtful solution to the problem.

The winning pitch (as well as ideas from the other pitches) will be explored further in 2019.



RSL QUEENSLAND STAFF GET INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON



WE HAVE a tradition here at RSL Queensland – every year our staff run an annual Christmas Appeal, collecting toys and gifts for the Defence family members we work with.

Xanthe, left, and Cassandra from the RSL Queensland Wellbeing team are pictured delivering 20 backpacks containing more than 100 gifts and toys to deserving families in December 2018.

Many of our staff work directly with veterans, but the appeal gives those behind the scenes a chance to make a small gesture to help the ADF community.

CHANGES TO INSURANCE FOR ADVOCATES

WHAT IS VITA?

The Veterans' Indemnity and Training Association Inc. (VITA) provides professional indemnity insurance for organisations that provide the ex-service community with advice and advocacy on government pensions, benefits and community support services.

Ex-service organisations (ESOs) can become VITA members to access affordable insurance.

ACCIDENT COVER

VITA also offers insurance to protect authorised advocates of member ESOs in the event of accidents during a client meeting, while travelling to and from a client meeting and for travel to and from training. The policy covers costs associated with personal injury and disablement not covered by Medicare. Policy payout limits are modest.

ADVOCACY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ATDP)

VITA supports the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP). This program delivers advocates with training and information required by the insurer.

To be a current ATDP advocate, you must complete an ATDP accreditation program and have annual CPD points. Those involved in current ATDP training do not have a CPD obligation. The annual requirement is 15 points and there are compulsory modules designed to “catch-up” the learning in current training pathways for those who have done a recent Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and are mentoring new candidates. ESOs and advocates will be notified of each advocate's currency via emails from the CPD system.

VITA previously issued an open letter stating that professional indemnity insurance coverage would be available to Training and Information Program

(TIP) trained practitioners until everyone wishing to transfer into the ATDP stream via the RPL pathway has done so.

Cover will eventually be curtailed as practitioners are required to maintain currency but, as TIP refresher training is no longer available, TIP practitioners cannot update their training without ATDP accreditation.

RPL opportunities have been available for some time for Level 2 practitioners, are now available for Level 1 practitioners, and will be offered soon for Level 3 and 4 advocates. Consequently, VITA advises the following cut-off dates for coverage of TIP-trained advocates not progressing through to the ATDP stream:

- **Level 1 and 2:** Cover will not be available beyond 30 June 2019
- **Level 3 and 4:** Cover will not be available beyond 31 December 2021.

VITA believes these dates provide ample opportunity for RPL transition for those intending to do so, while allowing those not intending to transfer to continue to practise while a body of ATDP-accredited advocates is built up to meet ongoing client demand.

It is important to note that Level 3 and 4 TIP-trained advocates who have not undertaken ATDP RPL at Level 1 and 2 will NOT be covered by VITA for assisting with primary claims after 30 June 2019. RPLs for Levels 3 and 4 will be available over the next few years for advocates with these levels of TIP certification so they can gain ATDP accreditation, with a final date of 31 December 2021.

If ESOs wish to continue to support TIP-trained Pension Officers (who do not have ATDP accreditation) after 30 June 2019, they may need to take out other professional indemnity insurance to cover those volunteers after VITA coverage lapses.

There is still time to gain Level 1 and 2 RPL. Register through your ESO.



LEFT: Sub Branch Compliance Team member Surj, centre, with Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch Secretary Paul Petter and President Martin Corbett in front of the Sub Branch's new building.

BELOW: RSL Queensland Finance and Compliance Manager Audrey, centre, with Chinchilla Sub Branch President Bill Belcher, Deputy President Murray Travis, Vice President Don Allen and Secretary/Treasurer Donna Camilleri.



HANDS-ON SUPPORT HAS HAPPY RESULTS

RSL SUB BRANCHES have been more engaged with RSL Queensland and have improved their charitable status, thanks to increased hands-on support from our Sub Branch Compliance Team.

Last year was extremely busy for Audrey, Yvonne and Surj, the staff members who make up the team, as they travelled extensively throughout Queensland. During 2018, they visited nine Districts and almost 50 Sub Branches from Longreach to Stanthorpe, Bundaberg to Southport, and many places in between.

Sub Branches have been extremely positive about the process.

"It was our pleasure to have you visit our Sub Branch, thank you for the answers to our questions and we look forward to working with you and your team in the future," Woodford RSL Sub Branch President Ron Nipperess said.

During 2018, the team reviewed the charitable status of 190 Sub Branches. Thanks to the enhanced assessment and reporting process, many Sub Branches acted upon the recommendations and improved their charitable compliance and governance processes.

"When we were doing our site visits in 2018, there was a real sense of Sub Branches having an increased awareness of what their responsibilities are and they were very appreciative of the assistance that Sub Branch Compliance Services can provide," Finance and Compliance Manager Audrey said.

CHANGE IN FOCUS FOR 2019

This year will see a change in focus for the Sub Branch Compliance Team.

As the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) is now the sole regulating body for the charities sector, the Australian Tax Office (ATO) has advised that ATO Deeds – under which RSL Queensland has conducted the Taxation Charities Compliance program – will be rescinded. Letters explaining this change are expected from the ATO and ACNC by March 2019.

The compliance team will now focus on assisting Sub Branches to maintain and strengthen their charitable status and governance practices. This will include providing value-added extensive training and information to help them understand and comply with governance

and charitable compliance requirements.

A Sub Branch portal is also being developed, which will include useful reference materials, among other things.

The team will also continue the important work of getting out and about to Districts and Sub Branches across Queensland. If you have any questions, you can contact the team via charities@rslqld.org or 134 RSL.



Spotted during the team's travels around Queensland were the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, above, and the Big Gumboot in Tully, left.

SURVEY RESULTS: FEATURE ARTICLES ARE YOUR FAVOURITE

THE features, Mailbox and News Bulletin are your favourite three sections of *Queensland RSL News*, according to our recent survey. These results will help inform the general direction of the magazine in 2019 and show us what you want to see more of.

Over 100 people completed the survey, with 88 per cent of those being male and 93 per cent above the age of 50. Around three quarters of respondents always read the magazine and the majority are satisfied with it

(71 per cent rated it at 8 or higher on a scale of 1-10).

Your least favourite sections are the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation articles, Giveaways and the President, CEO and State Secretary's Columns. More than 50 per cent of people share the magazine with friends or family members.

There was a lot of pleasing feedback about how much you enjoy the publication, together with suggestions for what you want to see more of.

This includes more stories about the Navy and Air Force, the Defence Force today, Sub Branch activities, current serving ADF personnel, reservists and cadets, biographies, historical features, servicewomen and their families and how the RSL community can help one another.

Some of you also requested sections that already exist in the magazine. Don't forget that you can submit reunion notices or short items for Community Connect by emailing editor@rslqld.org.



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, ALWAYS.

OUR BRAND REFRESH JOURNEY



While research has shown that 95 per cent of Queenslanders recognise the RSL Queensland brand, far fewer understand what our organisation actually does. A recent refresh of the RSL Queensland brand aims to address this disparity.

 Michelle Colefax, Marketing and Communications Manager, RSL Queensland.



With a history that stretches back to 1916, RSL Queensland is part of the fabric of the Queensland community. The RSL is well known among the Defence family and the wider Queensland population – in fact, the Defence Family Research Project showed that 95 per cent of all Queenslanders recognise the brand.

But recognition is not understanding. And, unfortunately, only 28 per cent understood what RSL Queensland actually does. Even more challenging, only 30 per cent of the Defence family thought our services were particularly relevant to them.

Our challenge was set – to increase the understanding and relevance of our activities to the Defence family – and to track our progress to make sure we were achieving our goal.

UNDERSTANDING THE BRAND

There are so many facets to RSL Queensland – from the support our Sub Branches provide at a local level, to the broader state-wide initiatives that have been introduced to tackle issues like employment and homelessness. So, we looked to establish the core, universal truths of the brand.

We asked questions of veterans – members, clients, and those not involved with RSL – and we talked with the front-line staff that work with them on a daily basis. We listened to our Sub Branches and our Innovation Network about the challenges they perceived. We also talked to other ESOs.

What emerged from this process was the common theme of veteran support and the recognition that it took many forms – be it the vast volunteer base that keeps this organisation afloat, the simple connections between veterans, camaraderie, a helping hand here and there, qualified advice or more in-depth wellness casework.

There were essentially two core ideals that underpin the RSL Queensland brand – gratitude to our service personnel and a commitment to support them when they needed it.





“THE NEW CAMPAIGN
CLEARLY FOCUSES ON THIS
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FOR OUR DEFENCE FAMILY
FOR 103 YEARS, AND WE’LL
ALWAYS BE HERE FOR THEM,
REGARDLESS OF HOW THEIR
NEEDS CHANGE.”

BEHIND THE SCENES ON OUR VIDEO SHOOT



These ideals were the inspiration for our new brand promise: Support that empowers.

BRINGING OUR BRAND PROMISE TO LIFE

The final phase of RSL's brand journey has been revitalising our visual identity – our logo, the fonts and colours, and the types of imagery we use. We started by assessing the mechanics of the brand: the fonts and colours, the symbolism and history, and the imagery used to connect with our audience.

We realised that although RSL Queensland had evolved throughout the years – particularly with regard to our service offering and the technology

underpinning it – our public face was still very dated. Our visual identity didn't represent the modern welfare organisation that we have become.

We have been previewing the refreshed brand at District AGMs since late January, and in March the new identity was unveiled with an exciting new campaign – *Shoulder to Shoulder, Always*.

The new campaign clearly focuses on this idea of connection to our Defence family, ongoing support provided, and subtly reinforcing our history – we've been here for our Defence family for 103 years, and we'll always be here for them, regardless of how their needs change. ←

“THERE WERE ESSENTIALLY TWO CORE IDEALS THAT UNDERPIN THE RSL QUEENSLAND BRAND – GRATITUDE TO OUR SERVICE PERSONNEL AND A COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THEM WHEN THEY NEEDED IT. THESE IDEALS WERE THE INSPIRATION FOR OUR NEW BRAND PROMISE: SUPPORT THAT EMPOWERS.”



To bring the concept of *Shoulder to Shoulder, Always* to life, we engaged our creative agency, Rumble, and a professional production company, Taxi, to produce a heartfelt brand video.

The video is set on ANZAC morning, just before a Dawn Service. This meant settling in for a full-night shoot; we started shooting as soon as the sun went down and finished at 5am in the gorgeous pre-dawn light.

Above all, we wanted to ensure we authentically represented our Defence family, so we embarked on a nationwide search to find veteran actors for the central roles. After many weeks of searching and casting, we hit the jackpot with Philip, an 88-year-old veteran embarking on a second career in acting, and Claire, a Navy veteran whose 11 years of service included a six-and-a-half month deployment to the Middle East.

We also engaged the veteran-run company, Extra Specialists, to provide a cast of 10 extras for the final scene (with the very glamorous call time of 3.30am!)

You can view the video on our new website, YouTube channel and Facebook page. Please like and share it – and help get the word out among our Defence family that RSL Queensland will stand *Shoulder to Shoulder, Always* with them.



CONSTITUTION FAQS

The final draft of the revised Constitution is now complete and available for all members of the Defence family to review at rslqld.org/constitution.

Here are a few FAQs to outline some of the main changes and explain why a new Constitution is necessary.

What happens if the draft Constitution is not adopted at State Congress?

The main change in the new draft Constitution is the inclusion of appropriately skilled Directors on the Board. If this doesn't occur, it calls into question RSL Queensland's ability to carry out its strategic objectives and continue supporting Queensland's Defence family over the next few years.

Who will appoint Directors?

Members will have a much greater say in the make up of the Board than they do now. At the moment, members can only vote on the appointment of four members of the Board – the Executive, comprising the State President, Deputy President and Vice President, and their own District President.

The new Constitution will give members the power to vote on seven Board positions – the Executive, plus the four skills-based Directors, who will be drawn from the membership.

The new Constitution also mandates the creation of a State Council of District Presidents, which will provide a dedicated forum for members' concerns to be raised and addressed. The Chair of the State Council of District Presidents will also sit on the Board.

How are the skills-based Directors going to be appointed?

RSL Queensland will request nominations from members who possess the skills or qualifications that are identified as needed. These members will then stand for election by members for the skills-based Director roles.

Will this result in a two-tier Board?

No, it will be one Board. But the change will bring additional skills onto the Board that will help us grow and achieve our strategic objectives – and ultimately provide an even greater level of support to our Defence family here in Queensland.

Will the District and Sub Branch Model Constitutions be available before the AGM?

No. It's important we don't rush the preparation of District and Sub Branch Constitutions – we want to get them right the first time. Once a State Constitution is adopted, the Constitution Working Party will turn its focus to finalising the Model Constitutions, with the valuable input of our membership.

Why can't we just keep doing things like we always have?

Over the past 103 years, RSL Queensland has been continually evolving. The way we do things today is not the same as the way we did things 75, 50, or even 25 years ago.

To continue to provide support and assistance to the Defence family in Queensland, we must ensure we meet modern governance standards. This allows our Defence family and the broader public to have confidence in RSL Queensland and ensures we can continue supporting veterans into the future.

Who will decide what skills are needed on the Board?

RSL Queensland's current Directors have completed a Skills Matrix, which identifies the skills they bring to the table and identifies where there are opportunities to bring additional skills onto the Board.





A unique take on health and wellbeing for students

Physical and mental resilience is an important life skill, particularly for our kids. But what can we do to make sure they stay strong and healthy in mind and body?

A bootcamp developed just for kids, ways to enhance mental and physical health, and the importance of compassion and empathy in looking out for our mates – RSL Education's new Health and Wellbeing module explores what kids can do to improve their health and wellbeing, and that of their friends and family.

Find new free resources at rsleducation.com.au



RSL
Queensland



IN IT TOGETHER

— HOW NORMIE ROWE OVERCAME HIS PTSD —



Pop icon Normie Rowe opens up about his battle with post-traumatic stress disorder upon his return from the Vietnam War, and how it changed his outlook on life.

 Normie Rowe

“WHAT are you doing in a place like this? You of all people...” I’ve never forgotten those words.

And one thing I noticed during that three-month stint in hospital with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was that there were no flowers. I was there with a whole lot of Vietnam veterans and a lot of other people who were dealing with depression, anxiety, panic attacks and other psychological conditions, and nobody got flowers. But if they’d broken a leg, the place would’ve been like a florist shop.

PTSD may not be as tangible or visible as a broken leg or poking your eye with a sharp stick, but finally, these days, it is becoming more and more accepted and recognised in society.

Of course, there was no less PTSD at the end of the Vietnam War than there would have been at the end of the First World War, or even now, with a new generation of veterans returning from the Middle East. It’s just that now it has a name.

Before, people who were severely affected were called ‘battle scarred’ or ‘shell shocked’. And I even have an antique book, given to me by a friend, about Napoleon and written within a lifespan of Napoleon’s reign, and it was quite clear in the descriptions of post-battle soldiers that Napoleon had witnessed it and recorded it himself.

When they first coined the phrase ‘post-traumatic stress disorder’ the concept was all very new. When I was asking for treatment, a guy from Veterans’ Affairs said: “You can’t possibly have post-traumatic stress disorder, you’re in the public eye.” It was evident that he had no understanding of the condition.

So, I’ve made it my life mission to talk about my experience. It’s terribly important we talk about it, and part of the reason for that is that it doesn’t just go away. It’s something you always have to deal with.

In hindsight, I can look at certain events earlier in my life and say, “Oh, yeah, that was definitely a PTSD symptom triggered by a stressful event.” It was at a time of enormous pressure when it all came to a head for me. Since then, upon sharing with other veterans, the phenomenon has become known as ‘crashing’; so prevalent was the question, “When was it that you first crashed?”

In many ways it was a relief to know that I wasn’t the only one who felt so dreadful.

Once again, in hindsight, I can see now that the PTSD was raging and because I hadn’t been diagnosed yet, the stinking thinking took over. I reached a point where I felt there were no saving graces.

The things that go along with PTSD – like depression, anxiety, anger spells and the feeling of being overwhelmed with it all – seemed so normal, that a lot of the time you just breeze through, thinking that your value on the planet is not even zilch. That you’re a liability. That’s the way you think, stinkin’ thinkin’. That’s a terrible state in which to dwell.

Then I found myself in this hospital on the Gold Coast. Those first six weeks, I was in the foetal position. I couldn’t move.



Then I started to do group sessions, along with another 13 Vietnam veterans who were residents, all dealing with their own versions of PTSD. We had amazingly knowledgeable psychologists. I stayed the course, but early on, I can remember saying, “Look, I’ll go, but I’ve got to sit right next to the door so I can leave straight away if I feel I want to get out of it, because I don’t think I want to be there.”

I felt scared. And when I got into the room, everyone else was scared, too. We were all scared that we were going to have to relive stuff or that we were going to find out stuff that we didn’t even remember had happened.

It was at that point the realisation started to kick in: I wasn’t on my own.

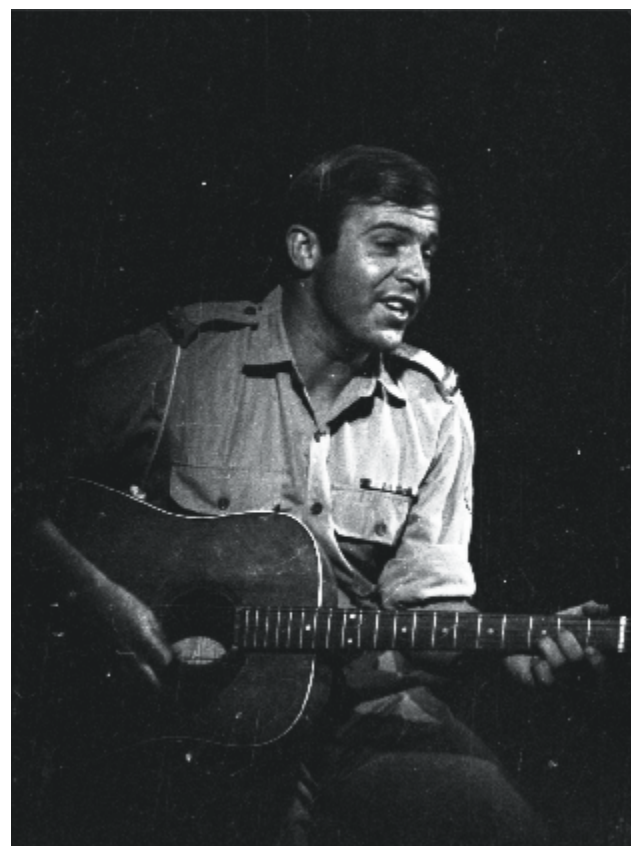
I remember saying to my psychologist one time: “When do I

get to a stage when my entire life isn’t about distraction? If I don’t distract myself, I’m going to be living this horror constantly.”

And she said, “Be patient. You’ll get the hang of it, and eventually what you’ve been distracted with will become your main mode of living, and the things that have been causing the extra pain will just slide aside. They won’t be as important as they have been in the past.”

Performing for me was a major distraction. The problem was that it wasn’t enough. And I had to find other things that distracted me. I became quite obsessive about my distractions.

Without doubt, apart from my family, my one joy in life is being on the stage and entertaining people. But I couldn’t do show business the way that I used to do it, before I went into the Army.



**ABOVE
(CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP
LEFT):**

The arrival of Normie Rowe to commence his tour of duty (AWM: P04656.442); Normie at the United States Armed Forces Television Studios, recording the Australian Forces Vietnam contribution to the 1969 Christmas show (AWM: P04656.830); Normie Rowe & The Playboys.

Because then it was for self-gratification. It was sort of like: “Hey, look at me. Aren’t I pretty? Aren’t I great? I’m a good singer. Don’t I look great in these clothes?”

Then you try to be humble with all this other stuff that’s happened in your life and the whole charade just didn’t make any sense to me anymore.

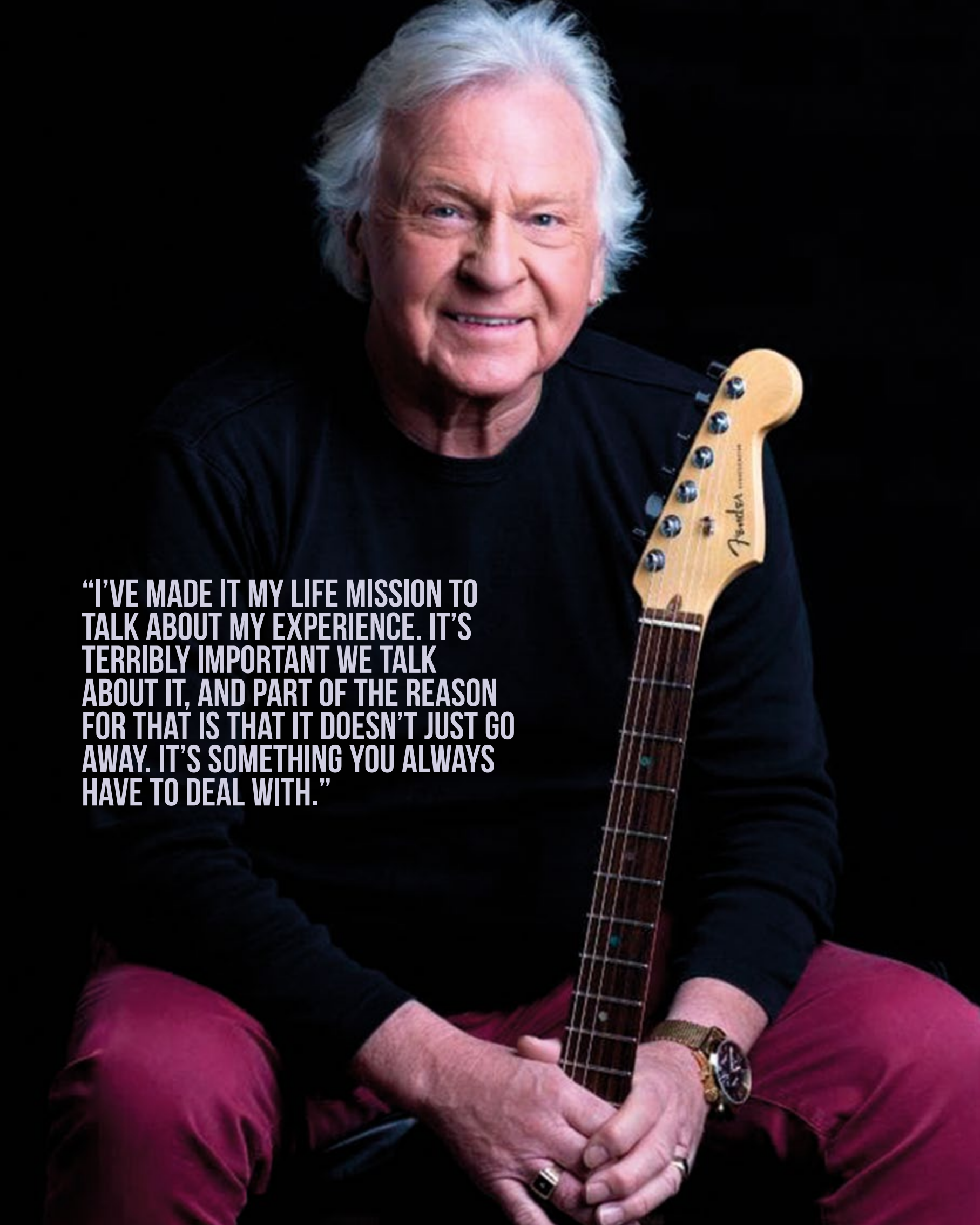
So, when I decided I was going to come back into show business, it had to be for something. I had to be able to use the notoriety that I gained from being in show business, and not for myself, but for other people; people who perhaps have no platform to amplify their needs.

So, I’ve always tried to help raise money for charities and I talk about PTSD wherever I can.

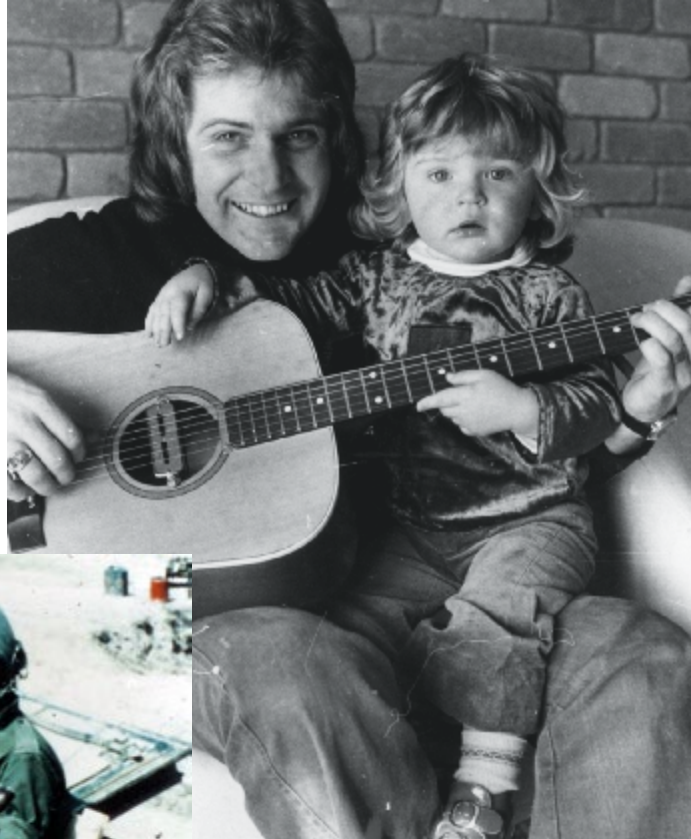
I was spending a bit of time last night just talking on Messenger to a fellow who is having a tough time with it at the moment.

He said, “It feels like my whole world is crushing me,” and I know how that feels. It’s an awful state of mind.

I said, “Well, just understand that there are many of us who have a great deal of love and respect for you and that you’re just going through a period that requires help. Talk to your



**"I'VE MADE IT MY LIFE MISSION TO
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ABOUT IT, AND PART OF THE REASON
FOR THAT IS THAT IT DOESN'T JUST GO
AWAY. IT'S SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS
HAVE TO DEAL WITH."**



“AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. HERE I AM, 50 YEARS LATER, AND STILL SOME OF MY CLOSEST MATES ARE THE ONES FROM BACK IN VIETNAM. THERE’S THIS INCREDIBLY STRONG COMRADESHIP.”



doesn't matter how old or young you are.

At the end of the day, we are all in this together. Here I am, 50 years

healthcare professionals and talk to other people in your same situation, and eventually, all of a sudden, you'll start to understand your own approach to strategies that can work for you.”

I'm not a professional. I always remind people that the first step is always going to see your GP, and if they suggest that you see a psychologist, I say, “Don't try to con the psychologist, either.” You see, usually we're pretty good at hiding our feelings.

Always surround yourself with people who love you unconditionally.

It's never too late to ask for help. It

later, and still some of my closest mates are the ones from back in Vietnam. There's this incredibly strong comradeship.

Tonight, I'll open my Facebook and there will be at least half a dozen of my veteran mates talking to me, and sharing common interests, and I've got to say that it's made my life so much more worthwhile. Then you start to think, “Well, that stinking thinking. What exactly was I thinking? How silly was that?”

The light at the end of the tunnel is not the oncoming train. Just as it's

ABOVE:
Normie with his son Adam in 2010.

LEFT:
Relaxing with his guitar on a break during his service.

BELOW:
Normie promoted to Crew Commander July 29, 1969 with 12B Platoon, 1 Troop, B Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment. (AWM: P04656.605)

darkest before the dawn, the sun will rise and there'll be another day, and just enjoy that day.

The last thing I say to any of my family before I hang up, before I go to bed, is, “I love you”. It's the first thing I say to let them know how happy I am that we are back in communication after 12 hours of sleeping. It's really imperative that we let each other know how important we are to each other, and how linked together we are in this world.

This article originally appeared on www.greymatters.net.au.

If you or anyone you know needs help, get in touch with your local GP or call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978.





BUILDING PURPOSE

SUNNYBANK MEN'S SHED GETS VETERANS TALKING

In giving men a place and reason to come together, the introduction of Men's Sheds has been a huge step forward in combatting the social isolation that many men experience when they are no longer in professional employment.

 Matilda Dray

“THE AUSTRALIAN CULTURE OF MEN – IN YEARS GONE BY – WAS TO SIT AT THE BAR TALKING AND DRINKING, SHOULDER TO SHOULDER. THE SHED GIVES PEOPLE MATESHIP, A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND A SENSE OF BELONGING IN THE COMMUNITY.”

THEY come from all different walks of life – some men are ex-Defence, others are retired lawyers, school teachers or office workers – but what they all have in common is a desire for camaraderie and helping others. Sunnybank Men’s Shed is the perfect place for them to be productive, help the community, connect with friends and maintain an active body and mind.

The Sunnybank Men’s Shed was established in 2012 by Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch, with assistance from Sunnybank Uniting Church and grants from various organisations. Its membership has grown from around 25 men to over 70 and includes 15 veterans.

SHEDS GET MEN TALKING

“The aim of the Men’s Shed is to get men out of the house and stop sitting around watching television all day annoying their partners,” Sunnybank Men’s Shed Chairman Des Broom said.

“We’ve got a couple of guys who have suffered from severe depression in the past and it has helped them tremendously.”

The organisation’s motto is to provide a space for men to talk with each other ‘shoulder to shoulder’. This could be next to each other at the work bench or over a cup of coffee at morning tea.

Des served as an aircraft engine fitter in the Royal Australian Air Force from 1959 to 1979, with postings all around Australia and a stint in the United States. After discharge, he worked as a manual arts teacher, a combination that provided the ideal background for establishing a Men’s Shed.

Des encourages other veterans who may be struggling after leaving Defence to join him at Sunnybank or one of nearly 1000 Men’s Shed groups around Australia. He said it offers a great alternative to sport, which not all veterans are physically capable of.

THE REWARD OF GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

“Some ex-servicemen might have been labourers, carpenters or brickies. The Men’s Shed enables them to use their

hands and their brains to produce artefacts that are suitable for the community,” Des said.

The Sunnybank group has made outdoor tables and chairs for Autism Australia, technical aids for people with disabilities and train sets and rocking horses for the Red Cross or Meals on Wheels to raffle off.

“I know I get a lot of satisfaction whenever I make something for the community,” Des said.

The group originally started in a small nine by six metre shed on the grounds of the Uniting Church and over the years has expanded considerably, thanks to grants and their own fundraising efforts. There is also a community garden on the church grounds, which is mostly tended to by shed members. Together with fruits and vegetables, the garden grows herbs for Meals on Wheels.

THE SHED HELPED BRUCE OUT OF A DARK PLACE

Vietnam veteran Bruce Turnbull – one of the shed’s founding members – went through a fairly dark period after undergoing major surgery in 2013.

“Coming back to the shed and talking about it with people improved my own dark spaces. I found there were other people who had been

through this before and could enlighten me,” Bruce said.

If someone doesn’t visit the shed for a while, other members will reach out to check on them.

“We get in touch with them and encourage them to come back. When they do come back, their spirits are lifted.”

Bruce served in the Army for 24 years as both a medic and an operating theatre technician in Vietnam and Singapore. He has also held the positions of President and Membership Services for Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch.

A PLACE FOR MATESHIP AND A SENSE OF PURPOSE

“I find the friendships formed in the shed very similar to the mateship formed by Defence members on active service,” Bruce said.

He finds the shed preferable to the trap of drinking that some veterans fall into. “The Australian culture of men – in years gone by – was to sit at the bar talking and drinking.

“The shed gives people mateship, a sense of purpose and a sense of belonging in the community. Each shed is set up as an independent organisation and they get ownership of it. It’s run by the men, for the men.” ←

JOIN A MEN’S SHED



Sunnybank Men’s Shed is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and is located on Hillcrest Street in Sunnybank. For more information, visit sunnybankshed.org. To find a shed in your area visit mensshed.org/find-a-shed



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Vietnam veteran Bruce Turnbull is one of Sunnybank Men's Shed's founding members; Sunnybank Men's Shed Chairman Des Broom; The Men's Shed gets a thumbs up from its members, who come for the camaraderie and satisfaction of contributing productively to the community; Bruce and Des encourage other veterans who may be struggling after leaving service to join them at Sunnybank or one of nearly 1000 Men's Shed groups around Australia.



A close-up, blurred background image of a hand holding a wristwatch. The watch has a round, light-colored face with dark hands and markers. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, with the watch face partially visible. The background is out of focus, showing indistinct shapes and colors.

**‘WELL
LADS, I
THINK
WE’RE
DONE FOR’**

**HMAS VOYAGER
SURVIVOR TELLS
HIS TALE**

  Louise Liddiard-Smith



Holland Park/Mt Gravatt
RSL Sub Branch President
Alan Hellier is a survivor
of the worst peacetime
disaster in Australian
military history.

ALAN Hellier has lived a life defined by service. After 21 years in the Navy – and a civilian career with Australia Post – he has spent the past 21 years serving as President of Holland Park/Mt Gravatt RSL Sub Branch.

“The reason I joined the RSL was probably to help veterans, members of the Sub Branch and their families,” Alan said.

“My wife is the Pension Welfare Officer and if any of the members have got any problems, they ring up and she goes to visit them, or I go with her. She also helps anyone in hospital, if they’ve got any pension claims or anything.”

Alan is also a survivor of the sinking of the HMAS *Voyager* – the worst peacetime disaster in Australian military history.

At around 8.56pm on 10 February 1964 – during a training exercise – the HMAS *Melbourne* collided with the HMAS *Voyager*. The collision was so severe that the *Voyager* broke in two.

That night, Alan finished his shift at 8.00pm and was sitting next to the Chief Coxswain in the cafeteria when he knew something was amiss.

“There was a strangled call over the PA system: ‘All hands to evacuation stations. Stand by. Stand by.’ Then, all of a sudden – boom – we just got hit,” he described.

The force of the impact propelled him forward into the gun bay and he sustained a serious head wound. According to Alan, the ship then “sort of went over to its side, then came up, and the two turrets fell off... the coxswain

turned around and said, ‘Well lads, I think we’re done for.’ And he started singing *Abide with Me*. I just said, ‘Not this little duck. I’m out of here.’”

Alan tried to make his way to an escape hatch and recalls, “It was just sheer hell. There were bodies everywhere. There were people screaming and we had the emergency lights and we could hardly see. I got up there and there were people just fighting to get out of the hatch.”

After Alan managed to get through the hatch and swim free, he turned back towards the wreck of the *Voyager* and watched – in the moonlight – as it sank.

That night, 82 lives were lost – a tragedy that still haunts him.

“These kids were 17-and-a-half or 18 and they’d never been to sea before... they were so young.”

Alan was eventually rescued and taken to the *Melbourne*, which was damaged but still afloat.

“They had scrambling nets and I scrambled up and inside. I only had a pair of shorts on. That was all. And a watch; of course, it had stopped.”

Alan still has the watch he was wearing that night when he hit the water. The hands have stopped forever at 8.54pm.

After just seven days of survivor’s leave, Alan was given a new posting on the HMAS *Quiberon*. He remained in the Navy for another 12 years.

Sunday 10 February 2019 marked the 55th anniversary of the sinking of the HMAS *Voyager* and, on this day, Alan continued his annual tradition of reciting *The Ode* at his local Remembrance Day service at St. Mary’s Church in Kangaroo Point, Brisbane. ¹⁴

CLOCKWISE FROM
TOP LEFT: Crew
members of the
HMAS *Melbourne*
attend a memorial
service on the
deck of the
aircraft carrier
while it transports
injured sailors
from HMAS
Voyager to
Sydney following
the collision
on the night
of 10 February
1964 (AWM:
NAVY04188);
A framed
photograph
and medal
commemorating
the HMAS
Voyager disaster;
Alan Hellier
holding the watch
he was wearing
on the night of
the disaster; A raft
with survivors of
the RAN Daring
class destroyer
HMAS *Voyager* is
brought alongside
the aircraft carrier
HMAS *Melbourne*
after the
collision (AWM:
NAVY15882);
Alan Hellier was
presented with a
survivor’s medal
following the
naval disaster.
INSET: Alan and
his wife Sonja
standing at a
veteran memorial
at Holland Park/
Mt Gravatt RSL
Sub Branch.

**“THE COXSWAIN TURNED
AROUND AND SAID, ‘WELL
LADS, I THINK WE’RE
DONE FOR’. I JUST SAID,
‘NOT THIS LITTLE DUCK.
I’M OUT OF HERE’.”**



GOLD COAST GROUP BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

A group of veterans and volunteers who run educational programs for local schools are looking for new recruits to join their ranks. The program strives to keep the ANZAC spirit alive and teach young people about respect, loyalty and unity.

✍ Matilda Dray

THE group is made up of members of the Gold Coast Light Horse Education Museum at Mudgeeraba, most of whom are members of an RSL Sub Branch on the Gold Coast.

“We are passionate and patriotic for our wonderful country and are desperately trying to instil into our younger people our objectives,” Vice President Brian Bertwistle AM said.

“We want to teach the future generation that they live in the best country in the world and they must respect and protect it.”

The presentations involve displays, exhibits and artefacts of significance, and each year around

“WE RECEIVE LETTERS OF THANKS – NOT ONLY FROM SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS, BUT FROM CHILDREN THEMSELVES. INTERACTING WITH THE KIDS KEEPS US OLDIES ACTIVE AND YOUNG.”

1000 new students from the Gold Coast area complete programs at the museum.

They have also developed a booklet called *ANZACs and The Light Horse*, which is given to participating students. The program is aligned to the National Australian History Curriculum Community and Remembrance, and aimed at Years 2, 3, 5 and 6 in primary schools, and Years 9 and 10 in secondary schools.

“We receive letters of thanks – not only from schools and teachers, but from children themselves. Interacting with the kids keeps us oldies active and young,” Brian said.

“We are the only organisation in

Australia that completes these live, hands-on programs with horses, weapons, flag raising, and veterans doing the commentary. We are told by educators that this is the best way for children to learn our history and patriotic values.”

With members of the group now in their mid-70s and 80s, Brian fears the program might not run for much longer if it doesn’t get an injection of new blood.

“We need exposure and help, both physically and financially,” Brian said.

To get involved, contact Brian via info@mlhmuseum.com.au or 0418 157 230, or Tanya Martin via Tanya_flowers@yahoo.com.au. ←



The Gold Coast Light Horse Education Museum runs live, hands-on educational programs for local schools, with horses, weapons, flag raising, and veterans providing the commentary, to instill the ideals of respect, loyalty and unity in our young people.



Our Forgotten Volunteers:

AUSTRALIANS AND
NEW ZEALANDERS
WITH SERBS IN WWI



Franc Darvenica enlisted in the AIF in Townsville but was then transferred to the Special Services Battalion, a unit recruited by the Australian Army for service with the Serbian Army.

Our Forgotten Volunteers by Bojan Pajic tells the story of the 1500 Australians and New Zealanders who served in Serbia during WWI. His book provides a comprehensive account of a little-known yet crucial battlefield.

 Bojan Pajic

Australian and New Zealand volunteers were already in Serbia, treating wounded Serbian soldiers and fighting a typhus epidemic, before the ANZACs landed at Gallipoli in 1915. Soon after Austria-Hungary invaded Serbia in August 1914, voluntary and government organisations in Britain and other Allied countries organised medical assistance for Serbia.

Among the volunteers were Australian and New Zealand doctors, nurses, orderlies, ambulance drivers and others. They joined organisations such as the Red Cross, the Serbian Relief Fund, the Scottish Women's Hospitals and Wounded Allied Relief.

The Serbs beat back three Austro-Hungarian invasions in 1914, but at the beginning of 1915, a typhus epidemic swept the war-torn country killing around 140,000 people.

Later in 1915, the Gallipoli campaign sealed Serbia's fate, as Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria moved to secure a land supply corridor to Turkey through Serbia. The German-led invasion forced the Serbian Army, government and civilians to withdraw south towards French and British troops landing in the port of Salonika to link up with the Serbian Army.

However, the Allied help was too little too late, and the link between the Serbian Army fighting off the invaders in Serbia and the Allied French and British forces based on the port of Salonika could not be made. Rather than surrender, the Serbian Army, government and thousands of civilians chose to fight their way out of encirclement and withdraw through the wintry mountains of Montenegro and Albania to the Adriatic coast in order to be able to continue to fight again alongside the Allies.

BELOW: RAN 'River' class destroyer flotilla at anchor in Brindisi, Italy, 1917. From left: HMA ships *Parramatta*, *Yarra*, *Huon*, *Swan*, *Warrego* and a British Royal Navy destroyer. HMAS *Torrens* (not shown) was also based with the other five destroyers at Brindisi in 1917 and 1918. (AWM: P01557.001)

Australians and New Zealanders were caught up in this tragedy; some withdrew with the Serbian Army out of Serbia and others stayed with their Serbian wounded patients and were captured. The withdrawal of the Serbian Army in winter across the mountains was one of history's epic marches. Thousands died from fighting, famine, exposure and exhaustion.

After recuperating on the island of Corfu, the Serbian Army was transferred by the Allies to the port of Salonika (today's Thessaloniki in northern Greece) where it – together with French, British and Russian forces – confronted the Central Powers armies of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Ottoman Turkey.

Australians and New Zealanders were sent to the Salonika (or 'Serbian', 'Macedonian' or 'Balkan') Front to serve alongside the Serbian Army.

Some were with the British Army and Royal Flying Corps; others were in two AIF units that served there in a forgotten campaign.

One of the AIF units, drivers from the 6th Australian Infantry Brigade, accompanied the British 10th Division into Serbia and fought in a battle there with invading Bulgarian forces. Some 380 Australian Army Nursing Corps nurses served on that campaign, as did around 400 crew of six Australian torpedo boat destroyers supporting the campaign in the Adriatic, Aegean and Mediterranean Seas.

Other Australians and New Zealanders served there with New Zealand and British Army medical services.

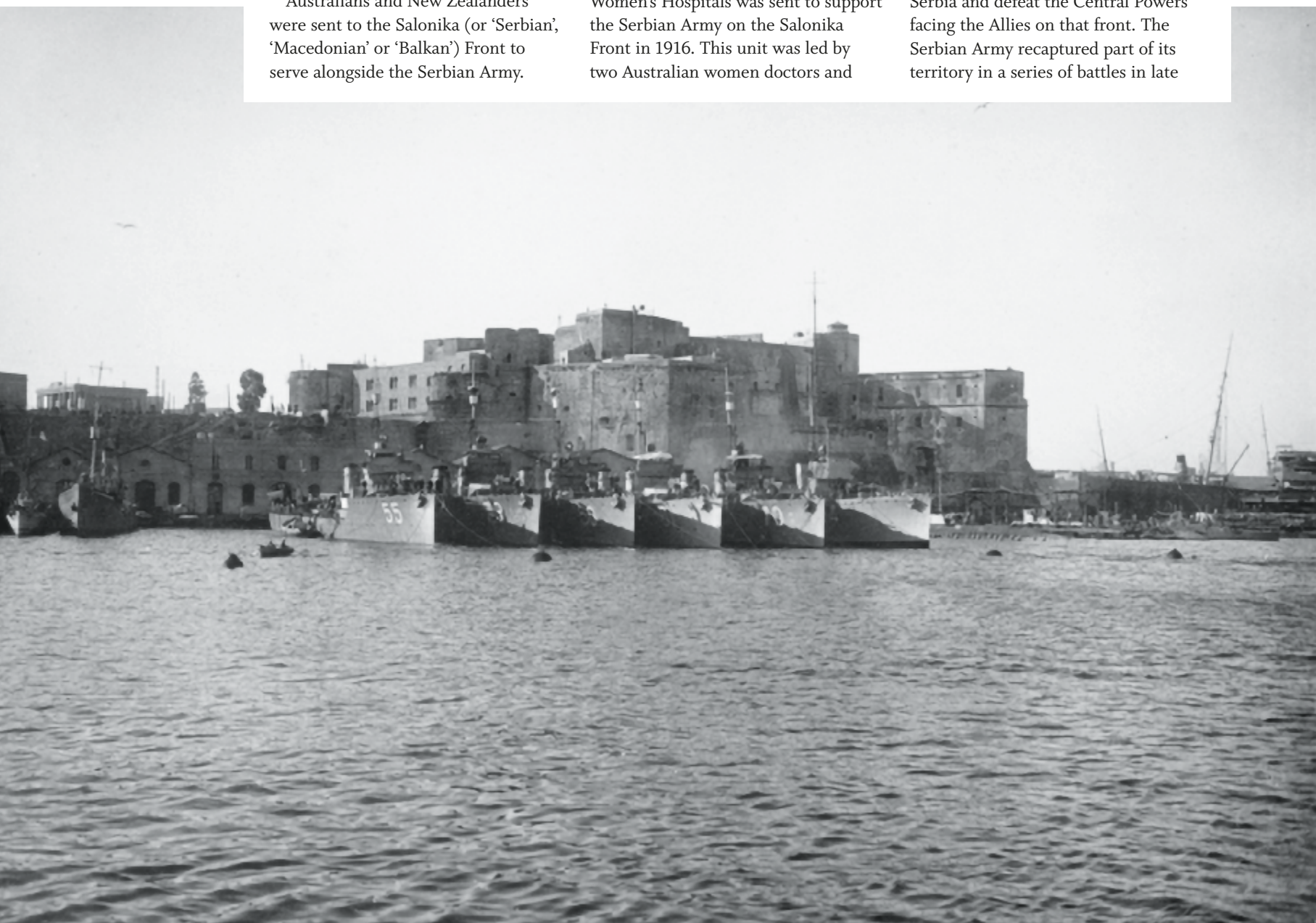
A volunteer hospital of the Scottish Women's Hospitals was sent to support the Serbian Army on the Salonika Front in 1916. This unit was led by two Australian women doctors and

had other Australian and New Zealand doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and orderlies as staff.

The author Miles Franklin was a medical orderly supporting the Serbian Army; her little-known memoir of her experiences with the Serbian Army is quoted extensively in this book.

Another Australian volunteer, Olive King, from Sydney, served first as an ambulance driver with a unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals and then joined the Serbian Army as an ambulance driver. She was decorated for bravery by the Serbian Government.

The Salonika campaign started with Allied landings to assist Serbia and then, with the arrival of the Serbian Army, it became a campaign to liberate Serbia and defeat the Central Powers facing the Allies on that front. The Serbian Army recaptured part of its territory in a series of battles in late





A DECORATED BRISBANITE: LILIAN VIOLET COOPER

Medical officer and surgeon Lilian Violet Cooper (1861-1947) was one of those decorated by Serbia for her service during WWI. Lilian, who served with the Scottish Women's Hospital's 'America' unit in support of the Serbian Army in 1916-17, was awarded the Serbian Order of St Sava Class IV.

Lilian performed war surgery at the hospital site on Lake Ostrovo and also at advanced dressing stations closer to the front lines. Her patients were wounded Serbian soldiers from the Battles of Gornicevo, Kajmakalan and Monastir (Bitola). She was an older and experienced member of the medical staff, much appreciated by Dr Agnes Bennett, the Australian commander of the 'America' unit.

Born in England, Lilian was educated privately and then studied at the London School of Medicine for Women in 1890. In 1891, she moved to Brisbane with her life companion Mary Josephine Bedford. The pair joined the Scottish Women's Hospital when the war broke out and worked in Serbia and Macedonia from 1916-1917. After the war, Lilian returned to Brisbane and led a successful private practice. She retired in 1941 and died at home in 1947.

Josephine Bedford, who inherited most of her estate, later gave the property at Kangaroo Point in Brisbane to the Sisters of Charity, the Mount Olivet Hospital, where a part of the hospital was named 'the Lilian Cooper Nursing Home'. St Mary's Church of England in Kangaroo Point has Lilian's Serbian Royal Order of St Sava on display.

**“SO FAR, 1500
AUSTRALIANS AND NEW
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THIS LITTLE-KNOWN, YET
CRUCIAL BATTLEFRONT.
SOME DIED IN ACTION,
OTHERS FROM DISEASE.”**



Principal Matron Jessie White (sixth from left), who was in charge of some 380 Australian Army Nursing Service nurses on the Salonika Front. (AWM: H16005)

1916, supported by the Australian-led Scottish Women's Hospital and by hundreds of Australians and New Zealanders with two AIF units, a New Zealand Army Hospital and with British forces there.

In 1918, the Serbian Army and Allied

French, British, Italian and Greek forces broke through the enemy lines and advanced into Serbia. Bulgaria sued for peace, followed by Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Turkey.

Germany was now unable to plug the gap opened up by the fall of its allies

Captain William Trew, from Victoria, led a unit of 22nd and 24th AIF Battalion drivers in an advance into Serbia with the British 10th Division in late 1915.



“A VOLUNTEER HOSPITAL OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN’S HOSPITALS WAS SENT TO SUPPORT THE SERBIAN ARMY ON THE SALONIKA FRONT IN 1916. THIS UNIT WAS LED BY TWO AUSTRALIAN WOMEN DOCTORS AND HAD OTHER AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DOCTORS, NURSES, AMBULANCE DRIVERS AND ORDERLIES AS STAFF.”

and prevent an Allied invasion from Serbia and occupied Austria-Hungary into Germany itself. It too agreed to an armistice, thus ending WWI.

So far, 1500 Australians and New Zealanders have been identified as serving on this little-known, yet crucial battlefield. Some died in action, others from disease.

Now, for the first time, we have an engaging and comprehensive account of what they experienced and achieved in the Great War. Many of these Australians and New Zealanders are profiled in the book.

During and after the war, Serbia decorated some 150 Australian and New Zealand soldiers, airmen, medical volunteers and humanitarian aid givers. The book names the recipients and provides descriptions of these rare Serbian awards. ←

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bojan Pajic majored in history at the University of Adelaide, SA, and served as an infantry officer in the Citizen's Military Forces/Army Reserve. He served overseas as an Australian Trade Commissioner, a senior manager in the food manufacturing industry, and as managing director of an information technology company.

Bojan's grandfather and great uncle were officers in the Serbian Army in WWI. He is also the author of *Serbian Decorations through History* and *Serbian Medals Awarded to Australians*.



TO ENTER THE DRAW TO WIN A COPY OF *OUR FORGOTTEN VOLUNTEERS* TURN TO PAGE 84

MATES 4 MATES

Magazine

Issue 01. 2019

*Mindful
Abseiling*
Taking recovery
to new heights.

Inside

Invictus Legacy

Basketball wheelchairs
donated for adaptive sports.

New Merchandise

Making a difference one
Keep Cup at a time.



A message from our CEO **Troy Watson.**

Welcome to the first edition of our Magazine for 2019. This year is shaping up to be one of our biggest yet, with more Mates and families reaching out for support.

As the need continues to grow, our focus is on providing tailored services to our Mates and their families across all three of our Family Recovery Centres in Brisbane, Hobart and Townsville, and through our outreach programs around Australia.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to supporting the Defence Family which is why we provide a holistic approach and enable Mates to access a variety of complementary services that assist with recovery.

Many people experience the greatest benefits when supported both physically and psychologically, and when they have access to social connection activities where they can find a community of others who understand what they're going through.

As a charity, our work wouldn't be possible without the support of RSL Queensland, our partners and the community. We can't do it alone and are constantly grateful for the generosity of everyday Australians who support our work.

Whether you support our cause by raising awareness of our services and spreading the word, referring someone in need, fundraising or donating – it all makes a difference.

I am very conscious of our responsibility to use every dollar that is raised and donated in the most effective way and we're committed as an organisation to ensuring all funds are used to directly support those who need it most.

I hope you enjoy reading our latest edition of our Magazine and keeping up-to-date with what's been happening at Mates4Mates.

If you need support this year or want to find out more about our work, we're just a phone call away – 1300 462 837.

Troy

Support Mates, change lives

Here are some ways that you can make a difference in 2019.

Fundraise



Host an event



Take on a physical challenge



Rally your work colleagues



Get your local community together



Give back on a special occasion

Download our **Fundraising Kit** at www.mates4mates.org for more information.

Donate

Did you know that every donation over \$2 is tax deductible?

Each donation enables us to continue providing much-needed services for Mates and their families. Our services include psychology appointments, physical rehabilitation support and activities.

Help us help more Mates.
Donate at mates4mates.org



Mates4Mates supports current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members, and their families, who have physical and psychological injuries as a result of their service. We are an initiative established by RSL Queensland.

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

Taking recovery to new heights



Mates are improving both their mind and body in 2019, overcoming challenging physical activities through the practice of mindfulness.

This year, Mates4Mates is facilitating mindfulness activities to provide Mates and families with more opportunities to get outdoors and focus on improving their health and wellbeing.

The activities, held around South East Queensland, have been developed by Mates4Mates to improve psychological and physical health by challenging Mates physically, while providing opportunities to connect with others and learn skills to assist with emotional regulation.

In January, Mates ventured out to Mount Ngungun in the Glass House Mountains for a mindfulness abseiling program, accompanied by Mates4Mates Counsellor Sophie Tscheppera.

Mates were given a mindfulness education session by Sophie, then encouraged to put those practices straight to use by abseiling Mount Ngungun.

Teaching mindfulness skills in an environment where participants have to actively use the techniques immediately reinforces to participants their ability to regulate their own emotions.

While some found it challenging initially, with the support of the group, 12 Mates abseiled down the cliff face.

“The goal of the health and wellbeing activities, like abseiling, is to challenge Mates in a safe environment,” Sophie said.

“Activities are designed to push Mates outside their comfort zone using a supportive approach, so whether that’s being around people we don’t know very well or doing something completely new which can sometimes be anxiety provoking.

“The psychological skills that Mates will learn on these activities are evidenced-based and are designed to help Mates deal with distress and regulate their emotions and feelings.

“These skills will help Mates achieve their specific goals on activities and encourage Mates to think about how these new skills could assist them in managing challenging situations across everyday life, such as going to a shopping centre or being stuck in traffic.”

For more information about activities and support services, phone Mates4Mates on 1300 4 MATES.



It was a fun day. I didn't think I could do it, but the team supported me. I was able to use the breathing technique five times in the first week after the abseiling and it's been helping me a lot.



— Participant

Meet a Mate...

Gary Myers

When veteran Gary Myers first walked through the doors at the Mates4Mates Family Recovery Centre in Hobart two years ago, it was a defining moment that changed his life forever.

Gary, who joined the Royal Australian Navy at the age of 15 in 1965, served for eight years before being discharged in 1973.

A difficult experience in the military led him to withdraw, shutting off from anything that reminded him of his time in the Defence Force for more than 30 years.

It wasn't until he reconnected with his past that he realised just how much it had negatively affected him and how finding the right support network could transform his life for the better.

"A friend invited me to Mates4Mates and for the first time I found a group of people who I could relate to and who I enjoyed being with. It was a welcoming, non-judgemental place – everyone had their own story, and nobody judged you for yours," Gary said.

"After becoming a Mate, life started to improve. I learnt that if you face your demons, get the right help and treatment, you can turn your life around.

"I've gone from an alcoholic struggling with depression, to a stable family man and grandfather."

For Gary, finding a group of like-minded people who understood him was a welcome reprieve. It also inspired him to write a book about his own father, who served in World War II.

Like many, his father rarely spoke about his experience during the war – and like Gary, had turned to alcohol to help numb the pain of what happened.

"In 2006, two years before my father passed away, I decided it was important that his story

was heard so I sat him down and interviewed him over two days. It was the first time that he had spoken about many of his experiences," Gary said.

"I put the tapes away and it wasn't until last year that I decided to get them back out, listen to them again and write a book about his life so that his story could be remembered. The book is called *My Dad's War*.

"He enlisted in the army when WWII started. After fighting in North Africa and Greece, he landed in Crete. On the day he was withdrawing to go back to Africa, he was sent back to pick up a biscuit tin and during that trip was taken prisoner along with 2,000 other Australians.

"He was sent to the Stalag XIII-C camp in Germany where he remained a prisoner of war until the war ended.

"Writing his story not only showed others what he went through, but it helped me better understand my experience and what it meant."

Gary said he was honoured to share his story, particularly with ANZAC Day approaching.

Thursday, April 25 will mark ANZAC Day 2019, a significant day to pause and acknowledge those who have served and are currently serving.

"I didn't attend an ANZAC Day service for over 30 years after I left the military because I shut it out of my life, but now I wouldn't miss one – it's an important opportunity to reflect on the sacrifice so many made and also reflect on my life as it is today," he said.

"I've found so many others who faced the same issues and mental health challenges I have and we're all on this journey together."



After becoming a Mate, life started to improve. I learnt that if you face your demons, get the right help and treatment, you can turn your life around. ”

— Gary Myers



Gary Myers with his book *My Dad's War*.

How to become a Mate.

If you need support in 2019, we are here to help.

At Mates4Mates, we are here for all current and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force who have physical or psychological injuries as a result of their service, and their families.

Reaching out for help can often be the most challenging part to seeking support, which is why we have made it a simple process.

With Family Recovery Centres in Brisbane, Townsville and Hobart, and outreach programs across Australia, we are here for you and your family when you need us.

Join Mates4Mates.

1300 4 MATES
mates4mates.org/become-a-mate

Craig Lowndes revs up support for Mates.

Australian racing legend and Mates4Mates ambassador, Craig Lowndes, teamed up with Newman's Own Foundation to donate \$100,000 to Mates4Mates.



(L-R) Mates4Mates CEO Troy Watson, Newman's Own Foundation CEO and President Robert Forrester, Lara Lowndes and Craig Lowndes.

Philanthropic organisation, Newman's Own Foundation, recognises the influential role Australian sportspeople play within the nation's charity sector by engaging them to help make a difference.

Last year, seven sporting personalities, including Craig Lowndes, were each given the opportunity to nominate an Australian charity to receive a \$100,000 grant.

Craig, and his wife Lara, generously nominated Mates4Mates, a cause close to his heart.

"Our veterans deserve support as they continue the journey of rebuilding their lives. Many have physical and psychological injuries as a result of their service within the Defence Force. They have protected us, so we need to look after them and their families," Craig said.

The grant, given to Mates4Mates in January, will be used to fund the Mates4Mates Social Connection Programs for veterans and their families and support the STAIR Program (Skills Training in Affect and Interpersonal Regulation).

Adaptive sports giving Mates new opportunities.

Adaptive basketball is set to help current and ex-serving Defence Force members get back on track after injury, thanks to a generous Australian donor.

When World War II veteran Lyle Edwin Holtkamp passed away, his niece, Roslyn Keay, wanted to honour his memory by supporting ex-servicemen and women in need.

So, when the opportunity arose to partner with Invictus Games and Mates4Mates, Mrs Keay put her support behind the cause through the donation of 12 basketball wheelchairs.

"My late uncle was a fighter pilot and a member of 80 Squadron in the RAAF during World War II. Even though the years he served in the Air Force were only a short part of his long life, his service to his country always remained extremely important to him," Mrs Keay said.

"As the Executor of his Estate, I wanted to make a donation in his memory to an organisation that reflected those things that were important to him and his life. When learning that the Invictus Games were to be held in Sydney in 2018, I knew that would be something that my uncle would be very happy to support.

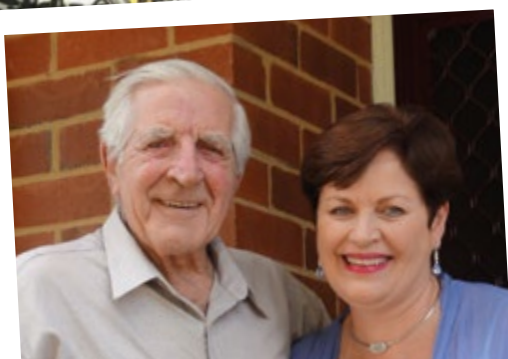
"I made a donation from my uncle's Estate and in his memory, which funded 12 wheelchairs, to be used by competitors during the Games.

"I wanted to ensure that the wheelchairs would continue to be used and learnt that Mates4Mates could use these for their adaptive sports programs. The wheelchairs were generously transported to Brisbane by Virgin Australia Cargo late last year.

"Although my uncle was a returned serviceman, I also have a connection to RSL Queensland, as I was the 'RSL Girl in a Million' in 1975. Girl in a Million was a major fundraiser for RSL Queensland from 1959 to 2009, raising funds to provide support to returned servicemen and women.

"I hope that the donation of the basketball wheelchairs in memory of my uncle is his legacy to recovering Defence Force personnel through the Invictus Games and Mates4Mates. I know he would be very proud."

Thank you to Mrs Keay for supporting Mates4Mates and making a significant difference to our work.



Left top: Roslyn Keay (L) with her husband Peter at the Invictus Games.
Left bottom: Roslyn with her late uncle, Lyle Edwin Holtkamp, in 2012.

Rehabilitation Adventure Challenges

Mates4Mates Rehabilitation Adventure Challenges are providing Mates with a new lease on life, as they take to nature to overcome both physical and psychological injuries.

Mates4Mates Psychologist Georgia Ash, answers your frequently asked questions...

Finding support that targets both physical and mental wellbeing can be challenging, which is why Mates4Mates provides specialised rehabilitation programs that improve all areas of life.

Each Rehabilitation Adventure Challenge is designed to extend participants physically and psychologically in positive environments, building motivation, teamwork and trust.

From trekking Kokoda, cycling, horse trekking across the Snowy Mountains, or taking part in a multi-activity adventure, these provide opportunities to build resilience and strength.

Why should I apply for a Rehabilitation Adventure Challenge?

Our programs will challenge you physically and mentally in a positive and safe environment. Through facing a safe level of physical or psychological stress, and being pushed outside your comfort zone, you can regain confidence and self-worth and improve day-to-day living. You'll also meet others who understand what you're going through and form new support networks.

How do I apply?

All current and former ADF personnel who have physical or psychological injuries as a result of their service, and their immediate family members, are invited to apply for programs. You can submit an **EOI** online at **mates4mates.org**. Applicants are assessed on their ability to attend, perceived need and benefit from participating. Short-listed participants will be screened by a psychologist

to gain a better understanding of their needs and goals to assist in the selection process. From there, the final selection will be made, and you will be notified of the outcome.

What does it involve?

The challenge can vary from 5-10 days in length, followed by a three-month wellbeing program. A qualified Mates4Mates psychologist will attend each activity to assist you in overcoming various challenges throughout the event and improving emotional resilience. Mates4Mates take care of most travel arrangements, accommodation and meals during the programs. After the adventure, you will complete a workbook across three months and be supported by a Mates4Mates psychologist to help you integrate new skills and coping strategies into everyday life.

Upcoming programs.

April 7	Couples Equine Therapy, Hunter Valley
June 16	Mates Equine Therapy, Cairns
July 21	Couples Equine Therapy, Cairns
Aug 16	Kokoda Trek
Sep 11	Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail
Sept 29	Couples Equine Therapy, Canungra
Oct 31	Snowy Mountain Horse Trek, NSW
Nov 19	Munda Biddi Cycle (Off road), WA
Nov 24	Mates Equine Therapy, Hunter Valley



Expression through art

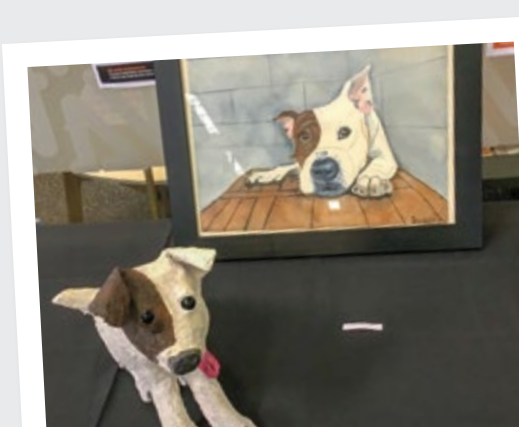
Townsville Mates are tapping into their creative side, using art to assist with their recovery.

Mates4Mates facilitates a specialised art program at Drill Hall Studio designed to give veterans a non-verbal form of expression that uses different forms of art and creativity to improve physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, in a safe and supportive environment.

The program consists of art workshops in four-week blocks at Drill Hall Studio. Over the course of the program, participants develop skills in a particular technique and complete a piece of work, providing a sense of accomplishment, and new skills.

Each block introduces a different art form, including, painting, pottery, print making, paper mache, portraits, and macramé.

Earlier this year, Mates who took part in the workshops in 2018 showcased their work at the Townsville Family Recovery Centre, with the local news covering the story.



Step it up

Written by: Nolan Woo

Mates laced up their shoes to take part in a daily 10,000 step challenge, aiming to increase their fitness and wellbeing.

February marked the Mates4Mates *Healthy Living Month*, challenging Mates and staff across Australia to get active. The challenge encouraged some friendly competition, offered a chance to make new social connections and importantly, aimed to improve health outcomes.

Walking is an easy way to engage in physical activity. With chronic illness being more prevalent than ever we need to seek ways to tackle health issues realistically and sustainably. Some of the main chronic illnesses that we're trying to influence are: arthritis, asthma, back pain, cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes and mental health conditions. Walking can improve symptoms, quality of life and function of people suffering these chronic diseases.

To help get staff and Mates active, we joined the 10,000 steps program in a tournament format where each Family Recovery Centre aimed to 'out step' each other. Every participant had to strive to reach 10,000 steps per day. This may sound like a lot, but on average, individuals will incidentally walk 4,000 to 6,000 steps from day-to-day living, leaving around just 20-30 minutes of purposeful walking to meet 10,000 steps. As little as 20 minutes of activity has been shown to positively stimulate many areas of the brain, which is why it has a positive effect on mental health.

Walking is also a great stand-alone measure of one's overall general condition; that is, the single distance you can walk before fatigue is a good indication of your overall health. For example, an individual who can walk 5km before needing a break will have generally greater health than an individual who can walk 2km. Walking can lead to discovery, adventure and new friendships. So, increase your steps, grab a friend and find new paths to a happier and healthier life.



Tips for increasing your step count...

- 1 Plan to meet up with a friend and go walking a couple of times a week to keep each other accountable.
- 2 Park your car an additional block away from work and walk the extra distance.
- 3 Always take the stairs instead of the elevator.
- 4 Break up long periods of sitting with a short walk. If you walk for two minutes every 20 minutes, you'll get an extra 48 minutes of activity in an eight-hour work day – and gain an extra 4,000 steps.
- 5 Drink plenty of water so that you need to get up and use the toilet. You'll get more steps and stay hydrated.



Nolan Woo

Nolan is an Exercise Physiologist at the Mates4Mates Family Recovery Centre in Brisbane. He's passionate about equipping people with power and knowledge that will change their lives.

Save the date! Get ready to nominate your Mate for Australia's Greatest Mate. July 1-15.

MATES 4 MATES

**AUSTRALIA'S
GREATEST
MATE 2019**



All new merchandise *now available*

mates4matesshop.org

Every purchase supports Mates
and their families.



Stay in touch

mates4mates.org



1300 4 MATES

GREAT THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

Year 7 student Evelien M, from Brisbane North District, won the RSL Education competition 'Capturing the Past'. The competition asked secondary school students to interview a veteran and tell their story, to mark the Centenary of the Armistice.

 Evelien M (Year 7)

WHILE former RAAF Squadron leader Cherie-Ann Borghouts, 40, is only an inch or two taller than me, this woman is a larger-than-life hero. From being smack bang at the centre of the Iraq War in 2004, where she was fired at on a daily basis, to now the head of her own business, Cherie-Ann credits her military training as helping her survive in these very different settings.

As a veteran and entrepreneur, she recently met with Prince Harry and his wife Meghan on the first day of their Australian tour, while mingling with athletes and other dignitaries, such as former Olympian Sally Pearson and Sydney's Governor-General.

"I excelled in my maths and science during high school, thus initiating my interest in engineering," Cherie-Ann said.

She joined the RAAF in 1996 at the Defence Academy in New South Wales from high school and gained her civil engineering degree while completing her military training.

"I chose a Defence Force role as I was looking for something different and challenging," Cherie-Ann said.

During her first posting to HMAS Albatross in Nowra, Cherie-Ann

oversaw the maintenance of runways and other base facilities.

She was deployed to Iraq in 2004, where she served at the Baghdad International Airport and was in charge of maintaining air traffic control facilities for the Australian Force alongside Allied forces.

"I worked alongside coalition personnel as well as Iraqi nationals, who weren't used to dealing with professional women. I won't lie, the experience was pretty challenging, but also very rewarding.

"It was terrifying to be under frequent fire from long-range missiles, but it was also an extreme honour to represent our country. On deployment and during times of peace in Australia, the support given by the Australian Defence Forces and kinship helps you both in your career and emotionally."

After returning to Australia, she became a mother to two boys. Among a wide variety of postings, she served at the RAAF Base Richmond, NSW, and most recently at RAAF Amberley, Queensland.

"While at RAAF Richmond I was Officer in Charge of about 40 Defence tradespeople from my category of

Airfield Engineering," Cherie-Ann said.

In 2012, she was a temporary Commanding Officer of more than 200 Australian Defence members.

"In addition to Airfield Management for the City of Brisbane 23SQN, I was responsible for the emotional wellbeing of ADF personnel. I wanted them to feel supported."

Having resigned in 2016, Cherie-Ann is still actively involved in the RAAF as a Reservist. It was around this time Cherie-Ann became involved with the Prince Charles Trust entrepreneur program 'Lead Your Own Business', designed to assist members of the Australian Defence Force looking to transition to civilian life.

She has built her own business, Indira Organics, after one of her sons was diagnosed with a severe peanut allergy.

"I have been successful because of how resourceful I became during my military career and the love and support of my family," Cherie-Ann said.

Cherie-Ann's business recently featured in the *Power 50* publication, launched to coincide with the Invictus Games. The *Power 50* are businesses set up by Defence veterans. Indira Organics was nominated by leading military non-profit companies because of Cherie-Ann's leadership skills and her determination to succeed.

As a member of the *Power 50*, Cherie-Ann met Invictus Games founder Prince Harry.

Cherie-Ann encourages other women to consider a future in the ADF.

"Like all organisations, military gender equality is at the forefront of everybody's minds. It is a very supportive environment, with many exciting roles with travel opportunities, not just on deployment, but at overseas embassies," Cherie-Ann concluded. ←



KITTYHAWKS AT THE AIRSTRIP

Michelle Price remembers the life and service of her father, Cecil Price, a long-time member of Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch.

 Michelle Price

COUNTRY boy Cecil Price spent his childhood in South Kolan, north of Bundaberg. In March 1939, aged 19, he joined the Militia (Army Reserves). Two years later, he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) 47th Australian Infantry Battalion, and in 1942 joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

In April 1943, RAAF 72 Wing was formed at Garbutt, Townsville, where Cecil was a crew member of 44 Operational Base Unit. He boarded a Royal Australian Naval ship headed for Merauke, Dutch New Guinea, which had already sustained 19 Japanese air attacks.

At Horn Island, Cecil was transferred by Sunderland (British flying boat patrol bomber) to Merauke, arriving on 25 April 1943. At the RAAF base, 72 Wing was commanded by Group Captain Charles 'Moth' Eaton.

In early June 1943, a Japanese spy was captured at Merauke Wharf and a few weeks later there was Japanese activity 120 miles up the river.

Cecil helped construct the RAAF airstrip, where they used Marston steel matting in preparation for the arrival of No. 86 Squadron

Kittyhawks. These Marston steel planks weighed 66 pounds each and were 10 feet long by 15 inches wide, linked together by hooks, held in the slots by a steel clip.

On 30 June 1943, the arrival of Kittyhawks, Boomerangs, Ansons and Beauforts made the Merauke Base feel more secure. On 5 July 1943, RAAF 72 Wing consisted of 746 men.

To the Aussies, Merauke was known as a "hell hole". It was miles and miles of endless swamps; a village above the mud flats with palms and coconut trees that was ridden with mosquitoes, prone to malaria outbreaks, and had no drinkable water.

It was extremely hot, with 100 per cent humidity most of the time. The coastline was dangerous and infested with crocodiles. Those living in the village were Javanese and Ambonese, while local natives were the Kai Kai Tribe (headhunters).

Eventually, Cecil returned to Townsville RAAF Base and then to Sandgate headquarters, where he remained until his discharge.

After WWII, he joined Bundaberg Aero Club, and on Sundays flew over the South Kolan district with Stewie

Whittred delivering newspapers to local farmers. In 1946, he helped form the Bundaberg branch of the RAAF Association, which folded in 1951.

From 1948 to 1951, Cecil operated trams on the Ipswich line of the Brisbane tramways.

Over the years, he spoke fondly of his mates and the Kittyhawks on the airstrip and was dedicated to remembering those who didn't return home. He attended almost every ANZAC Day commemoration, only ever missing two.

In 1954, he got married and had two daughters, remaining in Bundaberg for the rest of his life. He worked for Bundaberg City Council for 24 years, before retiring at 62.

In 2009, Cecil was presented with a Long Service Award in recognition of 50 years' cumulative service as a member of Bundaberg RSL.

During his final days, he reminisced about his time with the RAAF in Merauke. On his last day, he asked his family by his bedside, "Can you see the Kittyhawks at the airstrip?"

He remembered his service all the days of his life. Cecil passed away on 14 August 2011, aged 92. ←

CLOCKWISE: Late RAAF veteran Cecil Price at Bundaberg Aero Club; A studio portrait of Cecil in his Army Slouch; Cecil on ANZAC Day in 2009.



A MAN IN DEMAND

Scott 'Spike' Minett, the immediate past president of Mudgeeraba-Robina RSL Sub Branch, was perhaps the most unusual president of his small but active Sub Branch in southeast Queensland. Unusual in that he was recently asked to re-enlist into the Regular Army for a seven-month deployment.

 John Foley

SPIKE served as the Australian Intelligence Liaison Officer within the US-led Combined Joint Force at Divisional HQ in Baghdad, Iraq – which may make him one of the only sitting RSL Sub Branch presidents to deploy on operations.

"I had been semi-retired for three years and was looking to go back to work, when this came up. It was something different and I'd never been to Iraq," Spike said.

"I really liked doing the job and working with international forces – there were around 24 different nations. It was a real novelty."

Spike joined Mudgeeraba-Robina in 2014 and was President from 2016 until November 2018.

"I've been involved in the RSL for years and tried to join up wherever I was posted. I was the youngest and the newest guy in Mudgeeraba-Robina, so I felt like it was my turn. Being President was busy, but I really enjoyed it," Spike said.

"We also have a few members who are reservists, and because of our current links to Defence we were able to change some things and also get a

catafalque party for our ANZAC Day service."

After joining the Army in 1982, aged 19, Spike was allocated to the Infantry Corps. He trained at Singleton and was posted to the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) in Townsville. His second posting was to the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, where he deployed to the Sinai in Egypt with the Multi National Force and Observers for six months.

Returning to Australia – and after postings to 3 RAR and 8/9 RAR – Spike successfully applied to transfer to the Australian Intelligence Corp. After completing training at Canungra in 1998, he was posted to the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) in Brisbane as the unit's Intelligence Sergeant.

In 1999, he deployed to Bougainville for four months as an Intelligence Operator, responsible for the collection and analysis of information of intelligence value.

After Bougainville, he was posted to the 1st Intelligence Battalion in Brisbane, where he was selected for a Tetum language course at the School


of Languages. After completing the course, Spike deployed to East Timor for six months in 2000.

Postings followed more postings, and after a position as a Company Sergeant Major within the Intelligence Battalion, Spike moved to Canungra as an Intelligence Instructor at the Defence Intelligence Training Centre. It was during this posting that he went on the first of three deployments to Afghanistan as an Intelligence Operator and, subsequently, as a manager.

Completing five years at the school, Spike was posted back to the Intelligence Battalion, where he deployed to Afghanistan twice more for seven and then eight months respectively. These deployments were during a period of extremely high tempo, and during his second tour in 2010, 10 members of the task force were killed.

After 32 years, including 16 years in infantry and 16 years in intelligence, Spike discharged from the Regular Army in October 2014 and transferred to the Army Reserves. Having completed a museum curator's course earlier in his career, he is now the curator of the Army Military Intelligence Museum at Canungra, which is where he was approached to re-enlist for his deployment to Iraq.

Spike has now been welcomed back to Mudgeeraba-Robina RSL Sub Branch by its members, as well as his wife Bianca and three sons. Although no longer at the helm, he still regularly attends Sub Branch meetings and helps advise the current President. He is also the Visitations Officer and Sub Branch District Representative.

He may be back for the moment, but we can't help wonder if our fearless leader has really finished serving his country! 

"AFTER 32 YEARS, INCLUDING 16 YEARS IN INFANTRY AND 16 YEARS IN INTELLIGENCE, SPIKE DISCHARGED FROM THE REGULAR ARMY IN OCTOBER 2014 AND TRANSFERRED TO THE ARMY RESERVES."

RIGHT: The immediate past president of Mudgeeraba Robina RSL Sub Branch, Scott 'Spike' Minett, was recently asked to re-enlist into the Regular Army for a seven-month deployment.



A CODEBREAKER *Honoured*

Toombul-Clayfield RSL Sub Branch members Mick McShane and George Knox unearthed the incredible story of a nun who served in one of the most secretive units of WWII.

 Anita Jaensch



INSET:
Sister Bernadette's
medals were presented at
her funeral.



MICK McShane was visiting a primary school friend at a Catholic nursing home last July when he first heard about fellow resident, Sister Bernadette. She had served in WWII, Mick learnt, but had never received the medals she was entitled to.

A member of Toombul-Clayfield RSL Sub Branch, Mick decided to see what he could do. Together with fellow member George Knox, he visited Sister Bernadette.

"We had a talk to her, and she told us her story," Mick said. Before being called to the service of the Church, Sister Bernadette had answered a different call – enlisting in the Royal Australian Air Force at just 18 years old.

Pauline Barlow – as she was known before she took her vows – found herself transferred to Brisbane and assigned to Central Bureau.

BRISBANE'S BLETCHLEY PARK

Having been the subject of both a film and a television series, the codebreakers of England's Bletchley Park have finally been recognised for the vital work they did in decoding German transmissions during WWII.

Headquartered at 'Nyrambla' in Brisbane, however, was an equally

secretive unit, dedicated to decoding Japanese transmissions in the Pacific. Central Bureau, as it was known, was a joint US/Australian Signal Intelligence organisation established by General MacArthur in April 1942 to intercept and decrypt Japanese intelligence. When MacArthur moved his headquarters from Melbourne to Brisbane, Central Bureau came with him.

Unfortunately, Sister Bernadette was reluctant to share many anecdotes with Mick and George. "She was still bound by..." Mick trails off, crossing his lips to indicate she still felt obligated to keep wartime secrets. "She just said that's where she worked."

But, as many documents about Central Bureau have been declassified,

ABOVE:
Sister Bernadette, back left, was a member of the top secret Central Bureau.

OPPOSITE:
Headquartered at Nyrambla in Ascot, Central Bureau was a joint US/Australian Signal Intelligence organisation dedicated to decoding Japanese transmissions in the Pacific. (State Library of Queensland).

and its story has even been reported in the media, we have a good idea of the sort of work she was involved with.

The Japanese did not use conventional Morse code, instead employing a form of kana transmitted at high speed. Central Bureau's intercept operators needed to devise a special shorthand to keep up. The transcriptions then went to cryptographers, who cracked the Japanese codes and transmitted vital intelligence to sites around the world – including Bletchley Park and Washington.

At a ceremony to commemorate the service of the men and women of Central Bureau, Derek Dalton, then Assistant Secretary for Future Capability and Security at the





“CENTRAL BUREAU, AS IT WAS KNOWN, WAS A JOINT US/AUSTRALIAN SIGNAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL MACARTHUR IN APRIL 1942 TO INTERCEPT AND DECRYPT JAPANESE INTELLIGENCE.”



“UNFORTUNATELY, SISTER BERNADETTE WAS RELUCTANT TO SHARE MANY ANECDOTES WITH MICK AND GEORGE. ‘SHE WAS STILL BOUND BY...’ MICK TRAILS OFF, CROSSING HIS LIPS TO INDICATE SHE STILL FELT OBLIGATED TO KEEP WARTIME SECRETS.”

ABOVE:
A funeral service was held for Sister Bernadette, who passed away on 4 December 2018. Toombul-Clayfield RSL Sub Branch President Bill O’Chee spoke movingly at her funeral on 7 December.

RIGHT:
Sister Bernadette, second row, third from the left, with other members of Central Bureau.

Australian Signals Directorate, said, “Their weapons were not rifles and guns. Their weapons were their incredible talent for solving puzzles, their imagination and the sheer determination to prevail in the face of incredible technical challenges.”

Mick says the fact Sister Bernadette was assigned to Central Bureau indicated she must have been highly intelligent.

“We are interested in how she got into that unit. We tried to track her primary and secondary education, but the school she went to in Rockhampton has been amalgamated or closed so we couldn’t obtain her records,” he says.

“To get into that unit, though, you had to have brains.”

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Seven years after the end of WWII, Pauline Barlow took her vows as a Sister of St Joseph. She worked as a teacher and principal in Catholic schools throughout Queensland until 1982, when she moved into social services and family support.

When Mick and George met Sister Bernadette, she was 92 and able to look back on a long and productive life. Because of her age and ill health, they – together with RSL Queensland Veteran Services Officer Sharon James – moved quickly on her medals application.

But, sadly, despite their best efforts, Sister Bernadette’s medals arrived too late; she passed away on 4 December 2018, before they could be presented to her.

Toombul-Clayfield Sub Branch President Bill O’Chee spoke movingly at her funeral. On her casket, he placed the medals – an Australian Service Medal 1939-45 and a

War Medal 1939-45, as well as a medallion – a final tribute to her life of service.

Vale Sister Bernadette.

You can read more about Australia’s WWII signals intelligence network in *The Secret Code-breakers of Central Bureau* by David Dufty. ◀

NAVY VETERAN RESTS HIS SEA LEGS

Ninety-year-old Navy veteran Gordon James is easing into retirement, having fundraised for veteran welfare for the past 15 years.

✍ Mal Lancaster

BORN in Gympie in 1928, Gordon James had an early affinity with sailing. At the age of three, he took to the water in a small boat using a hessian bag as a sail.

At 11, his passion for the sea grew into a lifelong adventure that led him to run away from home. He stowed away on a train to Brisbane to join the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). His unsuccessful attempt resulted in a police escort back home to Gympie.

Not deterred by his first unsuccessful attempt, he tried again at 13 – applying to join the Navy as a midshipman. His application was rejected.

His dreams were finally fulfilled at 21, when he was accepted into the Navy administration branch as a writer. One year later, in 1950, he received his Commission from King George 6th. He served for 25 years and was awarded The Queen's Commendation.

He served on HMAS Sydney, HMAS Australia, and was involved in the nuclear tests at Monte Bello Island, where he sustained radiation burns to his legs.

After discharging from the Navy in 1975, his same passion to serve the community was transferred to the RSL. He became an active member of



LEFT: Centenary Suburbs RSL Sub Branch President Georges Lefevre and Sub Branch member Dick Stanton presented Gordon James with a Gallipoli jacket in appreciation of his dedicated years with the Sub Branch.

several RSL Sub Branches and helped fundraise for fellow veterans.

Over the past 15 years, Gordon has volunteered thousands of hours selling ANZAC and Remembrance Day badges at Mt Ommaney shopping centre to raise money for veteran welfare at Centenary Suburbs RSL Sub Branch. Everyone walking through the shopping centre stops to

talk to the Navy veteran because of his tremendous smile and ability to have a good yarn.

Age has wearied Gordon and, at 90, his physical ability to help other veterans has come to an end. He is enjoying his time living with his daughter, son-in-law and brother at the RSL Retirement Village at Pinjarra Hills. ←

“EVERYONE WALKING THROUGH THE SHOPPING CENTRE STOPS TO TALK TO THE NAVY VETERAN BECAUSE OF HIS TREMENDOUS SMILE AND ABILITY TO HAVE A GOOD YARN.”

ESO CORNER

In each edition of *Queensland RSL News*, our new ESO Corner will shine a spotlight on different ex-service organisations. These groups provide valuable assistance to the Defence community, and RSL Queensland is proud to partner and collaborate with many of them.



Legacy

LEGACY is a unique and iconic Australian organisation established in the early 1920s by caring veterans of WWI. It delivers upon a legendary promise made by one Digger to his dying mate at the Battle of Pozieres 100 years ago, to “look after the missus and kids”.

Today, Legacy provides services to 65,000 widows, widowers, children and families nationally. The Summer Youth Camp is one of the cornerstones of Legacy’s work with young people and has now run for 13 years.

This year, 30 Legacy kids from across Queensland attended the personal development camp at Lake Ainsworth Sports and Recreation Centre, Lennox Heads.

The camps provide an opportunity for Legacy children and young people who have lost a parent to connect with each other in a positive and supported social and recreational environment. Legacy is committed to nurturing and supporting our youth through fun and challenging activities that enhance connectedness and personal growth, and build friendships to last a lifetime.

This year’s camp included surfing, paddle boarding, and testing participants’ nerves at the Australian Stunt Academy. Legacy staff and Legatees (Legacy’s trained volunteers) were supported in looking after the kids by youth leaders – Legacy kids who participated in the Legacy Youth Leader development program. This





PHOTO
CAPTIONS
XXXXXX

“TODAY, LEGACY PROVIDES SERVICES TO 65,000 WIDOWS, WIDOWERS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES NATIONALLY.”



provided extra support and a level of understanding that can only come from someone with similar life experiences.

For the final two days of camp, the kids were joined by serving soldiers from 8/9RAR who facilitated fun activities like raft building and much more. The camp finished with a special day at the Kokoda Barracks in Canungra, engaging with the Australian military.

The kids took on an obstacle course,

rode in Australian Defence Force vehicles, and participated in ‘Day in the Life’ of a soldier activities. They also visited the memorial garden at the barracks to reflect on the week.

The camp provides Legacy youth, aged 10 to 17, with a safe environment to have fun and connect with other kids who share their experience of losing a parent. It provides six days of education, physical and educational growth, as well as a chance to just be kids!



The Summer Youth Camp is one of the many ways Legacy supports partners and children of service people who have lost their lives or become incapacitated while serving our country.

Legacy could not provide this or any of our other services without the support of its trained volunteers (Legatees). There are more than 5900 volunteer Legatees around Australia, who help keep Legacy's promise by

aiding widows, partners and families of men and women who have lost their lives or their health as a result of their service. ←

IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN MAKING
A DIFFERENCE to the lives of
widows, kids and families across
Queensland, you can volunteer your
time and become a Legatee. Learn
more and register your interest in
becoming a Legatee via
admin@legacybrisbane.org.au
or 07 3029 5600.

**“THE CAMP
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YOUTH, AGED
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EXPERIENCE
OF LOSING A
PARENT.”**



BACK ON THE HORSE

“HELD EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON, THURINGOWA RSL SUB BRANCH’S EQUINE THERAPY GROUP ENABLES VETERANS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE MATES4MATES PROGRAM AN ONGOING OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH HORSES IN A SAFE, FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.”

 Louise Liddiard-Smith

AFTER witnessing the mental health benefits of bonding with horses – as used to great effect by the Mates4Mates Equine Therapy Program – Thuringowa RSL Sub Branch has established a weekly opportunity for veterans and their families to interact with these healing animals.

The first event was held in September 2018 at the Bartlett Park Rodeo for Prostate Cancer. The children of local veterans rode at the event to support the cause and raise awareness for leukaemia. Among the riders was Abbey Christie, a child of two local veterans and a leukaemia sufferer.

“Emotions were definitely running high that day,” Thuringowa RSL Sub Branch Vice President Nic Topp said. “Abbey’s determination to ride for her cause was incredible.”

Held every Sunday afternoon, Thuringowa RSL Sub Branch’s equine therapy group enables veterans who have completed the Mates4Mates program an ongoing opportunity to interact with horses in a safe, friendly environment. The group will also offer the opportunity for veteran families and children to benefit from the experience.

For more information on this program, contact Vice President Nic Topp on 0478 675 564. ←



Among the children participating in Thuringowa RSL Sub Branch’s barrel racing event were Layylah Roughsedge, left, Abbey Christie and her older sister Jasmine Christie.

SECRETS TO A *long life*

WWII veteran and community stalwart Bill Bruce recently celebrated his 102nd birthday.

THE secret to a long, healthy life is simple, according to WWII veteran William (Bill) Bruce: “Just work hard, eat meat and potatoes, and breathe through your nose.”

That approach certainly worked out well for the former Nebo resident, with Bill turning 102 on 2 January 2019.

The celebrations may not have been as big as they were when Bill turned 100 and almost the entire population of Nebo joined him to celebrate, but his family marked the occasion with a special dinner.

Bill, who was born in 1917 at the Fort Cooper Hotel (now known as the Nebo Hotel), lived in the area his entire life and only moved to a nursing home at Caboolture after his 100th birthday.

“I am not married, and I didn’t have close family in the area, so my doctors suggested I should shift somewhere closer,” Bill said.

Bill joined the Australian Defence Force in 1942 and the Australian Imperial Force in 1943, achieving the rank of Craftsman and serving in New Guinea and New Britain.

“I was 25 in 1942 when I signed up. I was with the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and I served with that unit throughout the war. I

was in charge of the electrical system,” he said.

Before the war, Bill – who had two brothers and three sisters – was a contract worker in the bush, doing station work and a stint mining at Mt Gotthardt outside Mackay.

He returned to that work when he was discharged from the Army and spent the last 30 years of his working life in charge of the Nebo Shire Council workshop.

Bill has always been a keen

“LAST YEAR, AT 101, BILL WAS THE OLDEST PERSON TO CARRY THE QUEEN’S BATON ON ITS ROUTE TO THE GOLD COAST COMMONWEALTH GAMES, ALTHOUGH HE DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS ‘RELATIVELY DEAF, RELATIVELY BLIND AND RELATIVELY OLD’.”

RIGHT: Celebrating his 102nd birthday this year, WWII veteran Bill Bruce is still active and well.

INSET: Bill joined the Australian Defence Force in 1942 and the Australian Imperial Force in 1943.

participant at the Nebo RSL, where he became Secretary in 1960 and then Sub Branch President from 1987 until its closure in 2012, single-handedly running every ANZAC Day ceremony at Nebo during that time.

A keen sportsman, Bill was also President of the local cricket and tennis clubs and Secretary of the local jockey club. Though now living in a nursing home, he is still fairly active.

Last year, at 101, he was the oldest person to carry the Queen’s

Baton on its route to the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, although he describes himself as “relatively deaf, relatively blind and relatively old”.

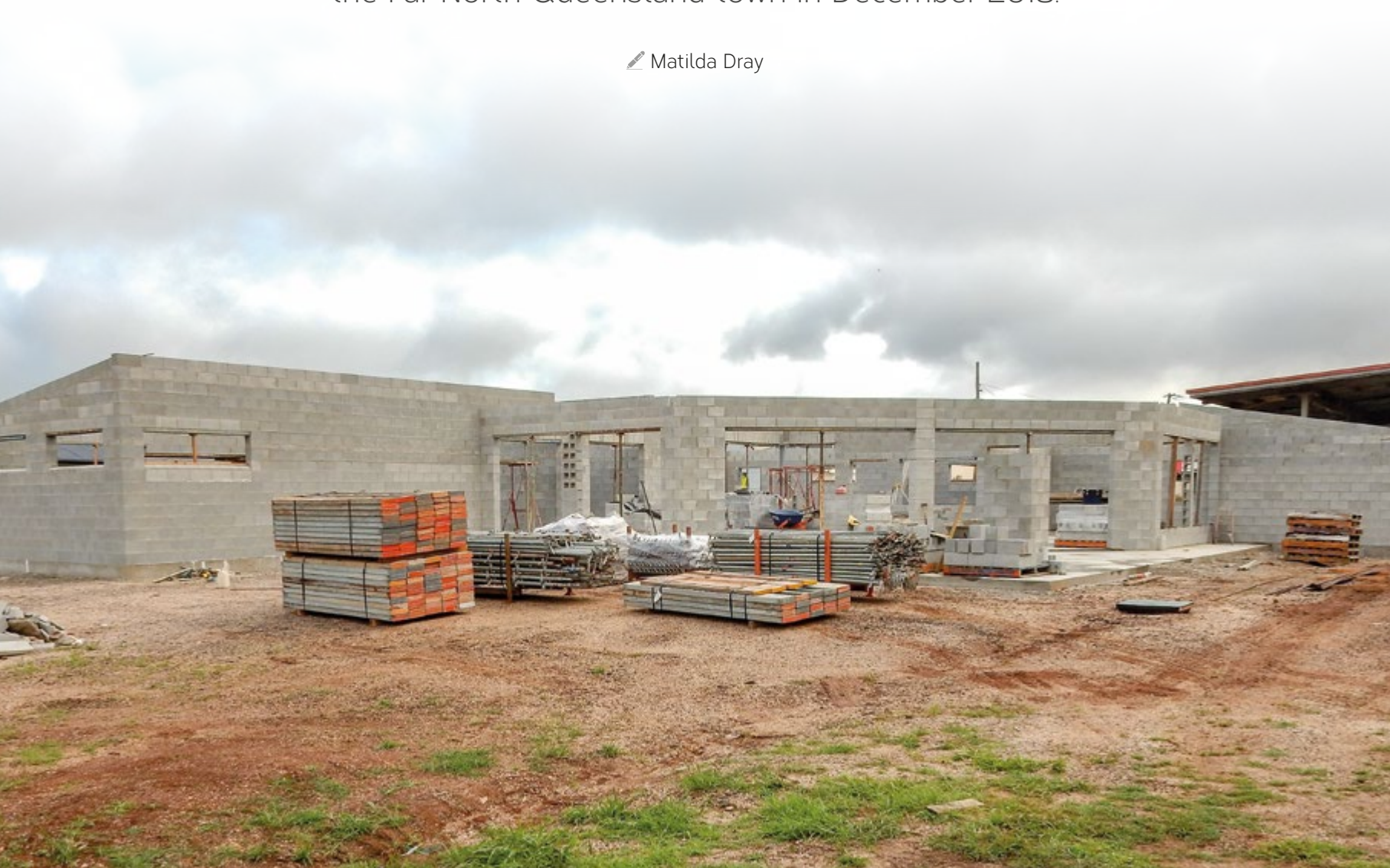
At the time of the Baton Relay, the local council named a walkway in his honour – the Bill Bruce Nature Walk, which follows Nebo Creek into the township. ←



A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Atherton RSL Sub Branch members will once again have a place to call home, with construction started on a new RSL Club in the Far North Queensland town in December 2018.

 Matilda Dray





THE project has been 10 years in the making, with Sub Branch members dedicating hundreds of hours to raise money for the building's construction.

"Every Saturday we have conducted a raffle," President Rob Moss said. "Members have cooked up sausage sizzles at the local markets and in front of trade stores. The sale of memorabilia, particularly in the lead up to ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, combined with a huge Christmas raffle, has helped raise many thousands of dollars. It has been a long time in the making."

The Sub Branch's two welfare officers – who for the past 10 years have been working out of their homes – will now have a dedicated office to provide support to local veterans from across the Atherton Tablelands. The club will also have a conference room for use by the Sub

Branch and other local community organisations, such as the Lions Club, Laurel Ladies, Partners of Veterans, Senior Citizens and Legacy.

Rob acknowledged the tireless efforts of his committee, Sub Branch members, and support from the Far North District. He described it as a team effort to overcome numerous obstacles to get to where they are today.

After three years of submitting applications, the Sub Branch was finally successful in obtaining a grant from the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund. The grant was provided on a dollar-for-dollar basis to match what the Sub Branch has saved, along with some revenue received from the sale of the old RSL building by RSL Queensland in 2008.

Depending on the weather, they hope the new premises will be

RIGHT:
Atherton Sub Branch members at the construction site of the new RSL Club: Secretary Burt Johnson, left, President Rob Moss, Dianne Coppinger and Treasurer Jack Coppinger.

LEFT:
Atherton RSL volunteers Shiralee Bottrell and Dianne Coppinger helped plant native trees along the front of the property and named the walkway the 'Pathway of Hope'.

BELOW:
Construction of the new Atherton building began in December 2018.



completed close to ANZAC Day 2019. The club will be run by the Sub Branch and – in addition to an office and conference room – will also contain a bar, kitchen, some gaming machines and an outside entertainment area with a children's playground.

They have also planted 28 native trees along the front of the property and named the walkway the 'Pathway of Hope'. It is hoped the new building will bring renewed hope for people requiring RSL services on the Tablelands.

"It will be great to have somewhere to call home and display the memorabilia we have in storage. We wanted the community to have a place to gather together and, given the ongoing support from the community over the past 10 years, I am confident they will come along to the club and support us," Rob said. ←





74TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEYTE AND SURIGAO

Two Gold Coast veterans attended the 74th anniversary commemorations of the Leyte Gulf Landings and Battle of Surigao Strait in the Philippines in October 2018. Pictured at the event are Tracey Schofield (David Mattiske's carer), left, Rose Villego (travel agent and the group's guide), David Mattiske (WWII veteran, HMAS *Shropshire*), Michael Everett (friend of David), Ken Orr (Southport RSL Sub Branch Deputy President) and his partner Melissa Majoros. David is campaigning to encourage the Royal Australian Navy to actively participate in the 75th anniversary commemorations in Leyte and Surigao in October 2019.



CALLIOPE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Calliope RSL Sub Branch President and teacher's aide Robyn Marshall, left, presented student Damian Innes with the 2018 Calliope RSL Sub Branch Leadership Award. The Sub Branch presents the annual award to a graduating Year 6 student at Calliope State School to help foster the relationship between the two organisations. Students participate in ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services and a Sub Branch member visits the school prior to ANZAC Day each year to help teach students about the relevance of commemorative days.



KAWANA WATERS AUSTRALIA DAY PICNIC

Kawana Waters RSL Sub Branch members enjoyed a family picnic on Australia Day.



BELMONT MEMORIAL GATE

A new war memorial at Belmont Shooting Complex was dedicated on Remembrance Day 2018. It includes a memorial gate and contemplative garden, which comprises a memorial stone and flag as the centrepiece, surrounded by 11 memorial plinths representing the signing of the Armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918.



NANANGO DONATES TO TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Nanango RSL Sub Branch President Bert Stevens, left, and Nanango RSL Club President Chas Kemp, right, presented a \$2500 cheque to Jane Erkens from the Nanango Tourism and Development Association. The funds will help build an inclusive playground at Butter Factory Park.



VISIT THE MOUNT ISA SUB BRANCH

Mount Isa RSL Sub Branch invites those travelling through North West Queensland to visit their home – the Buffs Club. As well as a supervised kids club, the not-for-profit community club also has a coffee lounge and a sportsman bar and grill.



MOUNT ISA'S RED TRUCK

Mount Isa RSL Sub Branch has a unique way of promoting itself in the local community – an eye catching antique red truck with RSL branding. The Sub Branch brings the highly recognisable vehicle to fundraising and welfare activities.



RECORD ATTENDANCE AT NAVY LUNCH

A record number of 95 ladies attended the Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Queensland Annual Reunion Lunch. This included eight guests representing sister services and local ex-servicewomen's organisations. Guest speaker CPO Sherylee Folkes talked about her experiences throughout her service, providing an interesting insight into the life of a naval woman today.



CAMPAIGN FOR VETERANS SUICIDE MEMORIAL DAY

Vietnam veteran Clarence Ormsby is leading the charge to have June 23 recognised as Veterans Suicide Memorial Day. He believes there must be spiritual healing on what is both a military and civilian mental health dilemma. Clarence has already helped erect memorials at Bribie Island Vietnam Veterans Association, www.standown.com.au, Goodna RSL Sub Branch (pictured) and Ipswich. Thanks to his efforts, Barcaldine Shire Council will also be establishing five memorials in 2019 at Barcaldine RSL Sub Branch, Muttaborra, Alpha, Jericho and Aramac.



WWI PHOTO DONATED TO OAKEY RSL

Oakey RSL Sub Branch President Trevor Steinmuller, left, and General Manager Melissa Flynn are pictured with a framed photo of 11th Battalion AIF posing on Cheops' Pyramid in Egypt during WWI. It was donated by Chris and Michelle Reimers from Art by Leonardo's in Toowoomba.

YERONGA-DUTTON PARK DONATES TO RURAL CRISIS

Yeronga-Dutton Park RSL Sub Branch President Ross Wiseman AM, left, presented a \$2500 cheque to Queensland Country Women's Association President Christine King for the Public Rural Crisis Fund. Sub Branch members feel a special affinity and concern for those in rural areas, with many fellow recruits having joined from these areas.





MEMORIAL ROCK FOR VIETNAM VETS

Charters Towers RSL Sub Branch members Ray Barrett and Vic Nicol erecting a rock that will be dedicated to Vietnam veterans. It will feature a mosaic of helicopters and soldiers during a 'dustoff' – the colloquial term for an emergency patient evacuation of casualties from a combat zone.



CENTENARIAN HONOURED

Centenarian Jack Connors, left, was presented with a birthday certificate by Coorparoo and District Sub Branch President Merv Cuylenburg. Jack enlisted in 1941 and served in the Army's artillery and heavy mortar unit. He served in New Guinea and Bougainville and was discharged in 1946. He still lives at home and is in good health.



CHEQUE FOR WAR ANIMALS

RSL Queensland State Council of Auxiliaries presented a cheque to the Australian War Animals Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) recently, using money raised via a raffle. Pictured are Lesley Boye (State Council of Auxiliaries), left, Ian Gray and Nigel Allsopp (AWAMO), Rebecca McEwan and Maureen Sargent (State Council of Auxiliaries).



GATTON LADIES CRUISE

Gatton Legacy Ladies Rachael and Shirley De Berg, left, Ivy Reuter, Mary Hawkins, Aileen Okeef, June Moore and Betty Chalmers enjoying a lunch cruise on the Brisbane River aboard the Kookaburra Queen. The War Widows organised the event and Gatton RSL Sub Branch members also attended.



REUNION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

RSL Queensland Tribunal Registrar and Kenmore Moggill Sub Branch member Bill Kernocz, left, with Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove during a 50th anniversary reunion of the Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon class of '68 in December. Around 60 classmates attended the event, which included a barbecue lunch on the lawns of Government House at Yarralumla and a guided tour by Sir Peter. There was also a dinner at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) and a Last Post ceremony at the AWM for Lt Rob Pothof, 7RAR, a class member who was killed in action in Vietnam. Back then, Bill said the RMC course took four years, compared to 12 or 18 months now, depending whether recruits previously attended the Australian Defence Force Academy.

ALBERT RUSSELL TURNS 100

Goodna RSL Membership Officer Judith Van De Pol, left, presented RSL member Albert Russell with his 100th year birthday certificate from RSL Queensland on 9 December.



STANTHORPE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Stanthorpe RSL President Martin Corbett, left, and Mayor Tracy Dobie (also a veteran of 22 years) unveiled a new sign outside the revamped Sub Branch as part of its 100-year celebrations on 9 December. The house was named after Helena White, whose tireless and unselfish service to returning WWI and WWII servicemen was recognised on a plaque in front of the building. Around 120 people attended the celebration lunch, during which the oldest member, 97-year-old Anthony Brandrett, left, the youngest member, 33-year-old Wesley Pollard-Carver, centre, and President Martin Corbett cut the anniversary cake.





GREAT YEAR IN GATTON

Gatton RSL Sub Branch celebrated the end of another great year with a Christmas lunch. The Sub Branch also began a weekly exercise group at Gatton Sports Centre at 8am on 8 January. It is an opportunity to socialise and do light physical exercises, with veterans and their partners both welcome.



HERVEY BAY VOLUNTEERS LUNCH

Volunteers Glyn and Carol Jenkins, left, and Lyne and David Fricke enjoyed a lunch organised by Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch to thank volunteers. President Brian Tidyman thanked the pension officers, welfare visitation officers, welfare bus drivers and the Sub Branch committee for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.



RESTORATION OF RARE GERMAN FIELD GUN

A rare German field gun that may be one of only three left in the world has been restored and returned to its home in ANZAC Park, Miles. Miles RSL Sub Branch, in collaboration with Western Downs Regional Council and Miles Chamber of Commerce, restored the gun using funding from the Queensland ANZAC Centenary Grants Program. Professional restorer, Melanie Fihelly Conservation, took on the project and in the course of her research into the gun's history discovered how rare the item was. The following is an excerpt from information received from the Australian War Memorial:

"As you are aware, this particular gun, a 1917 Nahkampfanone, ('close support' or 'close range' cannon) is a very rare survivor of what is considered to be one of the earliest dedicated anti-tank artillery designs. While based upon the German Army's standard 7.7cm FK 96 nA, the Nahkampfanone is lower, having smaller diameter wheels, and was intended to be positioned in, or very close to, front line trenches. The Australian War Memorial is supportive of sensitive restoration activities being undertaken on this gun, and naturally retains a strong interest in it, given its rarity as well as its historic significance – it was captured by the 10th Australian Infantry Brigade in their first major action, at Messines in June 1917."





MURAL REMINDS PUBLIC OF VETERAN STRUGGLE

Greenbank RSL Sub Branch Deputy President Tom McGee OAM, left, and fellow Sub Branch member Councillor Laurie Smith in front of a new mural in Logan. The public art display on ANZAC Avenue in Hillcrest is a daily reminder of the extraordinary struggle of servicemen and women. It depicts the significant theatres of war Australia has fought in since Federation and includes nine photos from WWI through to the present-day conflict in Afghanistan. Its completion was fast tracked to ensure it was finished by 11 November 2018.

Councillor Smith said the mural is a unique way to remember the sacrifices of our servicemen and women. "Most war memorials tend to look the same, but this is one that's designed to stand out. It's pretty hard to miss for the passing traffic and hopefully every time someone drives past, they'll take a moment to remember," Cr Smith said. "It certainly beats a blank slab of concrete. I'd like to thank the Greenbank RSL Sub Branch for partnering with the Logan City Council to make this tribute a reality."



TROOPS GRATEFUL FOR CARE PACKAGES

Redcliffe RSL Sub Branch President Neville Cullen, Deputy President Karen Hemers and Vice President John Martin, with letters and emails sent by troops in appreciation for care packages sent to them by the Sub Branch.



KENMORE MOGGILL RSL SUB BRANCH SECRETARY RECOGNISED

Kenmore Moggill RSL Sub Branch Secretary Doug Pickering was recently awarded a certificate in the Queensland Community Achievement Awards for his tireless efforts helping veterans and their families. Doug has been an active member of the RSL since 1998 and Secretary of Kenmore Moggill since 2013. "He is always ready to assist a veteran in need, sick or hospitalised. Be it by way of a personal visit or a simple phone call, Doug is always there when needed," the award stated.



NEW MEMORIAL FOR TEWANTIN NOOSA

Federal Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien presented a \$5000 cheque to Tewantin Noosa RSL Sub Branch President Mick Reid to help with the construction of a new memorial at the Sub Branch. Due to be unveiled on ANZAC Day, it will be the first memorial for the District since the cenotaph was constructed in 1922.



MACLEAY ISLAND'S OLDEST MEMBER CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Macleay Island RSL Sub Branch member David Ballingal, centre, celebrated his 100th birthday with the Sub Branch executive in December 2018. They baked him a special cake and presented him with various congratulatory letters. David was thrilled to receive a letter from the Queen, Governor-General, other dignitaries and the RAN.

"Are these letters all fair dinkum?" he asked.

Representatives of the Macleay Island Police and Ambulance Brigades were also present, together with his wife Lisa, who was released from hospital later in the day. David was the Chief Engine Room Artificer on HMAS *Colac*. As it was such a small vessel (a Corvette) and he was the senior engineering rating, David was essentially the Engineer Officer.

Two weeks before the end of WWII, David was in the engine room when HMAS *Colac* was hit by a Japanese shore battery. It caused serious flooding, but he kept the engines going until the ship was out of enemy range. David remained on the throttles for a further 20 minutes until the water was chest high, with his hands still on the throttle and his legs floating out behind him.

By the time he evacuated the compartment, the ship was listing heavily to starboard. Once safely on the upper deck, David realised that the boiler room was still manned, so he went back down below through the air locks and got the boiler room crew to secure the boilers and get out. HMAS *Colac* was patched and then towed by HMAS *Swan* to Sydney for proper repairs.



HOWITZER RESTORED

RSL National Servicemen's Sub Branch President Brian Besgrove, left, and Senior Vice President Ken Cort overlook a restored Howitzer before the 2018 Remembrance Day service. The Howitzer has been restored using the Armistice Grant and in the background is the new Memorial Stone, which was unveiled during the service by Federal Member Terri Butler MP, who is the Sub Branch's new patron.



MARYBOROUGH AIR AND SEA MURAL

Maryborough RSL Sub Branch recently commissioned local artist Robbyn Gergos to design and paint a mural in its Memorial Garden in honour of past, present and future Navy and Air Force personnel. The mural depicts HMAS *Maryborough* and a Hercules flying above. More murals are planned, which will be a tribute to all three services once completed.

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



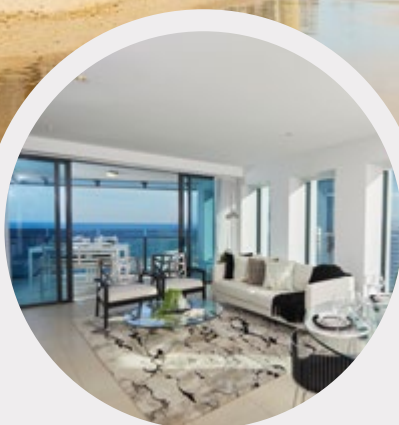
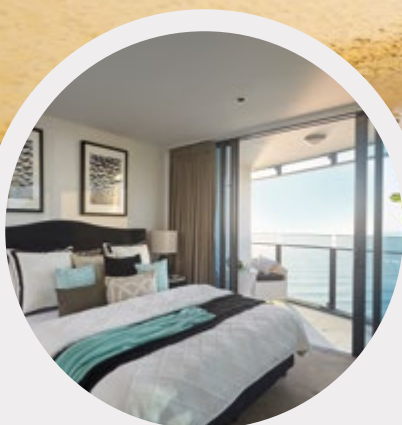
ABOVE:
The hangar attached to the museum features additional displays and aircraft.

ABOVE RIGHT:
WWI 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. ←



EX-SERVICEMAN WINS \$2M DREAM PRIZE

MR DEAN SIMPSON* from Corrimal, NSW, was understandably lost for words when Deborah Pescott, RSL Art Union's Commercial Operations Manager, delivered the news that he was the lucky winner of Draw 362, offering a \$2 million prize – a luxury beachfront apartment on the Gold Coast plus \$500,000 in gold!

Dean's lucky winning ticket,

#1,124,199, was drawn at 10am on 30 January, and after several attempts we were finally able to get in touch with him.

Mr Simpson is unsure of what he will do with his win but is already dreaming of a well-deserved holiday in his luxury apartment, only steps from Surfers Paradise Beach.

As an ex-serviceman, Dean shared that supporting the

veteran community was the reason he became a VIP member in 2016.

The good news didn't end there. Deborah continued to explain that, as a \$50 VIP book buyer, Dean also receives an extra \$85,000 in gold.

"It doesn't stop!" he exclaimed. Congratulations to Mr Simpson and all the Draw 362 winners.

From all of us here at RSL Art

Union, we thank you for your support. All the winners in this draw were VIPs!

**Name changed for privacy reasons.*



HURRY – TIME IS RUNNING OUT! DRAW CLOSES 2ND APRIL!

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RSL Art Union Draw No. 364 (also known as Draw 364L) is conducted by Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) ABN 79 902 601 713 of ANZAC House, 283 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley Permit No. M13615. Close date: 8pm (AEST) 02/04/19. Draw Date: Public draw 10am (AEST) 10/04/19 at ANZAC House, 283 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006. Promoter: Vic Reading, Locked Bag prize \$5,000 gold bullion. The total number of tickets available for AU364 is 2,600,000 which may include a maximum of 546,000 bonus tickets. Entrants must be 18 years or over. Winners notified by registered only. Selling costs and market variations apply when selling gold bullion. Travel is in the form of a voucher, is not redeemable for cash and must be booked directly with our selected supplier, subject to their terms and

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Researching a better transition to civilian life

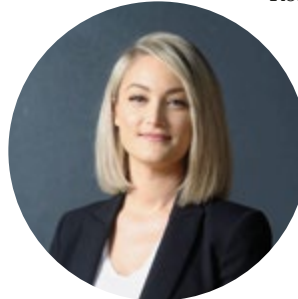
With the support of RSL Queensland, the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF) is conducting a comprehensive study into the psychological impact associated with the transition from military service to civilian life.

THE journey from service to civilian life can be a daunting prospect. You leave the familiar military framework to be confronted by a civilian system that may seem at odds with the life you've known for so long. This transition process leaves many veterans feeling lost and alone – 'out of the family' – and the psychological toll can be devastating.

A recent study found an estimated 46 per cent of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who transitioned out of full-time service

in the past five years met diagnostic criteria for a mental health disorder.

Compared to data from those still in the ADF, the transitioned ex-serving personnel reported significantly higher mental health symptoms across all domains measured, including psychological distress, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), alcohol use, depressive and anxiety symptoms, anger and suicidality. Further, the levels of



Dr Romaniuk

psychological distress in the recently transitioned group were more than double of the wider Australian community.

GMRF's Veteran Mental Health Initiative Leader Dr Madeline

Romaniuk hopes the foundation's new study will help address the high rate of veterans struggling with the transition process.

"These concerning statistics really confirm how critical the period of transition is for ex-service personnel," Dr Romaniuk said. "Our research on transition goes beyond the statistics and attempts to understand more deeply why ADF members are at such high risk of developing a psychological condition when they discharge."

Dr Romaniuk and Research Assistant Chloe Kidd recently published a paper that collated and analysed all the internationally published studies that examine the psychological process of

"THIS RESEARCH WILL RESULT IN A UNIQUE TOOL THAT MAY CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO HOW VETERANS TRANSITION OUT OF DEFENCE. IT WILL ENABLE EARLY INTERVENTION AND STRATEGIC TARGETING OF INDIVIDUAL NEEDS, HELPING TO ENSURE SUPPORT IS IN PLACE IN THE EARLY STAGES OF REINTEGRATION."



discharging from the military.

“The study demonstrated that veterans across cultures are experiencing a profound sense of loss following discharge from the military. This falls into three central themes: loss of community and culture, loss of purpose, and loss of identity.”

This translates to losing your friends, support network, and where you feel you ‘belong’, not knowing who you are anymore, and not having a reason to get up in the morning. This finding no doubt helps explain why so many ex-service personnel go on to develop a mental health condition, such as anxiety or depression.

In addition to the study examining

the experience of loss, Dr Romaniuk and her team have conducted the largest qualitative research study done on transition among Australian veterans. This study not only confirmed what had been found internationally, but also helped to identify factors that lead to a successful or poor transition. Phase two of the VMHI Study is currently underway and aims to analyse the effectiveness of an assessment tool, which was developed using these factors, to identify veterans at risk of poor transition.

“We’ve had over 470 participants volunteer for stage two of the study, which demonstrates that

understanding transition and developing better support is really important to the veteran community,” Dr Romaniuk said.

“The veterans who participate in this study often explain to me they have had a difficult transition themselves, and they want to prevent the same mistakes occurring to others.”

GMRF is in the final stages of phase two of this study, with the online survey open until the end of April. Dr Romaniuk and her team are now expanding the reach of the survey, targeting current serving personnel who are about to discharge from the Defence Force.

This research will result in a unique



“AS THE RESEARCH HAS PROGRESSED, IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT WE NEED TO BE LOOKING AT PREVENTION, NOT JUST ‘CURE’. WE WANT TO PREVENT THESE DIFFICULTIES FROM OCCURRING IN THE FIRST PLACE AND GIVE MEMBERS THE BEST CHANCE TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL AND HEALTHY TRANSITION.”

tool that may contribute substantially to how veterans transition out of Defence. It will enable early intervention and strategic targeting of individual needs, helping to ensure support is in place in the early stages of reintegration.

“As the research has progressed, it has become clear that we need to be looking at prevention, not just ‘cure’. We want to prevent these difficulties from occurring in the first place and give members the best chance to have a successful and healthy transition.”

There is no doubt the transition process will continue to be a unique and challenging experience, but GMRF, with the help of RSL Queensland, is committed to ensuring veterans don’t face this journey alone.

Find out more about the study at bit.ly/reintegrationstudy

Tim Thomas | Ex-Special Forces Commando and GMRF Veteran Advisor

When I got out, I kept thinking, ‘If I get a job, I’ll be right. A job will solve everything.’

Wrong!

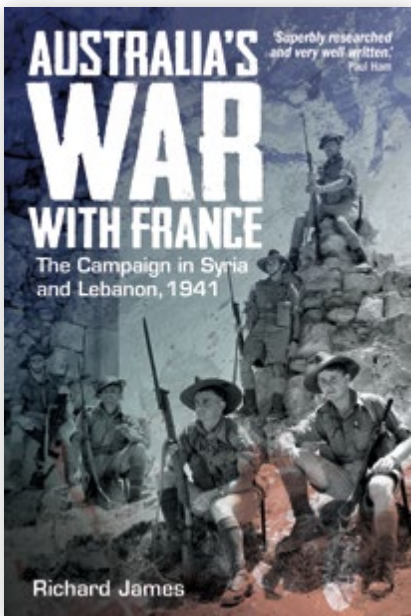
Without realising, I had held onto the Defence cultural framework. Problems kept occurring because I seemed to be ‘out of sync’ with work mates. I started to feel isolated, and I learned very quickly that social isolation is the breeding ground for negativity.

The worst part was that I wasn’t enjoying the freedom I fought so hard for. It doesn’t matter if the pain is emotional or physical. Pain is very costly to us, our loved ones and our country.

We haven’t been able to measure the success or failure of the transition process. Right now, the only measurable event is the number of ex-service members who are committing suicide.

I got involved with the VMHI study to help bring awareness and voice to the silent and unseen struggles of the ex-serving member. I hope this study leads to viable options and solutions to move forward. I want my fellow ex-serving brothers and sisters to genuinely be able to say, ‘My best years aren’t behind me, they’re in front of me!’





AUSTRALIA'S WAR WITH FRANCE

Much has been written about Australia's role in helping to secure an Allied victory in WWII, but a pivotal engagement with France has been overlooked – until now.

This is the story of how the 7th Division came to fight the Army of the Levant – Australia against France – in the rocky hills of Lebanon and barren wastes of Syria. Churchill and the British, shocked by the Vichy French government's overtures to Hitler, were desperate to keep French Syria and Lebanon out of German hands. But the only spare troops in the Middle East were a division of untested Australian recruits.

The British won the war, but at the price of 400 fallen Australians, sons of ANZACs who had fought to defend France in the trenches of the Western Front. The Allies were embarrassed, the campaign forgotten, and the Aussies who fought were dubbed 'the silent men'.

No contemporary Australian historian has studied this conflict. While British and French accounts exist, they fail to do justice to the Australian contribution. Through interviews with veterans, archival records and on-the-ground research, debut author Richard James seeks to understand a neglected campaign and give it its proper place in Australian history.

Australia's War with France by Richard James is published by Big Sky Publishing (RRP: \$29.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Australia's War with France*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'Australia's War with France') or post to 'Australia's War with France', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 22 April 2019.



OUR FORGOTTEN VOLUNTEERS

Australian and New Zealand volunteers were already in Serbia, treating wounded Serbian soldiers and fighting a typhus epidemic, before the ANZACs landed at Gallipoli in 1915. The Gallipoli Campaign sealed Serbia's fate, however, as Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria moved to secure a land supply corridor to Turkey through Serbia.

Australians and New Zealanders accompanied the Serbian Army on a deadly retreat over wintry mountains to the Adriatic coast. When the fighting shifted to the Salonika or 'Macedonian' Front, many served there with the British Army, the Royal Flying Corps, two AIF units and six Royal Australian Navy destroyers in the Adriatic and Aegean Seas. Some died in action, others from disease. Fifteen hundred Australians and New Zealanders served on this little-known yet crucial battlefield. Now, for the first time, we have an engaging and comprehensive account of what they experienced and achieved in The Great War.

Our Forgotten Volunteers by Bojan Pajić is published by Australian Scholarly Publishing (RRP: \$50).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Our Forgotten Volunteers*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'Our Forgotten Volunteers') or post to 'Our Forgotten Volunteers', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 22 April 2019.



NURSES OF AUSTRALIA

Nursing is Australia's most trusted profession, yet the fascinating and extensive history of nursing in Australia has never been told – until now.

Produced in collaboration with the Australian College of Nursing and the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives, *Nurses of Australia* follows the unique history of Australian nurses. From the First Nations caregivers who healed, birthed and nursed for millennia, to the untrained and ill-equipped convict men and women of New South Wales, it would take the arrival of a group of dedicated Irish nuns, followed by Florence Nightingale-trained nurses – and decades of constant and continuing campaigning – to transform nursing into what it is today.

The book takes the reader on a visual journey beyond the hospital to explore bush, wartime, mental health, aged care and community nursing along with midwifery, the special bond formed between fellow nurses and the racism Indigenous nurses often experienced.

Nurses of Australia by Deborah Burrows is published by NLA Publishing (RRP: \$34.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Nurses of Australia*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'Nurses of Australia') or post to 'Nurses of Australia', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 22 April 2019.



QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS WINNERS

Edition 6, 2018

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS

M Hennigan, Auchenflower
L Coman, Carseldine
M Pini, South Ripley
J Manser, Kelso

THE MISSING MAN

F Mitchell, Manoora
R Pearson, Carseldine
E Lensing, Urraween
W Beeton, Bongaree

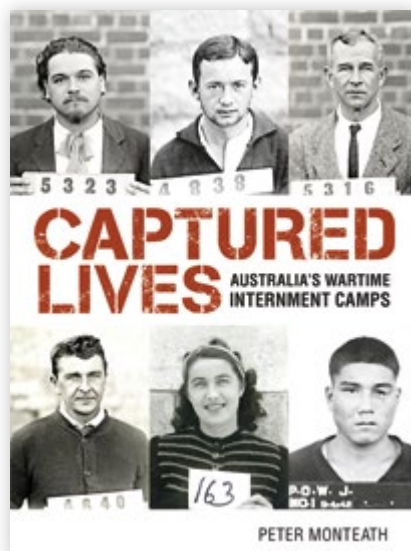
THE LOST BATTALIONS

D Hale, Holland Park West
R Campbell, Sandstone Point
G Woolnough, Windsor
R Cross, Banksia Beach

COOKTOWN

G Gillian, Clifton
A Smith, Apple Tree Creek
J Groves, Machans Beach
R Mawer, Rowes Bay

* Winners' books will be sent to the address supplied in the weeks following publication of the magazine.



CAPTURED LIVES

What was life like for prisoners of war and civilian internees detained during the two World Wars?

In the new book *Captured Lives*, author and historian Peter Monteath provides a captivating visual look behind the barbed wire veil that was drawn around people deemed a threat to Australia's security. Civilians from enemy nations, even if born in Australia, were subjects of suspicion and locked away in internment camps. Many were long-term residents of Australia, had contributed economically and brought new skills and know-how to the nation. For them, being interned was bewildering.

Captured Lives by Peter Monteath is published by NLA Publishing (RRP: \$39.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Captured Lives*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'Captured Lives') or post to 'Captured Lives', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 22 April 2019.

COMMUNITY CONNECT

AFTERMATH OF WWI EXHIBITION

A new exhibition launched in March at the Army Museum South Queensland in Victoria Barracks on Petrie Terrace, Brisbane. Displays include meticulously researched stories of the aftermath of WWI and how peace negotiations affected the Australian way of life. Public tours of Victoria Barracks are on Wednesdays only. The price of \$15 per person includes the professionally researched and curated exhibition, an escorted tour of historic Victoria Barracks, Devonshire tea served in the original Officers' Mess, souvenir booklet and digital photo. Groups and individuals must always make prior bookings through www.armymuseumsouthqueensland.com.au, by phoning 0429 954 663, or emailing info@armymuseumsouthqueensland.com.au.

WERE YOU INVOLVED IN THE FA18 CRASH SITE CLEAN-UP?

Linda Francis (nee Hjortshoj), is seeking contact with anybody involved with the FA18 crash site clean-up at Palm Island, Queensland, in November 1987. Lex Roberts is advocating on her behalf and asks anybody that was posted to RAAF Base Townville during this time, who was selected to conduct crash site clean-up, to contact him via annelex@bigpond.com or 0431 575 660.

CHRISTOPHER MORDUE HAS CROSSED THE BAR

It was the final wish of Christopher Mordue R121144, who passed away recently, that his fellow veterans knew he had "crossed the bar". Chris served on HMAS *Cerberus*, HMAS *Kuttatubul*, HMAS *Vampire*, HMAS *Stalwart*, HMAS *Swan* and spent three years on staff at Tresco Admiral and HMAS *Kuttatubul*. If you would like to contact his wife Kerry Mordue, her mobile is 0407 965 112.

DOG TAGS FOUND

Dog tags belonging to WS Maclachlan A133527 have been found. Contact Margaret on havachat005@yahoo.com.au.

MEDALS FOUND

Several medals (pictured) belonging to WO1 J Kelly have been found. They include the 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star, Defence Medal and the 1939-1945 Medal. Contact Phil Allen, Veteran Support Officer at Goodna RSL Sub Branch via welfare@goodnarslsubbranch.org.au.



DO YOU KNOW TULLOCH?

Do you know about an AIF officer or NCO named 'Tulloch', who served at Gallipoli at the Nek and Baby 700 in August 1915, and who returned to visit in the mid-1970s? According to Turkish sources, Tulloch met a Turkish schoolteacher on that visit, who taught him about Ataturk's "Johnnies and Mehmet" speech. He then informed the Brisbane RSL, helping shape the Fountains memorial. If you have more information about Tulloch, please contact Associate Professor Adrian Jones from La Trobe University on adrian.jones@latrobe.edu.au.

DO YOU KNOW GRAHAME LONSDALE?

Rachael is hoping to get back in contact with her Uncle Grahame Lonsdale, who served with 7RAR in Vietnam. She can be contacted on 0401 975 273 or smiles_rachael@hotmail.com.

KILCOY RACE CLUB DIGGERS CUP

The Kilcoy Race Club (KRC) Diggers Cup Race Day 2019 will be held on Saturday 13 April. You will note that this date is well in advance of ANZAC Day, as Easter falls on 19-22 April. The 'usual suspects' from Kilcoy Diggers, (aka KilDigs) will be there, however, they are always happy to welcome 'reos' to the group, even if only for the day. Free camping is available for KilDigs from 11am on 10 April to 10am on 14 April. For more information, contact via roshjurs2@gmail.com, 0419 656 956 or PM via Facebook 'Kilcoy Diggers'.

WWII SERVICE MEDALS MISSING

The WWII service medals of John Desmond Twine QX50854 have gone missing. They include the 1939-1945 Star, Pacific Star, War Medal 1939-1945, Australia Service Medal 1939-1945 and Australian Service Medal 1945-75, with 'SW Pacific' clasp. Contact Terry Twine on twine@bigpond.net.au or 044 976 0338.

DO YOU KNOW OF MEMORIALS HONOURING SERVICE WOMEN?

The Council of Ex-Servicewomen Qld (CESW) is compiling an inventory of memorials honouring servicewomen and ex-servicewomen throughout Queensland. There are currently 39 memorials on the list. The criteria for inclusion are that the memorial exclusively honours ex-servicewomen and servicewomen and can be anything that commemorates, reminds, honours or celebrates. It can be a statue, structure, pillar, object, plaque, seat, park, garden, walk or avenue.

If you know of anything that should be included on the list, please send a photo and the following details (if available): memorial name, location, description, inscription and type. Email the information to the Assistant Secretary via ceswsec2@gmail.com. The list already includes the memorials in ANZAC Square in Brisbane.

ARE YOU A PROUD RAT OF TOBRUK DESCENDANT?

The Rats of Tobruk Association has over 500 members from across Australia, including several original veterans who remain active. Descendants and relatives of the Rats of Tobruk are encouraged to join the association. Find out more at www.ratsoftobrukassociation.org.au or via ratsoftobruk41@gmail.com.

REUNIONS

JOIN THE RATS OF TOBRUK FACEBOOK GROUP

Descendants and relatives of the Rats of Tobruk are encouraged to become a member of one of two Facebook groups, either the Rats of Tobruk Public Group, based in Melbourne, or the Descendants of the Rats of Tobruk – Australia, which is Betty Murphy's closed group, based in Queensland. Family members of the Rats of Tobruk are also encouraged to contact Owen Carlton via ocar23@iinet.net.au to verify the service of a potential Rat of Tobruk. This will enable his national ROT database of 18,642 records to be kept up-to-date.

MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SUICIDE MONUMENT DESIGN COMPETITION

Design submissions are sought for a national monument in memory of veterans who lost their lives to suicide. Veterans Suicide Prevention Inc would like to build a bronze monument acknowledging the mental health dilemma of depression, PTSD, bullying and suicide. They will offer the winning design to be erected on ANZAC Parade, Canberra, or other appropriate memorial sites in Australia or internationally as part of its worldwide educational process. The competition closes on 11 November 2019. Art designs can be sent to Clarence Ormsby JP, President Veterans Suicide Prevention Inc PO Box 7072, Mannering Park, NSW, 2259, Australia or via crimehurts@gmail.com. For more information phone 0447 448 636.



NEED HELP?

Are you looking for someone, something or seeking information? Are you in need of help from your local RSL community? Would you like to make contact with an RSL contributor? Email your request to editor@rslqld.org

RAN SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

OFFICER INTAKE

A 50-year reunion for the RAN Supplementary List officer intake 1/69 will be held in Singapore with the five remaining SAF colleagues over Easter, 18-23 April 2019. For further information contact CMDR Mick Storrs on 07 5438 9565, 0409 847 023 or stickeymaws@hotmail.com.

42ND INFANTRY BATTALION

ASSOCIATION MACKAY

The 42nd Infantry Battalion Association Mackay will hold its 2019 Reunion Dinner in Mackay on Saturday 27 July 2019. Arrive at 6pm for a 7pm start. The dinner is by invitation only, so please contact President Garry Edwards via text on 0400 242 779, post PO Box 10067, Mount Pleasant Qld 4740 or email garry_edwards53@hotmail.com.

REUNION FOR B COY 2RAR/NZ

B Coy 2RAR/NZ 1970-71 is holding a reunion in Townsville from 14-18 October 2019. This commemorates 50 years since 2RAR moved from Enoggera to Lavarack Barracks prior to their deployment to Vietnam in 1970.

BOMBER COMMAND

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

On 2 June 2019, the RAAF, in conjunction with the Queensland University Squadron Branch, will conduct the 11th Bomber Command Commemorative Service in the Memorial garden at RAAF Base Amberley. The service will be held from 11am-12:30pm, with guests to be seated by 10:30am. Medals are to be worn where appropriate. Light refreshments will be served after the service. As the BCCS is held in a secure area of RAAF Base Amberley, registration is mandatory. RSVP by 13 May to SQNLDR Richard Bright (Retd.), Queensland University Squadron Branch via bccs.qld@gmail.com or 07 3378 3319.

BACK TO THE BATTALION FOR

ANZAC DAY 2019

Ex-members of 66 Battalion, 2 AR, 2 RAR, 2/4 RAR and now 2 RAR (Amphib) and their families are invited to return to their home at Second Battalion, Samichon Lines, Lavarack Barracks on ANZAC Day. 2 RAR's theme for this year's Dawn Service is 'Back to the Battalion'. The CO, LTCOL Judd Finger and the RSM, WO1 Jason Sten CSM invite all current and ex-serving members to the Battalion's Dawn Service. The point of contact for all ex-serving members is Jason Harrison jason.a.harrison@gmail.com and serving members is WO2 Mick Young michael.young5@defence.gov.au.

LAST POST

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Adams	William	QX39811	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Allen	Graham	6/931	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch
Allen	Douglas	NX57864	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Andersen	Vincent	QX500042	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Anderson	Wyndham	14510256	Stanthorpe Sub Branch
Anderson	Olga	QX46881 (Q140157)	Defence Service Nurses Sub Branch
Andrews	Neville	A115898	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Ballinger	Desmond	A120196	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Banister	Clarence	QX59636	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Barrett*	Anthony	4/410046	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Baumgart	Barry	R57721	Gympie Sub Branch
Beitzel	Gordon	136003	Murgon Sub Branch
Birch	Ivan	15823	Townsville Sub Branch
Birse	Keith	Q272927	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Bishop	Leslie	121559	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Bishop	Eric	H1583	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Blowers	Keith	0112838	Redlands Sub Branch
Bock	Mary	QF271247	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Bodill	Jack	489003	Greenbank Sub Branch
Borgges	Kenneth	13543	Townsville Sub Branch
Bory*	Ben	48791	Cairns Sub Branch
Boyd	Albert	VX137288	Redlands Sub Branch
Boyle	Ernest	343223	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Brandon	Graham	016568	Chinchilla Sub Branch
Brasher	Hilton	Q146369	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch
Bremner	Harry	22560190	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Bremner-Young	John	1894572	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Brittenden	Richard	B840145	Charleville Sub Branch
Brown	Peter	434539	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Brown	Leon	022087	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch
Bruhl	Lawrence	124479/ A133001330/ O1330	Coolum-Peregian Sub Branch
Burke	Arthur	111261	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Burley	Bernard	7359966	Toowoomba United Sub Branch

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Byquar	Noel	13590	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Callan	Joseph	QX43433	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Campbell	Alan	1721553	Murgon Sub Branch
Campbell	Harold	W3185	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Carey	Bernard	1411063	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch
Caristi	Filippo	1/706293	Herbert River Sub Branch
Carthew	Samantha	1104005	Edge Hill/Cairns West Sub Branch
Challenor	Barry	A317358	Toogoom and District Sub Branch
Chandler	Alton	A216004 (137418)	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Inc
Chapman	Ronald	434321	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch
Charlton	Alec	F4638/ 33599	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Chatfield	Henry	434083	Nambour Sub Branch
Chisholm	Thomas	425601	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Christensen	Reginald	QX51095	Wynnum Sub Branch
Clark	Les	1717951	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch
Clark	Ernie	S/7270	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Cleary	Colin	274659	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Clydesdale*	Peter	3155873	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Cole	Betty	QF273881	Sandgate Sub Branch
Coleman	Harold	27260	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Colless	Terence	2713339	Ipswich Sub Branch
Connell	Mary	2801951	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Cook	Joseph	PM6688	Cairns Sub Branch
Costelloe	Ronald	R29559	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Cox	Mervin	QX22058	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch
Craven	Norm	R50641	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Croft	John	151477	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Crook	James	A42637	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch
Cunningham	Patrick	P/ SK939859	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Curtis	Lesley	11405066	Tamborine Mountain Sub Branch
Dawson	Gerald	22937459	Greenbank Sub Branch

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Day-Lewis	Guy	F3052	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Dean	Kevin	A1988	Caloundra Sub Branch
Deen	Keith	1/713325	Toowoomba United Sub Branch
Delaforce	Keith	nx140378	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Dibella	Samuel	A18136	Redlands Sub Branch
Doran	James	25577	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch
Dover	James	434276	Boonah Sub Branch
Dowden	Maurice	QX42075	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Drew	Norman	150339	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Dunn*	George	QX55398	Toowoomba United Sub Branch
Dunne	Kenneth	21126325	Greenbank Sub Branch
Durham	Ivo	QX52225 (Q25376)	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Ecker	Archbald	QX29711	Proserpine Sub Branch
Egan	Ronald	-	Rathdowney Chapter of Beaudesert Sub Branch
Eldridge	Stephen	212374	Canungra Sub Branch
Esdaile	Graham	QX49298 (Q145855)	Toowong Sub Branch
Fielder*	Roland	P/ JX246037	Emu Park Sub Branch
Finch	Ian	1732441	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Fitchew	Frederick	1700278	Mapleton Sub Branch
Fleming	Neville	R43484	Proserpine Sub Branch
Forster*	Peter	QX57553	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch
Fraser	Peter	1/702982	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Freestun	Joan	WR2717	Townsville Sub Branch
French	Peter	3773656	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Furness	Gavin	1733217	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch
Gilliland	Robert	14929	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch
Golightly	Raymond	68230	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Gradidge	George	A13332	Cairns Sub Branch
Gregson	George	23044951	Townsville Sub Branch
Haager	Keith	132505	Murgon Sub Branch
Hall	Leslie	13351	Caloundra Sub Branch
Hanchard	David	1200812	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Harris	Victor	15628	Pittsworth Sub Branch
Hart	Austin	212481	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Inc
Hasler	Glen	R66922	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Haynes	Leslie	2707188	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Hazelden	Ronald	A58071	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Hennessy	Peter	A117963	Townsville Sub Branch
Henson	Edward	4108532	Goodna Sub Branch
Heptinstall	Marguerita	2179185	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch
Heptinstall	Marguerita	421895	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch
Hiard	Louis	S/79486	Southport Sub Branch
Hicks	Melville	0527	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch
Hill	Ernest	A1637	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Hinchcliffe	John	31476	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Hobbs	Kevin	1/717923	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Hobbs	Richard	15410	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Horner	Robin	434635	Southport Sub Branch
Howes	John	127409	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Howland*	Maxwell	O119616 (405411)	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch
Hubbard	Francis	432514	Ipswich Sub Branch
Huddy	Victor	QX11530	Herbert River Sub Branch
Huften	Richard	22829415	Nerang Sub Branch
Hughes	Margaret	WR478	Southport Sub Branch
Humphries	James	22121608	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Hutchinson	Frank	B4361	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Idagi	William	1205788	Thuringowa Sub Branch
James	Walter	46250	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Jeffreys	Robert	R94235	Goodna Sub Branch
Johnson	Leonard	A122893	Caboolture-Morayfield & Dist Sub Branch
Johnston	Victor	1/727764	Deception Bay Sub Branch
Johnstone	Robert	QX62146	Proserpine Sub Branch
Jones	Robert	1202543	Harlaxton Sub Branch
Jones	William	18328	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Jordan	Elizabeth	W362802	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Jose	Ronald	36994	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch

LAST POST

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Keates	Roland	1733694	Caloundra Sub Branch
Keech	Mary-Ann	F15422	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Keeves	Bramwell	583444V	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Kelly	Ernest	R30160	Townsville Sub Branch
Keogh	John	QX59182 (Q19200)	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch
Kerr	Denis	MERCHANT NAVY	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Kerr	Martin	A23375	Carlyle Gardens Townsville Chapter of North QLD District
Kidd	Richard	151484	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Lambley	James	0116538	Goodna Sub Branch
Landeman	Allen	A124825	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Lane	Colin	1735720	Southport Sub Branch
Lang	Ian	143949	Leyburn Sub Branch
Lauman	Douglas	QX35412	Unattached List Sub Branch
Le Feuvre	Victor	17552 (QX33703)	The Gap Sub Branch
Lee	Eileen	99061	Maleny Sub Branch
Linthorne	Robert	2751630	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Lockwood	Dean	4/713290	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Love	John	D/MX75341	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Mackay	Alexander	NZ15204	Southport Sub Branch
Mackay	Hugh	VX114822	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Mansfield*	Richard	4625	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Martin	Michael	18245	Springwood Tri-Service Sub Branch
Martin	Kenneth	NS3921	Nerang Sub Branch
Martin	Ronald	NX66686	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Mccluskey	Joseph	3800982	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
McFarlane	Graham	715064	Runaway Bay Sub Branch
McGuire	Donald	QX501046	Ipswich Sub Branch
McHue	David	127316	Redcliffe Sub Branch
McKenzie	John	NX139256	Maroochydore Sub Branch
McKibbin	Robert	R109000	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
McLeod	Alex	QX500552	Cardwell Sub Branch
McMahon	Martin	QX61154	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch
Millar	John	H1956	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Miller	Harold	39348	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Miller*	Margaret	N218547	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch
Mobbs	Kevin	B3671	Toowoomba United Sub Branch
Moody*	Nigel	1204384	Toowoomba United Sub Branch
Morgan	Pamela	2814946	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Muir	Barbara	94311	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Mullins	James	A23152	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Murphy	Eva	02181	Townsville Sub Branch
Nielsen	Leslie	R62896	Warwick Sub Branch
Noble	Warren	120034	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Nothling	Martin	Q270160	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Nottage	Donald	42419	Gympie Sub Branch
Ollis	Albert	1/721831	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Ord	Mavis	100793	Greenbank Sub Branch
Oxnam	Lewis	B3858	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Page	Thomas	453315	Townsville Sub Branch
Page	Thomas	QX64210	Townsville Sub Branch
Patton	Cyril	QX54251/ Q265169	Mackay Sub Branch
Pell	Peter	2/37635	Redlands Sub Branch
Phillips	Kenneth	124077	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Pooles	Kerry	2412576	Gin Gin Sub Branch
Poulson	Audrey	101930	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Prete	Carlo	157132	Innisfail Sub Branch
Priestley	John	43300	Stanthorpe Sub Branch
Rasmussen	Malcolm	1702283	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Reed	George	19018472	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Reeves	Jeffrey	126717	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Reynolds	Douglas	NZ11111	Logan & District Sub Branch Inc
Ribchester*	Alan	22321766	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Richardson	Warren	QX54458	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Riches	Harry	215352/ 2202001	Nerang Sub Branch
Riddell	Colin	A112876	Ipswich Sub Branch
Robards	Robert	2/720306	Caloundra Sub Branch
Roberts	Percy	445072	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Robinson	John	439326	Maroochydore Sub Branch

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Rolls	John	NX166534	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Ross	Gordon	434039	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Rough	William	426918	Isis Sub Branch
Roughead	Malcolm	QX62260	Gympie Sub Branch
Routledge	Walter	356012	Gordonvale Sub Branch
Rudge	Richard	423092	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Rumpf	Vivian	-	Toogoom and District Sub Branch
Rush	Maxwell	A61524	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch
Sampson	John	4719999	Sandgate Sub Branch
Sams	Paul	15468	Unattached List Sub Branch
Saunders	Donald	163345	Emu Park Sub Branch
Saville	Sydney	26124	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Schulz	Fred	QX44785	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Scope*	John	A48463	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Scott	James	1/724887	Gympie Sub Branch
Seach	Robert	R46756	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Sengstock	Donald	A19937	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Sexton	Leslie	NX500238	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Shields	Frederick	135239	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Skubis	John	18774	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Slapp	Athol	R35322	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Smythe	Ivy	270257	Toowoomba United Sub Branch
Smythe*	Denis	R57486	Logan & District Sub Branch Inc
Snowdon	Barry	R53745	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Speechley	John	A11495	Caloundra Sub Branch
Spencer	Barry	213562	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Spencer	Barry	213562+ A125893	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Spencer	Roger	1203738	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Spinks	Henry	H1600	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
St Leon	John	NX135418	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Stewart*	Eric	B3327	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch
Stone*	William	211065	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch
Stumer	Kenneth	A11180	Hervey Bay Sub Branch

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Tawhai	Wilson	L595171	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Temple	John	414608	Innisfail Sub Branch
Tesch	Brian	A13826	Greenbank Sub Branch
Thompson	Keith	5411178	Townsville Sub Branch
Thomson*	Harris	318434	Gayndah Sub Branch
Timmins	Betty	F38041	Mareeba Sub Branch
Toms*	Robert	28534	Redlands Sub Branch
Tonkin	Clarence	V246259	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Towers	Ivan	2/768195	Salisbury Sub Branch
Towler	Clyde	QX18482	Ipswich Sub Branch
Trott	Brian	053474	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Valuks	Ivars	217163	Russell Island Sub Branch
Vial*	Allan	A417912	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch
Vickers	Robert	5/410327	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch
Waite	Ronald	FX633263	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Wakeling*	Ronald	1295356	Caloundra Sub Branch
Walk	Walter	Q14440	Caloundra Sub Branch
Wallace*	Ivan	B5309	Caloundra Sub Branch
Walmsley	Gerard	O18008	Russell Island Sub Branch
Watkinson	Robert	44030	Glasshouse Country Sub Branch
Webb	William	NX98255	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Webster	Kyle	A119917	Gladstone Sub Branch
Wells	Reginald	O17943 (78805)	Kawana Waters Sub Branch
Wentford*	Rachel	QFX57751	Mackay Sub Branch
Wessel	John	2/67038	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Wheeler	Raymond	137433	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Whitelaw	Lionel	18247	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Williams	Vernon	352674	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch
Woodland	Bernard	A51757	Isis Sub Branch
Woodward	Keith	1201177	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch
Woolnough	Ronald	A220642	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Worsley	D	NF453118	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch

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