

QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS

2023 ANZAC DAY ACTIVITIES

HONOURING THE CONTRIBUTION
OF OUR SERVICE PERSONNEL

NEW RAT PACK DISCOVERED

A LONG-FORGOTTEN
CONTINGENT OF AUSTRALIAN
SERVICEMEN HAS BEEN
RECOGNISED FOR THEIR ROLE
IN THE SIEGE OF TOBRUK

RIDING FOR A CAUSE

THE RALLY AGAINST
VETERAN SUICIDE IS
RAISING AWARENESS
AND SAVING LIVES

FORGING CONNECTIONS

IPSWICH VETERANS TRY THEIR
HAND AT BLACKSMITHING



RSL
Queensland

2023 // EDITION 01

The official publication of the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch)



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A rare opportunity to get hands-on with WWI artefacts was one of the many learning experiences offered as part of the Premier's Anzac Prize program for 2023

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Ipswich-based veterans and their families recently tried their hand at blacksmithing at a series of free workshops delivered by RSL Queensland

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Last Post



Front Cover

A student from Beachmere State School participates in the *Postcards of Honour* activity, assisted by Brisbane North District President Merv Brown OAM.

REFLECTING ON 2022

and looking ahead to 2023

MEMBERS, happy New Year to you. As we begin 2023, I owe you my thoughts on what I intend to achieve on your behalf for the year ahead.

Before I do, when I took on the role of your State President I set four priorities, which I want to report back to you on.

1. Align our leadership and tone with the nobility of our purpose.

I'm proud of the effort that has been made by many to do this. It is, however, an ongoing journey that needs constant focus and attention. It will remain my most important priority while I hold the position of your State President.

2. Establish a skills-based Board.

Our new Board is in place and has rolled up its sleeves and started work. I think it will be a year or two before the new arrangements are settled – including the new State Council of District Presidents – and operating in a way we are all comfortable with. An issue we will need to address is an absence of Directors with RAN or RAAF service. This is a concern to me and the Board. While veterans have much in common regardless of their service background, veterans from each service have different perspectives and unique needs. We will tackle this in the coming months.

3. Develop a strategy to take us to 2030. This is complete. It's founded on our core business of

“At the beginning of last year, we had a conversation about what sort of business we were in. As you know, we settled on ‘care, commemoration, and camaraderie’ and these are the ideas that will underpin our public narrative. 2023 is our chance to set this public narrative in motion.”

care, commemoration and camaraderie for veterans and their families, and is available at rslqld.org. Now the harder part – executing it – begins in 2023. It will be a strong focus this year.

4. Resolve the long-standing disagreement with the RSL National Board. This, unfortunately, remains unresolved and will continue into this year.

I will keep you updated as things progress.

There were other highlights last year. For me personally, there were three:

- The outstanding display of care and camaraderie across the League during the February 2022 floods. While there were many people affected, and many who stepped up to help them, the efforts of those around Gympie were particularly noteworthy.
- The return of ANZAC Day commemorations without COVID-19 restrictions.
- The return of Remembrance Day commemorations, also without pandemic restrictions.

The importance of these key commemorations goes without saying, but their full-scale

return was important to us – and our communities – who were looking to come together for some normalcy after the challenging times brought on by recent years.

OUR PLANS FOR 2023

Can I now turn to the year ahead and some of the activities we have planned. There are four measures that will constitute success for me at the end of 2023:

One, ensuring that our **leadership culture and organisational tone are consistent with our noble purpose.** We need all our leaders to be role models in this regard, and to regularly ask ourselves, “am I focusing on what is right or am I focused on who is right?” We will appoint a State Secretary whose key duty will be to help us on this journey.

Two, we have **implemented a program to support incarcerated veterans.** There are approximately 600 incarcerated veterans in Australia (This number is an estimation due to lack of published data). Our new program will focus on providing support in the period immediately after release. I will

provide an update at our State Congress in June.

Three, we have completed arrangements to be able to **tell our story more accurately through our financial reporting.** This may lead us into a future restructure so that we can separate our commercial business accounts from our veteran services accounts. This will help all of us, from those who run our commercial business and generate revenue, to those who run our veteran services and spend the money. It will also help the rest of us who benefit from those services to better understand our business. In that way, our conversations about what we should do with our income and what we can afford to do will be more informed.

Four, at the beginning of last year, we had a conversation about what sort of business we were in. As you know, we settled on ‘care, commemoration and camaraderie’ and these are the ideas that will underpin our public narrative. 2023 is our chance to **set this public narrative in motion.**



**RSL Queensland
State President
Major General
Stephen Day DSC AM**



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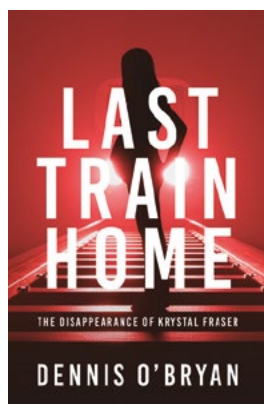
RECENT RELEASES:



ISBN: 978-1-922958-09-9

Join Australian soldiers, Stan and Billy, in their stubborn resistance against an overwhelming World War II Japanese force in Papua New Guinea as the Australians fight a tactical withdrawal along the Kokoda Track. The strategies and tactics used in this withdrawal created one of the most famous actions in the annals of Australian military history.

Link arms with Carol and Jean, two sisters who experience love and tragedy while struggling to fulfil their duties as waitresses. Experience the full effect that tens of thousands of allied troops had on their home city of Brisbane. At war's end, you will realise how it was that this generation was able to face their future with such confidence and certainty as they built the foundations of the modern Australia that we all enjoy today.



ISBN: 978-1-922958-10-5

What happened to young mum-to-be Krystal Fraser on 20 June 2009 after she checked herself out of hospital to go to a party rather than await the birth of her first child?

More than thirteen years later the question remains unanswered. No-one has reported seeing the young woman since.

Local police did not consider Krystal to be a victim of foul play, wrongly believing she was the architect of her own disappearance. The trail went cold before the homicide squad was called in and a missing person case became a murder enquiry.

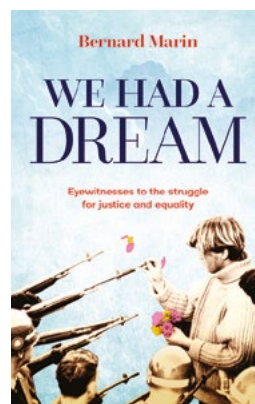
In Last Train Home former police investigator Dennis O'Bryan delves deep into the events and people involved to reveal his discovery of new and compelling evidence.



ISBN: 78-1-922958-02-0

"And, Clancy, you must wheel them, try and wheel them to the right. Ride boldly, lad, and never fear the spills."

In 1973, facing prosecution for dangerous driving following a high-speed motorcycle collision, a young civil engineer accepted a short-term job offer in Singapore. That twist of fate catapulted him into a global oil and gas industry fuelled by fallout from the Yom Kippur War, which saw crude oil jump from US\$23 to US\$62 a barrel. One year turned into thirty. Singapore turned into the Far East, the Middle East, the North Sea and South America. The journey took him to the world's greatest opera houses and through England's and Ireland's finest fox hunting country. David Wilson rose, fell, and rose again. This is the story.

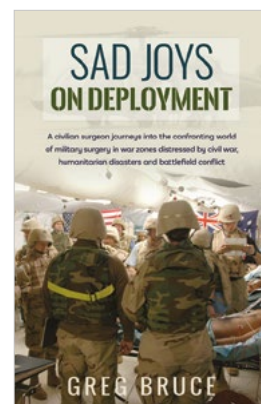


ISBN: 978-1-922958-03-7

The 1960s was a decade of social and political upheaval that reshaped every facet of American culture, from civil rights, through feminism, to gay liberation and the anti-Vietnam War movement.

Bernard Marin takes readers into the heart of this turbulent time in an anthology of historical fiction. Through Bernard's eyes, we join a young journalist who witnesses both the Chicago riot of 1968, and the uproarious trial of the ringleaders.

We follow a university student who finds love while participating in the famous civil rights march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, and witness a chance encounter at a department store lunch counter that transforms a young, Southern white woman into an activist.



ISBN: 978-0-9578709-6-3

Greg Bruce is an orthopaedic surgeon who served in the Royal Australian Air Force. Between 1995 and 2008, he was sent overseas on ten military deployments to humanitarian disasters, local conflicts and war zones.

The restricted medical resources, dangers and harsh living conditions made military surgery very different from civilian practice.

There were good experiences and horrible experiences.

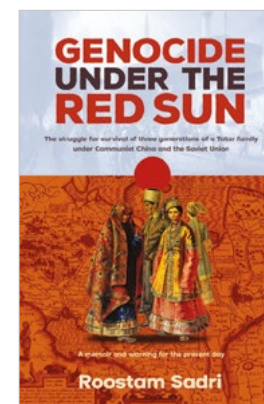
There were contrasts:

Ghastly military wounds. Loss of limbs. Simple sprains and pains.

Friendly allied military forces. Hostile enemy forces

Local civilians, some welcoming, some resentful.

Enjoying good accommodation and food. Coping with the bad. Finally there was readjustment and reflection on return home. Are you ever the same again?



ISBN: 978-1-922958-08-2

This book has been written about the struggles for survival of three generations of an extended Tatar family who lived through the most turbulent periods of Russian, as well as Chinese, history.

Tatars were subjected to assimilation policies by both the Tsarist and the Soviet regimes, causing them to resist such policies for many generations. The most turbulent periods of the 20th century have been briefly depicted in this book as the background of the struggle for survival by the family, who eventually succeeded not only to survive genocidal policies of the communist regimes of Russia as well as China, but to also come to Australia to live prosperous and happy lives by working hard to establish themselves in their new homeland.

Camaraderie **THROUGH SHARING YOUR STORIES**

HAPPY New Year to you all.

In 2022 we hit several milestones, including the development of our 2030 Strategy – a renewed road map for RSL Queensland. This strategy keeps our veteran community at the core of what we do and promotes our combined efforts to enable care, commemoration and camaraderie.

Personally, I didn't fully appreciate the need for continued camaraderie outside the Defence Force until well after my separation. I now believe sharing veteran stories that demonstrate the benefits of being an RSL Sub Branch member can help remove any perceived barriers to being part of the membership.

Engaging through a range of marketing channels, including digital, on the Sub Branch stories we capture is key to promoting this message to our veteran community, and especially our younger veterans. Keep an eye out for these stories on our social feeds.

KEEPING THE ANZAC SPIRIT ALIVE

The RSL holds a special place in the hearts of Australians, and nowhere is this better demonstrated than the

commitment of RSL Sub Branches that deliver ANZAC Day services. Our veteran community appreciates your dedication, as does the broader community, and we have an important role in keeping the tradition alive and passing it down to our younger generations.

Many will remember their formative years at a Dawn Service or parade, and I thank you for making this possible. RSL Queensland will be delivering a campaign called '*That's the ANZAC spirit*' to promote ANZAC Day commemorations across the country and encourage all Australians to attend a Sub Branch service.

Our aim is to cultivate a strong level of public interest

in ANZAC Day and refer community members to their local Sub Branch, or find another way to honour our veterans' sacrifice if they cannot attend in person.

STRONG DEMAND FOR OUR SERVICES

We're facing a time of uncertainty about our economic climate. The effects of inflation and rising interest rates are being felt across the country and within our veteran community.

In 2022, we saw an unprecedented level of demand from – and support given to – veterans and their families. We expect to see this demand, particularly from those with a high degree of vulnerability, continue for

“While in an ideal world, our collective support wouldn't be required, the reality is that we must be available for our veterans when they need us the most.”

some time. While in an ideal world, our collective support wouldn't be required, the reality is that we must be available for our veterans when they need us the most.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide continues – as does our engagement with the process. Recently, this has included key discussions with Commissioners at a forum in Canberra, where we offered insights into key issues being addressed alongside our RSL counterparts.

Please note that individual and organisation submissions are open until 13 October 2023 and further information is available at defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au

I wish you all the best as we move through 2023 and I thank you for looking after our mates across Queensland.



Robert Skoda
Chief Executive Officer
RSL Queensland

Helping veterans and their families, so they can get on with more of the good.



243

individuals and families helped into safe, permanent housing



813

nights spent in RSL short-term accommodation



\$3M

provided in emergency funding



3,503

new clients welcomed



18,910

calls handled



246

jobs found for veterans and their partners



6,251

claims submitted



71

scholarships granted

In 2022, RSL Queensland provided a broad range of programs and services to support veterans and their families.

FIND OUT MORE

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Queensland

MAILBOX

SEARCHING FOR FAMILY OF WWII AUSTRALIAN SERVICEMEN BURIED IN BELGRADE

At least 1,500 Australians and New Zealanders served in the Serbian campaign of WWI. I have published three books and a number of articles about this, and assisted the Australian War Memorial (AWM) and the Department of Veterans Affairs to prepare presentations about these ANZACs on their websites.

Following the mounting of exhibitions on this theme at the AWM, the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, the Army Museum of South Australia and the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum in Queensland, I've been contacted by more relatives of these Australians. Two relatives are now accompanying me to visit the places and battlefields where their forebears served in Serbia and the region.

The Australian Embassy is having my book *Australians with Serbs in World War One* translated and we will be in Belgrade for the launch of this Serbian-language edition. The Embassy has also invited us to participate in the ANZAC Day ceremony in Belgrade on 25 April 2023.

The ceremony will take place at the War Cemetery in Belgrade where there are 27 Australian servicemen from WWII buried. We would like to contact any surviving family members of these buried Australians to ask whether they would like us to do anything while at the cemetery – such as taking photos or placing sprigs of rosemary or poppies on the graves. We are also hoping to film a documentary about the visit to Serbia.

For more information, including a list of the 27 Australians buried in Belgrade, please email bjpiris@gmail.com

Bojan Pajic

LAST POST CORRECTION

'The Last Post' section of *Queensland RSL News* – Edition 4 2022 – incorrectly featured the name of Graham Gordon due to an administrative error. RSL Queensland offers its deepest apologies to Graham, his family and friends for any distress or confusion this error has caused.

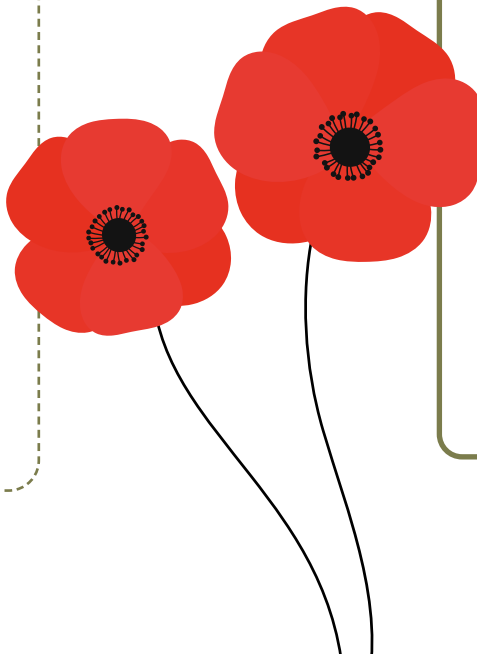
COMPELLED TO REMEMBER

As a long-time supporter of RSL Art Union, and with parents who both served in WWII, I felt inspired to sit down and write a poem to remember those who had given their lives for others. The local paper kindly printed my poem and since then I have had many people comment to me that they liked it very much, some cutting it out and sticking it to their fridges. This made me think that my poem may be of use to the RSL in some way, perhaps as fridge magnets to sell on ANZAC Day – something people could keep all year.

WEeping POPPIES

While walking by some flower beds,
I noticed how they bowed their heads,
Was it to say remember when,
We lost brave women, boys and men?
So long ago and yet today,
The poppy buds still seem to say,
We bend to show our sadness still,
And pray that people always will.
Remember those that gave away,
Their lives for us to live today.

Joan Mahony





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End of WWI Centenary Commemoration

2018 marked the centenary of the conclusion of the First World War, the "war to end all wars." There are generations alive who have no direct knowledge of this conflict or of the sacrifice made by all who fought for their country. Our debt to them is immeasurable making it more important than ever that we remember their courage with a lasting commemoration. To ensure their sacrifice is not forgotten, a very special crown coin has been released: The "Centenary of the End of World War Golden Crown."

Fully layered with pure 24-carat gold, this collector's edition coin will shine as an enduring symbol of the immense pride we feel for those who served our country and endured great hardship. The design honours the fallen with a moving, raised-

relief portrait of a digger remembering his mate, set against a backdrop of the rising sun. In the foreground, a field of poppies, the symbol of remembrance, are created in hand-applied red enamel, providing a vibrant contrast to the pure, 24-carat gold.

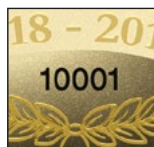
It creates a touching counterpoint to the hallowed words "Lest We Forget" from Laurence Binyon's poem *For the Fallen* which forms the *Ode of Remembrance*. Poppies, crafted in vibrant enamel, have been inspired by John McCrae's moving poem *In Flanders Fields*, symbolising our eternal respect and remembrance of our fallen heroes.

Struck to a high specification and layered in pure 24-carat gold, only 19,999 numbered

issues will ever be minted. It is available now for only \$39.99 – a saving of \$50.00 – plus \$9.99 postage and handling. Due to the extreme limitation, only the earliest responders will successfully secure this proof coin honouring our World War I heroes. A Certificate of Authenticity detailing important provenant information pertaining to the coin will be issued with the coin. Peak collector interest is all but assured for this commemoration to those who served and with it the potential of a swift, early sell out of the "Centenary of the End of World War Golden Crown."

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applications will be processed on a strictly first-come, first-served basis and are limited to one per Australian household. Order the "Centenary of the End of World War Golden Crown" now for just \$39.99 (plus \$9.99 postage and handling). By ordering now, you will have priority access to further coins in the collection which are available for \$89.99 (plus \$9.99 P&H) and will be shipped to you at regular intervals. You're under no obligation. Collect as many as you wish and you may cancel at any time. All purchases are covered by The Bradford Exchange 14-Day Money-Back Guarantee



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NEWS

ACU Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Zlatko Skrbis, left, and RSL Queensland CEO Robert Skoda.

KEY 2023 COMMEMORATIONS

THERE are several important commemorative days occurring this year:

- 25 April – ANZAC Day
- 27 May – Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony
- 24 July – RAMSI (Solomon Islands)
- 27 July – Korean Veterans' Day
- 15 August – Victory in the Pacific Day
- 18 August – Vietnam Veterans' Day
- 2 September – Battle of Khaz Oruzgan
- 7 September – Battle for Australia Day
- 14 September – National Peacemakers' Day
- 11 November – Remembrance Day

We acknowledge all commemorations outside of these key dates and honour the role of all our service personnel, past and present. This non-exhaustive list has been selected from the DVA approved government gazetted commemorations, and other significant conflicts that align with our strategic objectives. We also take into consideration relevance to our Defence community and key stakeholders.

Commemoration is one of the three pillars of our 2030 Strategy (alongside care and camaraderie). In line with this focus, RSL Queensland will be working to educate, elevate and engage the community about these important commemorations and the role of veterans.



RSL QUEENSLAND AND ACU ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

IN February, RSL Queensland announced a new partnership with Australian Catholic University (ACU) to help transform the lives of veterans and their families through education and opportunity.

In order to elevate career prospects for current and former serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), RSL Queensland and ACU are working together to expand the program offerings available to veterans across the state, by adding a second dedicated role in Queensland to support veterans enrolled in higher education. RSL Queensland CEO Robert Skoda says the partnership strengthens RSL Queensland's commitment to higher education for the veteran community, extending upon the existing annual investment in direct educational bursaries for veterans and their families.

"We know that veterans often possess unique skillsets due to their lived experience and the leadership capabilities instilled during service," Robert says.

"However, navigating life beyond service, including tertiary access and the study environment, can be a barrier to applying these skills into higher education pursuits.

"This partnership will increase educational accessibility and position veterans to realise their full potential with the backing of a world-class, highly recognisable tertiary institution."

The new partnership is focused on supporting veteran students and their partners throughout their tertiary experience, providing a dedicated contact person who understands the nuances of serving in the ADF.

ACU Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Zlatko Skrbis said this opportunity would not only open the door to new program offerings – it would also place a keen focus on enhancing the overall student experience for veterans.

"This partnership will allow the ongoing development of dedicated ACU resources, including staff and research, to support veteran students in achieving their study and employment goals," Zlatko says. "We share a common vision to enrich the lives of veterans and their families, and by coming together we're able to bolster our existing program to unlock untapped potential."

Explore a full list of events at rslqld.org/whats-on

Read more about the program at
acu.edu.au/about-acu/student-veteran-services

VALE RAMON DE VERE MC OAM

WE were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Ramon (Ray) De Vere MC OAM. Ray was a former State President of RSL Queensland from 1998-2001 and was an Honorary Life Vice President. He served with conviction and loyalty during his term.

Ray's military career spanned almost three decades, with service in Vietnam as a cavalry troop leader and then later as a tank squadron commander. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1970 for operational service during the Battle of Binh Ba.

Ray dedicated his life to service and following his retirement from the Army, he was a passionate advocate for veterans' affairs through his roles at RSL Queensland, the Vietnam Veterans



Photo: Defence Images

Association and RSL Care. In 1997, he was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for service to veterans.

He was also a devoted educator, often sharing his experiences in conflict to mentor soldiers and pass on lessons of the battlefields to troops.

RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM said Ray contributed significantly to the veteran community following his distinguished military career.

"Ray was a fearless advocate for veterans' affairs, working tirelessly to

support them in their life post-service," Stephen said.

"He embodied compassion and commitment, and was a beloved member of our RSL community. Ray will be deeply missed and, on behalf of the RSL Queensland community, I extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

"We will be forever grateful for his commitment to supporting Queensland veterans."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ray's family and friends.

ANNIVERSARY MARKED THE START OF COMMEMORATIVE YEAR FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

ON 11 January, we marked 50 years since the 1973 proclamation of the end of Australian involvement in the Vietnam War. It also marked the beginning of the official Vietnam 50 commemorations for 2023.

More than 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam, over 3,000 were wounded and 523 lost their lives in the longest conflict Australia was involved in during the 20th Century.

All Vietnam veterans and National Service personnel, even if they were

not deployed, are eligible to claim and entitled to a White Card through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

DVA will recognise this significant anniversary through a broad awareness campaign throughout 2023, including a documentary series to be screened on the ABC, and providing historical and educational resources to schools,

ex-service organisations, and community groups.

This will culminate in a national commemorative service on Vietnam Veterans' Day, 18 August 2023, in Canberra, recognising the service of all Australians who served in the Vietnam War and honouring the sacrifices that they and their families made.

For more information, visit dva.gov.au/VietnamCommemorativeService

New RSL Queensland Jobs Board

IN exciting news for jobseekers, we recently launched the RSL Employment jobs board, which provides veterans and partners of current and ex-serving Defence members a central repository of current roles available in Australia.

The job board allows you to browse current vacancies with a range of our top-rated, employment partners. These organisations recognise the value that veterans and Defence partners can bring to a business.

Use the simplified search filters to differentiate opportunities by location, industry, and job type. Once you find a role that interests you, the application process is straightforward and can be done directly via the Employment team.

RSL aims to support the current labour market by connecting vetted employers with the right talent, and ultimately helping veterans and their partners find meaningful employment.

Search the new RSL Queensland jobs board at
rslqld.org/find-help/employment/current-roles

2023 ANZAC DAY

activities

IT'S our honour and duty to keep the ANZAC legacy alive. This year, RSL Queensland is enabling and supporting a range of ANZAC Day activities to honour the contribution of our service personnel.

To do so, we're committed to encouraging and enabling as many Australians as possible to take part in ANZAC Day commemorations by attending an RSL Sub Branch service. The new campaign, *That's the ANZAC spirit*, launches in April and focuses on building a connection between modern-day Australians and the ANZAC spirit.

The message will be rousing, inspirational and heartfelt, and will encourage everyday Australians to keep the ANZAC spirit alive.

POSTCARDS OF HONOUR

We are also launching *Postcards of Honour*, a new creative learning and commemorative activity for primary school students. Through the initiative, more than 50 Sub Branches will engage with 170 local schools to teach students about ANZAC Day and inspire them to create handwritten and illustrated postcards acknowledging current and ex-serving Defence members.

Postcards and letters have historically offered vital connection and support to those serving in the military. In the same way, *Postcards of Honour* provides each veteran with a personal and tangible token of recognition, while also encouraging each child's unique creative expression.

The postcards will then be collected and distributed to veterans at ANZAC Day services or displayed at RSL Sub Branches across Queensland.

HOW WILL YOU COMMEMORATE ANZAC DAY?

Since WWI, more than 1.5 million Australians have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. On ANZAC Day (25 April) we invite you to honour their invaluable contribution and commemorate in a way that is meaningful to you.

Attend an RSL Sub Branch service, take a quiet moment to reflect at home or donate to the ANZAC Appeal, and help keep the ANZACs' legacy alive.

Visit anzacspirit.com.au to learn more.



Photos from the first Postcards of Honour activity involving Beachmere State School and Beachmere RSL Sub Branch.



Visit rslqld.org to find your closest Sub Branch service and learn more about how to keep the ANZAC spirit alive.

RSL QUEENSLAND MEMBERS CELEBRATED IN 2023 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

THE Australia Day 2023 Honours List recognises and celebrates 1,047 recipients, including 736 in the General Division of the Order of Australia for meritorious and distinguished service, and 30 recipients in the Military Division of the Order of Australia.

This year, 135 Queenslanders were acknowledged and recognised for their outstanding contributions and service in communities across Queensland.

Congratulations to all RSL Queensland members and staff who have been recognised in this year's Australia Day Honours. It is a tremendous achievement to be bestowed the highest recognition for your ongoing service to the community, Australian veterans, and their families.

Thank you for your selfless commitment and dedication to your community.

Congratulations to the RSL Queensland members and staff who have been recognised in the 2023 Australia Day Honours.

MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

- Mr Ronald Norman Bassan, Beaconsfield – for service to the community through a range of organisations.
- Mr Hendrikus (Harry) Cornelius Claassen, Algester – for service to veterans.
- Mrs Carmel Lynette Gould, West Chermide – for service to Australian rules football.
- Mr Daryl James Gould, West Chermide – for service to Australian rules football.
- Mr Ian Garry Hall, Woodford – for service to veterans and their families.
- Mr Thomas John Holden, Buderim

- for service to the community of the Sunshine Coast.
- Mr Andrew Ross Kendall, Stanthorpe – for service to the community through a range of organisations.
- Mr Donald Charles Lawie, East Russell – for service to the community of the Cairns region.
- Mr Herbert William Layt, Innisfail – for service to the community through a range of organisations.
- Ms Susan Jane McCallum, Humpty Doo NT – for service to veterans.
- The late Mr Patrick James Mildren – Formerly of Gulliver – for service to veterans and their families.
- Mr Graeme Robert Pettigrew – for service to the community through a range of roles.

- Mrs Maureen Rush, Gympie – for service to veterans and their families.
- Mr John Richard Tilly, Mount Crosby – for service to veterans.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (DSC)

- Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Dean Humphreys – for distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations.

MEMBER (AM) IN THE MILITARY DIVISION

- Brigadier Kahlil Scarf Fegan DSC – for exceptional service in the Australian Army as Chief of Staff Army Headquarters and Commander 3rd Brigade.

Photo: The
Office of
the Official
Secretary to
the Governor
General.



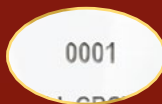
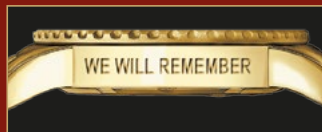
HONOURING 100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

LEST WE FORGET

MEN'S GOLD WATCH



Masterfully engraved
with poignant tributes



Each watch is
individually numbered
in an edition of just 2,999



Full colour certificate details a
Remembrance Day history and reproduces
the complete For the Fallen poem



Since the First World War, the courage of those who have given their life for us in war remains at the heart of our national character. Now you can carry with you a magnificent tribute to our fallen with the "Lest We Forget Men's Gold Watch", available only from The Bradford Exchange.

Elegant, timeless watch design unites with the reverent spirit of remembrance in this magnificent edition. Gleaming IP gold-plate contrasts beautifully with the tasteful black watch face bearing the message "Lest We Forget 100 Years". A single red poppy recalls the heart and soul of Lt. John McCrae's immortal poem In Flanders Fields. The side is engraved with the poignant words "We will remember them" and the clasp bears the tribute "Lest We Forget". The case back is finely engraved with a verse from Laurence Binyon's poem For the Fallen recited each Anzac Day as part of the Ode of Remembrance. Above the verse is the individual issue number authenticating the watch as part of a worldwide release of just 2,999 watches. Versatile as well as handsome, the watch features three chronographic sub dials, a stopwatch function and is water resistant to 3 ATMs.

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Arriving in a deluxe presentation case, the "Lest We Forget Men's Gold Watch" is heirloom edition you will be proud to own. Strong demand is forecast, so please act now. The watch can be yours for just 5 instalments of \$69.99 or \$349.95, plus \$19.99 postage and handling, backed by our 120-day guarantee. Send no money now. Return the coupon or go online today at www.bradford.com.au/lwf

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A close-up photograph of a hand holding a wooden Christmas tree ornament. The hand is wearing a silver ring and has a tattoo on the forearm. The ornament is a light-colored wood cutout of a Christmas tree, hanging from a red and white striped string. The background is blurred, showing a person in a red shirt and blue bokeh lights.

**Making
Christmas
merrier for
600 veterans
and their
families**



*Packed with love by
volunteers, Christmas
hampers from RSL
Queensland brought
festive cheer to hundreds
of deserving veterans and
their families in 2022.*

 **Belinda Crossman**
 **Matilda Dray**

'T WAS the month before Christmas... and all hands were on deck, packing and sending festive cheer to veterans who needed and deserved it most.

An army of RSL Queensland staff and volunteers rallied together for the 2022 Christmas hamper drive, which saw more than 600 hampers hand-packed and delivered to veterans either doing it tough or doing outstanding work in their community.

Districts and Sub Branches nominated hundreds of deserving recipients, which included veterans who had recently lost partners or were experiencing social isolation, health issues, financial hardship, or homelessness.

"We looked at who's done it tough this year, who could do with a little bit of cheering up, but also who's done outstanding service," Moreton District Secretary Catherine Akers explains.

Each hamper was tailored for its recipient's needs – filled with tasty treats, handmade gifts, and other locally sourced Christmas goodies, plus a handwritten card and a \$100 supermarket voucher to put towards a special Christmas meal.

"It just makes that time of the year – which can be a bit troubling if you're not doing well – something special," Catherine says.

SPREADING THE JOY FURTHER

The hamper idea first sparked in 2020 with hopes to brighten what had been a very difficult year for many.

"As we came out of COVID, we recognised that a lot of people were suffering from social isolation," RSL Queensland CEO Rob Skoda says.

"So, we banded together at the end of that year and delivered 250 hampers to veterans and their families across Queensland."

That effort was increased to more than 500 hampers in 2021 and more than 600 hampers in 2022, when the giftee list expanded to include veterans in Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

"It's something that we've seen is so beneficial for the emotional wellbeing of people that we just want to see it continue happening," Rob says.

It's not just the recipients who've benefited, either. Many hamper supplies were sourced from veteran-owned businesses –



RSL Queensland Chief Executive Officer Rob Skoda and State President Major General Stephen Day DSC, AM.





“There’s a lot of people that are living with social isolation or may have been suffering throughout the year. Receiving a hamper from RSL Queensland tells them there are people out there thinking about them.”



BELOW: RSL Queensland staff enthusiastically volunteered to pack Christmas hampers for veterans.

including A Touch of Sage candles, Australian Warfighters Coffee, Beef Chief jerky, Made by Matt woodware, and Tegere outdoor gear – and Rob hopes to involve more in both supply and distribution.

“I’d love to see us connect a large portion of the veteran community who can work with us to contribute

to and deliver these hampers, but also grow that reach across Queensland to make sure veterans and their families, wherever they are, may appreciate this goodwill gesture.”

MUCH MORE THAN A GIFT
Compiling, packing, and distributing 600-plus hampers

across three states was quite the logistical feat – one that started in March and involved more than 140 volunteers including a 30-strong planning committee, Board members, and staff from across RSL Queensland.

But as Catherine explains, the effort was more than worth it.

“I’m very fortunate that I get





**RSL QUEENSLAND
THANKS THE
FOLLOWING
SUPPLIERS FOR
CONTRIBUTING TO
THE CHRISTMAS
HAMPERS:**

- *A Touch of Sage*
- *Australian Warfighters Coffee*
- *Bee Kind*
- *Beef Chief*
- *Bundaberg Ginger Beer*
- *Bunny Chow Down*
- *DC Laser Services*
- *Hurley Burley Toys*
- *Jamjo*
- *Kuranda Cookies*
- *Loopla*
- *Made by Matt*
- *Mr Fothergill's*
- *Nerada Tea*
- *Noosa Chocolate Factory*
- *Officeworks*
- *Pudding People*
- *Real Christmas Trees*
- *Sanity*
- *Sock it Up*
- *St John Ambulance*
- *Tegere*



to see when the hampers are received. It's a magical moment. To see their reactions – they're very, very humbling," Catherine says.

"A lot of them, their first reaction is, 'Oh, my gosh, why am I getting this? Why am I being picked? Joe could have had that.' They're very touched."

Each hamper is "much more than just a gift", according to Rob.

"It's a recognition that the recipient is part of a bigger community," he says.

"There's a lot of people that are living with social isolation or may have been suffering throughout the year. Receiving a hamper from RSL Queensland tells them there are people out there thinking about them, and that we're here for them.

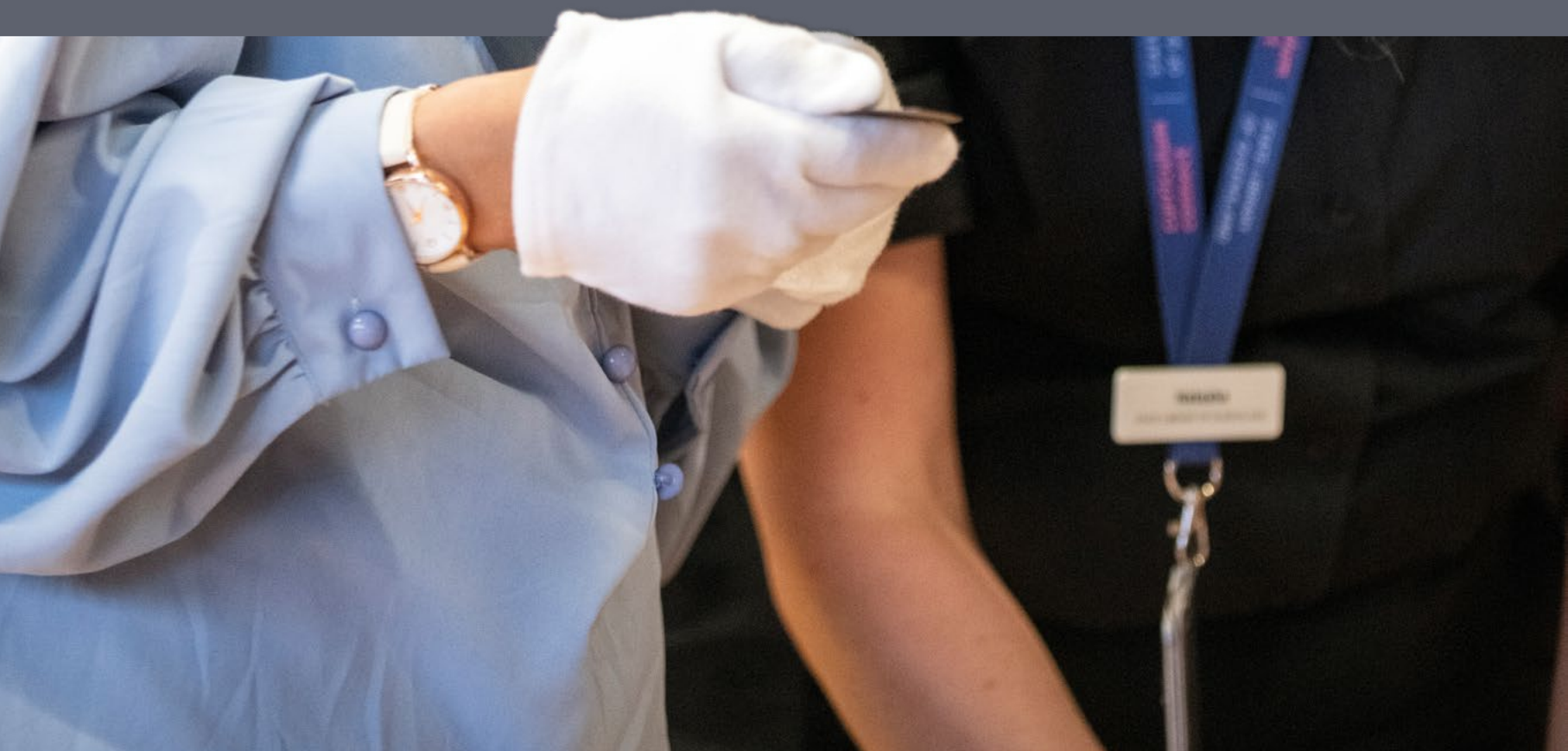
"When we join the military, we join a community of like-minded people coming together to do something positive. It's important that that community can come together and look after our mates, which is something that's ingrained in the military psyche. It's something that's ingrained in RSL Queensland." ←



WANT TO GET INVOLVED? Are you a supplier or distributor who'd like to contribute to this year's hamper drive? Email hampers@rslqld.org to express your interest. Thanks!



WWI ARTEFACTS ON SHOW FOR PREMIER'S ANZAC PRIZE WINNERS



A rare opportunity to get up close and personal with WWI artefacts was one of the many learning experiences offered as part of the Premier's Anzac Prize program for 2023.

 **Simon Brooks** |  **Josie Huang**

“You’re about to embark on a journey of understanding. Your journey is not just about military history – rather, it’s a journey of understanding into the heart of the spirit of Australia.”

RIGHT:
Sarah Ellis from
Toowoomba.

BELOW:
The 2023
student prize
recipients are,
from left, Hilman
Pranowo, Thomas
Eccleston,
Dashiell Solomon,
Sarah Ellis, Claire
Gattera, Anastasia
Maher and Nooria
Ahmadi (Absent:
Tom Filipich).

During the aptly named ‘White Gloves Experience,’ artefacts held by the State Library of Queensland were brought out of storage to be explored by the the 2023 Premier’s Anzac Prize winners, who will embark on a 16-day educational tour of WWI battlefields, war graves and memorials in the lead up to ANZAC Day.

RSL Queensland recognises the importance of helping young people understand how the ANZACs contributed to making Australia what it is today, which is why the organisation has signed on as a platinum sponsor of the Premier’s Anzac Prize for the next three years.

Eight school students from Years 8 to 11 and two teacher chaperones will travel to Europe for the 2023 tour. They will be joined later in the tour by Assistant Minister to the Premier for Veterans’ Affairs Bart Mellish MP.

RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM joined the successful prize recipients for the White Gloves Experience. He said the program was about passing down an understanding of the ANZAC spirit to the next generation.



“You’re about to embark on a journey of understanding. Your journey is not just about military history – rather, it’s a journey of understanding into the heart of the spirit of Australia,” MAJGEN Day told students.

“No one who goes to the Western Front and Gallipoli cannot be affected in some sort of deep emotional way. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to add that spiritual dimension to their book learning.”



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 2023 tour lead chaperone and teacher Alison Marsh quizzes the student prize recipients on their findings at the White Gloves Experience; Student prize recipients, and representatives from Education Queensland, the State Library of Queensland and RSL Queensland mingle at the White Gloves Experience; Students, from left, Claire Gattera from Cairns, Anastasia Maher from Emerald and Thomas Eccleston from Indooroopilly; Nooria Ahmadi from Forest Lake, left, learns about a WWI exhibit in the State Library's collection.





TOP: Dashiell Solomon from Indooroopilly and Hilman Pranowo from Pimlico examine WWI artefacts.

CENTRE: RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM inspires the 2023 Premier's Anzac Prize recipients with some words of encouragement.

RIGHT: Anastasia Maher enjoying the moment with her fellow prize winners.



HONOURING THEIR SACRIFICE

Dashiell (Dash) Solomon, a Year 11 student at Ambrose Treacy College, was one of the students selected to participate in the prize.

"I feel like it's really important that we honour the soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country," Dash says.

"I have a great-grandfather who served in the First World War, so my family has that little connection there. But otherwise, I think because we live in this amazing country with liberty and freedom, we should be honouring the people who helped give that to us."

Prior to their departure, each student will undertake and publish a research project into two veterans, their lives and battles they fought.

The State Library of Queensland supports students with their research, providing a two-day

Young Historians' Workshop. The workshop includes the White Gloves Experience and a visit to Brisbane's Anzac Square & Memorial Galleries.

Students will also take part in community engagement and fundraising projects for Mates4Mates before their European tour. Visit supportmates4mates.org/s/369/378/e to learn more.

AMBASSADORS FOR THE ANZAC LEGACY

The 2023 Premier's Anzac Prize tour will begin with a visit to the Churchill War Rooms and the Imperial War Museum in London. Students will then visit key landmarks in Paris before heading to the 1916 battlefield of Fromelles, where Australia lost 5,533 men during its first action on the Western Front.

The tour group will also visit Australian Memorial Park, VC Corner Cemetery (the only all-Australian cemetery in France), and see the site of the recently discovered Australian mass grave at Pheasant Wood.

The remainder of the tour will be packed with similar learning experiences leading up to the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, which bears the names of almost 11,000 Australians missing in France. ←



The background of the entire page is a photograph of several flags on poles. From left to right, there is a blue flag, a French flag (blue, white, and red vertical stripes), and an Australian flag (blue with a white seven-pointed star and a red band with the word 'AUSTRALIA'). The flags are positioned in front of a light-colored brick building. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR PRESENTS POSTHUMOUS LEGION OF HONOUR AWARD TO VETERAN

*Veteran Donald Matheson was honoured
for his courageous military service by
French Ambassador to Australia,
His Excellency Mr Jean-Pierre Thébault.*



and proceeding with the presentation of this exceptional posthumous honour for veteran Donald Matheson, and for allowing the family to participate in honouring their father in this way," he said.

Established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the Legion of Honour is renowned throughout the world and is the highest decoration in France.

A LIFE OF SERVICE

Born in England, Donald Matheson joined the Royal Navy Cadets on 16 April 1943, and trained to become a telegraphist. At just 17 years of age, he was assigned to the HMS *Black Prince*, which joined the Arctic Convoy JW-57. More than 3,000 men were killed and over 87

DSC AM said Mr Matheson was a worthy recipient of France's highest order of merit given his dedicated and courageous World War II service, in which he was put at great personal risk during key battles.

"I thank the Ambassador of France to Australia for attending

MR Thébault presented the Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honour posthumously to veteran Donald Matheson on 6 October 2022 at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall in Ipswich.

The ceremony was organised by the Ipswich RSL Sub Branch and saw Donald Matheson's son, Tesselaar Matheson, accept the award on behalf of his late father.

The Distinction in the National Order of the Legion of Honour (Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur) is not usually awarded posthumously but an exception was made, given the award was approved and scheduled to be presented to Donald Matheson in person. However, the ceremony didn't go ahead due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Although Mr Matheson passed away in June 2021 at the age of 94, it was determined that the veteran would still be awarded the honour due to his "brilliant and very courageous military career".

Ipswich Mayor Teresa Harding attended the ceremony and spoke about Mr Matheson's military service, which included the Normandy D-Day Landings.

RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day



ABOVE
RIGHT: French Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Jean-Pierre Thébault, meeting Tesselaar Matheson, Donald Matheson's son.

RIGHT: Donald Matheson passed away in June 2021 at the age of 94.

“Although Mr Matheson passed away in June 2021 at the age of 94, it was determined that the veteran would still be awarded the honour due to his ‘brilliant and very courageous military career’.”

merchant and 18 Royal Navy ships were lost during that time. On 6 June 1944, the HMS *Black Prince* was part of the Normandy Invasion, Operation Overlord, also referred to as the D-Day Landings. In August 1944, the ship joined the invasion of Southern France and played a part in the liberation of Southern French villages. The ship engaged the enemy on many occasions throughout World War II and was at the battle at Okinawa.

Mr Matheson continued to serve the British Army as a signals man, ceasing service in 1962. At age 64, he came to live in Australia to be close to his son, Tesselaar, who had migrated here. He passed away on 30 June 2021, leaving behind four grandchildren and many great grandchildren. ←



ABOVE: Veterans gather at the ceremony to honour the late Donald Matheson.

LEFT: Surrounded by family and friends, Tesselaar Matheson accepted the award on behalf of his late father.



**IPSWICH VETERANS FORGE CONNECTIONS
WHILE TRYING THEIR HAND AT**

Blacksmithing

Ipswich-based veterans and their families recently got the chance to try their hand at the age-old trade of blacksmithing at a series of free workshops delivered by RSL Queensland.



RSL Queensland's statewide Active Lifestyles program creates opportunities for veterans and current serving Defence members and their families to meet and connect in a fun, active environment. The final program event for 2022 was a series of blacksmithing workshops. Held at The Workshop Rail Museum, the workshops provided participants with the opportunity to use tongs and an anvil to forge objects from metal.

CREATING CONNECTION

RSL Queensland Deputy CEO – Veteran Services Troy Watson says it was heartening to learn there were many new faces at the workshops, allowing for more connections to be made between local veterans.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The Workshop Rail Museum was a perfect location for the blacksmithing event; Heritage Trade Blacksmith Rob Scully, left, and veteran participant Gordon McCartney; Heritage Trade Blacksmith Wayne Schmidt, left, demonstrating to veteran participant Len Cecchetto; Blacksmith Rob Scully, left, chatting with veteran participant Adrian George.

"The blacksmithing workshops offered participants a unique experience, blending invention, strength and grit – qualities that obviously resonated with the local veteran community," Troy says.

RSL Queensland's Active Lifestyles program has delivered a wide range of activities throughout the year, catering for all abilities, as well as offering exhilarating experiences including abseiling and kayaking.

TALKING THE SAME LANGUAGE

Merts 'Pop' Saari, who earned the nickname 'Pop' when he joined the Air Force with a group of around 130 other young servicemen and women in 1974, says he enjoyed

learning something new.

"We're all from similar backgrounds and talked the same language," he says.

"These events are well run, professional and safe. There's nothing to lose and you can walk away at any time if you really feel uncomfortable."

It's a sentiment shared by Letti Casey, an ex-Navy medic who served for eight years.

"I had a ball," Letti says. "When I saw it advertised, I thought 'Why not?' And it was great to have another female on this course with me – we were able to discuss our experiences in the Defence Force."

NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

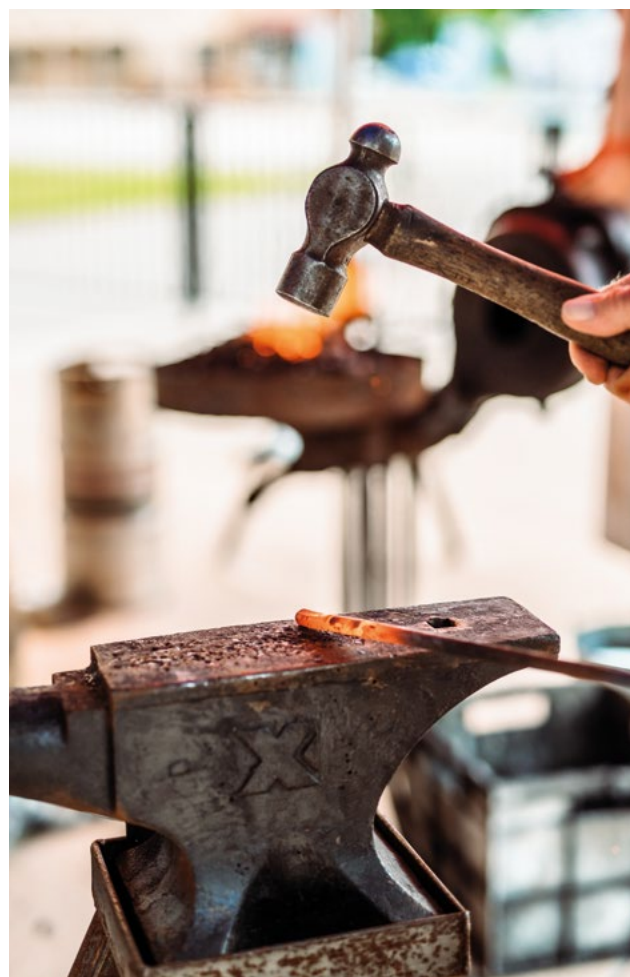
The program's key focus is offering veterans with a diverse range of experiences an opportunity to try out something new, while keeping active and perhaps making new friends.

Providing veteran care and camaraderie is in keeping with RSL Queensland's core purpose, which is to enable veterans and their families to live with dignity and respect. ←



RIGHT:
Blacksmith
Wayne Schmidt
with veteran
participants
Letti Casey,
centre, and
Lisa Bannister.

BELOW:
Enjoying the
blacksmithing
workshop, from
left, veteran
participant
Letti Casey,
blacksmith
Wayne Schmidt
and Mertsu
'Pop' Saari.




RSL Queensland's Active Lifestyles program will continue throughout 2023 with a variety of activities. To find out more, visit rslqld.org/whats-on



CREATING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

Veteran Cade Cooper has found a new groove working with Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) and continuing to connect and support communities.

 **Kylie Hatfield**

CADE shared his experience and the commonalities between RSL Queensland and DRA at the 2022 State Congress. He says it was inspiring to see the passion held by all attendees.

"It was also an opportunity to hear from the range of RSL leaders and contribute to discussions that were looking at creating enhanced connections between communities, veterans and meaningful service.

"The work we can do together can provide greater impact and support for those in need," he explains.

WALKING IN THE SAME SHOES

Cade left the military in 2011 after serving with the Royal Australian Infantry, including deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He joined DRA to continue giving back.

"I enlisted in the Australian Defence Force straight after school when I was only 17. I spent my younger adult years developing in that Army environment. After leaving, it was a big adjustment and I spent about five years going through different career paths and struggled to find that deeper connection to the community.

"I had a desire to find meaningful employment – as so many of us do – and service with purpose. It can be hard to find a place where your skills and qualifications of service translate well," he explains.

It was through attending an information session at a local RSL Sub Branch that Cade was introduced to DRA. He says it was an immediate connection.

"I connected with the message of repurposing military skills to serve vulnerable communities and the ability to work with people who held the same values," he says.



DISASTER RELIEF
AUSTRALIA

DISASTER RELIEF
AUSTRALIA

DISASTER RELIEF
AUSTRALIA

DISASTER RELIEF
AUSTRALIA

SHERLOCK



ABOVE: Veteran Cade Cooper from Disaster Relief Australia speaking at the RSL Queensland State Congress in 2022.

BELOW: Disaster Relief Australia volunteers help with clean up work in flood affected areas.

"So, I find that organisations like Disaster Relief Australia, as well as RSL or teams like St John's, can provide that and give the opportunity for people to be a part of something bigger than themselves and find a deeper connection to their community."

DRA IN THE COMMUNITY

Cade and DRA have been involved in a number of large-scale community efforts, with much of Australia experiencing unprecedented events throughout the past few years.

"Disaster Relief Australia volunteers come in after the initial disaster event has passed and

undertake the often heartbreaking and back-breaking work that needs to be done," he says.

"Backed by the skills and experience of military veterans, emergency services specialists and an army of dedicated volunteers, we aim to empower those communities in recovery and foster a sense of local community pride. It might be a week, a month, or years afterwards that our volunteers are there assisting to keep the community safe and get residents back into their homes."

This year, DRA has already deployed on multiple operations to support communities hit by what is considered a once in 100-year weather event, which also included their largest disaster operation since the organisation started five years ago.

"In March, DRA, alongside RSL Queensland, was involved with deploying a veteran-led volunteer force to Queensland and New South Wales in response to catastrophic flooding. There were hundreds of highly trained

veterans and skilled volunteers who rolled up their sleeves and worked alongside locals from these communities. I think we ended up completing more than 500 individual requests for assistance and contributing more than 25,000 volunteer hours to date. It is a huge and immense effort that is still ongoing.

"I think for veterans, volunteering or being a part of an organisation like DRA or RSL Queensland and being able to be involved in times like we saw last year gives them an opportunity to continue service, find a renewed sense of belonging, mateship, and the sense of reward that comes from being a part of something bigger than yourself.

"For the communities we were assisting, it is the realisation that they haven't been forgotten and that they're not in it alone."

COMMONALITIES

Cade acknowledges RSL Queensland and DRA both have unique histories and are similarly based on their dedication to the service of their communities.

"DRA is guided by similar values to RSL Queensland, including courage, mateship, endurance, tenacity, respect and service," he says.

"I think we also recognise that veterans have an ongoing desire to serve others and that through service they can grow beyond their time in the military. Veterans are some of our most highly trained civic assets and that they have unique skills and experience that can be powerful when harnessed to assist vulnerable communities."

THE WORK CONTINUES

DRA is continuing its work in flood-affected communities with disaster recovery efforts, and provides a range of initiatives that support Australian veterans to find purpose through service. Find out more at disasterreliefaus.org. ←



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RSL QUEENSLAND PARTNERS WITH SURVIVE TO THRIVE NATION AND SWISS8

In line with the growing demand for proactive wellbeing programs within the veteran community, RSL Queensland recently announced two new partnerships with ex-serving organisations (ESOs) Survive To Thrive Nation and Swiss8.

RIGHT:
Swiss8 Founder
and CEO
Adrian Sutter.

Complementing RSL Queensland's robust portfolio of peer-led mental health and wellbeing adjunct programs, these newly established partnerships aim to equip veterans with practical skills to improve their overall health and wellbeing, as well as social and mental wellness.

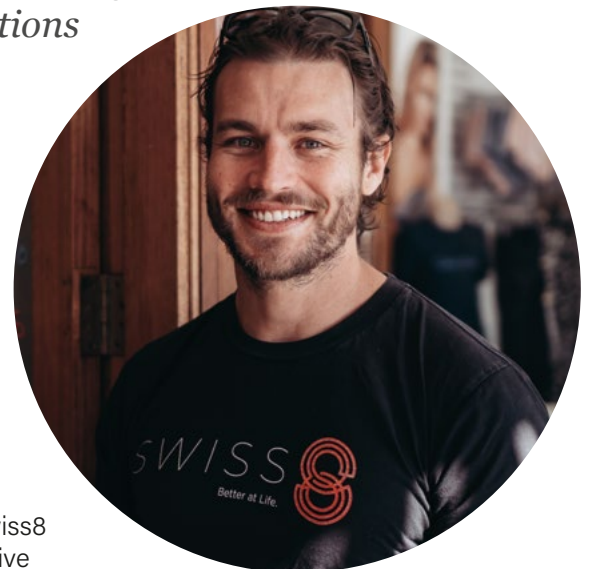
RSL Queensland Deputy CEO Veteran Services Troy Watson said the two new partnerships formed a key part of RSL Queensland's overarching mission to strengthen and serve the veteran community.

"Our support services and wellness programs are designed to enhance the outcomes possible for veterans and their families," Troy says.

"It is our hope that all participants unlock the door to new possibilities by recognising and recontextualising their unique strengths and capabilities."

Delivered within a non-clinical, proactive health framework, both Survive To Thrive Nation (STTN) and Swiss8 employ interactive and inclusive models to empower participants to take charge of their mental health.

Survive To Thrive Nation Founder and CEO Dane Christison said the program was intentionally designed to support those transitioning from military to civilian life – a known stage of risk for mental health decline.



"The STTN Program is an online evidence-based program and consists of eight interactive personal development modules, focusing on six key areas of success – purpose and identity, mental health, physical health,



“Delivered within a non-clinical, proactive health framework, both Survive To Thrive Nation (STTN) and Swiss8 employ interactive and inclusive models to empower participants to take charge of their mental health.”

building positive relationships, community, and financial success,” Dane says.

“Available to veterans in the process of transitioning or recently transitioned, this program provides participants with ongoing support from experienced veteran peer mentors to monitor progress, identify concerns, and ultimately empower veterans to take responsibility for their mental health.

“It’s excellent to see leading ESOs such as RSL Queensland actively engaged with the needs of the veteran community by

prioritising their support towards programs that are championing veterans to reconnect with their purpose within a civilian context.”

Similarly, Swiss8’s Recalib8 Program is centred around the eight pillars of movement, nutrition, mindfulness, sleep, personal growth, discipline, tribe, and purpose – promoting an individual, holistic model of self-care for everyday life.

Founded by former infantry section commander Adrian Sutter, the Swiss8 Recalib8 Program has been purposefully created to build resilience and confidence in a new

identity as veterans transition from the military.

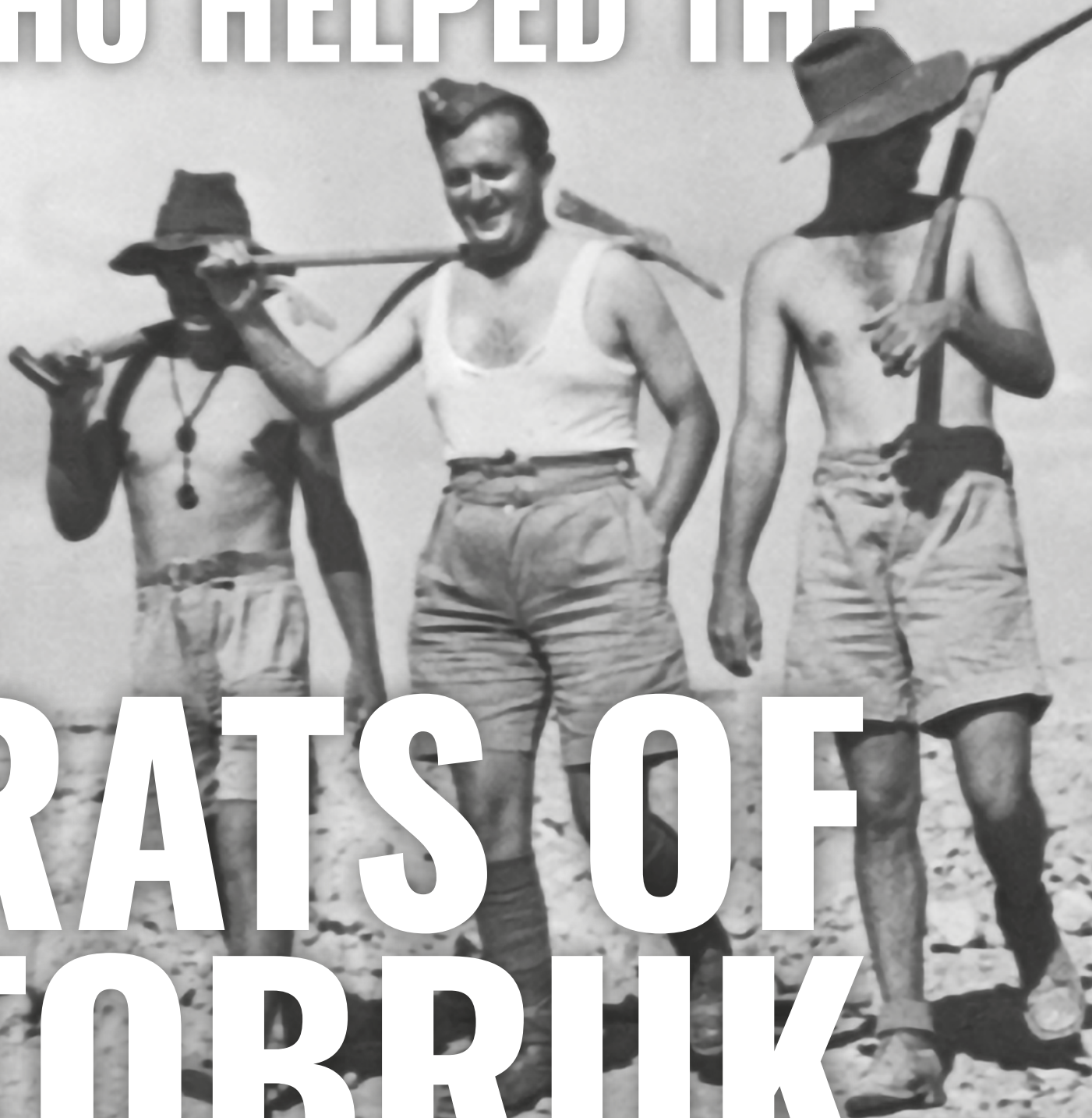
“The program aims to strengthen an individual’s mental health and wellbeing by channelling the lived experience of veterans into positive outlets.

“This partnership is an exciting step for Swiss8, as we continue to empower veterans to realise their full potential beyond the military,” Adrian says. ←

ABOVE:
Survive To Thrive Nation Founder and CEO Dane Christison, left, and RSL Queensland Deputy CEO Veteran Services Troy Watson.


**THE UNSUNG HEROES
WHO HELPED THE**

**RATS OF
TOBRUK**



Tobruk, Libya. 1941-09-12. Soldiers of the 9th Australian Division and two of the Polish infantry. (AWM: 041840).

After more than 80 years, a long-forgotten contingent of Australian servicemen has been recognised for their role in the Siege of Tobruk.

 **Written by the Descendants of the Rats of Tobruk Australia Association. This organisation has dedicated years of research to ensuring future generations remember the sacrifices made by these Australian servicemen.**

THE Descendants of the Rats of Tobruk Australia Association is excited to announce the discovery of a small contingent of Australian servicemen who had previously never been acknowledged for their role in the Siege of Tobruk in 1941.

The Rats of Tobruk were Australian-led soldiers who were part of the Allies, an international military coalition whose principal members were the United Kingdom, United States, Soviet Union and China. The Rats of Tobruk held the Libyan port of Tobruk against the Axis and Afrika Corps during the Siege of Tobruk from 10 April to 7 December 1941.

Among these men were more than 14,000 Australian soldiers who endured searing desert heat, bitterly cold nights, and the hellish dust storms of Tobruk.



ABOVE: Members of the 2/13th Battalion on patrol along the anti-tank ditch at the El Adem Road to the south of Tobruk. A close watch is kept over this ditch night and day to counter enemy attempts to pierce the town's defences. (AWM: 007505).

RIGHT: El Kantara, Egypt. 1942-01. A member of the 2nd Railway Construction Company, Royal Australian engineers bolting rails on a section of the railway line constructed in the Suez Canal zone. (AWM: 023300).



In early 1941, a group of around 10 men from the 1 Australian Railway Construction Company (1ARCC) Royal Australian Engineers were detached for service to the British Army 1018 Docks Operating Company (RE). The role of the RE was to manage the day-to-day activities of the dock facilities at Alexandria in Egypt and the embattled port at Tobruk in Libya.

In the years that followed, a relative of one of the men from 1ARCC requested information about his status as a Rat of Tobruk. Initial research failed to turn up anything placing him in the besieged city. Some obscure references to the activities of 1018 Docks Ops Coy revealed they were in Tobruk, but nothing confirmed the Australian soldiers were with them.

The Descendants of the Rats of Tobruk Australia Association was delighted when a member of its research team discovered two letters buried in the unit war diaries of the 1ARCC. The letters confirmed the soldiers' presence in Tobruk.

The letters were from the Commanding Officer of the 1018 Dock Ops Coy to his counterpart at the 1ARCC, and they specifically named the men and praised their work. He stated that these men were under his command for a considerable period of time.

"I wish to place on record my appreciation of the splendid work that they have done for me under the very worst of conditions. I trust that you will be able to grant them a good spell of rest or leave which they have so richly earned, before putting them back on duty," the Commanding Officer wrote.

This discovery is an incredible achievement, and the evidence enables this new unit to be included in the Order of Battle for the Siege of Tobruk, last drawn up by the Australian War Memorial (AWM) in 1958. These few good



“Confirming this detachment or loan of men from 1ARCC to a British Docks operating company in Alex and then to Tobruk is very impressive. It’s not often that old war stories such as this one can be confirmed by archival evidence.”



men – whom it is believed volunteered for duty with the British – now proudly join the ranks of the Rats of Tobruk.

The findings were submitted to the AWM for confirmation, and the AWM congratulated the Descendants of the Rats of Tobruk Australia Association for its amazing work on the revelation.

“What wonderful pieces of detective work you have uncovered,” said Dr Karl James, Head of the Military History Section.

“Confirming this detachment or loan of men from 1ARCC to a British Docks operating company in Alex and then to Tobruk is very



impressive. It’s not often that old war stories such as this one can be confirmed by archival evidence.”

The Descendants of the Rats of Tobruk Australia Association is a non-profit organisation that has spent years dedicating its time and effort to documenting and completing research on the Rats of

Tobruk and creating photographic tributes for these gallant men.

The association has worked tirelessly building a database of every Rat of Tobruk, which is as historically correct as is possible and includes personal photographs and information pre- and post-WWII. ←

ABOVE: Despite a bandage shown here and there, these men of the 24th Infantry Brigade were in good spirits as they disembarked after their voyage from Tobruk. Identified, centre front, is QX474 Lionel Douglas Poacher of Wilston, Qld whose name is written on his bag near his left foot. All others are unidentified but likely from the 2/25th Battalion, 2/28th Battalion or 2/43rd Battalion, all units of the 24th Brigade. (AWM: 020461).

LEFT: A small patrol from the 2/13th Infantry Battalion waiting in a tank ditch for a favourable opportunity to go further into “NO MAN’S LAND” near Tobruk. (AWM: 020779).

FAR LEFT: Aerial photograph of the port of Tobruk during the 1941 siege.



For more information about the association, visit ratsoftobrukdescendants.org.au or email dotrota41@gmail.com

Happy Paws
Happy Hearts
participant
Kylie.



Rescue animals

HELP DEFENCE FORCE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

A unique program delivered by the Happy Paws Happy Hearts Foundation in partnership with RSL Queensland will help ex-serving Australian Defence Force members and their families strengthen communication, nurture positive relationships and improve their health and wellbeing.

VETERANS and their families are

buddying up with RSPCA rescue animals to improve their general wellbeing and spark new connections. The free 10-week program is also helping to build participants' animal handling and behaviour management skills.

Happy Paws Happy Hearts Founder and CEO Zoe Black says the program has had a positive impact on participants and families, as well as the rescue animals.

"Many of our participants were in the Defence Force long-term and struggled with transitioning out of service roles.

PTSD was a common diagnosis, which affected their lives and the lives of their families and friends every day," Zoe says.

"Past participants describe Happy Paws Happy Hearts as a space to learn something new and see life beyond the past. The animals provide participants with the ability to

smile, laugh, and feel that they have made a difference.

"We're excited to be welcoming more families on board. We know from previous programs our veteran participants gain an improved sense of wellbeing, connection, and inclusion – and these outcomes extend to the family groups and the rescue animals involved as well. We truly believe that if we don't support veterans and their families, that we as a community will lose talented and passionate people who want to make a difference," she says.

RSL Queensland's Deputy CEO Veteran Services Troy Watson says he is pleased to be continuing the partnership with the Happy Paws Happy Hearts Foundation to provide veterans and their families with access to this meaningful program.

"We know that there are demonstrable outcomes for veterans involved in programs such as this, from improved psychological wellbeing to an increased sense of connection with their family, and the broader community," Troy says.

“Extending this program to veterans and their families is just one of many ways we can improve mental and physical resilience as well as encourage social connection.”

Families and participants can sign up to join the program for free. It will run for 10 weeks every Saturday from 1-3pm during 13 May to 15 July (Wacol), 29 July to 30 September (Toowoomba) and 29 July to 30 September (Wacol). ↩

“Past participants describe Happy Paws Happy Hearts as a space to learn something new and see life beyond the past. The animals provide participants with the ability to smile, laugh, and feel that they have made a difference.”

Families are invited to express their interest in the program by contacting the Happy Paws Happy Hearts Foundation on **1300 077 984** or via **hphhfoundation.org**.



MATES 4 MATES

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
FOR OUR DEFENCE COMMUNITY

Happy birthday to Mates4Mates!

EXPLORING 10 YEARS OF MATESHIP
AND RECOVERY JOURNEYS.

+ **TRANSITIONING TO CIVILIAN
LIFE THROUGH MOVEMENT.**
HOW PHYSICAL REHABILITATION CAN AID THE
TRANSITION FROM DEFENCE.

Expanding across Australia.

FIND OUT HOW OUR NEW CENTRES ARE SUPPORTING
THE DEFENCE COMMUNITY.

+ **MANAGING RELATIONSHIPS IN DEFENCE FAMILIES.**
TIPS FOR BUILDING HEALTHIER CONNECTIONS WITH LOVED ONES.

10Years
OF MATES

A message from Emma.

The new year is well and truly underway, and 2023 is already shaping up to be a year full of exciting opportunities to help veterans and their families find mateship and move forward from the impacts of service.



This year marks the 10th anniversary since Mates4Mates was established by RSL Queensland to help address the significant health and wellbeing challenges faced by some current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel and their families.

Over those 10 years, we have grown to better understand the needs of those who have served and what it means to be part of the Defence community.

As we reflect on the past 10 years, we also move forward into the next decade with a clear focus on the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families, leading us to develop our 'Journey to 30' Strategic Plan.

This seven-year plan will allow Mates4Mates to grow and better serve veterans and their families impacted by service. This includes delivering more services that are evidence-based and inclusive, and reaching more veterans in more places through sustainable growth.

This growth of Mates4Mates is already in action across the country, with new centres opening in the Northern Territory, South East Queensland and North Queensland. On page 3, discover the journeys of how these regions have expanded to further support their local Defence communities.

Through our commitment to delivering evidence-based services to both current and ex-serving Defence Force personnel, Soldier Recovery Programs are run by our exercise physiologists in both Brisbane and Townsville. Read more about how the program is supporting soldiers transitioning out of the military into civilian life through physical rehabilitation on page 6.

As you read through these stories and more in this edition of the Mates4Mates magazine, I know that my team and I are proud to continue actively changing the lives of veterans and their families impacted by service.

Emma

General Manager of Mates4Mates

Shop your support.

Every purchase supports veterans and their families. Shop online today.

mates4matesshop.org



Make the call that makes the difference.

Contact Mates4Mates to find out about our services, how you can access support or get involved.

mates4mates.org

1300 4 MATES

Keep up to date, follow us:



Mates4Mates supports current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members, and their families, who have been impacted by their service. We are an initiative established by RSL Queensland. If you would like to contribute to our magazine please contact Mates4Mates Marketing team via marketing@mates4mates.org or call 1300 462 837.



The expansion of Mates4Mates in 2023.

This year, Mates4Mates will be expanding across various locations in Queensland and the Northern Territory, ensuring veterans and their families have access to more support services and connection. If you'd like to find out more about these new centres, contact the team on 1300 4 MATES.

Cairns, QLD

As the demand for Mates4Mates and its services continues to grow in Far North Queensland, the Mates4Mates Cairns office re-located to a larger space for local veterans and families to visit.

We're now located at 280-286 Sheridan Street in Cairns City, within the RSL Queensland Regional Services Centre which houses staff from RSL Queensland and the RSL Far Northern District Office, providing a range of support services in the one location.

The dedicated space has been expanded to include availability for social connection activities and telehealth clinical services. Connection and peer-support is an integral part of Mates4Mates, and this new centre in Cairns can help facilitate that within the community.

Ipswich, QLD

Over the last two years, Mates4Mates has provided dedicated services to current and ex-serving Defence Force personnel and their families in the Ipswich region, continually increasing its range of activities within the community. In light of this, the Mates4Mates Ipswich Family Recovery Centre will provide more of this more often.

South East Queensland Regional Manager, Laura Duckworth shared her excitement about the Ipswich Family Recovery Centre opening.

"We are thrilled to continue our commitment to provide a way forward for veterans and family members impacted by service within the Ipswich and surrounding regions," Laura said.

The Ipswich centre, located at Level 1, 260 Brisbane Street in West Ipswich, will allow the Ipswich Defence community to access a range of support services that they may have already been accessing from the Brisbane Family Recovery Centre or the Online Family Recovery Centre.

Stuart Park, NT

With the Northern Territory home to thousands of Defence personnel, veterans, and their families looking for support and mateship, Mates4Mates were honoured in 2020 to have been selected as the lead organisation to deliver the Department of Veterans' Affairs \$5 million Veterans' and Families' Hub in Darwin.

The new Mates4Mates Veteran and Family Wellbeing Centre in Stuart Park, located at 39 Stuart Highway, will be a home for a number of veterans' support services, including a gym, clinical services, a veterans' lounge, space for popular social connection activities run by Mates4Mates, as well as other veterans' support organisations all with the goal of supporting veterans and Defence Force personnel and their families.

Since opening the initial Mates4Mates centre in Palmerston in 2021, the Defence community in the Top End have provided strong support and demand for Mates4Mates services.



10 years of Mates4Mates.

As Mates4Mates celebrates 10 years of supporting current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members impacted by service, and their families, we take a moment to reflect on how our services have evolved over this time and how Mates4Mates have become one of Australia's leading veteran support organisations.

Established by RSL Queensland in 2013, Mates4Mates was set up as an initiative to support injured current and former Defence Force personnel and their families, particularly after the withdrawal of Australian troops from Afghanistan in the same year.

With now more than half a million veterans estimated to be living in Australia, Mates4Mates have remained committed to understanding the needs of

those who have served and what it means to be part of the Defence community.

In its first year, rehabilitation adventure challenges were held by Mates4Mates to raise awareness for those impacted by service, such as the three-week kayaking journey from Sydney to Brisbane that a team of veterans completed, including Paralympic gold medallist, Curtis McGrath OAM.

With the Brisbane Family Recovery Centre opening on 15 March 2013 to support the South East Queensland Defence community, the adventure challenges also provided an opportunity for vital funds to be raised to develop further Mates4Mates sites, leading to the opening of the Townsville Family Recovery Centre and Hobart Family Recovery Centre in 2014.

Social connection for mateship

Knowing the power of social connection and community, Mates4Mates created regular opportunities for mateship and peer-support through social, recreational, and family activities.

Liaison officers from all areas of the Defence community have facilitated a wide variety of activities that have been inclusive of veterans – or Mates – as well as partners and children. Regular activities over the years have included coffee catch ups, bike rides, walks, cooking classes, craft workshops, BBQs, and many more.

Now as one of the dedicated service offerings at Mates4Mates, it's these social connection activities that have played a vital role in building a safe and welcoming community, with veterans and family members joining in across Australia, including online since 2020.

Clinical services for veterans

As Mates4Mates began to slowly expand its service offerings, its focus shifted to the many pathways to recovery for veterans, with psychological and physical rehabilitation support introduced.

The use of evidence-based therapies and programs run by psychologists and exercise physiologists has allowed current and ex-serving Defence Force members and their families to receive support and care for service-related physical injuries, mental health issues and isolation.

Since then, social workers and counsellors have joined the Mates4Mates team to provide a holistic approach that aims to make a real difference to veterans and their families.

Our history

-  • **2013** Mates4Mates Brisbane Family Recovery Centre opens and social connection activities and psychology services begin being offered
-  • **2014** Townsville and Hobart Family Recovery Centres open
-  • **2015** Exercise physiology services begin being offered to veterans and families
-  • **2016** The first ever clinical STAIR Program was facilitated for veterans and family members
-  • **2018** First Soldier Recovery Centre program commences
-  • **2020** Online Family Recovery Centre opens and Skills for Recovery Programs are launched
-  • **2021** Northern Territory centre opens
-  • **2022** Construction starts for new sites in Darwin (NT) and Ipswich (QLD)

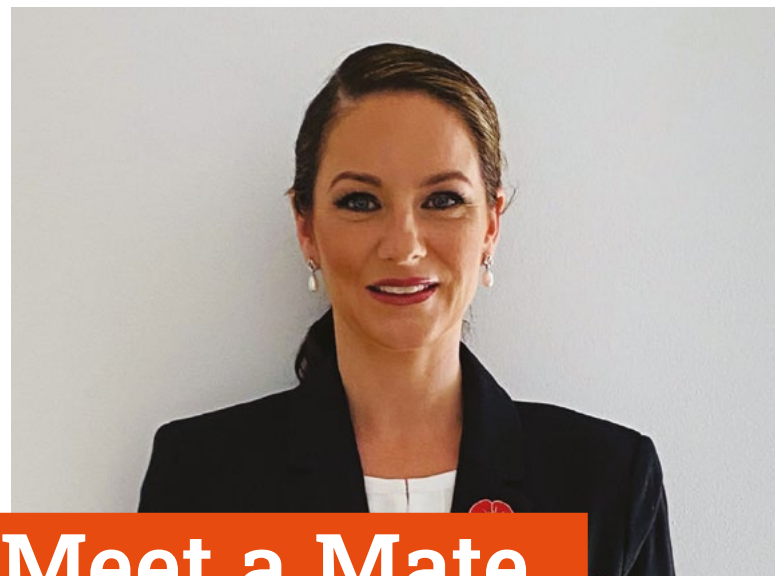
Moving forward

Now in 2023, Mates4Mates offers a wide range of evidence-based services through four service streams: psychological services; physical rehabilitation and wellbeing services; social connection activities; and Skills for Recovery Programs.

Since 2013, over 9,500 current and ex-serving Defence Force members, and their families, have accessed Mates4Mates services throughout South East Queensland, North Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, as well as online.

As we look to the future of what support veterans require from ex-service organisations, Mates4Mates remains dedicated to actively changing the lives of current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members, and their families, impacted by service through mateship and connection.

With mates behind you, there's power to move forward, so make the call that makes the difference on **1300 4 MATES** or visit **mates4mates.org**.



Meet a Mate.

Take the time to get to know the veterans and family members who make all the difference at Mates4Mates.

Rebecca joined Mates4Mates over five years ago, often visiting the Brisbane Family Recovery Centre and participating in social connection activities across South East Queensland.

What's your favourite social connection activity?

"As a veteran, I've been away from my family for long periods of time, so school holiday programs that involve the family are fantastic. The aqua park social activities are the kids' favourites. The more active, the better!

While I normally engage with Mates4Mates at a family level, as an individual, I've been happy to see Mates4Mates take the direction of offering activities that may be of more interest to female veterans. Mindful activities that require you to be creative are my favourite, such as the Christmas wreath making workshop or the bonsai workshop. While these really take me out of my comfort zone, I always feel safe and supported."

Why do you enjoy being a Mate?

"I enjoy being part of the Mates4Mates community because I get to engage with other veterans who might have been through similar experiences to me. As a wife and partner of a veteran, it's comforting to be around other people who understand the veteran lifestyle and how service can impact you and your family.

Mates4Mates is a positive space where there's so much for everyone; for me as a veteran, as a wife, for my children, it's a safe space to learn positive strategies for dealing with life's challenges and where we can re-engage as a family again.

Thank you to the whole team at Mates4Mates who have been so inclusive of myself and my family. You've made us feel welcomed and at home, helping us all along our journey."

Commemorate this ANZAC Day.



ANZAC Day is a chance to connect with ourselves, our friends and families, our communities, and the ANZAC spirit that guided our ANZACs as they fought after landing in Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

On 25 April, we invite you to honour the Defence community and commemorate in a way that is meaningful to you. This could be by attending your local RSL ANZAC Day service, standing on your driveway at dawn, or donating to the ANZAC Appeal. Visit anzacspirit.com.au to find out more.

Transitioning to civilian life through movement.

Exercise physiologists at the Mates4Mates Townsville Family Recovery Centre are supporting soldiers at the Lavarack Barracks with their transition into civilian life through physical rehabilitation.

It can be very common for servicemen and women to hold a “push through to get the job done” mentality firmly in their minds. While this may be seen as necessary for their role in the military, after transitioning, this can lead to increased injuries and create fear avoidance behaviours as they age.

Starting to un-learn this behaviour prior to transitioning can help support the process of re-entering civilian life safely, particularly if the soldier has an injury – this is what Mates4Mates aims to achieve with their four-week Solider Recovery Program led by exercise physiologists.

Running multiple times through the year, the Solider Recovery Program includes:

- Introductory physical education workshops
- Explain Pain workshops
- Static/dynamic stretching workshops
- Pilates classes
- Yoga classes
- Hydrotherapy classes
- Group physical training (PT) sessions



At the Townsville Family Recovery Centre, exercise physiologists Aric Visentin and Cathy Rowe are working with soldiers to increase their confidence in overcoming barriers associated with their transition through exercise and movement.

Instead of trying to push through pain and injury or saying, “I can’t do this”, it becomes a question of how they can modify their new lifestyle for meaningful movement, taking into account the psychological and social aspects of pain, not just the physical.

Soldiers within the recovery program have shared how it has allowed them to put their health first and feel encouraged to ask questions and engage in discussions to further their learnings.

“By breaking down the perceptions of Defence versus civilian mindsets to exercise, you can see soldiers begin to branch out of their movement comfort zones, all of which is preparing them for their future outside of the military,” Cathy said.

The Soldier Recovery Program is offered in both Townsville at the Lavarack Barracks and in Brisbane at the Gallipoli Barracks. To find out more, contact Mates4Mates on **1300 4 MATES**.

Managing relationships in families.

The way of life for those in the Defence Force can create unique challenges and demands on families, which can make maintaining healthy relationships difficult.

Frequent relocations, long periods of separation, uncertainty, and the risks of operational deployments can create additional stressors in relationships and family dynamics.

Healthy relationships play a key role in the recovery from the impacts of service. Quality relationships are associated with reduced stress, anxiety, and depression, alongside increased quality of life, positive mood, self-esteem, and even physical health.

Separation due to military requirements can effectively remove daily interactions and physical contact with partners and children, increasing loneliness and isolation for Defence Force members.

The potential traumatic stress of serving is also suggested to alter a service person's perceptions and behaviours, including greater perceived threat and emotional detachment, which creates a barrier to re-engage and re-establish relationships when home.

When Defence Force members are away, their partners often report feeling lonely, isolated, sad, and depressed, while also worrying about the safety of their loved one. If a child is involved, it typically results in sole-parenting responsibilities for them.

The process of moving can also have an impact on employment opportunities and access to social supports, increasing feelings of loneliness and social isolation.

There are many transitions in the household that can also have a negative impact on military children. These include an absence of role modelling from the serving parent, instability in environment, and the compromise of secure relationships with educators, peers, and wider social networks through geographical relocations.

Children can experience regressions in learning as well as socio-emotional

skills that are required to maintain healthy relationships, which can in turn increase fatigue for parents and impact on their ability to cope, placing additional strain on the family unit.

Developing and maintaining healthy relationships requires effort, attention, and care, but there is extra support available. Mates4Mates offers a wide range of mental health services for veterans and their families impacted by service. To find out more, reach out to Mates4Mates on **1300 4 MATES** for a confidential chat.

✍ Written by Ann-Marie Trinh, Mates4Mates Psychologist

Tips on building healthy relationships

- Be self-aware of when you might start to withdraw or become emotionally distant from important people in your life.
- Prioritise important relationships and create time to connect with those that matter the most. Even while away, stay connected through thoughts, gestures and rituals that can be completed together.
- Maintain clear and open communication with loved ones. Sharing thoughts, feelings and problems helps to build trust and intimacy in relationships.
- Practice good listening skills to enhance ability to understand and connect with others better.
- Plan an engaging and meaningful activity that can be shared together.
- Identify triggers and stressors that lead to tension in the relationship.
- Take time out to de-stress and allow breathing room in the relationship to reflect and regulate.

MATES4MATES

Here for those
impacted by service.



Join Mates4Mates

Find a way forward from
service-related injuries.

Support for all current and ex-serving Defence Force
members impacted by service, and their families.

- ✓ Psychology appointments
- ✓ Physical rehabilitation and wellbeing services
- ✓ Social connection activities
- ✓ Skills-based recovery programs



Join Mates4Mates

Register today



BRISBANE PARK NAMED IN HONOUR OF LATE VETERAN

A park in Sunnybank has been renamed in honour of late WWII veteran, Richard 'Dick' Martin.

Richard Martin Place



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

In recognition of Richard "Dick" Trevor Martin (15/3/1923 – 24/2/2020) – World War Two airman, distinguished local identity and a true gentleman, respected accountant and lifetime supporter of the veteran community.

Dick was born in Melbourne and worked as a junior clerk before enlisting in the Australian Army in 1941. Shortly after enlistment he transferred to the Royal Australian Air Force where he trained as a mid-air gunner on the legendary Lancaster Bombers. He sailed to England where he became one of the many airmen to serve in Bomber Command and fly countless dangerous bombing raids over Europe.

After the war Dick married Valda, settled in Brisbane and together they raised two children, Glen and Karen.

He joined the Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch in 1980 and undertook numerous active roles within the Board of Management over many years. He was appointed a Life Member of the RSL and in 2005 he received the RSL's highest and most prestigious national award, the Meritorious Service Medal. Dick continued to serve diligently as the Assistant Treasurer of the Sub-Branch until the time of his death.

The park was officially opened by Cr Kim Marx on 15 October, 2022 at a Ceremony attended by the Martin family and the Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch.



RIGHT: Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch President Hugh Polson speaking to media in front of the Lancaster bomber memorial.

BELOW: The park was named after RAAF veteran Richard Martin.

BELOW RIGHT: Members of Richard 'Dick' Martin's family and other community members gathered for the official renaming ceremony.

RICHARD'S life of service and significant contribution to the community was recognised in an official renaming ceremony on Saturday 15 October.

The park, located next to the Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch, where Richard was a Life Member, was named Richard Martin Place. Following Richard's passing in February 2020, the Sub Branch initiated a petition to Brisbane City Council to rename the park after him.

Members of Mr Martin's family joined Runcorn Ward Councillor Kim Marx, RSL South Eastern District President Kerry Gallagher, Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch President Hugh Polson and



RSL Sub Branch members to acknowledge Richard's decades of service.

RSL South Eastern District President Kerry Gallagher AM said Richard's life service was well deserving of this community tribute.

"I think everyone would agree that it is very fitting that the park

next to the Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch, where he served for more than 30 years, is being named after him, allowing the community to remember and honour him for years to come," Mr Gallagher said.

Richard served as Flight Sergeant with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) during World War II, flying in dangerous bombing





"I think everyone would agree that it is very fitting that the park next to the Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch, where he served for more than 30 years, is being named after him, allowing the community to remember and honour him for years to come."

LEFT: Runcorn Ward Councillor Kim Marx and Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch President Hugh Polson unveiled the park's new name.

BELOW: Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch President Hugh Polson, South Eastern District President Kerry Gallagher AM and Sub Branch Vice President Harry Claassen.



Branch for all those years and that he only retired months before he passed," Hugh said.

The park also features a tribute to the RAAF, with a mural of the Avro Lancaster bomber commissioned by the Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch last year. ←



raids over Europe as air gunner in the legendary Lancaster bomber.

In 2005, Richard received the RSL's highest and most prestigious national award, the Meritorious Service Medal.

Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch President Hugh Polson said there

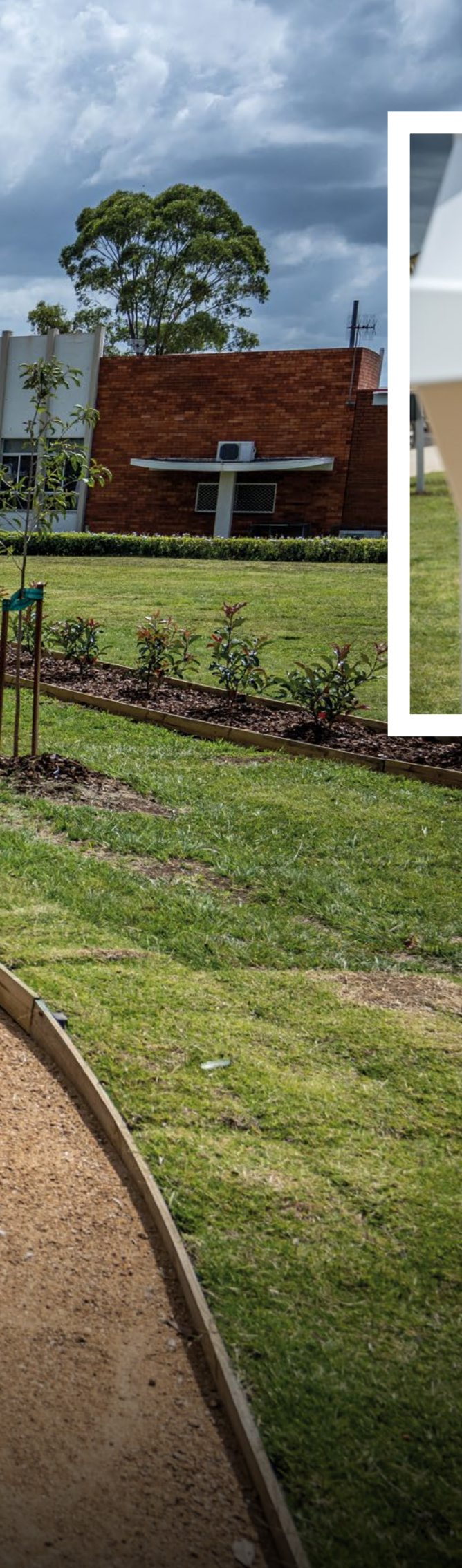
was tremendous support for Mr Martin to be acknowledged as he was well known and well respected within the community.

"He was a distinguished local identity and a true gentleman. We were privileged that he was Assistant Treasurer of our Sub

A wide-angle photograph of the Veterans' Memorial Park in Murgon. A wide, light-brown gravel path leads from the foreground into the park. The path is bordered by green grass and wooden planters containing various shrubs and small trees. In the background, there are several white tents, one of which has the Murgon Shire Council logo and the word 'MURGON' on it. People are gathered around the tents. To the right, there is a large brick building with a tall antenna on its roof. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK OPENED IN MURGON WITH PLATINUM JUBILEE TRIBUTE

On Saturday 10 December, the Murgon community opened the Veterans' Memorial Park – a peaceful space to honour post-World War II veterans.



AN initiative of the Murgon RSL Sub Branch, the park was opened by State Member for Nicklin Rob Skelton MP and Murgon RSL Sub Branch President Kevin Gill.

The opening followed more than 12 weeks of planning and construction and included a tribute to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A dedicated plaque was unveiled among more than 30 juvenile and mature trees, which were planted in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years of service to Australia.

A prominent feature of the park is the installation of a replica Long Tan Cross, which has been erected in honour of those who served and lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Commemorative plaques have also been installed, honouring wars and conflicts in Vietnam, East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as acknowledging Peacekeeping Forces.

The tributes were made possible following funding received from a number of State and Federal Government grant programs, including the Queensland State Government's 2022 Queensland Remembers grant program, and the Federal Government's Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee, and Saluting Their Service programs.

RSL Wide Bay and Burnett District President Trevor Williamson OAM said the Murgon Sub Branch had identified a need for a memorial in the community that honoured the significant local contributions to service and sacrifice in wars and conflicts post-WWII.



“The RSL is honoured to be able to create this peaceful place of reflection, where members of the community can come, take a seat, and pay their respects to those who served in more recent wars and conflicts.”

ABOVE: Cutting the ribbon to officially open the park.

RIGHT: RSL Wide Bay and Burnett District President Trevor Williamson OAM speaking at the opening of the memorial.

BELOW: Veterans gather at the park opening.

BELOW RIGHT: The Veterans' Memorial Park includes a replica of the Long Tan Cross.



“The RSL is honoured to be able to create this peaceful place of reflection, where members of the community can come, take a seat, and pay their respects to those who served in more recent wars and conflicts,” Mr Williamson said.

“With the inclusion of a tribute to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the park also allows for honourable reflection on the late Queen Elizabeth II and her commitment to lifelong service, including her war service and support for veterans.”

COMMUNITY AND CAMARADERIE LEAD THE WAY IN GLADSTONE

*This spirit of
camaraderie can
be seen in action
in Gladstone RSL
Sub Branch.*

✍ Lani Pauli





amaraderie is a value strongly associated with RSL Queensland, and one shared by members who bring Sub Branches to life around the state.

In the coastal city of Gladstone, Sub Branch President Ed Dahlheimer and Vice President Jon Felton are leading by example, showing that when people work together, greater things can happen.

Gladstone RSL Sub Branch is part of the Wide Bay and Burnett District and – alongside building a new headquarters and working to recruit younger members – it's also ensuring that nearby Sub Branches in Calliope, Boyne-Tannum, Mount Larcom, and Agnes Water/1770 are all connected.

Members recently gathered for a joint end-of-year celebration, with each Sub Branch pitching in to make the event a success.

GLADSTONE THRIVES ON COMMUNITY

It's no accident that the five nearby Sub Branches celebrated the festive season together.

RIGHT: Enjoying camaraderie at the bowls day were, from left, veteran Dwaine Martin, Sub Branch Vice President Jon Felton and Ben Head from Club Gladstone.

BELOW: RSL Sub Branch members from Gladstone, Calliope, Boyne-Tannum, Mount Larcom and Agnes Water/1770 joined together for a celebration at the bowls club at the end of 2022.



Togetherness is an ethos that's encouraged from the top down by President Ed Dahlheimer, who joined the Sub Branch when he first enlisted in the Army in 1988 in Rockhampton.

"In those days, when you finished your recruit course you were asked to join the Sub Branch," he explains.

"So, I originally joined Rockhampton and then Gladstone when I moved there in 1995."

Just like his progression up the Army ranks to Major, Ed's involvement with his RSL Sub Branch has evolved from working as Treasurer to his current role as President.

He says the Gladstone community is passionate about its town and the region.

"Whenever we lose a service or piece of critical infrastructure there's a vocal outpouring to try and get the service back to help others in the community.

"In terms of the RSL Sub Branch, the community gets behind us. On ANZAC Day it is awe-inspiring to see ANZAC Park full, the park next to it full, and the streets packed with people during the service.

"We're a very community-minded town."

BUILDING SPACE FOR THE VETERAN COMMUNITY

"We're heavily involved with our veteran community and always trying to deepen that connection," Ed explains.

"We assist the ESO Young Veterans running backyard blitzes, for example, and provide equipment to cadets so they can do more realistic and safe training.

"We also have strong relationships with our nearby Sub Branches at Calliope, Boyne-Tannum, and Mount Larcom. We're all working towards the same goal.

"Our new drop-in centre will give us a permanent home and give us greater ability to support our regional mates. We'll have two private consultation rooms and we'll be encouraging different professionals to come and use the rooms, instead



*“For us,
it’s about
bringing back
togetherness
and making
everyone feel
welcome.*

*We can’t fix
everything but
if we have an
ear and an
open mind,
and the ability
to just have a
conversation
with someone,
I think we’re
doing well.”*



“It’ll be open to all. We may not have served together but we all have that common experience. And when we come together, we can all benefit by building social connection and camaraderie.”

Recently appointed to Vice President at Gladstone RSL Sub Branch, Jon Felton has spent the past eight years as a member. He saw joining as a way to continue to give back to the veteran community.

“By reaching out and talking to other Sub Branches, we’re able to collaborate. We need to work together to create membership,” he says.

“For us, it’s about bringing back togetherness and making everyone feel welcome. We can’t fix everything but if we have an ear and an open mind, and the ability to just have a conversation with someone, I think we’re doing well.”

SMALL GESTURES MAKE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE

While their new headquarters are under construction, Ed, Jon and Gladstone RSL Sub Branch members are focusing on the little things they can do to keep fostering the connection that binds a community.

The Sub Branch recently got grant funding to host monthly dinners for members, and Ed says these informal regular gatherings have opened the door to conversation.

“A lot of veterans don’t want to ask or don’t feel comfortable asking for help. So, in a less formal environment, like our dinners, those questions might come out. These dinners are about building camaraderie,” he says.

Jon agrees: “Veterans have camaraderie built into us when we sign up for service. It builds into a sense of purpose.

“The RSL wasn’t built on individuals. It was built on a collective. The door here is always open and we are a place to help. We understand the experiences and know that camaraderie can often change a mindset,” he shares.

“Come and see what Sub Branches are about. Come and talk to the younger veterans. Come and talk to some of the older veterans. We’re not going away. While I sit here with a shirt on and while I sit here and watch the Sub Branch and the drop-in centre behind me get built, we’re creating something new. We’re providing a Sub Branch opportunity for people to come and just say g’day.” ←

ABOVE:
Onlookers at
the Sub Branch
bowls event.

of our veterans having to travel to Bundaberg or Rockhampton.

“We’re going to be able to build an even stronger Sub Branch and veteran community.”

The new drop-in centre has been made possible thanks to work of the Gladstone Foundation and grant funding.





RIDING FOR A CAUSE

For small townships like Finch Hatton, the Rally Against Veteran Suicide is about more than bringing the community together. It's about raising awareness and, hopefully, saving a local life.

 **Kylie Hatfield** |  **Sparks Fly Media**

Veteran suicide is a cause that's close to Andrew Sutherland's heart. The Vice President of Finch Hatton RSL Sub Branch served in the Navy and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2002 as part of Operation Slipper.

"Since then, we've lost three shipmates. A lot of good guys are going for no reason," Andrew says.

Andrew also chairs Raise Awareness for Veteran Suicide Mackay, which organises the annual Rally Against Veteran Suicide (RAVS) event. Starting in Mackay and driving or riding through the picturesque Pioneer Valley to Finch Hatton – a small town about 60km inland from Mackay – RAVS aims to connect with people through common interests.

"It's mainly to get common ground and get people talking. The more people that can talk, the

more chance we have of making it one less person," Andrew says.

More than 800 service personnel have died by suicide since 2001, and Andrew hopes events like RAVS will help to bring the issue out into the open.

"If we can save one person from doing something they'll regret, that's what our aim is – that one person," he says.

Andrew says RAVS is also helping to raise awareness of the broader issue of suicide in the community.

"We had guys join the ride who had no affiliation with veterans at all, but wanted to support the cause, because we know suicide isn't just a veteran problem," he says.

"So, they're supporting the suicide awareness of what's going on in our community, because we've lost teachers, we've lost farmers and we've lost kids."



ABOVE:
Riders on the
Rally Against
Veteran Suicide
ride.

RIGHT:
Riders gather for
a chat.

A GROWING TRADITION

RAVS has brought together more people than ever to raise awareness of veteran suicide. In 2019, the first RAVS event at Mackay – held by local veteran Donald ‘Wombat’ Laird – attracted more than 80 people.

Then, after a hiatus in 2020 due to COVID-19, the event raised more than \$5,000 in 2021 to support veterans and their families in the Mackay district. In 2022, 110 people attended the rally on 30 July.

The event started with a service at the Mackay RSL, where three wreaths were laid – one for Vietnam veterans, one for peacekeepers from 1941 to the present day, and one for modern soldiers. Then the group, including several families, took to their bikes and cars to ride through the scenic Pioneer Valley.

They were welcomed at Walkerston RSL Sub Branch with a barbecue lunch before finishing at Finch Hatton RSL Sub Branch, where they enjoyed live music, food trucks and a bouncing castle



for the kids. Around 30 visitors spent the night camping at Finch Hatton.

“It’s a great atmosphere, and provides an opportunity for veterans and their families to come and stay the night on the Sub

Branch grounds,” Andrew says.

For the past two years, RAVS has been a joint effort between Finch Hatton RSL Sub Branch and Mackay RSL Sub Branch, with the Mackay Sub Branch being a major monetary sponsor alongside

“If we can save one person from doing something they’ll regret, that’s what our aim is – that one person.”

Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and AMX Superstore.

“Apart from being a great local event for veterans and an opportunity to support and engage with the community, the Sub Branch supports this event because it’s a cause that we believe in.”

A SMALL BUT MIGHTY SUB BRANCH

Finch Hatton RSL Sub Branch connects three rural townships

just north of Mackay. With just 41 service members and 11 auxiliary members, the Sub Branch provides the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services for the towns of Finch Hatton, Gargett, and Pinnacle.

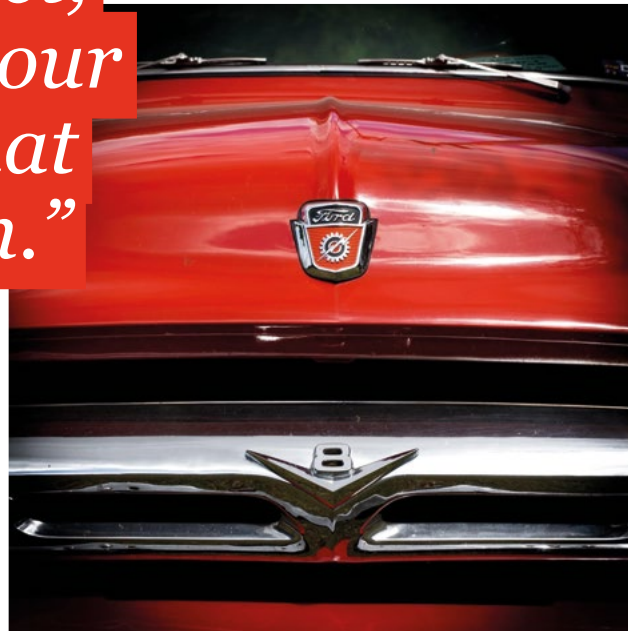
Sub Branch members are active in the communities beyond commemorations, sharing their experiences and engaging with locals and students.

“I visit schools and present to the students on what it was like to be in the Navy,” Finch Hatton RSL Sub Branch President Tammy Sprott says.

Members also sell raffle tickets to fundraise and engage with the local community, and the Sub Branch supports the Pioneer Valley Agricultural Show Society – the biggest one-day show in the area.

“At the show we host Real Mates Talk and the Classic Cars Show, where many of the proud owners are veterans,” Tammy says.

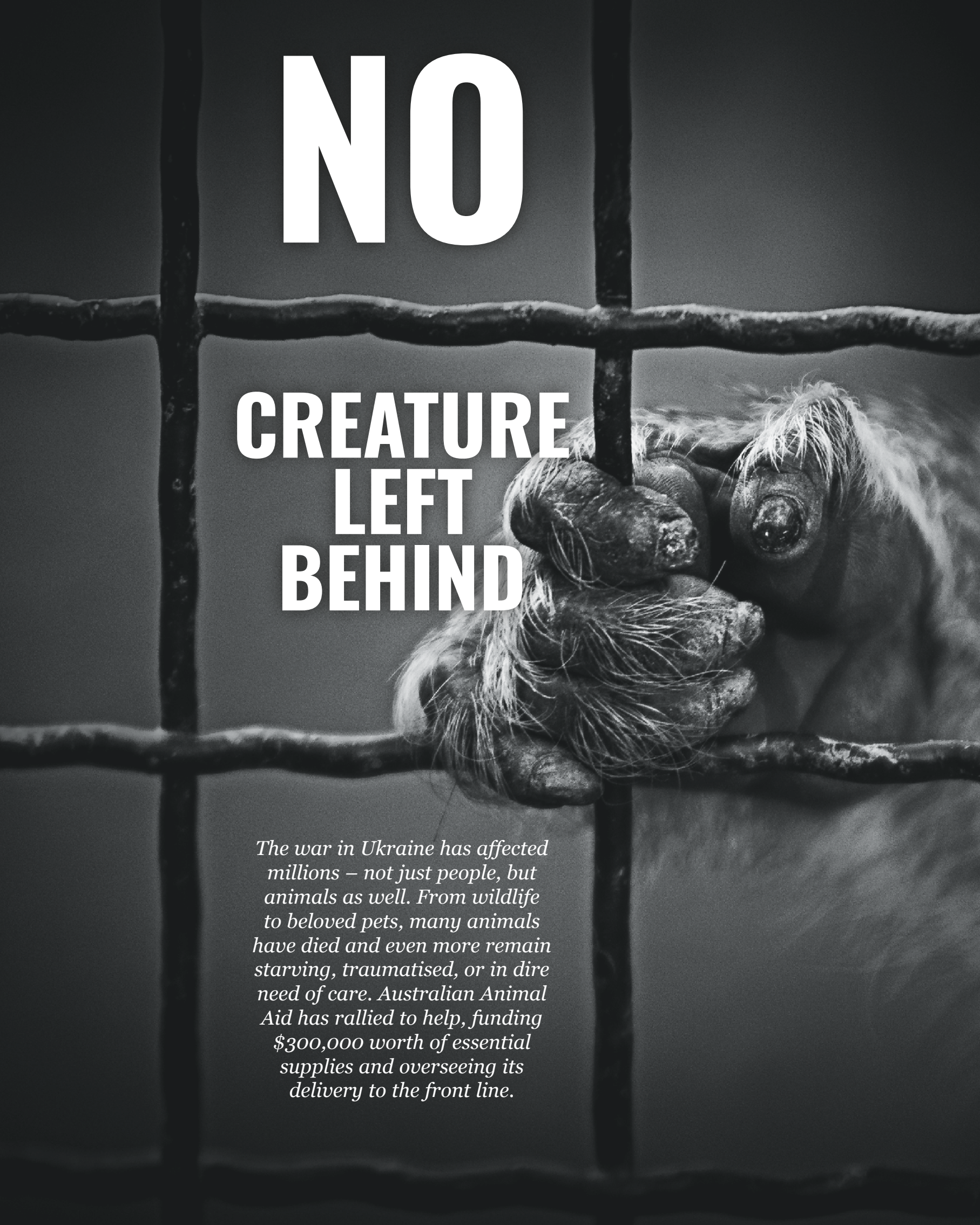
It’s hoped that through these engagement activities, the local veteran community knows they can turn to the Sub Branch when they need help. ←



LEFT: Finch Hatton RSL Sub Branch Vice President and Rally Against Veteran Suicide Mackay President Andrew Sutherland and Tammy.

RIGHT: A service held by Rally Against Veteran Suicide.





NO

CREATURE LEFT BEHIND

The war in Ukraine has affected millions – not just people, but animals as well. From wildlife to beloved pets, many animals have died and even more remain starving, traumatised, or in dire need of care. Australian Animal Aid has rallied to help, funding \$300,000 worth of essential supplies and overseeing its delivery to the front line.



he United Nations estimates that more than 12 million Ukrainians have fled their homes since

Russia's invasion. Many are pet owners, forced to flee with their beloved animals – often without food, medicine or other essentials.

Whether people flee or perish, conflict often depopulates entire regions, causing animals to be left behind. Domestic animals may be abandoned without adequate access to food or water, confined or restrained, or left to roam amidst war.

THE SUPPORT MISSION

The Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation Inc. (AWAMO) is Australia's leading service animal charity. Its sub branch, Australian Animal Aid, has viewed the crisis in Ukraine and decided to do something about it.

Several months ago, AWAMO approached PETstock for help in shipping more than \$300,000 in essential supplies to animals impacted by the war.

To ensure the aid was directed where it was needed most, AWAMO consulted the Ukrainian Embassy and Dr Lachlan Campbell, a Queensland veterinarian who previously worked in Ukraine. Based on their advice, AWAMO partnered with Ukrainian Pet Association Worldwide (UPAW) – which coordinates and delivers aid across Ukraine – and Nowzad, a registered charity famous for its work in Afghanistan.

AWAMO learned that animals are starving and dying in farms and zoos across Ukraine. To help them, AWAMO will also purchase fresh fodder and other food. Funds will be used to transport aid directly to the animals.

AWAMO President and founder Nigel Allsopp and Vice President Peter Kotzur – an ex-Toowoomba Council Animal Ranger who served with Nigel in the ADF – recently travelled to Ukraine to oversee the distribution of emergency relief to local charities.

THE SITUATION ON



ABOVE:
This bear sanctuary houses bears that were released by gypsies. Once used as entertainment, many of the bears have both physical and psychological scars.

ABOVE RIGHT:
All creatures great and small, from local squirrels to exotic white tigers, are housed inside Limpopo Zoo. Many finding safety inside the zoo have come from other zoos near the capital and front lines near Odesa.

RIGHT:
AWAMO President and founder Nigel Allsopp said it was hard to leave the animals behind. Like humans, dogs crave companionship and wanted to be taken home with him.

THE GROUND

Basic, much needed supplies are running out across the country, impacting the distribution and administration efforts of many animal shelters.

Shelters also face a common dilemma: by removing animals from conflict zones, there's little chance of finding their owners once they return.

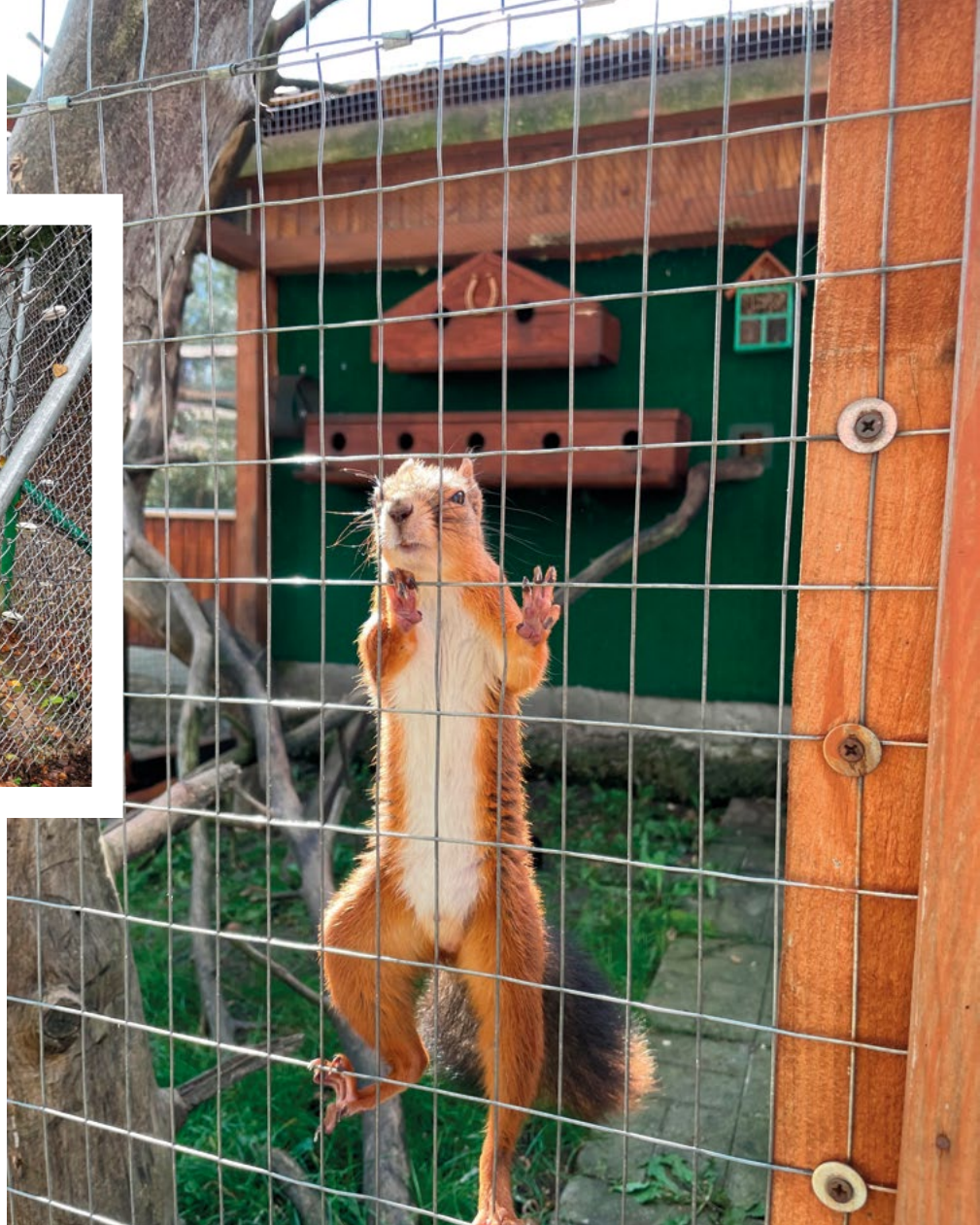
In addition, abandoned animals perpetuate stray populations and are vulnerable to outbreaks of diseases. Once the conflict has ended, animals who were once healthy are likely to have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or physical ailments that decrease their likelihood of adoption.

"Sadly, many shelter workers claim that Russian troops seemed to have gone out of their way to shoot any dogs and cats that came within their rifle range, in an apparent attempt to demoralise the locals," says Nigel.

A REFUGE FOR DOGS

The amazing UPAW team picked Nigel and Peter up from Poland and drove them around for most of the trip.

One of the first places they visited, some 40km out of Lviv, was a dog sanctuary – a place of relative safety for many dogs transported from the front lines. Just one of many that need help,



this shelter was built for around 50 dogs; alas, it now has around 1,800.

While doing an amazing job, the staff – all volunteers – are overwhelmed. The sanctuary is

awash with mud; many of the dogs remain dirty, but they have help and food.

"As I entered the compound I was swamped by dogs, all trying



their best to say, 'Pick me; take me home,' says Nigel. "It's been a while since I had a tear in my eye."

Winter in Ukraine is bitterly cold, so on top of food and veterinary assistance, the sanctuary needs better shelter and food storage and preparation areas. AWAMO's shipment includes winter coats for dogs and horses, plus dog bowls and collars, which will help in this area.

LIMPOPO ZOO

The team also travelled to Limpopo Zoo, which has taken in many animals from zoos closer to the front lines – so many that it's now Ukraine's largest wild cat zoo, with some 80 lions, tigers, jaguars and smaller cats.

"Very nervous of loud noises, some of the animals show signs of PTSD," says Nigel.

With no visiting public and thus no income, the zoo spends all its reserve money on feeding the animals.

It is in urgent need of a generator, so they have sent AWAMO a wish list for a power station or 7-10kW electric generator to cope with the war's many power shutdowns.

"We also supplied the zoo with a behavioral enrichment program, which I developed to help the animals' physical and psychological welfare," says Nigel. "AWAMO will also provide behavioural enrichment toys for this purpose."

FLEET OF ANGELS

Many of Ukraine's 100,000-plus horses are caught up in the war with no shelter, care, or chance to flee and seek safety. Horse owners, handlers and breeders are in desperate conditions. Many times a day, they're forced to find sparse feed in war zones, comfort animals during deadly raids and evacuate between attacks.

Having money for urgent needs can be the difference between life and death. AWAMO has therefore donated funding to Fleet of Angels – an award-winning, US-based charity that's helping Ukrainian horses in crisis.

FRONTLINE AID

AWAMO also visited Nozwad's warehouse in Lviv, run by an amazing lady and her son – both veterinarians – and a small team.

Each day, when requests for assistance come in, the warehouse transports aid to the front lines. There, local volunteers collect the food, transfer it to smaller cars to avoid drawing attention, then distribute it on the streets.

"One of Nozwad's first requests was for cat food, which its Kyiv branch had run out of. AWAMO purchased €1,000 worth that day," says Nigel. "The food was loaded before our eyes and sent immediately to Kyiv."

MASCOTS AT THE FRONT

Many dogs and cats were abandoned by families forced to

leave their homes. These pets would probably have died from starvation, if not for the kindness of the local soldiers who provide food, care and shelter.

In exchange, dogs offer huge support in battle, working like an alarm when they sense a threat. Cats are also a great help, fighting the spread of diseases by hunting rodents. Both provide an enormous morale boost to the war-weary soldiers.

Often these animals have no hope of finding their families again, but many of the soldiers are willing to adopt their four-legged friends once the conflict is over.

AWAMO took several camouflage leads, collars and harnesses for Ukrainian service dogs.

WHAT'S NEXT

"I'd like to acknowledge Australians' generosity – of spirit and direct fiscal aid – towards the people and animals of Ukraine," says Nigel. "Based on consultations with Ukrainian charities and officials, helping to fund improvements for animal shelters is a very practical way for Australians to assist. However, the biggest priority is to establish a mobile clinic to desex dogs and cats to minimise breeding and further food shortages.

"So, AWAMO is once again raising funds to help UPAW establish a free treatment clinic." ←

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

AWAMO President and founder Nigel Allsopp is an author with decades of expertise in war and service animals, and zoo animal management. He received the RSL ANZAC of the Year Award in 2017.

LEFT:

There are not enough kennels to house the large number of stray dogs, and with the winter snow on its way this vacant double story house has become a refuge for around 100 dogs.

"Many dogs and cats were abandoned by families forced to leave their homes. These pets would probably have died from starvation, if not for the kindness of the local soldiers who provide food, care and shelter."



Find out more at
awamo.org.au

Sandgate welcomes newest, oldest member

World War II veteran James 'Jim' Grebert has found camaraderie and care with his new mates at Sandgate RSL Sub Branch.

 **Renee McKeown**

ENEMY fire and an explosion buried a young Jim and his mates while defending their country during World War II. Their worldly possessions were blown metres in the air, and while he survived to tell this tale, there were many young ANZACs who were not as lucky.

Jim is one of the newest – and oldest – members of Sandgate RSL Sub Branch, and has found new mateship after moving to the area. At 100 years of age, his memories of mates lost too soon span all the way back to the 1940s, with the 58th/59th battalion in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, where he described the conditions as lousy.

"As we were coming down, it looked beautiful in the valley, but there was grass six foot high. It was stinking hot and a lot of blokes died there," Jim says.

"I've been shot a few times, there was plenty of lead flying around. You could hear it, tumbling over and then a rush and they came in. You'd never know when you'd run into them (the enemy), patrols and that.

"One of the last blokes killed in the war was a good friend of mine. When I went to the memorial in Canberra I found it very upsetting, seeing the names of those I actually saw getting killed."

Recently, the centenarian moved to Deagon to live with his daughter Susan and granddaughter Helen. There are often up to five generations under one roof as he

has had two children, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

In his spare time, Jim has found mateship and support with the team at the Sandgate RSL Sub Branch. Sub Branch Secretary Andrew Law says there has been a resurgence of members recently.

"On ANZAC Day we had a Defence person from almost every war or peacekeeping mission since WWII," he says.

"More than 100 people have joined, and most of them are younger. It is about camaraderie, care and commemoration, so they know there's a place to go after the ADF."

Since joining Sandgate RSL Sub Branch, the memories have flown back to Jim, including that of his 21st birthday in New Guinea with the 58th/59th battalion Australian Imperial Forces.

"I had never felt so low in my whole life – it had been raining all week," Jim says.

"My brother had sent me a card, a bottle of whiskey and a cake. I got the cake, but they knocked the whiskey off, I never saw it."

Although some of these memories were hard to talk of, Jim and his family spoke of his positive outlook that had helped him cope, along with the camaraderie and support of his new mates.

His secret to reaching 100 was to simply "keep breathing" and enjoy the odd beer over the years. ☛



VOLUNTEERING MAKES A BIG IMPACT

*Contributing to your community through
volunteering is up for redefinition.*

 *Kylie Hatfield*



Ex-serving Defence member and St John Qld Head of Business Development and Engagement David Martin speaking at the RSL Queensland State Congress in 2022.

VOLUNTEERING remains valuable to society, no matter how individuals choose to get involved. However, organisations like St John Queensland recognise the importance of making it easier for people to volunteer.

Ex-serving Defence member and St John Qld Head of Business Development and Engagement David Martin says volunteering is far more agile today.

"Organisations like St John recognise that if someone can only give, for example, a couple of hours a month, we appreciate that contribution, value your time, and ensure we provide the volunteer with a meaningful experience," he says.

"For people wanting to volunteer, it's almost flipping the mindset that sometimes prevents people from volunteering in the first place. You can give back to your chosen community without a huge commitment of days or weeks. It can just be what you can give."

Time is something we are all increasingly struggling to find and preserve, and David says it is equally important for organisations to show appreciation, and value the time someone can give.

"At St John, for example, we're really focusing on trying to make the volunteer process as easy as possible. If someone is giving their time to us, we know it's their spare time, that time being taken away from family or friends, so it must be worthwhile."

David also underlines that volunteering needn't be a formal thing, the essence of volunteering can just be small acts of kindness throughout our day.

"Sometimes that's all it needs to be. It can be an act that connects you with your community."

St John Qld volunteers can be working in the community doing anything and everything from teaching first aid in primary schools, supporting administrative endeavours at their head office, driving people to essential appointments, assisting with shopping or being part of the pre-hospital first aid organisation that allows community events and activities to occur.

FINDING WORK THAT MATTERS

David acknowledges that he's in a unique situation where the organisation he now works for allows him to serve his community. Giving back to his veteran community is something he's passionate about.

"I was 18 when I joined the Army, and when I left nine years later,

like many, I struggled with the transition – especially finding a new direction for work. Things like job interviews and preparing CVs were hard," he says.

"So, at St John one thing we do is work with ex-serving Defence members to help them put more tangible things on their CV through volunteer opportunities. They can volunteer in the business and can then put us down as a reference. It gives them something on their new CV other than military experience, which can really help.

"Likewise, it matters to me that they know they're not alone. When I help a fellow veteran, I often think it's creating a chain of help. They will help another veteran when they can and share what they've learned.

"There really is a whole world of possibility out there. And RSL Queensland is a huge player in the space connecting people to these opportunities."

If there was one piece of advice he would extend, David says it's to have the confidence to ask the question.

"There's a show my wife and I watch – New Amsterdam – and the main character always asks, 'How can I help?' And I think I always approach it with that in the front of my mind, and will try to find a way to help where I can," he shares.

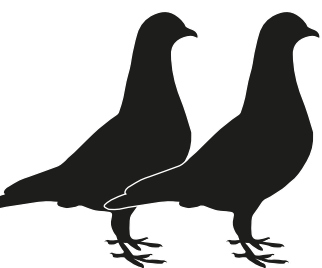
"If you don't ask, you'll never know the answer, so I always think it's better to have the confidence to ask and then you know and can take action from there." ←



St John Qld has been supporting Queenslanders every day since 1883 and there's plenty of ways to get involved. Find out more at stjohnqld.com.au

UNFLAPPABLE

HOW PIGEONS HELPED THE ALLIES WIN BOTH WORLD WARS



Homing pigeons have long played an important role in war. Due to their innate ability to find their way home, speed and dexterity, they were often used as military messengers.

 **Tim Schaefer**



LET'S face it, pigeons in modern times get a bad rap. Even Woody Allen hates them; in 1980, he labelled pigeons 'rats with wings,' and – perhaps ironically – their reputation

has never quite recovered. However, in the annals of wartime history, pigeons hold a revered place on the mantle – literally. In the 1940s, 32 homing pigeons were awarded the Dickin

LEFT:
Marudi area. Borneo. 1945-07-24. Signalman e. V. Muldt, signal platoon, battalion hq, 2/17 infantry battalion, releasing a carrier pigeon with a message for seria. Communication by pigeon is maintained between d company, 2/17 infantry battalion and hq 2/17 infantry battalion at seria. (AWM: 112394)

OPPOSITE PAGE:
A carrier pigeon is released from a port on the side of a sponson of a British tank, 1916-1918. (IWM HU 60885).

Medal – otherwise known as the 'animal's Victoria Cross' – for their gallantry and devotion to duty while serving.

Those plucky individuals, with names like Dreadnought, Gustav, and William of Orange, ducked and weaved through exceptionally dangerous conditions to deliver their message.

A SIXTH SENSE FOR HOME BASE

Homing pigeons have been used to carry messages since ancient times, but in the fog of war, their skills and dedication are legendary. Long before modern technology made military communication simple, pigeons played a vital role in relaying vital information across the battlefield.

That's because homing pigeons have an innate ability to find their way home. They're also not easily distracted, and their keen sight and superior memory helps them identify landmarks. A pigeon's small stature also came in handy during conflict: pigeons were easy to transport, ate very little, and could travel long distances in often extreme circumstances.

Pigeons carried their messages either in special containers



Carrier pigeon named "Dreadnought" used for carrying messages. Dickebusch, 27 December 1917. (IWM Q 11954).

attached to their legs, or small pouches looped over their backs. When not relaying messages, the pigeons were kept in mobile or stationary lofts, and were trained and cared for by skilled handlers.

The pigeon's contribution to the Allied war effort can't be understated. Take the story of GI Joe, a member of the United States Army Pigeon Service. In October 1943, during the Italian campaign of World War II, British troops battled with German forces to control the village of Calvi Vecchia, Italy.

The British attacked and won back the village well ahead of schedule, but were unable to transmit a message to call off a planned American air raid on



German positions, now occupied by the British.

As a last resort, GI Joe was dispatched with a message to cancel the air raid. GI Joe flew about 30 kilometres in just 20 minutes, and arrived at the American air base just in time for the bombing to be called off. Hundreds of troops and villagers were saved.

ANZAC PIGEONS

The pigeon wasn't just a friend of British or American troops. In

1942, as Australia stared down the barrel of a Japanese invasion, the Australian Army were interested in developing alternative means of communication.

The idea of using pigeons was trialled and quickly proved a success, and the Australian Corps of Signals Pigeon Service was born. Everyday Australians got behind the cause, and donated over 13,500 homing pigeons to the service.

Pigeons provided a reliable communication service between the coastal defences of Australia, and they eventually joined the war effort in New Guinea as part of the Pacific War. The jungles proved a much tougher environment; mountainous topography, tropical rain, feather lice and a humid climate took its toll on the pigeons.

However, they were still considered an efficient tool for communication, and often a vital one. In July 1945, a boat carrying Australian troops began to sink on a beach off the coast of New Guinea. The boat was carrying valuable supplies, ammunition and equipment, and a bird by the name of Blue Bar Cock Pigeon No 139 became a hero.

Blue Bar flew about 65 kilometres to relay the rescue message, and a rescue ship was sent in time to salvage the boat and its valuable cargo. Blue Bar received the Dickin Medal for its effort, joining the list of pigeons who are now memorialised for their heroism in war.

No other animal compares to the contribution of the pigeon to the Allied war effort. In the 1940s, the Dickin Medal was awarded to 32 pigeons, 18 dogs, three horses, and a ship's cat – a cat amongst the pigeons, indeed. ↵

ABOVE:
Torokina,
Bougainville
Island. 1945-
01-20. Sx35393
Lance Sergeant
V. Blandin, 7th
Pigeon Section
"B" Corps of
Signals, using
a mobile loft
to train young
message
carrying
pigeons. (AWM:
078398).



War Animal Day on 24 February is a day to wear a purple poppy and remember the deeds and sacrifices of animals during wartime.

GALLIPOLI
MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

THE BRAIN AND PTSD

*GMRF researchers are exploring
brain changes associated with
longer-lasting PTSD.*

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Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a condition that develops in response to exposure to life-

threatening or traumatic events. It's a biopsychosocial condition that can impact the whole person, including their mental and physical health, and how they cope with everyday life.

New research published by the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF) is helping to grow our understanding of PTSD and how it can affect both the body and brain. By increasing our understanding of PTSD, we can potentially improve the effectiveness of current treatments.

ABOUT PTSD AND RECOVERY

PTSD can include a range of symptoms, such as:

- reliving the traumatic experience (flashbacks)
- avoiding reminders of the trauma (places, people and things)
- having more negative thoughts and feelings
- feeling persistently on edge (hyperarousal).

Recovery from PTSD means different things to different people. While approximately half of adults will experience complete recovery within three months, some people experience longer-lasting or 'chronic' symptoms for more than 12 months or sometimes over 50 years¹.

The GMRF team took a closer look at the brain to better understand the experience of people with longer-lasting PTSD symptoms and to explore factors that may affect treatment response.

Led by GMRF Principal Investigator Dr Madeline Romaniuk, the research team used new brain imaging methods to look at possible differences between the brains of those with and without PTSD. This is interesting as the brain has malleability, or

plasticity, meaning it has the ability to change and be reshaped by our experiences as well as treatments.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

This study included Vietnam veterans who experienced trauma and were involved in combat during military service. A portion of the veterans had a PTSD diagnosis and had experienced chronic symptoms for an average of 30 years.

"It is not uncommon for combat veterans with PTSD to continue to experience sub-threshold symptoms [a level of symptoms not meeting full diagnostic criteria] for decades, even when they have received available first-line treatments, which can have a substantial impact on quality of life," Dr Romaniuk says.

"The duration of PTSD symptoms in our veteran participants allowed us to explore any neurological abnormalities that might be linked to an enduring, long-term course of symptoms."

The study used medical imaging techniques, including MRI, to measure changes in brain structure.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Findings showed that certain areas of the brain were different between the groups. Compared to veterans without PTSD, veterans with chronic PTSD showed differences in areas of the brain that play a role in how we:

- experience fear
- process emotions
- retrieve negative memories
- anticipate unpleasant stimuli (like threat detection).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

These findings suggest that PTSD symptoms are associated with changes in the areas of the brain that regulate emotions, memory and fear responses. Past research proposed that these neurological

PTSD THE SIGNS

RE-EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS

Including intrusive memories, nightmares and flashbacks

PERSISTENT AVOIDANCE

Of either internal (memories, thoughts, feelings) or external reminders of the event

NEGATIVE ALTERATIONS IN MOOD AND COGNITIONS

Feelings of detachment and inability to feel positive emotions

ALTERATIONS IN AROUSAL AND REACTIVITY

Including hypervigilance and sleep disturbance

PHYSICAL COMORBIDITIES

Including gastro-intestinal symptoms

“The research team used new brain imaging methods to look at possible differences between the brains of those with and without PTSD. This is interesting as the brain has malleability, or plasticity, meaning it has the ability to change and be reshaped by our experiences as well as treatments.”

differences might also contribute to duration of symptoms, and could have an impact on how effective certain psychological therapies may be, particularly ones that require complex brain processes.

“First-line cognitive therapies require some complex or abstract thinking to identify patterns in thought, evaluate thoughts and beliefs, and generate new thinking patterns,” Dr Romaniuk says.

The brain differences found in this study suggest these types of therapies may be more demanding for some veterans with PTSD.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

This is the first Australian study to examine these particular microstructural differences in veterans with longer-lasting PTSD symptoms. With this type of imaging method, we are in an exciting time of research that allows us to look at how our biology, particularly the brain, might show changes associated with mental health conditions.

Brain differences can reveal a biological impact of trauma

and PTSD. This helps clinicians respond to these biological factors and take them into consideration while planning treatment. Impact on brain structure is not a marker of being irreparable or damaged, but an interesting way the brain responds to different experiences. With this knowledge, it allows the initial steps in developing and planning treatments that potentially harness the brain's plasticity to support more effective recovery.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

While half of those with PTSD appear to respond well to available treatments, this research is helping to move researchers forward to understand the needs and most effective approaches for the other half of people living with PTSD symptoms.

“Uncovering the neurological associations and establishing the biological impact of PTSD may help us understand chronic or

treatment-resistant symptoms in this group of veterans better, and plan and adjust treatment accordingly,” Dr Romaniuk says.

FINDING SUPPORT

Whether someone has been living with PTSD symptoms for a short or long time, it's important they know that effective treatment is available to support recovery and minimise the impact on them and their family.

If you or a loved one are interested in finding out more about trauma and PTSD symptoms, consider the following:

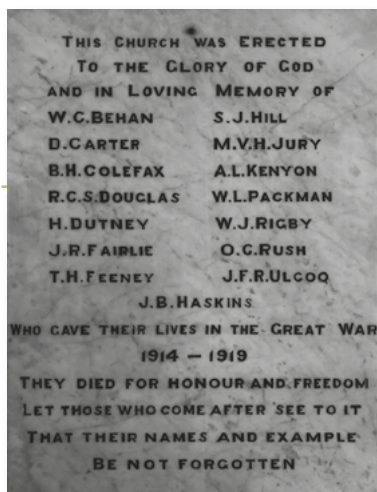
Talk to a GP or mental health provider for information about symptoms and the range of effective treatments and support options that could be tailored to your unique experience.

Find helpful information, resources and tools through Open Arms via openarms.gov.au/signs-symptoms/trauma-and-ptsd. “

¹ American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (5th ed.)*. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425596>

This was a collaboration between GMRF's Veteran Mental Health Unit and CSIRO Health and Biosecurity. To learn more about the research conducted by GMRF or to support the work of the Foundation, visit gallipoliresearch.com.au. Read the research article at pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36114591

COMMUNITY CONNECT



ARE YOU DESCENDED FROM THESE SOLDIERS?

On 7 May 2023, Christ Church Anglican Church Yeronga will be celebrating 100 years of consecration. As the church was built to honour fallen soldiers in WWI, the church is endeavouring to contact the descendants of these families. The Honour Board in the church lists the following: W C Behan, D Carter, B H Colefax, R C S Douglas, H Dutney, J R Fairlie, T H Feeney, S J Hill, M V H Jury, A L Kenyon, W L Packman, W J Rigby, O C Rush, J F R Ulcoq and J B Haskins. Organisers would also like to invite any others who were involved with the church or its activities. For those interested in joining or for more information, please contact yeronga@anglicanchurchsq.org.au or phone the church office on 07 3848 1638.



MEDALS FOUND FOR FRANK SMERDON

A set of engraved medals and accompanying paperwork belonging to Frank Smerdon have been found in Perth. The couple who discovered the medals would like to return them to his family. They tried to track his descendants down via ancestry.com but are unable to message the family. According to DVA Nominal Rolls, they were able to find the following details about the veteran. Name: Smerdon, Frank William; Service: Australian Army; Service Number: Q151183; DOB: 15 May 1924; Place of Birth: Brisbane, Qld; Date of Enlistment: 10 June 1942; Locality on Enlistment: Mount Gravatt, Qld; Place of Enlistment: Annerley, Qld; Next of Kin: Smerdon, Henry; Date of Discharge: 11 March 1946; Rank: Private; Posting at Discharge: Nt Area W/ shops AEME; Prisoner of War: no; Honours: none for display. If you have any information, please email stephanienicholls@gmail.com or call 0422 455 212.

FREE YOGA FOR VETERANS

Australian veterans can access free, trauma-aware yoga thanks to the volunteer-run organisation Frontline Yoga. Classes are being offered to all frontline professionals including military, police, fire, ambulance, healthcare workers and volunteer emergency services. They are suitable for beginners and particularly helpful for those experiencing chronic stress, depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress.

Royal Australian Air Force member Sharon Brown says the classes provide her with numerous benefits.

"As a veteran, Frontline Yoga provides me with a safe, secure, and supportive environment in which I can explore and come to understand the physical and psychological challenges unique to me and to my life experience," Sharon says.

"Frontline Yoga provides me with community, strength, and resilience to live a full and engaged life, and to truly explore a life of wellbeing."

All Frontline teachers are trained in trauma-aware yoga techniques and have an excellent understanding of the impact of a well-modified yoga class to assist participants. Using mindful modifications, props, pose alternatives and breathing techniques, their teachers support the physical differences of participants and offer effective techniques for stress reduction.

To join one of Frontline Yoga's in-person or online classes, visit frontlineyoga.com.au/classes or follow them on Instagram @frontlineyogainc or Facebook @FrontlineYogaInc



HEALING WITH HORSEMANSHIP

Veterans are invited to participate in Healing with Horsemanship (HWH), a program that teaches horsemanship principles and offers animal-assisted learning. It promotes personal insight and positive mental health. Sessions are claimable for NDIS participants.

"I discovered HWH by accident, but I know that in some way it was supposed to be, otherwise it wouldn't have happened," client Matti says.

"As a former Cavalry soldier, it only makes sense that this would eventuate. Now I have new friends, contacts, a form of purpose, something to bond over with my daughters, and most of all, for me, a place to be quiet, with no noise, chaos, and confusion."

If you would like to learn horsemanship, contact Isaac and Tempy Adams on 0427 488 398 or 0405 909 960, find the group on Facebook, online at healingwithhorsemanship.com.au or via email healingwithhorsemanship@outlook.com



MATESHIP



GEORGE HORNE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Coorparoo RSL Sub Branch member and WWII veteran George Horne celebrated his 100th birthday in November. George attended lunch at Coorparoo RSL with members of the British Ex-Services Association Qld and was presented with a certificate and gift from Coorparoo RSL Sub Branch Secretary Chris Bumstead.



HAPPY HAMPERS

Banyo RSL Sub Branch Secretary Richard Morse presents an RSL Queensland Christmas hamper to Korean veteran Des Bannah.



SPENCER FAMILY MILITARY TRADITION

Bribie Island RSL Sub Branch member Max Spencer feels a sense of pride to see his son and granddaughter carrying on the Spencer family military tradition. His son Wayne Spencer is pictured receiving his sergeant's stripes after changing corps from the infantry to the military police. Wayne was an Army commando before joining the police service and is now in the Army Reserves. Wayne's daughter Cassandra is an Army cadet and was given the honour of pinning her father's sergeant's stripes to his chest. Cassandra is the fourth generation of the Spencer family to serve in the Army. Her great grandfather Sergeant Doug Spencer fought in WWII and received the Military Medal for bravery under fire. Her grandfather Sergeant Max Spencer served six years in the Army and almost 19 years in the RAAF, including three years in Malaysia, and her great uncle Sergeant Noel Spencer served in Vietnam. Brigadier Novak and Warrant Officer First Class Bell RSM are also pictured watching Wayne receive this honour.



DON DAVEY NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Kingaroy/Memerambi RSL Sub Branch President Don Davey, second from the right, was awarded Volunteer of the Year and named a finalist for Citizen of the Year for South Burnett Regional Council on Australia Day. Don regularly donates his time to help the RSL and Legacy with welfare matters and pension advocacy work. He is pictured with fellow Board members, from left, Secretary LCDR Steven Reynolds CSM RAN R'td, Treasurer Roger Simpson, and South Burnett Regional Council Mayor Cr Brett Otto.



JOHN FRENCH VC MEMORIAL LUNCH

Nearly 80 people attended a John 'Jack' French VC lunch hosted by Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch on 10 December 2022. It marked the 80th anniversary of his ultimate sacrifice, which saw him awarded the VC posthumously. His niece Faye Lowien read his citation at the lunch. Pictured, from left, Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch President Greg Watt, Faye Lowien and her husband Trevor.



NEW VEHICLE TO HELP WITH WELFARE

Kingaroy/Memerambi RSL Sub Branch recently purchased a new vehicle to assist with welfare and help transport veterans and their families. It was a much-needed upgrade from the previous vehicle.



LADIES LUNCH AFTER A BUSY YEAR

Hervey Bay RSL Women's Auxiliary had its annual Christmas lunch on the deck at Hervey Bay RSL & Services Memorial Club. The ladies enjoyed the day, after a busy year of activities and fundraising.



80TH ANNIVERSARY OF HMAS GYMPIE

A ceremony to mark the 80th anniversary of HMAS *Gympie* was held on 4 November 2022. Ship's Company of HMAS *Gympie* (J 238) signed the Royal Australian Navy ensign and presented it to the mayor and citizens of the minesweeper's namesake city on 3 January 1946. At the ANZAC Day observance on 25 April 1988, Gympie Mayor Alderman Joan Dodt represented the flag and a plaque bearing the names of the signatories. After undergoing conservation work organised by Gympie RSL Sub Branch, the ensign was returned to public display on 4 November 2022. The ensign is now on proud display in the foyer of Gympie RSL Club on Nash Street. Pictured, from left, Gympie Naval Cadets Sub Lieutenant Bernie Sinclair, Gympie RSL Sub Branch President John Herlihy, Gympie Regional Councillor Hilary Smerdon and Commander Andrew Clowes.

HERVEY BAY DIGGERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

More than 100 guests enjoyed Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch's annual Christmas Diggers Lunch. Thanks goes to the wellbeing team of support officers and staff at Hervey Bay RSL & Services Memorial Club. Guests also shared in a bounty of gifts including gift cards, jigsaw puzzles, bottles of wine, hats and hampers. Special mention goes to Sandy Strait State School choir for bringing their Christmas spirit and entertaining members and their carers at the lunch. The Sub Branch also held an annual lunch to thank Sub Branch volunteers for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.



CHRISTMAS HAMPER FOR FORMER PRESIDENT

Former president of Texas RSL Sub Branch (before it merged as a Chapter of Stanthorpe) and now member of Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch, Ray Williams, was the worthy recipient of an RSL Queensland Christmas hamper. Ray is a valued member of both the Sub Branch and the Texas community. He has continued to assist the Texas veteran community through his work for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services and is currently working with Sub Branch member David Parker to replant pine trees in the Texas Cemetery in memory of fallen veterans. Ray was very touched to receive the hamper.



QUEENSLAND GOVERNOR MAKES SPECIAL TRIP TO MILES

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, with Mr Eric Geldard OAM. Eric was unable to attend the ceremony at Government House to receive his OAM, so Her Excellency the Governor made a special trip to Miles to present this prestigious award.



STANTHORPE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

More than 60 members attended Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch's 2022 Christmas lunch. The event also celebrated Western District President Dennis Pollard's birthday, the 80th anniversary of the Women's Auxiliary and Treasurer Tom Page, who received the 2022 Not-For-Profit Treasurers' Award. Pictured cutting the cake are newest member Pat Bruce and oldest member and past president Ingrid Munday. (Photo: Sandra McEwan).

FLAG CEREMONY SHOWS SUPPORT

Mudgeeraba Robina RSL Sub Branch welcomed Mudgeeraba MP Ros Bates to the cenotaph in late 2022 for a flag presentation. Ros is a strong supporter of the Sub Branch and well respected in the area. Renewing the flags shows respect and support for city, state and country. Sub Branch President Tony Schaper thanked Ros for her generous support of the Sub Branch. Pictured, from left, Sub Branch member Peter Jenner, merchandise officer Wendy Sheely, Treasurer Ty Jenner, Member for Mudgeeraba Ros Bates MP and President Tony Schaper.



RESPECTFUL SERVICE IN THE GAP

The Gap RSL Sub Branch's Remembrance Day ceremony was well-attended, with representatives from local schools and the general public. Pictured, from left, Member for Ryan Elizabeth Watson Brown MP, piper Brendan Williams, a student representative from The Gap State High School, honour guard Ron Ward, Dr Ian Marshall AM AE, Cr Steven Toomey, Chaplain Pastor Gary Rucci, The Gap RSL Sub Branch Secretary Douglas Clendinen, and President David Esler.

WOODGATE NAMED VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR

Woodgate Beach RSL Sub Branch was awarded Woodgate Beach Volunteer Group of the Year for its contribution to the local community. Pictured, from left, President Lex McKay, Stephen Bennett MP, and Woodgate Beach Events Committee President Lesley Christensen.



COMMUNITY



CALLIOPE GIVES STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

For the past several years, Calliope RSL Sub Branch has presented a leadership award to a graduating Year 6 student at Calliope State School who demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities. Award recipient Bree Aiken, centre, is pictured with Calliope RSL Sub Branch President Robyn Marshall, left, and Secretary Darryl Saw.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN CROWS NEST

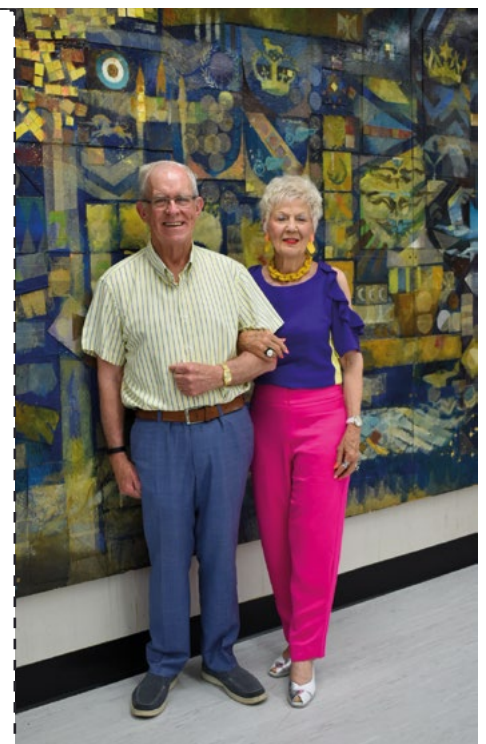
Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch demonstrated its community spirit by donating a microphone and public address sound system to Crows Nest Boys' Brigade. Sub Branch President Greg Watt, left, is pictured with Captain Ashley Genrich. It will be a mutually beneficial relationship for both organisations, with the Boys' Brigade planning to join Sub Branch members at the RSL, and RSL members looking forward to visiting the Boys' Brigade to reminisce about their childhood.

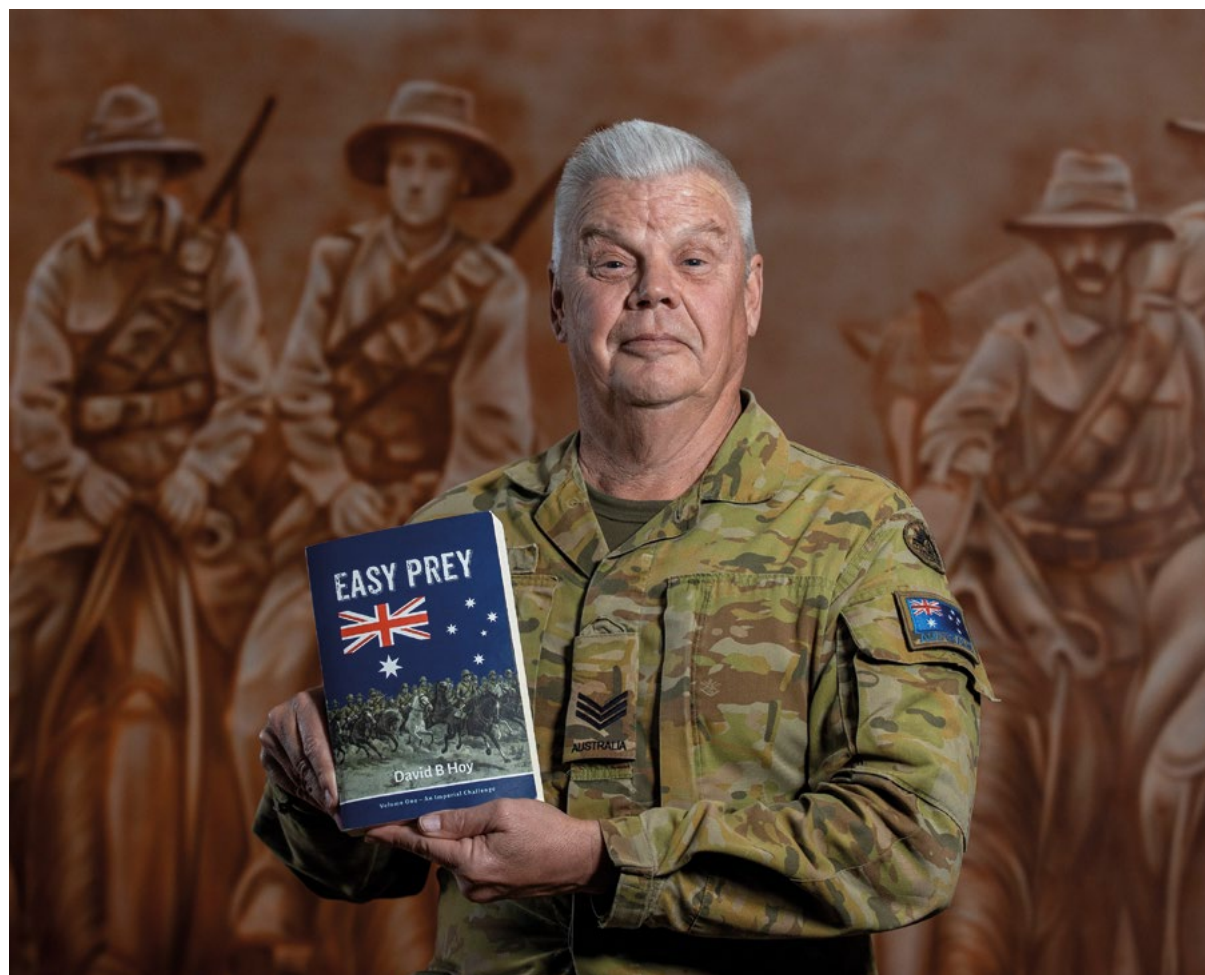


WEDDING PHOTO RECREATED HALF A CENTURY LATER

Fifty-one years after having wedding photos taken in front of the mural at the RAAF Base Amberley Officers Mess, former DCAS AVM (ret'd) Dave Rogers and his wife Jenny were thrilled to recently pose in front of the same mural. The couple were visiting Amberley from Canberra and had requested to see the mural again. The problem: the original officers mess no longer existed. Some detective work located the mural in the HQ building of the RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre. "To have our photo taken with the mural more than half a century later was personally special for both us," they said.

Article and photo: History and Heritage – Air Force.





RSL MEMBER PUBLISHES BOOK

Army veteran and RSL member David Hoy recently published his book *Easy Prey – Volume One - An Imperial Challenge*. With five decades of infantry and intelligence experience, David's knowledge, research and analytical skills enhance this account of the many internal and external security threats and significant events in the transitional development of Australia. The book is available via publish@boolarongpress.com.au.



WWII INSIGHTS THANKS TO A PROHIBITED CAMERA

Diane Tuppack, the daughter of WWII veteran Neville Carson, recently published *Carson's Camera Goes to War*, a book outlining her father's experiences in the Middle East during WWII. Using his camera, which he was prohibited from having, Neville captured the story of his experiences in the Australian Army. The photos, together with Neville's stories and the history of the 2nd/3rd Pioneers of that period, Diane has created a relatable read from the perspective of a private. Learn more at diane-tuppack.com.



CEREMONY FOR THE SINKING OF HMAS SYDNEY

The Queensland Naval Association held a ceremony at Southbank Naval memorial in November 2022 to commemorate the sinking of HMAS *Sydney* on 19 November 1941. The vessel was sunk after an engagement with HSK *Kororan* and resulted in the loss of the entire ship's company of 645 men. Sailors who served on HMAS *Sydney* 3, 4 and 5 are pictured in front of the memorial.



ARBOUR HONOURS MILITARY HISTORY

An arbour that pays tribute to the ADF and service animals has been constructed over the laneway leading to Mudgeeraba Robina RSL Sub Branch. The arbour was conceived by past president Tony Schaper in early 2022, designed and funded by architect Iain Gray, and constructed by Sean Brown, who donated his time to build the structure. It includes a seat on each side for pedestrians to relax and is a nod to the proud military history of the Mudgeeraba/Robina area and the role of the Sub Branch in the local community.

VALE JIM MOLAN AO DSC

Australians were deeply saddened to hear of Senator Jim Molan AO DSC's passing, following a two-year battle with cancer. A former Major-General in the Australian Army, who gave 40 plus years of service, Jim Molan has represented New South Wales in the Australian Senate since 2019. Senator Molan's long military career saw him serve in East Timor and Iraq, where he was deployed in 2004 in one of the most senior operational postings held by an Australian in recent years. He was made an Officer in the Military Division of the Order of Australia and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the US Legion of Merit.



FUNDS RAISED FOR IPSWICH & WEST MORETON

Ipswich & West Moreton Sub Section of the Naval Association of Australia members accepted a cheque from Club Service Ipswich (CSI). The money was raised from meat tray raffles on Friday nights during November. CSI is a big supporter of ex-service organisations in the area, with most months booked for fundraising. The funds are used for various items in the Ipswich Naval Association subsection, including supporting the annual Golden Rivet competition.



POPPY SERVICE HELD FOR WWII NAVY VETERAN

A funeral and poppy service was held for a remarkable WWII Navy veteran Robert Leslie Golding, who passed away on 1 December 2022 aged 98. Robert was on the HMS Submarine Venter (P68) when she sank a German U-boat with torpedoes while both submarines were underwater. It was the first recorded underwater sinking of a sub on sub. He then joined the RAN and went to Korea on active service on HMAS Sydney (3). A poppy service was given by Ipswich RSL Sub Branch President Paul Rogers.



OPENING OF GOONDIWINDI MEMORIAL PATHWAY

A memorial pathway financed by Goondiwindi RSL Sub Branch members was opened in Goondiwindi & District Community Gardens late last year. The pathway provides a peaceful place for the local community to reflect upon the men and women who served Australia. Sub Branch President Bill Brasington and member Terry Farrell were instrumental in getting the project completed. The pathway was constructed by Casey Tierney and his team, with bottlebrush trees planted along the pathway by Sub Branch and Lions Club members. It was officially opened by Goondiwindi Regional Council Mayor Cr Lawrence Springborg AM.

WWII VETERAN KEITH BUCK CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

WWII veteran Keith Cyril Buck celebrated his 100th birthday on 24 February. Keith served in Papua New Guinea and was a member of 2/6th Independent Company and the 2/7th Cavalry (Commando) Regiment, which became 2/6th Commando Squadron. He was a member of the occupational forces in Japan. The Buck family is steeped in military service. Keith's two sons both served – Dennis Buck was a CPO in the Navy and Raymond Buck was a Warrant Officer in the Air Force. His nephew Michael Buck OAM graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea Victoria in 1973 and served with Rifle Company Butterworth in 1975. He was awarded an OAM in 2018. Michael's grandfather Trooper William Henry Buck 5th Light Horse Regiment landed at Gallipoli on 20 May 1915 and later served in Palestine, before returning to Australia in 1919.



TO THE MOON AND BACK WITH AIR FORCE

As coordinator of volunteers at the RAAF Townsville Aviation Heritage Centre since 2017, Flight Sergeant (retd) Michael Hartley is an essential link between volunteers and uniformed management. After completing his training in logistics, Flight Sergeant Hartley was posted to Air Movements at RAAF Base Darwin in 1969. Darwin was the alternative splashdown site for the NASA Apollo program, if conditions proved too rough at the primary splashdown site in the Pacific Ocean.

"As a 19-year-old, I found this fascinating, as we could read all of the messages from the astronauts talking about what might happen when they landed," Flight Sergeant Hartley said.

After a long and varied career – including being awarded a tri-service commendation – Flight Sergeant Hartley transferred from the permanent Air Force to the Reserves in 2004.

He said the most important thing he had learned during his time in the Air Force was "to treat people fairly and listen to their points of view... and be prepared to change your decisions and actions where required". Article and photo: History and Heritage – Air Force.

WIN

THE INVISIBLE TRAUMA

In any war, the health of a fit soldier can drastically change in an instant. This was certainly the case for the men and women involved in the Vietnam War. While the consequences of major physical injury from a high velocity gunshot wound or from shrapnel from an exploding anti-personnel mine were obvious, the effects of psychological injury were not.

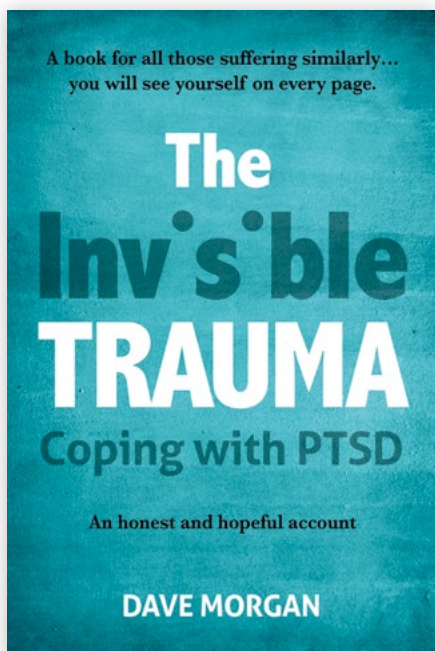
Adverse psychological effects resulting from war have been known for many years, and labels such as shell shock or battle fatigue were applied. However, since the Vietnam War and subsequent research, it has become known as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Dave Morgan gives a detailed and clear account of his battle with PTSD. He describes his traumatic experience in Vietnam and how PTSD gradually emerged after his return to Australia.

He experienced negative thinking, confusion, intense anger, alcohol abuse, and thoughts of suicide. This caused great distress. He expresses his experience and that of his family frankly, and opens a window to understanding the problems of a man suffering from PTSD.

There is no completely effective treatment for PTSD, but people like Dave Morgan are doing all they can to reach that goal.

The Invisible Trauma by Dave Morgan is published by Big Sky Publishing (RRP: \$29.99).



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *The Invisible Trauma*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'The Invisible Trauma') or post to 'The Invisible Trauma', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 24 April 2023.

THE MIGHTY 747

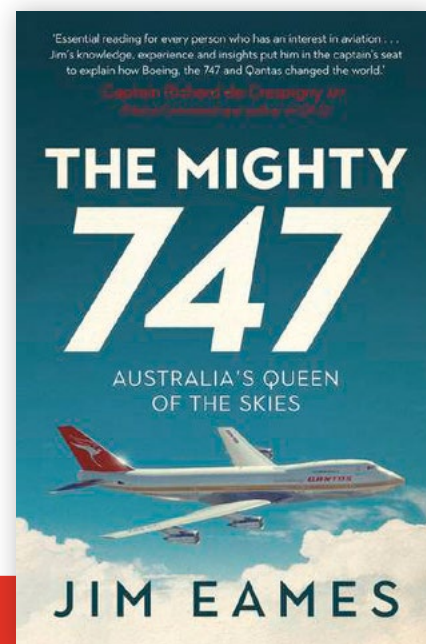
From its first Qantas flight in 1971, the Boeing 747 flew millions of people to Australia, overseas for work, back to their homelands, on holiday and out of danger. For most Australians, the 747 was their first experience of international travel. Now, history's most iconic commercial aircraft is scheduled to be decommissioned around the world.

In this jet-set nostalgia journey, Jim Eames tells us how the 747, a watershed in aviation technology, dramatically changed air travel, and recounts the high points of its life at Qantas, including the uplift out of Darwin after Cyclone Tracy, the return of the Diggers to Gallipoli, and the evacuation of Australians from Wuhan.

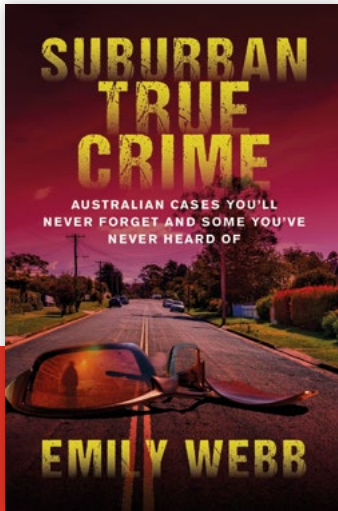
We discover how the 747 came in all shapes and sizes, eventually becoming the 747-400, which set a world distance record from London to Sydney. We also find out about the near misses and how close we have come to disaster on several occasions. Finally, we remember the 747's farewell to Australia, when it departed our skies for the last time in 2020.

The Mighty 747 is the jumbo's Australian story, and is woven with the humour and nostalgia of the people at Qantas who sold the 747 to Australia and who made it work on the ground and in the air.

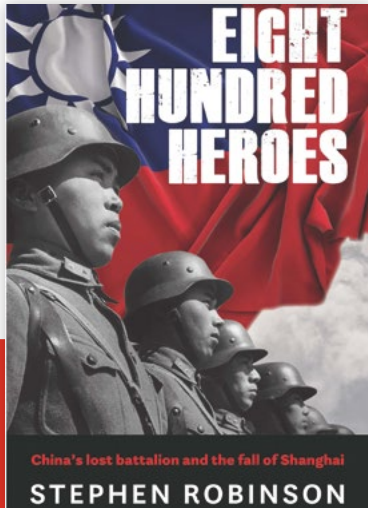
The Mighty 747 by Jim Eames is published by Allen & Unwin (RRP: \$32.99).



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *The Mighty 747*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'The Mighty 747') or post to 'The Mighty 747', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 24 April 2023.



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of three copies of *Suburban True Crime*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'Suburban True Crime') or post to 'Suburban True Crime', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 24 April 2023.



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of five copies of *Eight Hundred Heroes*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'Eight Hundred Heroes') or post to 'Eight Hundred Heroes', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 24 April 2023.

SUBURBAN TRUE CRIME

Featuring contemporary cases as well as some shocking historical murders you've probably never heard of, *Suburban True Crime* proves you shouldn't say "it could never happen here".

This collection of cases are hard to believe, except they really happened – and all in the streets and homes of the Australia many of us know and live – the suburbs.

These cases range from recent murders to some historical stories. Some of the cases you'll know, some crimes you've never heard of. These cases will shock and surprise you, including the still-unsolved mistaken identity murder of Melbourne mother Jane Thurgood-Dove and the horrifying story of a man who killed in Australia and then was released from prison, only to kill again in the United States.

There are also some historical crimes that shocked the community at the time but have now faded into obscurity, including cases of child murder in the 1970s. Think nothing ever happens where you live? Think again.

Emily Webb is a journalist, true crime author and co-host of the popular *Australian True Crime* podcast.

Suburban True Crime by Emily Webb is published by Big Sky Publishing (RRP: \$29.99).

EIGHT HUNDRED HEROES

From acclaimed historian Stephen Robinson comes an account of a battle that has taken on mythic dimensions in Chinese and international military history. From 26 October to 1 November 1937, the '800 Heroes' defended Sihang Warehouse from wave after wave of Japanese assaults.

This is the exciting story of the Battle of Sihang Warehouse told as never before, bringing together Chinese and Western accounts for the first time to create a thorough and compelling depiction of the legendary battle.

Eight Hundred Heroes by Stephen Robinson is published by Exisle Publishing (RRP: \$49.99).

QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS WINNERS EDITION 4, 2022



DUNKIRK TO D-DAY

R Sable, Hemmant
B Stevenson, Benowa
B Davis, Chapel Hill
D Arnold, Cleveland



THE ART OF SACRIFICE

T Bruce, Barga
P Butler, Ingham
P Spaulding, Townsville
L Lister, Sarina



THE GLASS CRICKET BALL

T Pengilly, Australind
T Bohn, Riverview
J Connor, Dundowran Beach



THE WITNESS

C Coutts, Bentley Park
G Campbell, Kelso
G Reynolds, Berserker
V Matthies, Port Kennedy

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



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MASTER ENSUITE



FIREPIT



LIVING



LIVING



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POOL



KITCHEN



OUTDOOR LIVING

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RSL Art Union Draw No. 404 (AU404L) conducted by Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) ABN 79 902 601 713 of ANZAC House, 283 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006 under the following licence numbers: ACT: R22/002451, NSW: GOCAU/2332, QLD: 29819, SA: M14343, VIC: 10586/22. Prize value: \$4,133,032. The total number of tickets available for AU404L is 4,623,100 which may include a maximum of 1,173,693 bonus tickets. Drawn at ANZAC House. Winners notified by registered mail. Results published at www.rslartunion.com.au/winners on 05/04/23. Eligible VIP members will receive bonus entries into the following additional cash draws associated with AU404L: Four (4) Weekly \$5K Pay Day Draws, total prize value: \$20,000; One (1) Quarterly Cash Draw, total prize value: \$100,000. Results published at www.rslartunion.com.au/winners on the draw date of each draw. For eligibility criteria and draw dates, refer to www.rslartunion.com.au/termsandconditions. Entrants must be 18 years or over. Proceeds are for the purpose of veteran welfare and support in Australia. Some items shown in pictures are for display purposes only. Selling costs and market variations apply when selling gold bullion. Floorplans are for illustration purposes only. Rental estimates and property values are based on third party appraisals and subject to changing market conditions. Statements about market demand are based on third party information that relate to the suburb generally.

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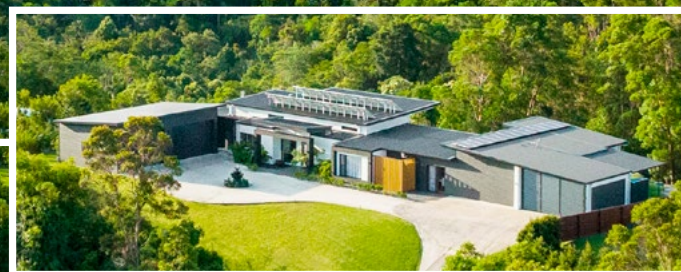


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**“I’M GONNA
QUIT MY
JOB! WHAT A
CHRISTMAS TO
REMEMBER!”**

CHRISTMASES will never be the same for Adelaide man Liam* after he was told he’d won RSL Art Union Draw 401 – the \$12.5 million apartment complex on the Gold Coast.

Liam was “literally shaking” when Tracey Bishop, RSL Art Union Executive General Manager of Commercial & Investments, delivered the life-changing news.

THE \$12.5 MILLION APARTMENT COMPLEX

Set right on the beach, the stunning Gold Coast property offers endless ocean views from each of the three luxury apartments and two-storey penthouse – plus endless possibilities.

Liam now has a lot to consider. He can move in and live the dream beach lifestyle, earn up to \$301,600 a year in

estimated rental income, or sell up and become an instant multi-millionaire. Whatever he ultimately chooses, Liam’s initial thought was to “quit his job!”

Liam was also ecstatic about the other wonderful news Tracey had for him. Because he bought \$500 worth of \$100 ticket books, Liam will also take home a bonus \$100,000 in gold.

THANK YOU

Congratulations, Liam – we wish you all the very best for the future.

Many thanks to you and all who support RSL Art Union. Every ticket sold helps veterans in Queensland and throughout Australia.

****Names changed for privacy reasons. ←***

LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Abel	Cecil	QX148768	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Acutt*	Graham	1715518	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch
Adam	Rodney	R316282	Ipswich Sub Branch
Agnew	Ula	QF268558	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Allan	Donald	R51719	Gladstone Sub Branch
Allen	Douglas	1714535 / A14535	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch
Alsop	Thomas	176434	Forest Lake & Districts Sub Branch Inc
Alverson*	Leonard	QX51050	Maryborough Sub Branch
Anderson	Leslie	11306	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Andrews	Glenn	A113780	Lowood Sub Branch
Andrews	Ian	61562	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Anfield	Bryan	551370	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch
Angus	Joseph	N214464	Southport Sub Branch
Annat	Isobel	-	Defence Service Nurses Sub Branch
Antoney	Ronald	1/706917	Walkerston-Pleystowe Sub Branch
Aridis (Creed-Jacobs)	Joan	QF273266	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Astin	Alan	19165258	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch
Atkinson	Leslie	14484870	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Austin	Geoffrey	136358	Southport Sub Branch
Austin	Peter	A119447	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Bailey	Michael	1704358	Atherton Sub Branch
Bainbridge	Frederick	QX61475	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Baker	Albert	A11606	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch
Baker	Edmund	T14499833	Greenbank Sub Branch
Bale	Kevin	NX162927	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Barclay	William	3167834	Esk Sub Branch
Barlow	Geoffrey	1200707	Magnetic Island Sub Branch
Barton	Leslie	B3944	Caloundra Sub Branch
Barton	Morris	1/805	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch
Battley	Leonard	18497	Greenbank Sub Branch
Bauer	Godfrey	124844	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Bax*	James	NX504651	Warwick Sub Branch
Becker	Daphne	P436	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Beer	Donald	R62331	Redlands Sub Branch
Bekendam	Gerrit	41885	Ipswich Sub Branch
Belcher	Harold	124501	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch
Bell	Herbert	440473	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Bellamy	Franklin	31130-5475	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch
Bergin	John	46848	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Berthelsen	Laurence	Q163717	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Best	Bruce	14428	Gympie Sub Branch
Bishop	Arthur	1/710049	Gympie Sub Branch
Boggs*	Charles	1/703066	National Servicemens Sub Branch
Bolton	Janice	f22115	Stanthorpe Sub Branch
Bonney	Mervyn	A115653	Maleny Sub Branch
Borck*	George	QX20793	Southport Sub Branch
Boston	Charles	VX93296	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Bourke*	Myrtle (Tommie)	99238	Centenary Suburbs Sub Branch
Bowdler	Jack	QX43709	Clayfield-Toombul Sub Branch
Bowser	William	1732243	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Boxall	Ronald	R51889	Kuttabul Sub Branch
Brailey	Norman	42552	Nerang Sub Branch
Breeze	Anthony	79610	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch
Brennan	Denis	1734820	Roma Sub Branch

LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Brewster-Webb	Rick	3793777	Greenbank Sub Branch
Brice	Eden	1201889	Townsville Sub Branch
Brotherston	William	22988395	Greenbank Sub Branch
Bruce	Rolf	1/704168	Redlands Sub Branch
Bruhn	Brian	R55753	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Bryce	Ian	-	Maleny Sub Branch
Bryce	Robert	R37095	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Buchanan	Douglas	6390NS	Redlands Sub Branch
Buckley	William	795000/PM5898	Home Hill Sub Branch
Buckley	Kenneth	A115751	Redlands Sub Branch
Buljbasich	George	1/718468	Innisfail Sub Branch
Burns	Allan	R52073	Wynnum Sub Branch
Button	Peter	579995	Toowoomba Sub Branch
Callaghan	John	1/707410	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch
Calvert	Shaun	226749	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Campbell	Thomas	A32049	Townsville Sub Branch
Carmichael	David	221836	Caloundra Sub Branch
Casey	David	R66996	Burrum District Sub Branch
Caton	William	R53690	Beachmere Sub Branch Inc
Cattle	Allen	R103454	Gympie Sub Branch
Challenor	Anthony	2793726	Mackay Sub Branch
Channon	Graham	1734090	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Charles	Terrence	3167649	Magnetic Island Sub Branch
Christian	Harry	1686027	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Christian	Helen	2098012	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Clare	Ronald	14190551	Boonah Sub Branch
Clewett	Harry	NX81373	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Coakley	John	14444794	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Coates*	Winston	1200483	Kilkivan Chapter of the Gympie Sub Branch Inc
Cole	Trevor	1202268	Maryborough Sub Branch
Cole*	John	N211015	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Collins	Peter	R37914	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Contarino	Serino	1/706889	Herbert River Sub Branch
Cooper	David	37078	Innisfail Sub Branch
Corr	Bruce	VX125583	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Court	Robert	38305	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch
Coxhead	Bryan	1729360	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Crane	Robert	QX500993	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Cridge	Brian	R55441	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Croker	Michael	61631	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Crowley	Francis	170300	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Cumming	Dick	R46112	Maryborough Sub Branch
Cunningham	Nora	QF266014	Nundah-Northgate Sub Branch
Cutler	Barry	Q17565	Ipswich Sub Branch
Cutler*	Graham	NZ10946	Southport Sub Branch
Davis	Raymond	R62843	Herbert River Sub Branch
Day	Garry	A123727	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Dean	George	A314552	Woodgate Beach Sub Branch
Dench	Michael	55159	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch
Dickson*	Peter	A121739	Stanthorpe Sub Branch
Dinneen	Patrick	1/724763	Gympie Sub Branch
Dinsdale	David	A15952	Runaway Bay Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Doherty	Barry	3789133	Jimboomba Sub Branch
Donovan	Raymond	A22865	Southport Sub Branch
Downs	Peter	345247	Greenbank Sub Branch
Dowsett	Charles	1/708023	Redlands Sub Branch
Druce*	Leonard	23575842/T	Tin Can Bay Sub Branch
Duggan	John	A12130	Rosewood Sub Branch
Ellis	Frank	-	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch
Elphinston	Christopher	15507	Toowong Sub Branch
Enders	Kenneth	173095	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Esson	William	2282082	Woodford Sub Branch
Farmer	Douglas	76428	Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch
Feodoroff*	Allan	1731595	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Fraser	John	213623	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Fuss	Jarvis	SX17516	Toowoomba Sub Branch
Gavin	Warren	A225319	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch
Green	John	1/700216	Miles Sub Branch
Griffiths	Gavin	3411601	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Groeneweg	Charles	170896	Caloundra Sub Branch
Hamilton	Hugh	1/701068	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Hansen	Gregory	1411309	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch
Harrison	Roy	A13482	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Harvey	Raymond	38446	Maryborough Sub Branch
Harvey	Peter	O216782	Walkerston-Pleystowe Sub Branch
Hayes	Terry	170404	Mackay Sub Branch
Haynes	David	1731794	Stanthorpe Sub Branch
Henderson	Eric	R55696	Kawana Waters Sub Branch
Henry	Robin	035611	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Hill*	George	2/410664	Warwick Sub Branch
Holland	Rex	R59442	Leyburn Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Holmes	Anthony	54952	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch
Holmes	Lorna	TF150073	Townsville Sub Branch
Holmes	Allan	11871	Nerang Sub Branch
Hovey*	Lester	16048	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Hume	Warwick	2785832	Redlands Sub Branch
Hunt	John	135435	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Hunt	Peter	A511558	Kilcoy Sub Branch
Hutchison	David	5091NS	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Ingram	Neville	137751	Walkerston-Pleystowe Sub Branch
Jackson	David	387842	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Jameson	Peter	180859	Gemfields Sub Branch
Jamieson	David	13293	Goodna Sub Branch
Johnson	Neville	3139NS	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Johnson	Gregory	1200346	Russell Island Sub Branch
Johnston	Robert	93221	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Jupp	Gerald	23448985	Holland Park Mt Gravatt Sub Branch
Kast	Stanley	4085385	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Kennedy	Audrey	-	Nundah-Northgate Sub Branch
Kerrison	Geoffrey	38979	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch
Kilpatrick	Walter	R46723	Warwick Sub Branch
King	John	1410877	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Langsdale	William	A218347	Goodna Sub Branch
Lawrence (nee Brownlee)	Jeanie	QF143538	Centenary Suburbs Sub Branch
Levitt	Geoffrey	D/ JX641768	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Lippiatt	Rodney	QX31779	Sunnybank Sub Branch
Lonergan	Laurence	2/10969	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch

LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Luckman*	Raymond	17817	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Luhrs	Robert	17694	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch
Mackenzie-Smith	John	1/724335	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
MacMahon	Norah	441255	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Magee	Donald	1835NS	Caloundra Sub Branch
Marchwicki	Edward	1920/394	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Mauch	David	QX60928 (Q272777)	Nambour Sub Branch
McCarthy	Michael	17698	Cairns Sub Branch
McDonald	Robert	A324194	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
McDonald	Wally	28483	Maroochydore Sub Branch
McGill	Allan	134795	Kuttabul Sub Branch
McGill*	Jeffrey	A110978	Greenbank Sub Branch
McGurk	Cyril	14472	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch
McKenzie	Graham	1/727711	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
McLachlan	Paul	A119005	National Servicemens Sub Branch
McMillan	Clarence	A217328	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch
McMullin	Kenneth	A115893	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Mickan	Robert	A114858	Centenary Suburbs Sub Branch
Miles	Owen	1/717349	Gympie Sub Branch
Millar	Allan	A14207	Townsville Sub Branch
Miskiewicz	Edward	217639	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Mitchell	Robert	1102757	Holland Park Mt Gravatt Sub Branch
Mongan	Lewis	213901	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Morgan*	Glynn	539734	RSL QLD State Branch
Muller	Clarence	1/709745	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Murdoch	Joyce	366142	Nambour Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Myles	Alan	1/711039	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Nas	Peter	62947	Logan Village Sub Branch
Nekvapil	Ivo	3166753	Southport Sub Branch
Nelson	John	A22243	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Neville	Shirley	W14927	Toowoomba Sub Branch
Noble	Robert	64779	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch
Noonan	Kevin	1/73706	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Oates	Gary	627443	Proserpine Sub Branch
O'Sing	Wayne	R59714	Maryborough Sub Branch
Partridge	John	MERCHANT NAVY	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Peterken	Eric	A121335	Gympie Sub Branch
Peters	Fredrick	R39807	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch
Petersen	Paul	216127	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Pfeiffer	Gordon	NX177498	Redlands Sub Branch
Porter	Gordon	1/709749	Mt Perry Sub Branch
Potter	Mervyn	1202604	Herbert River Sub Branch
Pridgeon	Bernie	37327	Oakey Sub Branch
Pryor	Gordon	B5941	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Quain	Xavier	313638	Texas Chapter of the Stanthorpe Sub Branch
Ramilli*	Hilton	1734776	Warwick Sub Branch
Rayson*	Harold	3/5410	Stanthorpe Sub Branch
Reed	Robert	2793137	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Rice*	Cyril	2/8098	Redlands Sub Branch
Richardson	Alan	11701472	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Rix	Ronald	1705789	Glasshouse Country Sub Branch
Roberson	Donald	2278112	Deception Bay Sub Branch
Roberts	William	20857	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Robinson	Bruce	QX8170	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Rostron	Maxwell	242561	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Russell	Robert	WX500721/5957	Caloundra Sub Branch
Russell	George	1/722606	Warwick Sub Branch
Russo	Robert	2239580	Beaudesert Sub Branch
Salter	Peter	36947	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Sanderson	Graham	1/711621	Monto Sub Branch
Scott	David	0216114	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Scott	John	1/730182	Gympie Sub Branch
Seymour	Jeffrey	146204	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Shapter	John	2/713956	Mt Perry Sub Branch
Sharp	Lionel	A15124	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Shaw	Cecil	QX59829	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Shelton-Orchard	Pamela	ENTER-TAINER	North Gold Coast Sub Branch
Smith (McConnell)	Cheryl	W123432	Herbert River Sub Branch
Smith*	L	NX104669	Mackay Sub Branch
Sorati	Renato	NS8519	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Stapleton	Kenneth	A115136	Redlands Sub Branch
Statham	Kevin	437661	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Steinhardt	Errol	1/7144849	Beaudesert Sub Branch
Stevenson	Ross	215903	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Stockey	Allan	22982388	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Stockley*	Kevin	23450	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch
Street	Russell	A110318	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch
Tanner	Colin	317190	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch
Thornton*	Thomas	B6125/3024	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Thorp	John	R51331	Springwood Tri-Service Sub Branch
Thuroczy	Daniel	R95672	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Topp	Kenneth	703725	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Tracey	Michael	4261885	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Trott	Dennis	22004479	Runaway Bay Sub Branch
Tubbs	Thomas	54800	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch
Tucker	Michael	QX44153	Nundah-Northgate Sub Branch
Unsworth	Barry	2755653	Kalbar Sub Branch
Uren	Vern	VX501040	Mt Perry Sub Branch
Utterson	George	22622834	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch
Van Itallie	Dorus	1/400215	Biloela Sub Branch
Vecchio	Antonio	1711056	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Venning	Ian	45132	Caloundra Sub Branch
Watson	Robert	1724590	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch
Weeks	Kevin	6/705768	Caloundra Sub Branch
Wells	Allan	2/770447	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Wells	Richard	38273	Nerang Sub Branch
White	Kenneth	16584	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch
White	Christopher	R108110	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch
Whitehead	Ronald	23640270	Greenbank Sub Branch
Wiggett	William	358888	Caloundra Sub Branch
Wilby	Bruce	2784084	Clermont Sub Branch
Wilkinson	Leslie	1200394	Beaudesert Sub Branch
Wilks	John	R40809	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Williams	Frederick	434293	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Wilson-Pogmore	Barry	N59956-2/730299	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Winterflood	Douglas	1733682	Proserpine Sub Branch
Worley*	Jack	170032	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Wright	Francis	A116670	Ipswich Sub Branch
Zeller	Warren	A127593	Maroochydore Sub Branch

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