

QUEENSLAND

# RSL NEWS

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TO TORONTO  
FOR THE THIRD  
INVICTUS GAMES

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THE BATTLE OF  
MILNE BAY

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THE PEACE  
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AUSTRALIAN  
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## RSL NEWS STAFF & ASSOCIATES

Returned & Services League of Australia  
(Queensland Branch) ABN 79 902 601 713

### State President

Stewart Cameron CSC

### State Deputy President

John Strachan OAM

### State Vice-President

Ewan Cameron

### Administration

PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004

T: 07 3634 9444

F: 07 3634 9400

E: reception@rslqld.org

W: www.rslqld.org

### Advertising

Peter Scruby

E: massmedia@themediaworkshop.com.au

### Editor

RSL (Queensland Branch)

E: editor@rslqld.org

### Content Coordinator

Meagan Martin | iMedia Corp

### Graphic & Editorial Design

Rhys Martin | iMedia Corp

### Printing & Distribution

Fergies Print & Mail

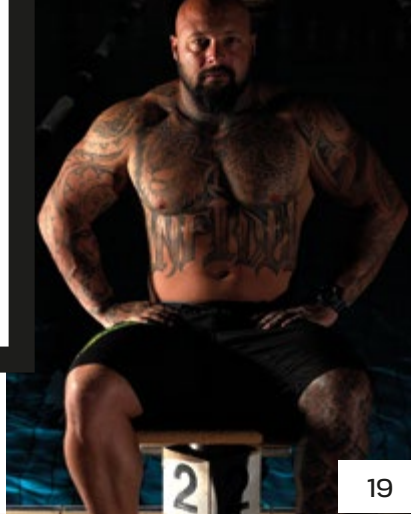
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Navy veteran Darlene Brown was part of the 2016 Invictus Games team for archery, wheelchair basketball, cycling and power lifting.



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# THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN A SUCCESSFUL STATE CONGRESS

My fellow League members,

In June, we held our 2017 State Congress and Annual General Meeting. The event was well attended and, based on feedback we received, very successful. Thank you to everyone who participated.

For the first time, we “live streamed” the Congress online and you can now access the videos and other content on the State Congress section of our website. During the event, John Strachan OAM was elected as the State Deputy President. Ross Eastgate OAM also stood for the position. I wish to congratulate John and thank Ross for his candidacy.

Like last year, we held a number of workshops on the first day. The annual meeting is your opportunity to engage with us via your Sub Branch delegates, and I strongly believe it is important for us to provide you with this avenue.

One of the workshops was about the future of our organisation and was facilitated by Deloitte – “the brand under which tens of thousands of dedicated professionals in independent firms throughout the world collaborate to provide audit, consulting, financial advisory, risk management, tax and related services to select

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**“FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE ‘LIVE STREAMED’ THE CONGRESS ONLINE AND YOU CAN NOW ACCESS THE CONTENT ON THE STATE CONGRESS SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE.”**

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clients” – who provided a report that formed the basis of our discussions.

The Board of Directors of RSL (Queensland Branch) were not involved in these discussions and this was a deliberate decision. Once discussions about what our future may look like have concluded, they will be presented to the Board for implementation.

To that end, we have scheduled a series of additional workshops for each District, and this is your opportunity to become involved in this important piece of work. A final report with recommendations will be presented to the State Board by December.

Turning to other issues, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) has advised of changes to the way it will process grant applications, with Districts or Sub

Branches no longer funded in the same way.

Applicants are now being offered three ways to receive grant money. The first is to receive the grant as a periodic payment. An initial amount would be paid to the organisation on receipt of their signed grant agreement. Further payments would be made throughout the year (until the end of the grant agreement), on presentation of evidence that amounts previously paid by DVA have been spent in accordance with the grant agreement. This might include such things as salary records or receipted invoices.

The second option is to receive the grant through reimbursement. Organisations choosing this option would need to pay for goods and services associated with the purpose of this grant. They may

then, at any time (until the end of the grant agreement), send receipted invoices to DVA for reimbursement.

The third option is to receive the grant in the form of payments made directly to a supplier. Organisations choosing this option may at any time (until end of the grant agreement) submit invoices to DVA for goods or services associated with the purpose of this grant. DVA will then pay the suppliers directly. Although this is a major change, there should not be any significant impact on Districts and Sub Branches seeking grants.

Turning to our core issues, we were advised of the passing of a veteran at Greenslopes Hospital recently. These sad events are a constant at Greenslopes, but what made it more poignant was the fact that the veteran had no family or friends to mourn his passing.

RSL Queensland Veteran Services Manager Rob Skoda put out a call the night before the funeral service as, unfortunately, no earlier advice was available. John Strachan and I cleared our schedules and, together with Rob and many staff from ANZAC House, we attended the service of a 92-year-old Air Force veteran of WWII.

Similarly, we are becoming





aware of veterans who are buried without recognition on their grave sites. If you know of such sites, please raise the matter as a priority so we can arrange for a headstone to be put in place. No veteran should pass without their service being recognised.

I would also like to draw everyone's attention to several significant remembrances occurring around this time.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign (July to November 1942) and the Battle of Milne Bay (August to September 1942).

The Battle of Milne Bay is, of course, recognised as the first land defeat of the Japanese Army and was fought mainly by militia battalions, including the

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**"THE ANNUAL MEETING IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH US VIA YOUR SUB BRANCH DELEGATES, AND I STRONGLY BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THIS AVENUE."**

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9th, 25th and 61st Battalions of the Queensland-based 7th Brigade. You can read more about it on page 38 of this edition of *Queensland RSL News*.

Later this year, we will honour the centenary of two famous battles from WWI. The

Battle of Beersheba (October 31, 1917) is remembered as the last great cavalry charge and, to commemorate the anniversary, RSL (Queensland Branch) will host a Family Fun Day on the afternoon of October 28 (after a Freedom of Entry to the City of

Brisbane March by the 2/14 Light Horse Regiment in the morning).

Meanwhile, the Battle of Passchendaele, also known as the Third Battle of Ypres (July to November 1917), saw Australia suffer 38,000 casualties over an eight-week timeframe. All these significant military actions should not go unrecognised. Lest we forget.



**Stewart Cameron CSC**  
State President  
RSL (Queensland Branch)

# OUR FANTASTIC WORK SHOULD BE RECOGNISED

At the recent 2017 State Congress we discussed some of the programs and operational activities RSL (Queensland Branch) is undertaking to support our military family. I'm conscious that as an organisation we do a lot of fantastic work that goes unrecognised. This is partially a cultural issue, as the service ethos is to focus on accomplishment of a task or mission, and not to generate fanfare about doing what should be expected.

We will address that for two reasons – first, to ensure that you, as a member, are aware of the work your organisation is doing and, second, to enable public support by educating the community on the charitable and purposeful work of the League in serving veterans and their families in need.

As we continue to build our technology platforms, we will use our website and social media to better publicise the operational activity of RSL (Queensland Branch). While we do this, you may be interested to read an overview of some activities underway or completed this year.

From January to June 2017, RSL (Queensland Branch) employees carried out 1179 hospital visits and 422 home visits. They conducted 5176 interviews to enable 1538 claims to be submitted to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and conducted

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**“AT THE STATE CONGRESS, WE  
UPDATED DELEGATES ON OUR  
PROJECT TO HELP ADDRESS  
VETERAN HOMELESSNESS  
IN QUEENSLAND.”**

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a further 70 appeals. This is in addition to the significant volume of activity regarding advocacy and welfare support carried out by volunteers in Sub Branches, which we will collate and publish early next year using the activity data provided for the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

At the State Congress, we updated delegates on our project to help address veteran homelessness in Queensland. RSL (Queensland Branch) has established a partnership with the Salvation Army to enable a comprehensive approach to the causes and effects of homelessness. As part of that agreement, the Salvation Army will dedicate several staff members to the role of veteran homelessness coordinators and

RSL (Queensland Branch) will fund a range of medical, dental and other services to support homeless veterans. By the time this edition of *Queensland RSL News* has been published, training will be completed within most Districts to ensure Sub Branches can access the program if they become aware of a homeless veteran. Although the program has just begun, we have already supported a number of homeless veterans, and the early results are encouraging.

We have established scholarship programs to support the children and spouses of veterans where the family is in need. The program for children of veterans is administered on behalf of RSL (Queensland Branch) by the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance

Trust, which has been enormously supportive of the program. At the State Congress, members heard from one of the students awarded a scholarship about how the program has made a significant positive impact in her life. This is a program that we, as members, can be tremendously proud of.

Last, I want to thank everyone who has supported the public policy drive by RSL (Queensland Branch) for future State Governments to establish a Minister for Veterans' Affairs in Queensland. Because of your actions, the Liberal National Party has already committed to do so, and several minor parties are keenly interested. We will continue lobbying on your behalf to engender a bi-partisan approach to this issue. If you would like more information, particularly on some of the policy areas we believe such a Minister should implement, please visit the media and press section of our website, or <http://bit.ly/VetMinister>.



Scott Denner  
State Secretary  
RSL (Queensland Branch)



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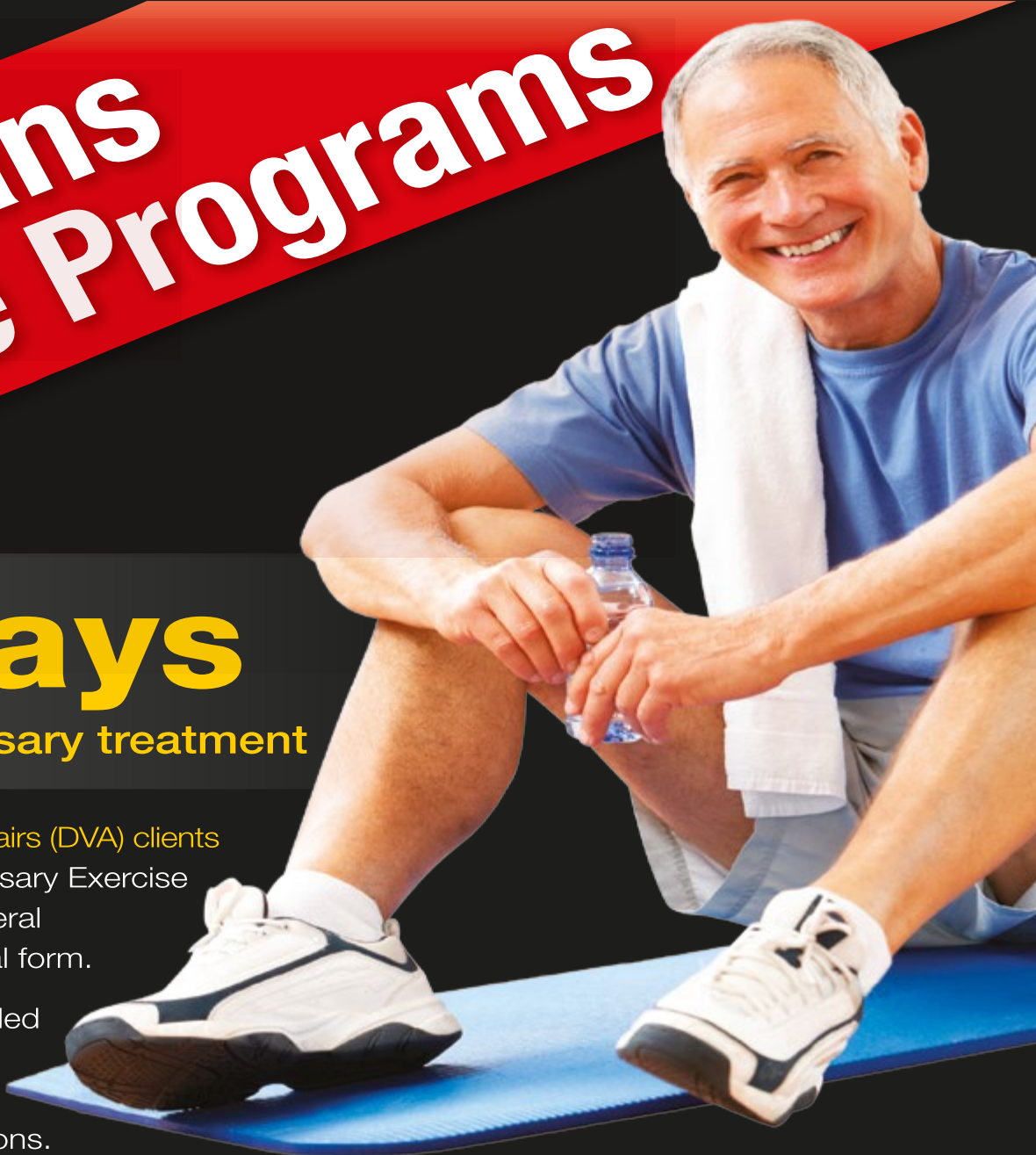


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## MILNE BAY IS ANOTHER STORY OF TRUE GRIT

Having just received *Queensland RSL News* (Edition 03, 2017) and read the article 'True Grit: 75 Years Since the Battle of the Kokoda Trail' (page 30), I was wondering if you're drafting the next edition's 'true grit story' on Milne Bay and how the emperor's guards were beaten by the Aussie CMF troops, before the Kokoda lads beat them, as PM Paul Keating told the nation in the early 1990s.

I'm taking my 16-year-old grandson on a birthday tour to celebrate the 75-year victory of Milne Bay in early September 2017 to see where the CMF lads first defeated the enemy to cement my 15-year effort in the 51 Battalion ranks between 1963 and 1978.

We certainly salute all our fighting men/women over our short history. Looking forward to your article on Milne Bay – thanks.

V Paul Kneubuhler  
Ravenshoe

Many thanks for your suggestion. We hope you enjoy our tribute to the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay on page 38.  
Editor  
*Queensland RSL News*

## WHO IS IN STEP?

This is in no way a criticism of your publication, which I regularly enjoy reading, but purely an observation. On page 17 of *Queensland RSL News* (Edition 03, 2017) at the top right – who is in step and who is out of step? To the best of my knowledge, Corporal Nathan Forster should have been referred to as Drum Major.

Also, my 1963 copy of *Military Band Manual* and my copy of *Australian Pipe Band Drill and Dress Manual* both state that "when saluting on the march, the mace will be carried in the trail position". In other words, "carry mace in left hand parallel with the ground, ferrule pointing directly to the rear".

As previously stated, these are observations only – not criticisms of your magazine – made by a dress and drill fanatic and former pipe band Drum Major.

Bruce Woodrow

## REQUEST FOR MUSEUM REVIEWS

I recently finished reading the latest edition of *Queensland RSL News* and I wish to compliment you on a great and informative magazine again. I would like to suggest a regular review, together with photographs, of military museums around this wonderful country of ours.

This idea came from a recent visit I made to the Maryborough Military Museum; an outstanding place. It is informative and interesting, with wonderful displays. Of the museums I have visited, this one is second only to the Australian War Memorial. It is a credit to original owner and mentor John Meyer. I am absolutely sure there are others that rate very highly, but where are they and what are their attractions?

Frank Reid

Many thanks for your suggestion Frank. No doubt our readers will enjoy your review of the Maryborough Military Museum on page 33.  
Editor  
*Queensland RSL News*



## RSL ASKED TO CONSIDER SCHOOLS COMMUNITY LINK PROGRAM ON ITS MERITS

*Queensland RSL News* (Edition 03, 2017) had more than a few excellent articles and news stories about Sub Branches' support for our Schools Community Link Program in Queensland. The school students' participation in ANZAC Day services was particularly heartening to see and indicated the full success of the program.

It is just a trifle ironic that prior to the State Congress we were informed (through personal sources) that the program was to be disbanded and the staff at RSL (Queensland Branch) we were currently dealing with, for purchases of over \$6500 of materials for our local schools, had been sacked.

There was no warning of this sudden about-face from either State or District levels, and our Sub Branch Schools Liaison Officer had to put our schools "on hold" until the matter was clarified by RSL Queensland.

At Congress, the "explanation" for this decision followed the true and tested line that the membership would find out about important changes made on their behalf AFTER the event! Objections were answered like this:

From the President:

- It was a decision made by our paid management staff and the Board could not "interfere" in these decisions!

From the State Secretary:

- The program did not fit the needs of the RSL "going forward" (to where?).
- By only reaching the Year 9 cohort in the school, it was not meeting the needs of the wider school population at Prep-12 year levels (what are we going to tell five-year-olds about sacrifice, mateship and loyalty?).
- Just because a program is successful now, it does not justify its continuation into the future (according to who?).

These explanations did not satisfy the delegates at State Congress and an informal vote was taken to show our desire for the program to continue. This was overwhelmingly carried in the affirmative.

Once again, members at the Sub Branch level feel disempowered and ignored by an executive that only pays lip service to the mantra "It's your RSL". It is hoped the overwhelming delegates' support for the Schools Community Link Program will persuade the Board to reconsider the program on its merits.

**Brian Kay**

*Bray Park-Strathpine Sub Branch Inc.*

Dear Brian,  
Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the future of the Community Link program.

Community Link has been a valuable tool for engaging with Queensland schools, but significant resources were required to deliver it, which meant we could only offer it to Year 9 students. Transforming the program will give all students in the state access to a suite of educational tools and resources that foster a deeper understanding of Australia's proud military history.

The revised Community Engagement program will be delivered digitally, providing even greater reach and adaptability and aligning better with current teaching methods. It will comprise a range of age-appropriate resources and individual teaching aids that we will develop with the help of a specialist teacher and an advisory group of RSL members with school-age children.

As these changes are implemented, we will be keeping members updated via a monthly newsletter.

I understand our members' concerns and these changes are needed to ensure the RSL stays relevant to younger generations and continues to honour the memory of the fallen for the next 100 years.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Deanna Romain,*

*District Support Services Manager*

## STUNNED BY THE KOKODA TRAIL

In reading through *Queensland RSL News* (Edition 03, 2017), I was stunned by my ignorance of the statistics presented on page 31 in the article 'True Grit'. There were 625 killed on the Kokoda Trail, 1600 wounded, and casualties due to sickness exceeding 4000.

I was born in 1946 in Queensland, and have studied ancient, medieval and modern history, both formally here in Australia and overseas. I am, of course, aware of the amazing Australian defence along the Kokoda Track/Trail and the extraordinary bravery of Honner and his men at Gonna Beach. But somehow the casualties escaped me.

I just sat there when I read the article, trying to understand the depth of what I had just read. I am a post-war child, with a father who came home from being a prisoner of war in a Japanese prison camp and a maternal uncle who won a DFC as a bomber pilot over France, but was shot down not long after and buried in France. I am well aware of the long-term effects of war on those in the armed forces and on their families.

The whole magazine is excellent, from the article just mentioned to the little bits like the correction to *In Flanders Fields* on page 14.

*John Cooper*

## 2017 STATE CONGRESS HELD IN BRISBANE



**FOR THE FIRST TIME,** a live video of the main business sessions and breakout sessions on Saturday was streamed online. [Visit our 2017 State Congress Wrap Up webpage to access the video recordings](#) of both the business sessions and breakout forums, Powerpoint presentations and discussion summaries.

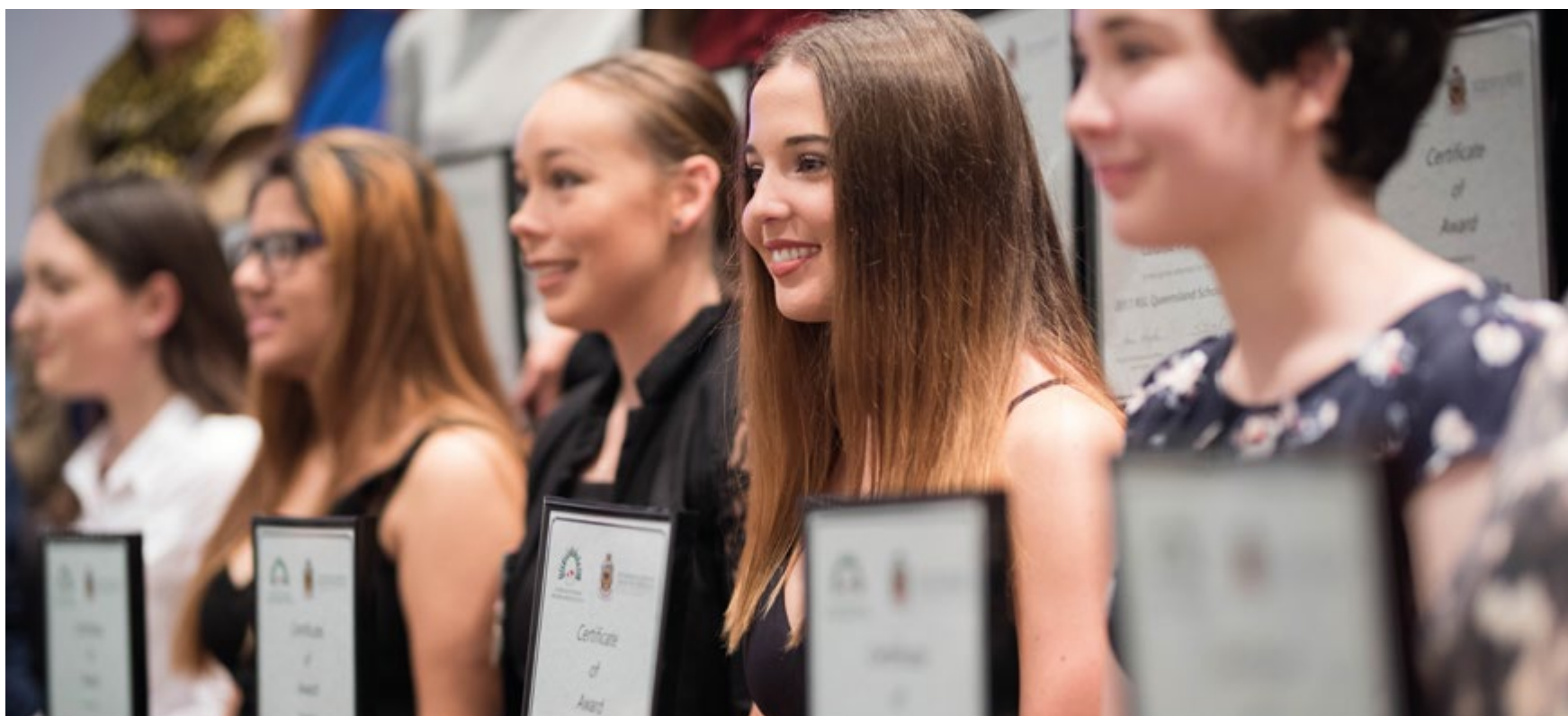
Over 500 delegates, observers and their partners attended the 2017 RSL Queensland State Congress from June 23-25 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The three days comprised an opening ceremony and welcome reception on Friday night, business sessions, breakout forums and guest speakers on Saturday and Sunday and a gala dinner on Saturday night.

Guest speakers included Minister for Veterans' Affairs Hon Dan Tehan MP, Shadow Minister Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Dr Madeline Romaniuk and Professor Darrell Crawford from the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation, Chris Deighton from the Salvation Army and Carl Gerrard from Deloitte.

Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust CEO Joan Hughes helped present certificates to many of the 35 recipients of the RSL Queensland Scholarship program.

During the gala dinner, Nigel Allsopp received the Queensland ANZAC of the Year Award for his dedication to recognising the work of animals in war zones. Read more about Nigel on page 66 of this edition of *Queensland RSL News*.





**ABOVE:** Rhiannon Whitaker is one of 35 students to benefit from the RSL Queensland Scholarship program.

**LEFT:** Scholarship recipient Susan Benton spoke at the State Congress about how valuable the program is for her studies.

**RIGHT:** Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust CEO Joan Hughes, back left, and Director Gordon Blake, back right, with some of the 35 recipients of the RSL Queensland Scholarship program who were presented with certificates at the State Congress.

**BELOW LEFT:** Members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

**BELOW RIGHT:** Members made their voices heard by voting on various motions put forward at the State Congress.







**LEFT:** Minister for Veterans' Affairs Hon Dan Tehan MP speaking at the State Congress.  
**ABOVE:** Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs Hon Amanda Rishworth spoke during the Business Sessions on Saturday.



**LEFT:** Salvation Army Operations Manager Queensland Chris Deighton and RSL State Secretary and General Manager Scott Denner presented about an upcoming veteran homelessness project.  
**RIGHT:** The welcome reception was an opportunity for mates to catch up at the State Congress.



## STATE DEPUTY PRESIDENT TO REMAIN

Congratulations to John Strachan OAM, who was re-elected to the position of State Deputy President for another three-year term at the 2017 RSL Queensland AGM.

John was born in Brisbane and worked in the electrical industry for many years, while also running a parallel career with the Army.

He joined the Citizen Military Forces in 1962, enlisting in the Royal Regiment of Australian

Artillery and undergoing recruit and basic gunnery courses to qualify as a gun number (now known as an artillery gunner). John was promoted through the ranks to Sergeant just before his 19th birthday and over the years served in the Reserves, with some periods of full-time duty.

John was awarded an OAM (Mil) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 1989 and discharged in January 2001 after 38 years' service.

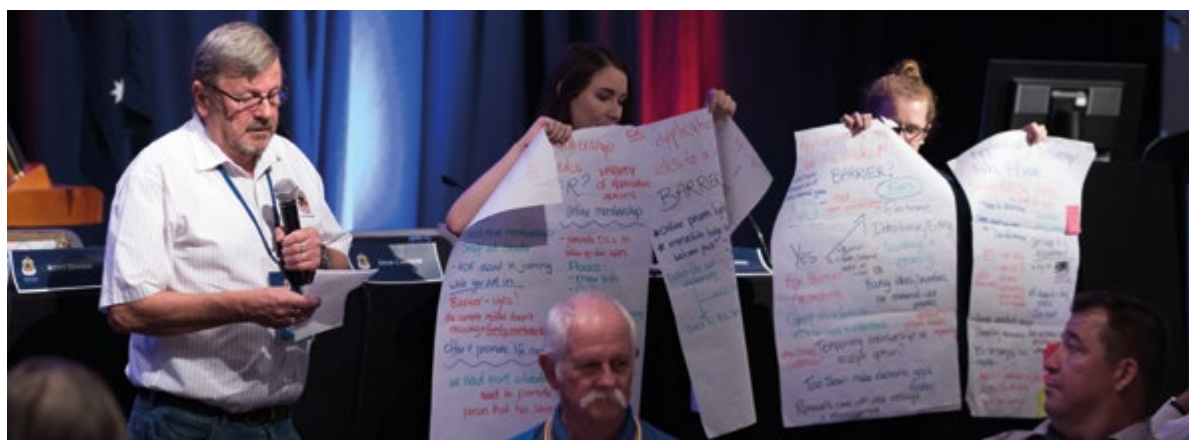
In 1984, he joined the RSL, becoming a District Vice President in 2004, Sub Branch President of Stephens in 2005 and District President of SED in 2008.







**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** Attendees enjoying the welcome reception at the State Congress; Professor Darrell Crawford, Director of Research at the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation, was guest speaker at Saturday night's gala dinner; Following the breakout forums, participants reported back to the group about their discussions; One of the breakout forums discussed the topic of Programs to Enhance Welfare and Increase Membership.







**ABOVE:** RSL (Queensland Branch) executive and Board members (left to right): State Secretary and General Manager Veteran Services Scott Denner, CEO Luke Traini, State Vice President Ewan Cameron, State Deputy President John Strachan, District President Brisbane North Vic Reading and State President Stewart Cameron CSC.

**LEFT:** RSL Queensland State President Stewart Cameron CSC at the opening ceremony.



**ABOVE:** State President Lynne Gambrell, centre, was presented with Life Membership of the Women's Auxiliary and congratulated by Patron of the State Council of Auxiliaries Cathy Cameron, left, and RSL Queensland State President Stewart Cameron CSC.

**BELOW:** Darryl Okely from the Nanango Citizens Auxiliary, right, was presented with the Joy Bryson Trophy by State President Lynne Gambrell, left, and RSL Queensland State President Stewart Cameron CSC.

## STATE COUNCIL OF AUXILIARIES AGM

Queensland State Council of Auxiliaries held its fifth AGM on June 23, just prior to the State Congress. A total of 27 auxiliaries and 26 observers attended from as far north as Gordonvale, west to Cunnamulla and down to Wallangarra and Stanthorpe.

Special guests included State President of the Central Council of Women's Auxiliaries NSW Pauline James, her husband and Vice President NSW State RSL Ray James, Judith Munday OAM, Patron Cathy Cameron and RSL Queensland representatives Stewart Cameron CSC and Ewan Cameron.

Nanango RSL Citizens Auxiliary won the annual Joy Bryson Shield for attaining the highest percentage increase in membership in 2016. The shield was presented by Stewart, together with State President of the

Queensland Council of Auxiliaries Lynne Gambrell.

During the event, Lynne was also presented with Life Membership of the Women's Auxiliary. Lynne has been a member since 1980, with 20 years spent at Rooty Hill in NSW and 17 years at Redlands RSL Women's Auxiliary.

Lynne's service included being Treasurer at both auxiliaries and at the South-Eastern District Council of Women's Auxiliaries. She was also President there until it went into recess in 2016. Lynne was involved in the formation of the State Council of Auxiliaries and was elected Vice President at the Foundation meeting in 2012. She was elected President in 2015.

The next AGM will be held in conjunction with the RSL State Congress in Cairns on June 22, 2018.





## RSL QUEENSLAND SUPPORTS PTS17 FORUM

RSL Queensland is the patron partner for the PTS17 International Forum on September 8-9 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Like the 2015 event, the forum will bring together specialists from Australia and overseas involved in researching, diagnosing and treating all aspects of post-traumatic stress (PTS).

This year will concentrate on recovery and transition, with presenters from the UK, US and Canada providing insight into PTS in their countries. There will also be sessions on advances in diagnosis and treatment.

RSL Queensland State President Stewart Cameron CSC will speak alongside others, including Dr Madeline Romaniuk from Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF), Dr Walter Busuttill from Combat Stress, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Hon Dan Tehan MP and Director of the Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies Professor Sandy McFarlane.

The RSL Queensland Gala Dinner on the evening of September 8 will be an opportunity to network and will include a presentation of the GMRF Vietnam Veterans Study by Dr Andrew Khoo. It will also feature sporting celebrities and entertainment.

For more information and to buy tickets to the forum and gala dinner, visit [www.standtall4pts.org/pts17](http://www.standtall4pts.org/pts17)



## DISTRICTS AND SUB BRANCHES CONSULTED OVER CONSTITUTION

As you are likely aware, all State Branches (and therefore Districts and Sub Branches) of the Returned and Services League of Australia must bring their Constitutions in line with the National Branch of the RSL, which adopted a new Constitution in 2016.

As explained during the 2017 State Congress, the RSL Queensland Board has engaged Deloitte to review our corporate governance structure. This review is due in December 2017 and may recommend outcomes that require constitutional changes to implement.

Therefore, the Board has decided to delay a vote on the proposed new Constitution until the recommendations are fully understood.

The Board's Constitution and Awards Committee has been charged with managing any constitutional changes to reflect these recommendations. This will leave several months for Districts and Sub Branches to be further consulted on any constitutional changes that may be required.

Consequently, the Board has decided that the proposed new State Constitution (as amended, if required) will be presented at the 2018 State Congress for approval by members.

As Chair of the Constitution and Awards Committee, I have engaged in widespread consultation with all District Councils, seeking Sub Branch input as to the proposed inclusions and exclusions from the proposed new Constitution.

We are hopeful this process has allowed as many Sub Branches as possible to contribute to the development of the new Constitution. Any further changes required because of the governance review will be fully discussed with Districts and Sub Branches in the same way.

I look forward to explaining developments that may occur following the Deloitte consultation process with Districts and Sub Branches.

*Roy Cunneen*

*Chair, Constitution and Awards Committee*



### AUDIO FILES OF RSL NEWS AVAILABLE NOW!

Visually impaired subscribers can now listen to audio versions of *Queensland RSL News* on the RSL Queensland website. This is part of our commitment to ensuring this magazine can be read by all members, regardless of their physical limitations.

Access back issues at  
[www.rslqld.org/RSL-News](http://www.rslqld.org/RSL-News)



# EXERCISE TALISMAN SABER 17 WRAPS UP IN BRISBANE



**CLOCKWISE LEFT:** Paratroopers with the 4th Brigade Combat Team 25th Infantry Division from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Alaska jump from a C-17 Globemaster into drop zone Kapyong at Williamson Air Field, Shoalwater Bay training area in North Queensland; A 1RAR soldier disembarks an Australian Army MRH-90 helicopter at Shoalwater Bay Training Area; 2RAR Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Pashley CSC, speaks on his radio during a contact at Shoalwater Bay Training Area; A US Navy sailor gives the thumbs up in front of an F/A-18E Super Hornet on the flight deck of the USS *Ronald Reagan*.

More than 30,000 troops from Australia, United States, New Zealand, Canada and Japan were involved in this year's Talisman Sabre. The biennial exercise was conducted for the seventh time in 2017 and is the principal Australian and US Military Training activity focused on the planning and conduct of mid-intensity "high-end" war fighting.

It is the largest combined, joint military exercise undertaken by the Australian Defence Force and provides invaluable experience to personnel to improve combat training, readiness and interoperability, exposing participants to a wide spectrum of military capabilities and training experiences. It operated in the maritime, land and air environments.

The majority of field training activities took place in Shoalwater Bay Training Area, near Rockhampton in Central Queensland, with others in Mount Bunday Training Area, south of Darwin.

The mock war games formally wrapped up in Brisbane at the end of July, with Commanding General of the US Army, General Robert Brown, paraphrasing the famous George Washington quote: "The best way to prevent a war is to be prepared for it".

Following the end of Talisman Sabre, USS *Ronald Reagan* docked at the mouth of Brisbane River and thousands of American sailors flooded into Brisbane for a shore-break.

*Photos: Department of Defence*







**CLOCKWISE LEFT:** Australian Army soldier, Private Molly West, of the 2nd General Health Battalion, watches a US Air Force C-17 Globemaster deliver paratroopers to the Shoalwater Bay Training Area; Two Australian Army MRH-90 helicopters landing on the deck of the HMAS Canberra; Australian Army soldier, Private Corben Clyden of North-West Mobile Force, Kimberley Squadron, rehearses patrolling techniques at Mount Bunder Training Area, NT.



**CLOCKWISE ABOVE RIGHT:** Soldiers assigned to 2RAR depart the well deck of the amphibious transport dock USS *Green Bay* (LPD 20) in combat rubber raiding crafts as part of a joint amphibious assault raid exercise; 2RAR soldiers conduct an amphibious beach landing from HMAS Canberra; A soldier of the 69th Infantry Regiment New York Army National Guard prepares to face Australian soldiers and US marines as a member of the opposition force during the final assault at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area.



# RSL MEMBERS NAMED IN QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

Three RSL members were awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday 2017 Honours List in June. Recipients were:



**JOHN ERNEST  
ROBINSON OAM**

*Kilcoy RSL Sub Branch  
Medal of the Order of Australia for service to  
veterans and their families.*

John has been Vice President of the South-Eastern District since 2016. He has held several roles for the Kilcoy Sub Branch, including President from 2008-10 and 2014-16, Treasurer from 2013-14, welfare officer from 2007-10 and South-Eastern District Delegate since 2014 and from 2008-10, representative, Kilcoy Chamber of Commerce, 2008-10 and 2012-16, grants officer since 2007 and member since 2006.

"John drives sick patients to various medical appointments in his own time using his own vehicle and is the epitome of a person truly caring for the wider community, not just RSL members," said Kilcoy RSL Sub Branch President Neil Barradeen.

**BARRY VIVIAN  
VAINS OAM**

*Emu Park RSL Sub Branch  
Medal of the Order of Australia for service to  
veterans and their families.*

Barry has been President of Pioneer Fitzroy Highlands District since 2016 and was Vice President from 2014-16. He has also held several roles for Emu Park Sub Branch, including welfare officer since 2013, Deputy President from 2008-09 and President from 2009-13. Barry was the co-founder of the Emu Park ANZAC Plaza steering committee in 2011 and has been Secretary since 2013.



**JOHN CORNELIUS  
TOOHEY OAM**

*Goondiwindi RSL Sub Branch  
Medal of the Order of Australia for  
service to veterans and their families, and to  
the community of Goondiwindi.*

John is Vice President of the Western District and has been President of Goondiwindi RSL Sub Branch since 1975 and a Life Member since 1993.



You can read a tribute to him on page 53 of this edition of Queensland RSL News.







# AUSTRALIAN VETERANS HEAD TO TORONTO FOR INVICTUS GAMES

  Courtesy of the Department of Defence





A total of 43 Australian veteran athletes (including 20 from Queensland) will compete in the third Invictus Games in Toronto, Canada, from September 23-30. RSL Queensland is providing financial support via RSL National to help train the Queensland team.

Established by Prince Harry in 2014, the Invictus Games are the only international adaptive sporting event for ill, wounded and injured active duty and veteran service members.

The 2017 games will see 550 athletes from 17 nations compete in 12 different sports. The event aims to use the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding of and respect for those who serve their country, and their loved ones.

The motto for the Invictus Games “I AM” is inspired by the final two lines of the poem Invictus, penned by English poet William Ernest Henley. Invictus is Latin for unconquered.

The 2018 Games will take place in Sydney, Australia.

  Department of Defence.





## PRIVATE DANIELLE CLOSE

Aged 21, Danielle is from Brisbane and will compete in athletics and indoor rowing. She joined the Army in 2014 as an intelligence analyst and has relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis. Danielle applied for the Games to challenge the stigma associated with MS and the restrictions people automatically put on people with the disease.

“Belonging to the Invictus family gives Sarah a huge sense of pride and determination.”



## SARAH WATSON

Aged 38, Sarah, from Everton Hills, currently lives in Aix-en-Provence, France, where her husband is posted with the Army. She will compete in cycling, swimming, indoor rowing and athletics. After joining the Army in 1997 as an intelligence officer, Sarah served in Iraq in 2006-07 and discharged in 2015. She suffers from PTSD and major depressive disorder and says belonging to the Invictus family gives her a huge sense of pride and determination.



## SERGEANT GRAEME MARSHALL

Graeme, a 37-year-old from Cairns, will compete in athletics, indoor rowing and powerlifting. He joined the Army in 1998 as an aircraft technician and served in Timor Leste in 2007. Graeme experiences depression, panic and anxiety disorder and sport allows him to focus on something positive and achieve sporting and weight loss goals.



## SAPPER CURTIS MCGRATH, OAM

Curtis, 29, lives on the Gold Coast and will compete in indoor rowing and wheelchair rugby. He joined the Army in 2006 as a combat engineer and served in Afghanistan in 2012, where he stepped on an Improvised Explosive Device and lost both his legs. The rehabilitation process was challenging and emotional and Curtis found competing in the previous 2014 and 2016 Invictus Games gave him focus and motivation.



## CAPTAIN EMMA KADZIOLKA

Emma, 28, from Gordon Park, will compete in athletics, indoor rowing and seated volleyball. She joined the Army in 2013 as a nursing officer and served in Iraq in 2015. Emma was recently diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour, which negatively impacted her mental health. Invictus is helping build resilience to deal with her eventual health decline.

“For Peter, the Games are an opportunity to inspire his children and demonstrate that despite his injuries he can still achieve goals.”



## PETER ARBUCKLE

Aged 45, Peter is from Townsville and will compete in indoor rowing, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby. He joined the Army in 1989 as an infantryman, served in Cambodia in 1992 and discharged in 1997. For Peter, who lost his left leg in a motorbike accident, the Games are an opportunity to inspire his children and demonstrate that despite his injuries he can still achieve goals in life.



## MICHAEL COLLINS

Michael, a 49-year-old from Townsville, will compete in sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby. He joined the Army in 1986 as a driver, served in Papua New Guinea in 1987 and discharged in 1996. Michael's right leg was amputated because of complications from a sporting injury. Invictus enables him to meet other wounded, injured or ill athletes and watch them do their best under difficult circumstances.



## TIM GROVER

Tim, 38, from Townsville, will compete in athletics and cycling. He joined the Army in 1996 as an infantryman, served in East Timor in 1999, 2001 and 2004, in Sinai-Egypt in 2007 and Afghanistan in 2015, before discharging in 2016. Tim was injured during a couple of operational deployments and said his greatest sporting achievement so far has been winning the Arafura Games Road Race and receiving his Black Belt in Goju Karate.





## DONNA YOUNG

Brisbane resident Donna, 51, will compete in archery, indoor rowing and sitting volleyball. She joined the Army in 1995 as a clerical assistant, before becoming a dental nurse, serving in East Timor in 1999 and 2000 and discharging in 2006. Donna has depression and PTSD and is competing in Invictus to meet other like-minded military personnel from around the world and make her family, who have continually supported her, proud.



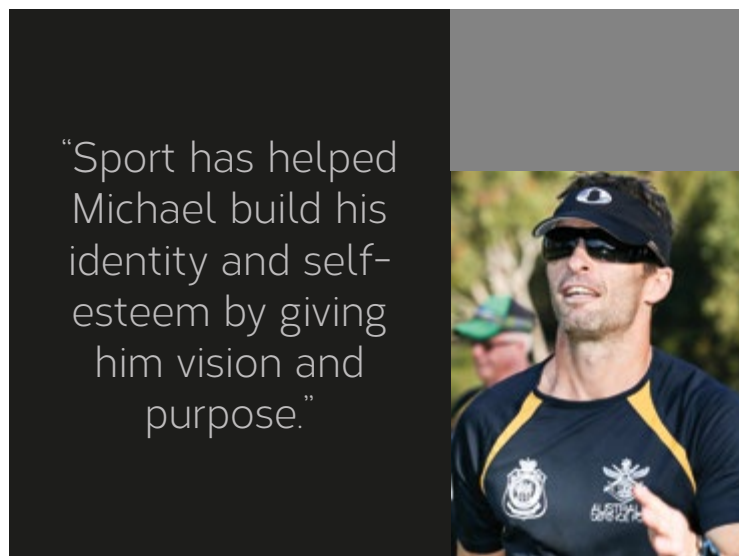
## DAVID NEAGLE

Aged 38, David lives in Brisbane and will compete in cycling and swimming. He joined the Army in 1995 as an infantry rifleman, before becoming an infantry platoon commander, served in East Timor in 2000 and discharged in 2001. David suffers with health issues resulting from his deployment and found that sport was critical in keeping him physically active and engaged with the community, while greatly assisting his rehabilitation.



## DAVIN BRETHERTON

Davin, 46, from Townsville, will compete in cycling, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby. He joined the Army in 1987, served in Somalia in 1992-93 and discharged in 2001. Davin has PTSD and lost his lower leg following a training accident. His greatest achievement has been representing Australia internationally; he holds the current wheelchair boxing Australian title and was selected to compete in the wheelchair NRL World Cup in France.



## MICHAEL LYDDIARD

Townsville resident Michael, 40, will compete in athletics, cycling, indoor rowing and swimming. He joined the Army in 1995 as a combat engineer and served in East Timor in 2009 and 2006 and Afghanistan in 2007, before being medically discharged in 2014. Michael was severely wounded by an IED in Afghanistan. Sport has helped Michael build his identity and self-esteem by giving him vision and purpose, while empowering others.



## TYRONE GAWTHORNE

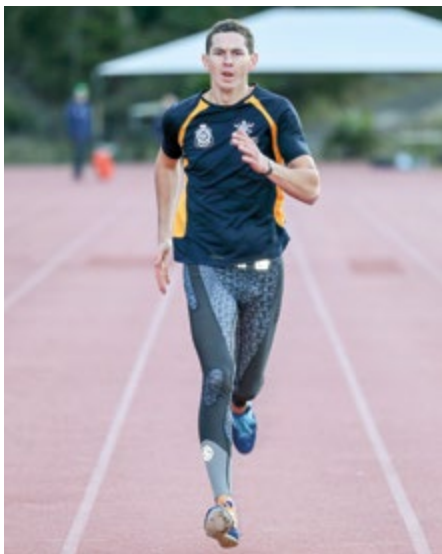
Wonga Beach resident Tyrone, 35, will compete in athletics, indoor rowing, powerlifting and swimming. He joined the Army in 1999 as a rifleman, served in multiple deployments to East Timor and Afghanistan in 2009-10 and discharged in 2011. Tyrone's greatest achievement so far is being a father and he applied for Invictus so his children would see him in a different light.

"Sport helps Scott interact with society and live with his disorder, while being selected for Invictus gave him light at the end of the tunnel."



## SCOTT MCLEAN

Aged 51, Scott lives in Brisbane and will compete in archery. He joined the Army in 1984 as an infantryman and served in Papua New Guinea, Rifle Coy Butterworth, Sinai, East Timor and Iraq, before discharging in 2012. Scott suffers from PTSD and has had both his shoulders, left elbow and left knee reconstructed. Sport helps him interact with society and live with his disorder, while being selected for Invictus gave him light at the end of the tunnel.



## DANIEL PARKER

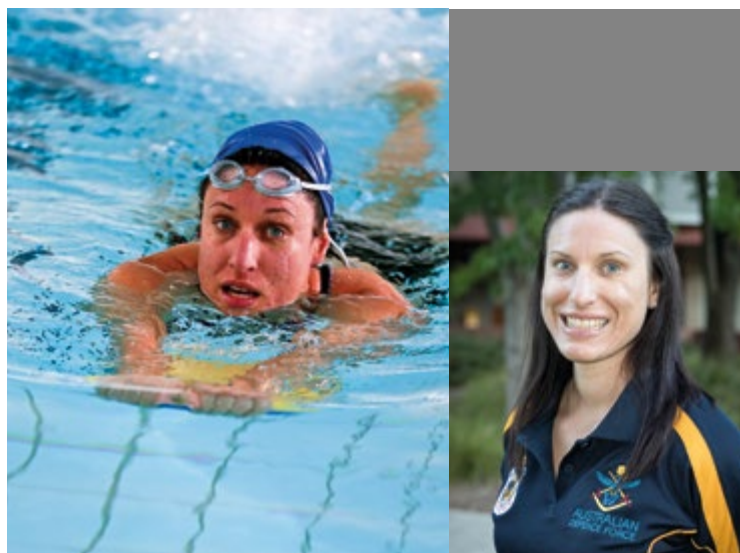
Aged 28, Daniel is from Hervey Bay and will compete in athletics and wheelchair rugby. He joined the Army in 2007 as a combat engineer and served in Timor Leste and Afghanistan before discharging in 2012. Daniel has PTSD, pins in his hips, a nerve stimulator in his spine and major arthroscopy in most joints. Sport has been infectious throughout his life; it has helped him set a good example for his son and lose the 35kg he gained after surgery.



## JEFF WRIGHT

Jeff, a 49-year-old from Townsville, will compete in wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby and swimming. He joined the Army in 1986 as a driver, served in East Timor as an operations sergeant in 1999 and discharged in 2003. Jeff is a paraplaegic and has vision loss, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and knee damage. Sport has enabled him to revisit camaraderie and competitiveness, allowing for aggression, skill, teamwork and enjoyment.





## LEADING AIRCRAFTWOMAN MELISSA ROBERTS

Melissa, 29, from Flinders View, will compete in swimming and athletics. She joined the Air Force in 2010 as a fire fighter and suffers from a traumatic brain injury, vision impairment and facial disfigurement following a motor vehicle accident. Sport has always been a major part of Melissa's life; after the accident it helped her improve social connections and regain self-confidence.



## JASON MCNULTY

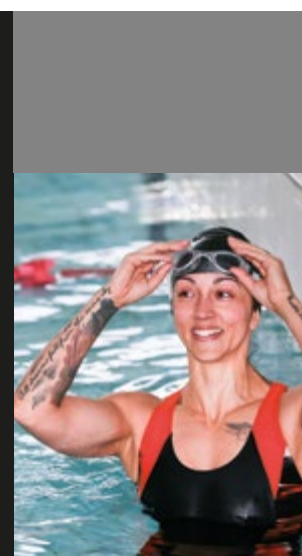
Jason, a 41-year-old from Brisbane, will compete in cycling and indoor rowing. He joined the Army in 1995 as a cargo specialist, served in Bougainville in 1998 and East Timor in 1999, 2000 and 2001 and discharged in 2002. Jason has PTSD and said sport has given him focus, positivity and allowed him to integrate back into everyday life. He is excited to represent Australia and inspire others.



## TONY STEN

Aged 39, Tony lives in Brisbane and will compete in athletics, indoor rowing and powerlifting. He joined the Army in 1996, served in East Timor in 2000 and 2002-03 as a patrol commander and discharged in 2006. Sport has given Tony a goal to work towards and keeps him fit and healthy. His greatest achievement so far has been kayaking across Bass Strait with limited training.

"Sport has been the driving force behind Sarah's physical and mental rehabilitation and she uses it to treat her injury, instead of medication."



## SARAH SLIWKA

Sarah, a 33-year-old from Brisbane, will compete in powerlifting and swimming. She joined the Army in 2002 as a signalman and discharged in 2006, with a lower back injury and snapped ankle ligaments because of pack marching. Sport has been the driving force behind Sarah's physical and mental rehabilitation and she uses it and natural remedies to treat her injury, instead of medication.

# Toogoom's INVICTUS GAMES HERO

Toogoom and District RSL Sub Branch member Daniel 'Stix' Parker will be one of 43 Australian athletes competing in the Invictus Games in Toronto from September 23-30.

**STIX** is receiving support from both his local Sub Branch (\$500 worth of athletic equipment and more) and RSL Queensland (via RSL National).

Established by Prince Harry in 2014, the Invictus Games are the only international adaptive sporting event for ill, wounded and injured active duty and veteran service members.

Stix served in Afghanistan from December 2011 to July 2012, and is sadly one of many returned veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress

disorder. In early 2016, Stix underwent a medical procedure that involved an implant in his spine to correct injuries sustained during combat operations.

Stix began training for the Games in October 2016, and since then his weight has dropped from 105kg down to a very healthy 75kg – the result of preparing for the 100 and 200 metre sprints, wheelchair rugby and sitting volleyball (as a reserve).

Stix said the concept of “looking good to feel good” was a major



Stix, his wife Ellyn and son Loki at Toogoom's ANZAC Day dawn service.



Stix wrestles with Jeff Wright during wheelchair rugby training in preparation for the Invictus Games in Toronto.



**LEFT:** Daniel 'Stix' Parker training to compete in wheelchair rugby at the Invictus Games in Toronto from September 23-30. Stix will also compete in the 100 and 200 metre sprints and sitting volleyball.



motivation in his recovery.

"I think I was at the height of my chronic depression when I realised how much weight I had gained. At that stage, I was very much a hermit crab and didn't really leave the house. As any service person will agree, sport is so infectious, so the Games were my inspiration."

As part of his ongoing rehabilitation, Stix was also given a companion dog in training – a Dachshund named

Martini – that he takes to Sub Branch gatherings along with his family.

"Stix's interaction with veterans and the wider community, and volunteering his services assisting behind the bar, has been ideal for his confidence and self-esteem," Toogoom and District RSL Sub Branch member James Clarey said.

Stix approached various sponsors seeking funding, with support coming from a number of businesses and

organisations, including his Sub Branch and RSL.

"We know Stix is determined to do well," James said. "He is dedicated and has trained extremely hard for these Invictus Games. He definitely enjoys the utmost admiration of all of his fellow members at his Sub Branch, and we wish him the very best of success and a safe journey." ←

**ABOVE:**

As part of his ongoing rehabilitation, Stix was given a companion dog in training, a Dachshund pup he named Martini, that he takes to Sub Branch gatherings along with his family.





Navy veteran Darlene Brown finds relief from PTSD in pushing her body to the limit.

✍ Matilda Dray

**DRINKING** and sport are two of Australia's favourite pastimes. While both form a large part of our national identity, they have vastly different effects on veteran wellbeing.

Darlene Brown is acutely aware that drinking alcohol can be self-destructive, while playing sport has the incredible power to uplift and inspire. The 47-year-old Navy veteran struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and abused alcohol for several years before discovering a love of sport, which ultimately recharged her life.

These days, Darlene is fit, healthy and happy, and involved in a range of activities – from cycling and wheelchair basketball to archery and power lifting.

“Sport has become the main focus of my life and I think it has made a big difference,” Darlene said.

Darlene’s father is a Vietnam veteran, and she attended many reunions with him over the years. It became starkly obvious that drinking excessively negatively impacted the lives of his comrades, while physical activity bolstered their wellbeing.

“Sport is more productive and it makes you become a better person. It gives you a bit of self-pride. Booze doesn’t help you, it only makes you sicker,” she notes.

Although Darlene wanted to join the military when she left school at 17, her father felt it was “no place for a lady” and she temporarily shelved the idea, instead working for the public service briefly and then in the banking sector for the next decade.

At age 27, while second-in-charge of a branch, Darlene grew frustrated with the banking industry and finally took her idea of joining the military back off the shelf. She signed up for the Army Reserves, loved it and joined the Navy full-time in 1999.

“I don’t think anybody should join the ADF until they’re about 24. I think you need to have a bit of life experience first.”

For Darlene, her six years of service was a mixed experience. As her father warned, being a female in the Navy could be difficult, and Darlene battled bullies and worked hard to prove herself.

“I was always a very driven person, but being in the military made me more confident. It also made me very





TAKING IT TO THE  
LIMIT

**“WHEN YOU’RE RIDING WITH THE WIND IN YOUR FACE AND THE SUN ON YOUR BACK, YOU FORGET ABOUT THE REST OF THE CRAP THAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR HEAD AND IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER.”**

## **A healthy lifestyle is recommended to manage the physical symptoms of PTSD and contribute to general wellbeing.**

RSL Queensland has established tangible pathways for ex-serving Defence personnel to engage in active lifestyles, and we encourage veterans to get involved in some of the fun, free services offered by partners we support, including the Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association, Mates4Mates, Association of Veteran Surfers and RSL RAEMUS Rover. Contact [vs@rslqld.org](mailto:vs@rslqld.org) to get involved.

broken, but I suppose that can happen with any job.”

For the first two years, Navy life was positive, and Darlene loved being at sea so much that she would forego shore leave. That changed in 2002, three months into a posting in the Gulf, when a series of traumatic experiences began affecting her behaviour.

“I couldn’t work out why all these things were affecting me. It wasn’t like I saw someone get shot or anything like that,” Darlene said.

It wasn’t until years later that her condition would finally be diagnosed as PTSD.

Darlene felt constantly angry and

overwhelmed, yelling at people and not sleeping well. Although this behaviour was uncharacteristic, she attributed it to spending too much time at sea. Her requests to be posted off the ship were denied, and over the next year her wellbeing deteriorated. She was finally allowed ashore to take a course in 2003.

“It got really bad. I would misbehave to try and get kicked off the ship, but no one would do anything. A lot of the girls I worked with were scared of me because I was so angry.”

Her various attempts to rectify the situation – speaking to superiors, psychologists and reporting a desire to

harm herself – yielded zero results.

In the years that followed, Darlene’s mental health spiralled out of control.

“I would get drunk all the time. I couldn’t stop at one or two. I wanted to numb myself so I wouldn’t feel the pain and anger anymore,” she said.

Despite her inner turmoil, Darlene succeeded in her job and was promoted. Eventually, after suffering a breakdown while working on a survey boat, she was admitted to hospital. She attempted a return-to-work program



## MILITARY SERVICE TRAUMA RECOVERY PROGRAM

This 12-week program, run by Dr Andrew Khoo at Toowong Private Hospital, educates patients about PTSD and represented a turning point in Darlene's recovery.

It helped her make sense of her physical and mental symptoms, and taught her the importance of exercise, being social and mindfulness.

It targets issues including depression, anxiety, substance abuse, relationship difficulties, physical health, intrusive memories, flashbacks and nightmares and anger management. It also provides support and information to partners.

The program is designed for current and ex-serving personnel, who hold a DVA gold card, or have written approval from the Department of Defence. Those who hold a DVA white card may also be eligible; however, approval is first sought from DVA.

For more information phone 07 3721 8000 or visit <http://bit.ly/ToowongPTSD>



following this, but her depression made it difficult for her to do her job, and she eventually left the Navy in 2005.

After discharging, Darlene withdrew from the outside world and locked herself at home. She bought a treadmill and rowing machine so she didn't have to leave the house, and fortified her home with tinted windows, block-out curtains, a six-foot fence, tall trees and security cameras.

"I thought I was doing a great thing

by making myself self-sufficient, but I've since learned that I was making myself a prisoner."

It wasn't until she saw a TV interview of Major General John Cantwell talking about his battle with PTSD that Darlene suddenly realised she also suffered from the disorder.

"It was like looking in a mirror," she said.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs accepted her claim and, for the first time since becoming unwell, she could

get treatment for the right condition.

The turning point in Darlene's life was the Military Service Trauma Recovery Program, run by Dr Andrew Khoo at Toowong Private Hospital. The 12-week program's holistic approach helped her make sense of her physical and mental symptoms, and taught her about the importance of exercise, being social and mindfulness. Darlene's anger management score plummeted from 60/100 down to 4/100 at the end of the course.



**"I WOULD GET DRUNK ALL THE TIME. I COULDN'T STOP AT ONE OR TWO. I WANTED TO NUMB MYSELF SO I WOULDN'T FEEL THE PAIN AND ANGER ANYMORE."**

"I've always been a very strong and proud person, and to get to that point where you have to say that you can't look after yourself anymore and can't cope – you know you've got a problem. Being admitted to a psych hospital was the worst day, but also a good day, because things got better after that."

For Darlene, physical activity has proven to be her greatest weapon in the fight against PTSD, and RSL Queensland has played a key role in this journey. Darlene is involved in Mates4Mates, an initiative of RSL Queensland, as well as Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association, which is part of the health and wellbeing partnerships program established by RSL Queensland to encourage Defence personnel to engage in active, healthy lifestyles.



**"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A VERY STRONG AND PROUD PERSON, AND TO GET TO THAT POINT WHERE YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT YOU CAN'T LOOK AFTER YOURSELF ANYMORE AND CAN'T COPE – YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM."**

"The first time I went into the Mates4Mates gym I was sick to the stomach with nerves," she said.

This hesitancy was short lived, and Darlene was soon selected for the Big Battlefield Bike Ride. She learned to ride a road bike, and six months later was tackling a 500km journey through France. Upon her return, Darlene helped establish a cycling program at Mates4Mates to help others enjoy the benefits.

"When you're riding with the wind in your face and the sun on your back, you forget about the rest of the crap that's happening in your head and it makes you feel better," she said.

Darlene was also part of the 2016 Invictus Games team for archery, wheelchair basketball (able-bodied people can also participate), cycling and power lifting. Despite the fact she had never tried power lifting prior to this, Darlene won a silver medal at the Games.

Her greatest reward from Invictus was self-confidence.

"At the Games, everyone was saying, 'I am unconquered' and you actually start to believe it's true," Darlene said.

She found the determination of the other athletes enormously inspiring, particularly the veteran amputees.

"They would try anything and they would go so hard at it. I thought, 'If they can do that, then it's possible to do anything.' It made me try harder."

Darlene used this new-found confidence to throw herself back into living life to the full.

"I wasn't always a mega sporty person, but doing sport makes me feel better. With PTSD it really helps. Socialising is also important, and that's why I really like basketball, because you are part of a team and you depend on each other. I didn't realise what I was missing."

Darlene also has a strong connection with Redcliffe RSL Sub Branch.

"They are so supportive and amazing. They are really interested in your welfare and try to help anybody that goes there," she said.

The Sub Branch purchased a road bike for Darlene and she gives back by organising social activities such as cycling or archery. She is also planning to volunteer in the Sub Branch's museum.

Darlene praises RSL's focus on health and wellbeing.

"It's good that the RSL is adapting to the needs of people coming through these days, because no one wants to live like that. The hardest part is knowing how to help yourself." ←



## MARYBOROUGH MILITARY & COLONIAL MUSEUM

What the Maryborough Military & Colonial Museum lacks in size, it more than makes up for with variety and detail.

 Frank Reid

**AS** someone with a keen interest in military history, I always try to visit military museums and war memorials when I find them on our travels. I visited the Australian War Memorial (AWM) in Canberra on numerous occasions while posted to the Army Office, together with the Imperial War Museum in London and various memorials in Washington DC.

In my opinion, the AWM is the best I've visited; however, it has distinct advantage over many others in this great country of ours – money and space.

If I was to rate the rest, I would put the Maryborough Museum next on the list. Despite being restricted in size, the variation of displays of over 10,000 items of interest is quite remarkable.

The museum is owned by John Meyers and manned by over 100 dedicated volunteers, who keep everything spick and span.

The building housing the museum also has its own interesting history. It was built in 1879 as a wine and spirit warehouse and is located on Wharf Street in the beautifully restored portside part of what is an interesting and lovely town.

John and his wife Else bought the



building in 2004, officially opened it in July 2005, and developed it into a world-class museum that is a credit to them and their volunteers. It is dedicated to the Meyers' two children, who were killed in a vehicle accident in 1982.

The museum's focus has always been Gallipoli and the individual soldiers who served there. The displays of individual memorabilia, from the Boer War to our current conflicts, are staggering. The array




**ABOVE LEFT:** The Maryborough Museum on Wharf Street in Maryborough.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** The Gallipoli Room within the Maryborough Museum.

of medals and accompanying photographs and biographical details add an extra dimension.

A bonus to any visitor is seeing the names or reading details about people they know personally. I strongly recommend anyone with a love of, or even an interest in, this country's military and/or colonial history visit this museum. You will not be disappointed.

Learn more about the museum at [www.maryboroughmuseum.org](http://www.maryboroughmuseum.org). 





## 70 YEARS OF KEEPING THE PEACE

For countries torn apart by war, the appearance of the United Nations, (UN) Blue Berets is a sign that the first tangible steps have been taken on the road to peace.

 Anita Jaensch

**PEACEKEEPERS** are sent in to some of the most dangerous parts of the world, tasked with bringing peace and stability to regions that have been torn apart by war. While the conflict may have ceased, the danger often remains.

On September 14, a new Australian Peacekeeping Memorial will be dedicated in Canberra, marking 70 years since four Australian military officers became the first UN peacekeepers in the world.

Since these four officers were deployed to the United Nations Good Offices Commission in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) in 1947, Australia has contributed more than 66,000 personnel to 73 peacekeeping





**BELOW:** United Nations Peacekeeping Operation Cambodia. (Department of Defence)



## AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER AND PEACEMAKERS VETERANS ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

As well as celebrating 70 years of international peacekeeping operations, the Australian Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Veterans Association will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year.

APPVA was formed at the Pine Rivers RSL Sub Branch in September 1997. It aims to promote fellowship among ADF and Police personnel who have served in peacekeeping and peacemaking operations, and to raise the profile of the contribution of its members to world peace and security.

**ABOVE:** Locals line up to receive medical treatment from the Australian Medical Support Force, which is in Rwanda as part of United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR). (AWM: MSU/94/0014/31)

**RIGHT:** Major Tony Richings, from Dutton Park, Qld, takes time out from his normal duties to teach Khmer monks some of the finer points of the English language. Major Richings is in Cambodia with the Australian military contingent serving with the United Nations Peacekeeping operation there. (Department of Defence)







Members of the United Nations Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) visit an outlying community and school to deliver medical supplies and good cheer to Madabeno District school children in the mountains behind Dili, Timor-Leste. (Department of Defence)

**“A STUDY BY THE RAND CORPORATION SHOWED THAT PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS REDUCE THE RISK OF CONFLICT RECURRING BY 50 PER CENT.”**

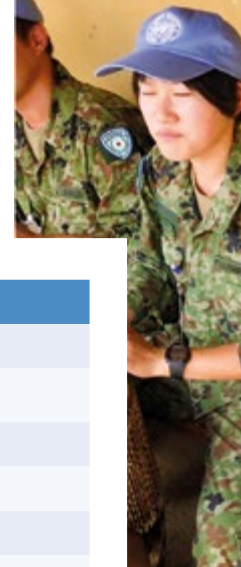
operations in 64 different countries, including East Timor, Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

They have joined military and police personnel, wearing the uniforms of more than 120 countries, with only their sky-blue berets or helmets to unify them as UN peacekeepers.

After WWII, the necessity of maintaining a fragile peace in the shadow of the Cold War led the UN to establish a peacekeeping force – lightly armed troops contributed by member states and deployed to monitor post-conflict situations and protect civilians.

Peacekeepers primarily work to reduce the risk of conflicts flaring up again, enabling infrastructure, political processes and social institutions to be rebuilt. In fact, a study by the Rand Corporation showed that peacekeeping

**RIGHT:** Major John Howlett, an Australian Defence Force linguist, sings along with a child from the Confident Children Out of Conflict Orphanage in Juba, Republic of South Sudan. (Department of Defence)



#### PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS INVOLVING AUSTRALIANS

|  |                                     |                    |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| UN Consular Commission   | Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia)   | 1947               |
| UN Committee of Good Offices (UNGOC)                                   | Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia)   | 1947–1949          |
| UN Special Committee on the Balkans (UNSCOB)                           | Greece                              | 1947–1951          |
| UN Commission for Indonesia (UNCI)                                     | Indonesia                           | 1949–1951          |
| UN Commission on Korea (UNCOK)   | Korea                               | 1950               |
| UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)             | Kashmir                             | 1948–1985          |
| UN Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK) | Korea                               | 1951–1973          |
| UN Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC)                      | Korea                               | 1953–              |
| UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)                              | Middle East                         | 1956–              |
| UN Operation in the Congo (ONUC)                                       | Congo                               | 1960–1961          |
| UN Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA)                               | West New Guinea                     | 1962–1963          |
| UN Yemen Observation Mission (UNYOM)                                   | Yemen                               | 1963–1964          |
| UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)                              | Cyprus                              | 1964–2017          |
| UN India–Pakistan Observation Mission (UNIPOM)                         | India, Pakistan                     | 1965–1966          |
| UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)                                | Israel, Syria                       | 1974               |
| Second UN Emergency Force (UNEF II)                                    | Sinai                               | 1973–1979          |
| UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)                                   | Lebanon                             | 1978               |
| Commonwealth Monitoring Force (CMF)                                    | Zimbabwe                            | 1979–1980          |
| Commonwealth Military Training Team – Uganda (CMTTU)                   | Uganda                              | 1982–1984          |
| Multinational Force and Observers (MFO)                                | Sinai                               | 1982–1986<br>1993– |
| UN Iran–Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG)                         | Iran, Iraq                          | 1988–1990          |
| UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG)                                 | Namibia                             | 1989–1990          |
| UN Border Relief Operation (UNBRO)                                     | Thai–Cambodian border               | 1989–1993          |
| UN Mine Clearance Training Team (UNMCTT)                               | Afghanistan, Pakistan               | 1989–1993          |
| First Maritime Interception Force (MIF I)                              | Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea | 1990–1991          |
| Second Maritime Interception Force (MIF II)                            | Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea | 1991–2001          |
| UN Special Commission (UNSCOM)   | Iraq                                | 1991–1999          |
| Operation Provide Comfort  | Iraq                                | 1991               |
| UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)              | Western Sahara                      | 1991–1994          |
| UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC)                                | Cambodia                            | 1991–1992          |
| UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)                          | Cambodia                            | 1992–1993          |
| First UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM I)                               | Somalia                             | 1992–1993          |
| Unified Task Force (UNITAF)  | Somalia                             | 1992–1993          |
| UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR)   | Former Yugoslavia                   | 1992               |
| Second UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II)                             | Somalia                             | 1993–1995          |
| Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)                                    | Cambodia                            | 1994–1999          |
| UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)                              | Rwanda                              | 1994–1995          |

Source: [www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au](http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au)





**RIGHT:** Flight Lieutenant Kelly Francis, deployed on Operation ASLAN, stands in front of a United Nations vehicle at the UN container storage yard in Juba, South Sudan. (Department of Defence)



**ABOVE:** Able Seaman Lynette Lelievre-Healey playing with children from Care Australia, Rwanda. (Department of Defence)

operations reduce the risk of conflict recurring by 50 per cent\*.

But over the years, the role of peacekeepers has become more complex. As well as maintaining security, peacekeepers may be involved in facilitating elections, disarming and demobilising former combatants, training military and police personnel and providing humanitarian assistance in the wake of natural disasters.

## AUSTRALIANS AT PEACE

Since 1947, Australians have played an instrumental role in both UN and multinational peacekeeping operations across the globe.

In fact, the largest deployment of Australian troops since WWII was the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET), organised to curb violence during East Timor's transition to independence from Indonesia. Between September 1999 and February 2000, 5500 personnel were deployed to East Timor, led by Major General Peter Cosgrove.

Since September 11, 2001, Australian peacekeepers have been deployed in international campaigns against terror in the Middle East, Afghanistan and South West Asia.

Australian peacekeepers are currently serving in the Middle East UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), and the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS).

A total of 25 Australian peacekeepers have been killed in service. [↔](#)


\*[www.betterworldcampaign.org/un-peacekeeping/un-peacekeeping-101/](http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/un-peacekeeping/un-peacekeeping-101/)

| PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS INVOLVING AUSTRALIANS                                    |                   |                    |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| UN Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ)  | Mozambique        | 1994               |
| South Pacific Peace-Keeping Force (SPPKF)                                      | Bougainville      | 1994               |
| Multinational Force (MNF)  | Haiti             | 1994-1995          |
| Accelerated Demining Program (ADP)   | Mozambique        | 1994-2002          |
| UN Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA)                                 | Guatemala         | 1997               |
| Implementation Force / Stabilisation Force / Kosovo Force (IFOR / SFOR / KFOR) | Former Yugoslavia | 1995-2004          |
| Truce Monitoring Group (TMG)   | Bougainville      | 1997-1998          |
| Peace Monitoring Group (PMG)   | Bougainville      | 1998-2003          |
| UN Mission in East Timor (UNAMET)  | East Timor        | 1999               |
| International Force East Timor (INTERFET)                                      | East Timor        | 1999-2000          |
| UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)                          | East Timor        | 2000-2002          |
| International Peace Monitoring Team (IPMT)                                     | Solomon Islands   | 2000-2002          |
| UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)                                     | Ethiopia, Eritrea | 2001-2005          |
| International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT)                      | Sierra Leone      | 2001-2003          |
| UN Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET)                                 | East Timor        | 2002-2005          |
| UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission for Iraq (UNMOVIC)       | Iraq              | 2002-2003          |
| UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)                                   | Afghanistan       | 2003-2004<br>2005- |
| Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)                         | Solomon Islands   | 2003-2017          |
| UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)  | Sudan             | 2005-2011          |
| UN Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL)  | Timor-Leste       | 2005-2006          |
| International Stabilisation Force (ISF)  | Timor-Leste       | 2006-2013          |
| UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)                                   | Timor-Leste       | 2006-2012          |
| African Union-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)                                    | Darfur            | 2008-2011          |
| UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)   | Iraq              | 2009-2013          |
| UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)                             | South Sudan       | 2011-              |



# 75TH

## ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MILNE BAY



The battle is often described as the first major battle of the war in the Pacific in which Allied troops decisively defeated Japanese land forces. Although Japanese land forces had experienced local setbacks elsewhere in the Pacific earlier in the war, unlike at Milne Bay, these actions had not forced them to withdraw completely and abandon their strategic objective. Nor did they have such a profound impact upon the moral aspect of the war. Milne Bay showed the limits of Japanese capability to expand using relatively small forces in the face of increasingly larger Allied troop concentrations and command of the air. As a result of the battle, Allied morale was boosted and Milne Bay was developed into a major Allied base, which was used to mount subsequent operations in the region.



A Japanese gas mask found after  
the unsuccessful Japanese attack on  
Milne Bay. (AWM: 013334)



**“WITH THE COMING OF DAYLIGHT ON AUGUST 31, THE COMMANDER OF MILNE FORCE, AUSTRALIAN MAJOR GENERAL CYRIL CLOWES, SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO COUNTERATTACK AND ORDERED THE 2/12TH BATTALION TO PURSUE THE RETREATING JAPANESE. CLOWES WAS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION THROUGHOUT THE BATTLE; ALTHOUGH HE OUTNUMBERED THE JAPANESE, HE RECEIVED MULTIPLE REPORTS INDICATING OTHER JAPANESE TO HIS FLANKS AND REAR.”**

**OFFERING** a sheltered harbour, Milne Bay, on the south-eastern tip of Papua, was selected for development as an Allied base – the key component of which was three airstrips – in 1942. These facilities also made it a key stepping stone for the Japanese in their drive towards Port Moresby, and late on the night of August 25, 1942 a force of 2000 marines were landed to capture them.

From the beginning, the Japanese were at a disadvantage. The marines were landed 11km east of their intended landing area, and their intelligence had significantly underestimated the Allied garrison.

Where the Japanese believed there were no more than a few hundred troops defending the airstrip, there were actually almost 9000 Allied troops, including two Australian infantry brigades – the 7th and the 18th. The Allies had the additional advantage of air support, with the 75 and 76 RAAF Squadrons, both equipped with P-40 fighter bombers, also based at Milne Bay.

Initially, however, the Japanese met with their accustomed success. Supported by two light tanks, they advanced steadily westward. The 61st Battalion was first into action and slowed the Japanese, although was unable to hold them back.

The 2/10th Battalion was moved up on the night of August 27, but faulty dispositions and other command failings meant it was brushed aside by a renewed Japanese thrust and disintegrated in a confused withdrawal.

Reaching the edge of the eastern most airstrip on August 28, the intensity of Japanese operations fell away as they made preparations for their attack, which included landing 800 reinforcements. In the early hours of August 31, they charged the defences manned by the 25th and 61st Australian Battalions and the United States' 43rd Engineer Regiment and 709th Anti-Aircraft Battery.

The Japanese suffered grievously, largely due to machine gun and artillery fire, and withdrew by dawn.

Throughout their operations, the Japanese were constantly harassed during daylight hours by the P-40s.

With the coming of daylight on August 31, the commander of Milne Force, Australian Major General Cyril Clowes, seized the opportunity to counter-attack and ordered the 2/12th Battalion to pursue the retreating Japanese. Clowes was in a difficult position throughout the battle; although he outnumbered the Japanese, he received multiple reports indicating other Japanese to his flanks and rear.

It was for this reason that initially only a single battalion was sent after the Japanese. Despite the skilled and determined rearguard action that was characteristic of the Japanese at this stage of the war, the 2/12th, supported by the 2/9th Battalion from September 2 onwards, steadily advanced along the north shore of Milne Bay.

Although the Japanese high command advocated a reinforcement of the force at Milne Bay, its commander, noting increasing sickness and exhaustion among his troops, recommended an immediate withdrawal. Between September 4 and 7, the Japanese were evacuated at night from around their original landing areas at Waga Waga and Wandala.

Of the 2800 Japanese landed, only 1318 re-embarked. It was estimated that up to 750 lay dead around Milne Bay and the majority of the remainder were killed trying to escape overland to the Japanese base at Buna.

Allied deaths included 167 Australians and 14 Americans. Milne Bay is remembered as the first defeat of the Japanese on land during the Pacific War. Despite an oppressive combination of extreme humidity, voracious insects and the tropical disease both combined to create, Milne Bay remained an important Allied staging area until victories in New Guinea made other more suitable areas available from September 1943 onwards.

*Published with permission from the Australian War Memorial:*  
[www.awm.gov.au/collection/E345](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E345)



## REMEMBERING 1942: MILNE BAY

*By Dr Peter Londey*

*Originally presented by Dr Peter Londey, on Thursday September 5, 2002, beside the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial as part of the Roll of Honour Talks series.*

By August 1942, the Japanese had been in New Guinea for five months. Their prime objective was the capture of Port Moresby, but a naval force attempting to attack Port Moresby from the sea was turned back at the Battle of the Coral Sea. With the Navy thwarted by sea, the Japanese Army set out to capture Port Moresby from the north, by crossing the Owen Stanley Ranges via the Kokoda Trail.

A key strategic point was now Milne Bay, a deep natural harbour at the eastern tip of the island of New Guinea. With aircraft based there, the Allies would be able to make any further naval ventures in the area very dangerous for the Japanese. As an added advantage, Allied aircraft would be able to attack the Japanese on the north coast without first making the climb over the Owen Stanley Ranges.

From the Japanese point of view, it was essential to prevent the Allies from gaining such a strategically sited air base. In addition, the Navy wanted to save face by making its own contribution to the capture of Port Moresby, and thought that Milne Bay would make a good jumping-off point for an attack along the south coast.



## THE ALLIES ARRIVE

AMERICAN airfield construction troops arrived at Milne Bay in June 1942, with the 55th Australian militia battalion accompanying them to provide protection from the enemy. One of the Australians first tasks was to set out and map the area they were to defend, to supplement the naval charts, which were the only maps available. Stuck in this lonely outpost, paranoia soon set in: many of the men were convinced they were being spied on by Japanese in the hills, but patrols sent out could never find any trace of them.

Milne Bay was a deep bay, running over 30km west from the sea.

Surrounded by rain-clad mountains (the area received 200 inches of rain a year) this tropical paradise did not appeal to the Australians. One wrote:

*Even without the war Milne Bay would have been a hell hole – it was a terrible place. The sun hardly ever shined and it rained all the time. It was stinking hot and bog holes everywhere and it was very marshy, boggy country. Even without the Japanese it would have been hard to live there. It was a disease-ridden place – it was terrible.*



**ABOVE:**  
Ground crew sit on the wing tips of a Curtiss P40 Kittyhawk fighter aircraft to guide the pilot, who could not see over the nose while taxiing on the pierced steel plating runway. (AWM: 013329)

**ABOVE LEFT:**  
Major-General Cyril Clowes, Commander of the Australian forces in the Milne Bay area. (AWM: 013337)

**CENTRE:**  
Brigadier George Frederick Wooten and Major James Alastair Yates 'Chips' Denniston. (AWM: 014223)

**LEFT:**  
RAAF ground crew of No. 75 Squadron bombing-up a Kittyhawk aircraft in preparation for an attack on the Japanese. (AWM: P02018.128)

Work began carving airfields out of jungle and swamp and building roads, wharves and other facilities, with conscripted local labour helping the troops. Soon, a much larger force of Australians arrived to supplement the defence: this was the 7th Brigade, commanded by Brigadier John Field and consisting of the 9th, 25th and 61st militia battalions.

On July 21, the same day the Japanese landed at Buna and Gona in preparation for the trek across the Kokoda Trail, the first of three airstrips being built at Milne Bay was declared ready, complete with a surface of steel Marsden matting to stop the planes from sinking into the prevailing mud. The next day, the first P40 Kittyhawks arrived following a fight with Japanese aircraft over Gona, and a few days later two squadrons of Kittyhawks – 75 and 76 Squadrons – joined the defence along with some Hudson bombers of 6 and 32 Squadrons. In mid-August, the 18th Brigade of the AIF arrived, commanded by Brigadier George Wooten and including the 2/9th, 2/10th and 2/12th Battalions. Overall command was now given to Major General Cyril Clowes, a cautious and reserved 50-year-old nicknamed “Cyril the Silent”. At last the defenders were ready for the Japanese.



## THE JAPANESE ATTACK

**THE** fatal error for the Japanese was that, despite aerial reconnaissance, they seriously underestimated the number of troops defending Milne Bay (a tribute also to Brigadier Field's efforts at camouflage). By late August there were nearly 9500 defenders; about 7500 of them Australian soldiers, the rest Americans and RAAF personnel. Against them the Japanese – heavily committed on Guadalcanal and on the Kokoda Trail – despatched a force of just 2400 naval landing force troops. Even some of these failed to make it. Three hundred and fifty men travelling down the coast by barge were seen by coastwatchers. The Kittyhawks caught the Japanese while they had stopped to eat and rest on Goodenough Island, north of Milne Bay. They strafed the barges, destroying them and stranding the Japanese troops on the island so that they took no further part in the battle.

The Kittyhawks and one serviceable Hudson also attacked the main Japanese convoy, but the Japanese got through and began landing late on the night of August 25. They landed in the darkness well to the east of the airfields, possibly further east than they had intended.

During the night, there were a number of skirmishes between Australians and Japanese. At dawn, the Kittyhawks were in the air, flying low along the coast to hunt out the invaders. A foolish Japanese marine gave away their position by opening up with an anti-aircraft gun and soon the Kittyhawks and Hudsons were bombing and destroying the Japanese barges they had hoped would give them mobility to move along the coast. Now they would be forced to rely on the muddy coastal tracks.

During the day, the Kittyhawks continued strafing Japanese positions. At night, the Japanese advanced,



**ABOVE:**  
Petrol drums and an invasion barge blasted by the Royal Australian Air Force when the Japanese attempted to land at Milne Bay. (AWM: 026624)

**LEFT:**  
Australian troops ride in a captured landing barge used in the unsuccessful Japanese attack. (AWM: 013324)



**“THE KITTYHAWKS CAUGHT THE JAPANESE WHILE THEY HAD STOPPED TO EAT AND REST ON GOODENOUGH ISLAND, NORTH OF MILNE BAY. THEY STRAFED THE BARGES, DESTROYING THEM AND STRANDING THE JAPANESE TROOPS ON THE ISLAND SO THAT THEY TOOK NO FURTHER PART IN THE BATTLE.”**





wading through swamps to outflank groups of defenders and having some success fooling defenders into withdrawing by calling out commands in English (though “Who goes there? Friend? Good morning!” did not work well in the pitch dark).

The next day, the Kittyhawks kept hunting out the Japanese, but late in the day 76 Squadron suffered a serious loss with the death of its commanding officer, Squadron Leader Pete Turnbull. “Tomahawk Pete”, a former jackaroo from northern NSW, was a veteran of the Middle East and had helped defend Port Moresby as a member of 75 Squadron. Now, flying in low to attack some Japanese infantry, he may have been hit by ground fire or simply failed to pull out of his dive. One of the Milne Bay airstrips was later named after him.

**TOP:**  
Informal group portrait of members of 76 Squadron RAAF. Sqn Ldr Pete Turnbull is pictured fifth from right. (AWM: P03869.001)

**INSET:**  
Sqn Ldr Pete Turnbull. (AWM: 008318)

**ABOVE RIGHT:**  
Two men of the AIF closely examine a Japanese Type 95 HA-GO light tank used against the Australian forces at Milne Bay. (AWM: 026631)



## THE BATTLE CONTINUES

**THAT** night the fighting intensified as the Japanese advanced west, supported by light three-man tanks, and over the next few days this remained the pattern, though both the operational tanks were eventually put out of action. For one night, the Kittyhawks were ordered to return to Port Moresby to avoid any danger of being overrun by the enemy, but this was not repeated.

The climactic battle occurred at dawn on August 31, as the Japanese made a determined assault on No. 3 Strip, the easternmost of the three airstrips. The Japanese had mountain guns and machine-guns, but the defenders were well dug in and had open fields of fire. Three times the Japanese attacked across open ground and were driven back with heavy losses. One wrote in his diary:

*We were like rats in a bag and men were falling all around. I thought we were going to be wiped out and then we were told to withdraw...*

Over the next few days the Australians gained the upper hand and pushed the Japanese back.

There were many Australian acts of courage. On September 4, Corporal John French of the 2/9th Battalion found his section held up by three Japanese machine-gun posts. Ordering his men to take cover, he advanced alone with grenades and a sub-machine-gun and single-handedly killed all three machine-gun crews before being killed himself in front of the third gun pit. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.



## SERGEANT JAMES OLIVER Hosier

Born in Richmond, Queensland, on March 19, 1914, James Oliver Hosier was the son of May Hosier and William James Hosier. Hosier was working as a tram conductor in Brisbane when he enlisted in the AIF on February 21, 1941.

During training in Queensland, Hosier soon rose through the ranks and by the time he embarked for the Middle East he held the rank of Sergeant. Once in the Middle East, Hosier undertook further training before joining the 2/12th Battalion, part of the Australian 7th Division.

By this point the Japanese had entered the war, and in the early months of 1942 the units of the 7th Division were recalled to Australia. On his return from overseas service Hosier soon married Euphemia on May 29, 1942.

Not long after, in August 1942, Hosier sailed from Brisbane with the 2/12th Battalion to Milne Bay in New Guinea. In the following battle, in which the Australian forces managed, in atrocious tropical conditions, to successfully repel a Japanese landing, Hosier was mentioned by name in the volume of the Australian official history series that documented the conflict. The battle of Milne Bay was the first comprehensive defeat of a Japanese landing during WWII.

In the months after Milne Bay, the 2/12th Battalion was stationed at Goodenough Island. They returned to Papua in December to take part in the bitter and costly beachhead battles of Buna, Gona and Sanananda.

It was during the fighting around Sanananda on January 9, 1943 that Sergeant James Hosier was killed in action. His body now rests alongside more than 3500 Australian war dead in the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Bomana, Port Moresby.

Hosier's name is listed on the Roll of Honour along with the names of some 40,000 Australians killed in WWII.

*Published with permission from the Australian War Memorial: [www.awm.gov.au/collection/P10293886](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P10293886)*

ABOVE: The Commonwealth War Cemetery at Bomana, where Sergeant James Oliver Hosier is buried.

## SUMMING UP

EVENTUALLY, the Japanese gave up and evacuated as many of their troops as they could. For them, the attack had been a disaster: 600 men, a quarter of their force, died. The Allies lost less than 200. Apart from superior numbers, the decisive factor for the Allies was the close cooperation between Army and Air Force. Australian air superiority forced the Japanese to move entirely at night. Operating from airstrips close to the fighting, the Kittyhawk pilots flew continual sorties to suppress any Japanese activity. "Palm fronds, bullets and dead Japanese snipers were pouring down with the rain," one observer commented.

In a tale with which we may, perhaps, empathise, the Japanese marines had been sent into a hopeless fight at the whim of their commanders. A medical officer summed up their experience at Milne Bay:

*They were attacked from the air throughout the day, and wandered about through heavy rain day and night, being bombarded intensively by an invisible enemy from all sides, while their losses steadily grew and they finished up cornered.*

Months after the fighting was over, the rotting bodies of unburied Japanese still littered the jungle on the edge of the streams around Milne Bay; the Australian dead had been buried in a war cemetery behind Gili Gili. Other Japanese, who had survived, but failed to be evacuated, set out on foot across the mountains to try to reach their countrymen at Buna. They did not make it. An Australian report described how their skeletons could be found lying in small coral caves along the coast. Local Papuans found two Japanese wandering in the grasslands and pelted them with rocks whenever they attempted to rest. At dusk, the two hanged themselves from a tree.

The other side of the story is that in their few days at Milne Bay the Japanese had displayed remarkable

brutality. The Webb Commission into Japanese atrocities listed 59 cases of local people murdered by the Japanese, often being bayoneted while held prisoner and, in many cases, being tortured or mutilated. Not one of the 36 Australians captured by the Japanese in the course of the battle survived. All were killed and some were badly mutilated.

For the Allies, Milne Bay represented a turning point. Victory here, and a few weeks later on the Kokoda Trail, ended any Japanese hopes of taking Port Moresby. More important, perhaps, was the psychological victory. The seemingly unstoppable Japanese had been stopped. Australian Brigadier John Field summed up Australian feelings at the time: *Our troops have proved the Jap is not a superman.*

*Published with permission from the Australian War Memorial: [www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/1942-milne-bay](http://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/1942-milne-bay)*

## AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL — BATTLE OF MILNE BAY LAST POST CEREMONY

The Australian War Memorial will hold a Last Post Ceremony to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay on August 25, 2017. The ceremony will be held in the Commemoration Area at the Memorial and can also be viewed live on the AWM Facebook page or Last Post Ceremony YouTube Channel.



# MATES 4 MATES

ISSUE 04, 2017

MEET A MATE:  
**BRENDAN  
BARRY**

ARE YOU  
READY TO  
BRAVE THE  
CROSSING  
IN 2018?



**TIPS**  
TO MANAGE  
LOW BACK PAIN

## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

**HAVING** joined the Board at Mates4Mates in February 2015, I am honoured to have recently accepted the role of Chairman.



after more than 26 years' continuous service in the Royal Australian Air Force and two years with our organisation. Under Simon's leadership, we seamlessly moved our Brisbane organisation and national headquarters to a much larger facility, we expanded our outreach and services and maintained support

Over the past two years, our organisation has borne witness to an exponential growth and demand for services, with our support reach now well and truly national. Mates and their families are now being supported in many endeavours in every Australian state and territory by the organisation.

Total Mates visits to our three Family Recovery Centres is exceeding a steady 1400 visits per month and our outreach programs are continuing to expand in Cairns, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba, and in Tasmania at Longford, Sheffield and Burnie.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and extend a sincere thank you to our Chief Executive Officer Mr Simon Sauer. Simon has chosen to take an extended break with his family

excellence to all those Mates and their families who rely on our organisation. We are currently seeking a new CEO to lead the organisation in its next phase of services growth and delivery.

I would also like to acknowledge the significant efforts, sound leadership, enthusiasm and support of our previous chair Mr Don Roach AM and Mr Peter Davies CBE, who have recently left the Board.

In closing, on behalf of myself and my fellow Board Directors, we encourage our wounded, injured or ill current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel and their families to please reach out if you need support, wherever you may be in Australia.

**Rick Ralph**

**Chairman, Mates4Mate** ◀

# Gympie Muster

**24-27 AUGUST 2017**  
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# MEET A MATE: Brendan Barry



**ABOVE:** Brendan with his daughter Bella playing at the Tasmanian Family Recovery Centre.

**BRENDAN** Barry's story is one of perseverance, the importance of family and, ultimately, survival. We often hear stories of the distressing experiences our veterans experience when deployed, but Brendan's story is one of the trauma that can be experienced at home.

Brendan joined the Royal Australian Armoured Corps as a Tankie in September 1999 and was posted to Darwin. While participating in routine hand-to-hand combat training, Brendan was injured and knocked his head. It was this head knock that led to 23-year-old Brendan having a serious stroke six months later, leaving him with little movement in his right arm and leg.

"They didn't think I was going to get better, but I learnt to walk and talk again," Brendan said.

After his miraculous recovery back to full fitness, Brendan trained as a Medic in the Army and was posted to Brisbane. While on duty at an Army Hospital, he was severely assaulted, leaving him with physical injuries and long-lasting mental scars.

Following the assault, Brendan was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and was medically discharged from the Army.

After leaving the Army, he found work in allied health and working on mining sites, but always felt his home was Tasmania, so moved back and started work in a paper mill. It was here that he met his now partner, Alison. He and Alison have two children: Callan, six, and Bella, five.

"It wasn't until a couple of years after I met Alison and two children later that everything just came to the floor again," Brendan said. "I became angry and paranoid and I really started to give the alcohol a good nudge."

Brendan sought treatment for his PTSD through psychiatrists, hospitals and medication, but it wasn't until he found a Mates4Mates flyer in a hospital in Victoria that things really started to change. Within weeks of leaving the treatment facility, Alison "pushed" Brendan to visit the Tasmanian Family Recovery Centre, where he became a Mate. From there, Brendan took part in the STAIR Program, a 12-week skills-based intervention program, where veterans with PTSD learn emotional regulation and communication skills.

"The big thing with the STAIR Program was understanding what your level of agitation is before an incident arises... taking stock and having the tools to take stock prior to going into the supermarket, or to a pub, or being able to look at things differently without the PTSD glasses on. Alison noticed a change in me straight away."

Brendan says he deals with things completely differently after having done the STAIR Program with Mates4Mates.

"If going to the hospital in Victoria was the first step towards recovery, then the STAIR Program was the next ten steps.

"It is now time for me to give back to people and to reaffirm my commitment and love to my children and Alison. Without Alison's understanding, love and patience I've no idea where I'd be". <

*"The big thing with the STAIR Program was understanding what your level of agitation is before an incident arises... taking stock and having the tools to take stock prior to going into the supermarket, or to a pub, or being able to look at things differently without the PTSD glasses on."*

MATES4MATES

# Out and About



## RSL Queensland AGM

It was great to have an information stand at this year's RSL Queensland State Congress.

There was a wide range of speakers and it was a fantastic opportunity to build awareness about Mates4Mates – thanks RSL Queensland for having us.



**Circus for a day**  
Brisbane families were treated to a unique taste of the circus these school holidays. The kids tried trapeze, juggling, tumbling and tightwire at Flipside.



## Mates meet the Wallabies Captain

Some of our Mates got to meet recently retired Wallabies captain Stephen Moore after a training session in Brisbane recently. Thanks Stephen for chatting to us.

## Phil Liggett visits the Brisbane Family Recovery Centre

We recently had the pleasure of hosting the unmistakable voice of cycling, Phil Liggett, at the Brisbane Family Recovery Centre. Phil was in town to officially launch the 2018 Oceanway Bike Ride, which Mates4Mates is the charity partner for.







## Tasmanian Family Recovery Centre's School Holiday Fun

The school holiday entertainment in Tassie was very popular, with lots of families coming to see the Magic Show.



## Townsville Family Fun Day

The Paw Patrol Mascot made a special visit to Townsville for our Family Fun Day these school holidays. Lots of families came to say hello and visit the petting zoo.



## ANZAC DAY TRUST FUNDING

**LAST** year, Mates4Mates was lucky to receive funding from the Queensland ANZAC Day Trust Fund to provide financial support to allow us to deliver our vital services across 2016-17. The ANZAC Day Trust Fund offers payments to organisations that provide assistance to ex-servicemen and women and their dependants.

This year, the money donated has gone towards supporting our Rehabilitation Adventure Challenges, which offer Mates and their families the opportunity to participate in a wide range of Adventure Challenges, including kayaking, trekking, cycling and sailing programs. These programs allow participants to step out of their comfort zone and encourage personal growth in a supported environment.

One of the Adventure Challenges supported by the ANZAC Day Trust Fund was Kokoda 2017. One of this year's participants, Phil Green, said the challenge was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and the proudest moment was making it up that final hill and carrying the PNG flag with his daughter alongside him.

Thank you to the Queensland ANZAC Day Trust for supporting Mates and their families! <

## BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS WEEK 2017

**THIS** year, Mates4Mates has teamed up with Brain Injury Australia to shine a light on the significance of brain injuries in the military, particularly mild traumatic brain injuries.

Research suggests brain injuries caused by bomb blasts are one of the signature wounds sustained from the war on terror, but it's rarely spoken about. We will be hosting the official launch (in Brisbane) of Brain Injury Awareness Week 2017 in August, with special guests from the Department of Defence, government officials and veterans who suffered a brain injury in attendance.

**Please contact Mates4Mates Marketing via [marketing@mates4mates.org](mailto:marketing@mates4mates.org) for further information. <**

# ARE YOU READY TO BRAVE THE CROSSING IN 2018?



**PLANNING** is underway for one of our biggest Rehabilitation Adventure Challenges in 2018 – the 330km kayak across the Bass Strait. In 2015, Mates4Mates successfully led one of the first novice groups across Bass Strait and in 2018 we are ready to do it again!

Next year, a group of 12 Mates and six instructors will battle two-metre waves, 20-knot winds and unpredictable weather to make their way across the Strait, which is the foremost breeding ground for great white sharks and home to the Tasmanian tiger snake.

Tony Sten, who served for 10 years in the Australian Army as a Patrol Commander, was part of the group who successfully completed the trip in 2015 and says it certainly wasn't easy.

"For me, personally, it was the first three days that were the hardest physically. We capsized twice on the first day and got separated from our pod," Tony said.

So, what would make anyone want to take part in this challenge?

"The main reason I did it was because it is a once-in-a-lifetime thing... and when I heard about the challenge I thought it would be a good story to tell and give me something to focus on."

The trip can see Mates paddle anywhere from

15-70km per day in single or double kayaks. Each double kayak has a sea guide or instructor assigned to it.

However, it's never guaranteed when you set off from Little Musslerow Bay in Tasmania that you'll actually make it to Wilson's Promontory in Victoria. In 2018, the team have allocated the whole month of February for the trip, because they really are at the mercy of the weather. In perfect weather, it's possible to complete the crossing with 10 days of paddling, but in 2015 a few bad days of weather meant the team almost had to turn around and return to Tasmania.

"We had a really good run up to Flinders and had the three major crossings to go and then we got stuck up there with bad weather and we were probably a day away from having to turn around and come back," Tony said.

The trip took a total of 22 days to complete due to the bad weather, but on April 5, 2015 the group paddled their last 41km to reach their final destination on the coast of Victoria.

Tony's advice for anyone setting out to complete the challenge in 2018 is to train and be prepared not to complete the crossing, because you are at the mercy of the weather.

"It's a great trip, you just have to be relaxed and flexible with what happens. It's hard, but it's a trip that people won't forget and they'll make lifetime friends." <

*"It's probably  
the best  
physical  
challenge that  
I've ever done."*



# LOW BACK PAIN

## – GET YOURSELF BACK ON TOP!

By Nolan Woo, Exercise Physiologist

**LOW** back pain is one of the most prevalent musculoskeletal conditions and will affect 70-90 per cent of us at some stage. In today's society, incidental physical activity is becoming less and less frequent, yet we continue to have to treat incidences of back pain. Being that prevalence is so high, it is little wonder why there are so many physical therapies available to us.

Recently, at the Brisbane Family Recovery Centre, we completed an "overcoming low back pain program". It was a twice-weekly event held over six weeks. The most positive result from the program showed a significant improvement from moderate to minimal symptoms/disability on participant questionnaires.

The body is designed to move in every plane and it is designed to move frequently, which is why sitting down for long periods is a risk factor. Preventing back pain can be very simple; treating back pain can get very complex. It is much better to be proactive than reactive when it comes to your back.

So, what steps can you take to save your back and get back on top of that pain?

### IMPROVE YOUR FLEXIBILITY

Glutes, hamstrings and the calf muscles are the main players here. If there's a limit to your range of movement (ROM) then other body parts will need to compensate for decreased ROM.

### IMPROVE YOUR BALANCE AND COORDINATION

Those with back pain will often find their balance is "not what it used to be". Doing some one leg balance with eyes open can be beneficial in helping the mind program the body. Also, calf raises (single or both feet) will improve your body's awareness in space (proprioception). Remember, safety first; make sure you have something to grab that is stable if you're balance training.

### STRENGTHEN YOUR LOWER BODY

If your back is working overtime, then it's time for your glutes, quads and hamstrings to come to the party and



help carry you. Strengthening your lower limbs will help ease the load going through your back for any given task, it will also make many other activities easier.

### LEARN TO CONTRACT AND RELAX YOUR OWN BODY PARTS

Progressive relaxation can be really useful for pinpointing tension. Find those spots and learn to relax them. There are some great mindfulness apps out there that will walk you through a progressive relaxation session.

### ENJOY WHAT YOU DO AND SEE VALUE IN YOUR TREATMENT

Go in with a positive attitude and tune in to your own body; exercise will release those "feel good" hormones and your body will get used to associating physical activity with a positive result.

Use pain as a guideline and be wary of how you will pull up the day after. You definitely want to be careful of over-doing it when your back is feeling great, because you'll pay for it the next day. Seek out an expert and start slow, try the suggestions above two to three times a week and enjoy the improvements. <



**Tassie Adventure**  
Rehabilitation Adventure Challenges

3 December 17  
EOIs close: 1 September 17

11 March 2018  
EOIs close: 25 January 18



**Sailing**  
Rehabilitation Adventure Challenges

30 October 17  
EOIs close: 18 August 17

© Marco Dobrowolski



**EQUINE**  
THERAPY PROGRAM

|                           |                            |                           |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Couples</b>            | <b>Mates</b>               |                           |
| 17 September 17           | 26 November 17             | 11 March 18               |
| Canungra                  | Yarra Valley               | Canungra                  |
| EOIs close: 21 July 17    | EOIs close: 1 September 17 | EOIs close: 12 January 18 |
| 8 April 18                | 4 February 2018            |                           |
| Canungra                  | Yarra Valley               |                           |
| EOIs close: 25 January 18 | EOIs close: 1 November 17  |                           |



**Kokoda**  
Rehabilitation Adventure Challenge

6 April 18  
EOIs close: 13 October 17



**Peaks**  
Rehabilitation Adventure Challenges

17 September 17  
EOIs close: 1 September 17

11 March 18  
EOIs close: 25 January 18



**Horse Trek**  
Rehabilitation Adventure Challenges

9 November 17  
(Beginners)  
EOIs close: 21 July 17

19 February 18  
(Experienced)  
EOIs close: 6 November 17



**Cycling**  
Rehabilitation Adventure Challenges

Big Battlefield Bike Ride

6 June 18  
EOIs close: 13 October 17

# Challenge Yourself

The Mates4Mates Rehabilitation Adventure Challenges aren't just a walk in the park. They are designed to assist rehabilitation by allowing Mates and their families to challenge themselves mentally and physically, to form new bonds of trust and to experience adventure in a safe environment.

There's a challenge to suit all abilities, so what are you waiting for?

## Apply today!

Call **1300 462 837** or visit our website **mates4mates.org**



# TRIBUTE TO A CHARACTER: *John 'Flags' Toohey*

Goondiwindi RSL Sub Branch member John 'Flags' Toohey OAM was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June for service to veterans and their families, and to the community of Goondiwindi. Wayne Brown pays tribute to his friend Flags, who served his country during the Vietnam War with the same dedication that he now serves his local community.

 Wayne 'Sam' Brown





**LIKE** most units back in the 1960s and early '70s during the Vietnam War, B Coy 4RAR/NZ had its fair share of interesting characters. There was Lofty, Fatty, Skinny, Puddles, Sid, JC, The Duck, Shorty, Stoney, Blinky Bill, Wee Jock, several Blueys, Yogi, Speedy, Squirrel, Hoss, Von, Indian, Snoop, Gomer, Muncher and Rusty – who all had their monikers conferred on them for various reasons.

Although christened John Cornelius Toohey, John was nicknamed 'Flags' because his surname matched Toohey's Flag Ale, a brew preferred south of the border. Mind you, Flags didn't mind a beer or three himself.

My nickname 'Sam' related to the Sam Browne officer's belt – a Scheyville offer I'd rejected at Pucka as it would have landed me in the infantry (heaven forbid). As luck would have it, I later became an

**ABOVE:** Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam.

Checking calculations on a map before moving out on Operation Innamincka is Corporal John Chainey of Mackay, Qld, while Private John Toohey of Goondiwindi, Qld, provides his back as support. Looking on is Lance Corporal Michael Wade of Geraldton, WA, and Private Rod Barwick of Roma, Qld. (AWM: BUL/68/0868/VN)

infantry medic by default.

Flags later found his stars lining him up for the 7th intake of national service and an infantry unit. Transferring from 6RAR to 4RAR after declining corporal's hooks, Flags became a dedicated forward scout for 4 Platoon, where his mates included Fatty, Skinny, Lon and Sheeds as platoon commander.

Throughout most of 1968, Flags literally led from the front; carefully, thoughtfully and skilfully breaking trail for 4 Platoon and, at times, B Coy. The 30kg load on his lean shoulders was not the heaviest burden he carried; the extra burden of responsibility he felt for the lives and wellbeing of the well-camouflaged soldiers following in his wake was much weightier.

A true blue son of the bush, raised in outback Goondiwindi, Flags knew how to 'read' the bush in Phuoc Tuy Province. He could instantly analyse

the unnatural, listen for strange sounds – or lack of – and was alert to movement, shapes, shine, hidden booby trap wires, broken foliage, prints, animal snares, red soil deposits and other signs.

His innate ability to scout with commendable diligence helped B Coy remain fatality free during his tour of duty. As a 7th intake Nasho, his service ended prior to 4RAR's tour of duty and, sadly, B Coy lost two fine young men in February 1969.

On Friday, September 13, 1968, Flags led a reinforced platoon, which included me as medic, at a breakneck pace through several hundred metres of medium density jungle to assist 7 Platoon C Coy.

Their 18-man patrol became locked in a prolonged bunker fire fight, with three men killed and six wounded (half the platoon). We helped clear the bunkers of the North Vietnamese



Army enemy, attended the wounded and constructed bush stretchers for the non-ambulant casualties for the return trip in the dark to B Coy's harbour for evacuation.

Heroic dust-off Hueys (Iroquois HU-1 helicopters) winched both the dead and wounded soldiers through thick jungle canopy by single torchlight at around 9pm. It was only my third day with B Coy, and it was memorable for all the wrong reasons.

Flags had other tough times in Vietnam no doubt, but his biggest fight began not long after discharge, when the first of many aggressive skin cancers developed. For over 40 years, general practitioners and dermatologists sliced lumps and bumps from his face and body, froze spots and grafted vulcaniser patches onto raw surfaces to restore function and shape.

In 2017, following two major facial surgeries, Flags felt an annoying lump in his left eye's orbital cavity. Surgeons gave him two options: leave it alone and plan on three to six months of survival uncertainty, or have the eyeball removed and expect a longer period of grace, following a course of radium therapy.

Flags chose the second option and his ever-supportive wife of 48 years, Gail, and friends help him keep these appointments 200km away in Toowoomba. They also assist in various other ways and, like most front-line veterans, Flags has the usual raft of medical ailments that require regular maintenance, overseen by DVA.

When asked what he does in his spare time, he recited an impressive list of activities in and around his hometown of 'Gundy', without bragging or bluster. Flags is a real doer: A Justice of the Peace; a long-term Legatee; captain and life member of the Diggers' Swimming Club; life member of the Basketball Association (state titles in 1976); life member of the Football Association; Lions Club member; Freshwater Fish Re-Stocking Association

**“ASKED IF HE INDULGED IN SUNBAKING AS A YOUNGSTER, HE RESPONDED, ‘NOT MUCH SURF AROUND GUNDY!’ HE WORE BROAD-BRIMMED HATS ALL HIS LIFE AND WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE SUN’S DAMAGING RAYS.”**

member and 2004 Citizen of the Year. He also conducts golf clinics for juniors and is the only Life Vice President of the Western District (comprising 38 Sub Branches).

To cap it all off, Flags has been President of Goondiwindi RSL Sub Branch since 1975. Asked if he had any post-nominal letters, he replied, “PHF – Poor Harassed Fellow”. It is great to see that his sense of humour remains intact.

His gravel voice stemmed from a long-term career as a stock and station agent, with a penchant for auctioneering livestock. Ranging from Wodonga in Victoria up to Nebo in Central Queensland, Flags covered a large swathe of the outback.

Asked if he indulged in sunbaking as

a youngster, he responded, “Not much surf around Gundy!” He wore broad-brimmed hats all his life and was fully aware of the sun's damaging rays.

He recalled being misted by over-flying defoliation missions on a couple of occasions in Vietnam and – having only a measly litre of water daily to shave, drink or wash – he had no means available to rinse the poison off. Like the rest of us, the insidious facts came out later.

Now both in our senior years, Flags joins me in urging veterans to be more aware of their bodies, their physical and mental health, to seek help earlier rather than later, get second opinions, specialist referrals and to look after your mates by sharing information and genuinely caring.

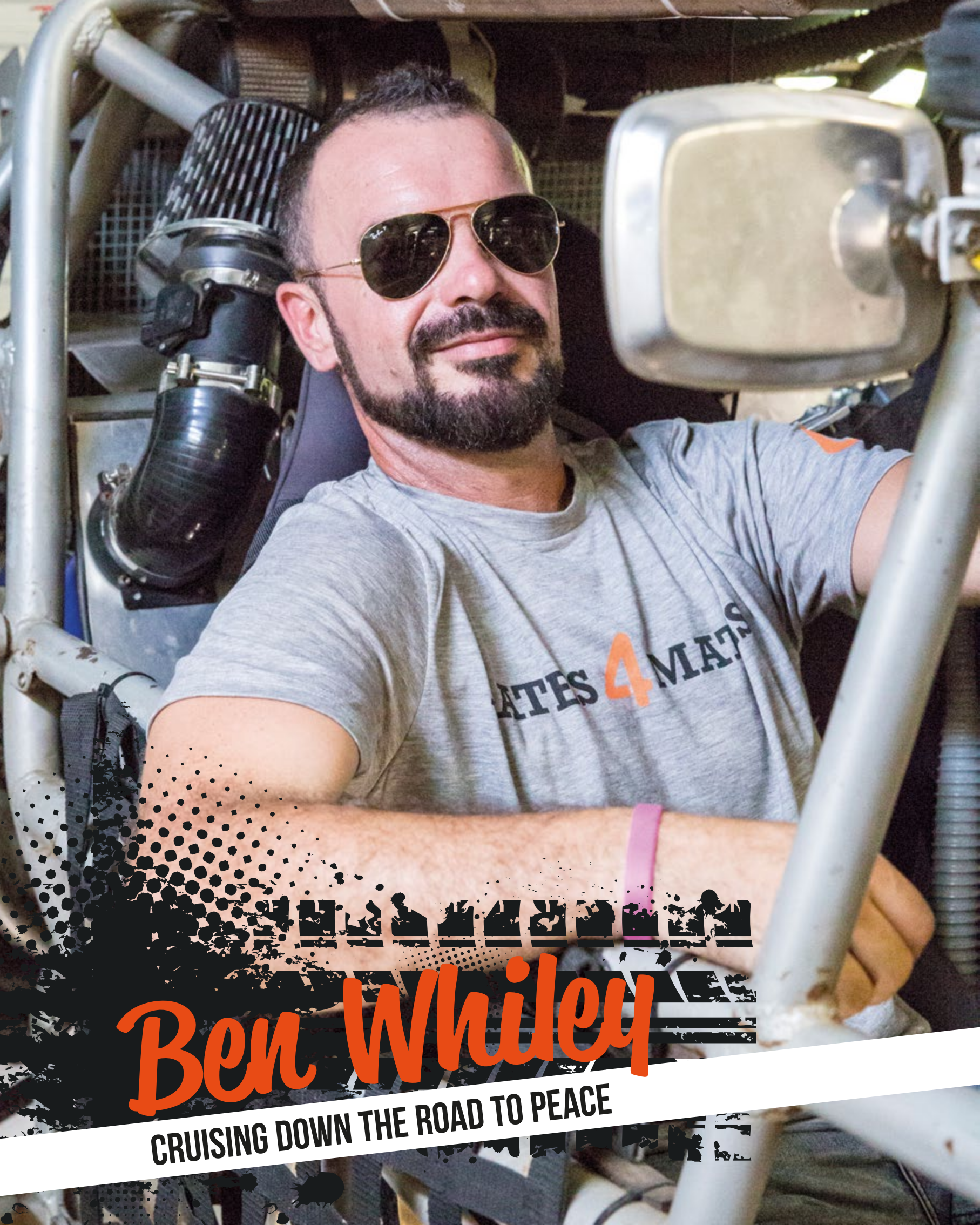
Mateship can do a power of good. Along with his wife Gail – who is equally active in the local community – Flags takes a keen interest in his three grandsons, both academically and in the sporting arena.

Imbued with an indomitable spirit and positive outlook, Flags will continue to fight this current battle and remain stoic. Family, friends and Digger mates offer support to this character – a fine citizen who has gone above and beyond the call of duty many times. Good on you mate, and good luck. ←

**LEFT:**  
Nui Dat, South Vietnam. New Zealand Prime Minister, Keith Holyoake meets Private John Toohey during a visit to the 4RAR /NZ (ANZAC) (The ANZAC Battalion comprising 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and a component from the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment), at the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) Base. (AWM: ERR/68/0973/VN)







**Ben Whaley**

**CRUISING DOWN THE ROAD TO PEACE**



In this second article in a three-part series focusing on some of the veterans behind the RSL RAEMUS Rover program, we meet Ben Whiley, who became involved to help in his recovery from crippling post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

 Christina Underwood

**WITH** three generations of his family serving before him, it was no surprise when Ben Whiley enlisted in the armed forces at 17 years of age. “Growing up and hearing all the stories and reading the ANZAC legend really resonated with me,” Ben reflects. “It was something I always wanted to do.”

Ben spent his early years in Sydney at A Field Battery (an Airborne Artillery Battery) in the Royal Australian Artillery. His first deployment was to East Timor in 1999 for five months, and then in 2005 to Iraq.

After serving for 7173 days (nearly 20 years), Ben was medically discharged in November 2013. He now lives on a farm in the Gold Coast Hinterland with his five-year-old daughter. When asked how he would describe himself, Ben says, “I used to be a warrior, then I turned into a worrier, and now I’m on the road to becoming a peaceful warrior.”

Sadly, Ben faced the crippling effects of PTSD for years by himself.

“Being a soldier, you’re the tough, invincible guy and you don’t want to admit any weakness,” he explains. “It was a very long battle I had behind the scenes.”

Ben suffered from issues such as hypervigilance (an enhanced state of sensitivity, always being aware of and scoping out surrounding threats), anxiety, exhaustion and depression. These issues filtered into every aspect of Ben’s life, until it became a struggle to conduct daily activities and be out in the community.

“It was pretty apparent that when I came home [from deployment] I was completely different,” Ben says. “I was having trouble with day-to-day life, getting out and socialising... I was very withdrawn.”

After years of battling PTSD, in 2010 – when Ben was just 33 years old – the stress he was experiencing led to a physical and mental breakdown. Ben’s body completely shut down, to the point where he had to learn to walk and talk again. It was only after this that Ben started to get help.

Once he discharged in 2013, he explored ways he could help himself and found Mates4Mates on Facebook. He decided to reach out, but it wasn’t easy making the first leap of faith.

“It was a very difficult process getting through the door – it took me three attempts! But when I did, everyone was so friendly and understanding. It was a great experience being welcomed so well.”

At a Monday night barbecue at the Brisbane Mates4Mates recovery centre, Ben heard Ian Baker speak of the RSL RAEMUS Rover program and liked what he heard. At Ian’s track day at Willowbank, Ben jumped in the car, loved it and hasn’t looked back since.

“In Defence, you’re in teams, there’s camaraderie and structure. Once you leave, you’re on your own. To be involved with the [RSL RAEMUS Rover] team – where you rely on each other, there’s mateship and it’s your support network – it feels really good.”

A key milestone for Ben is when he and Ian drove the race car from

Karalee, Queensland, to participate in the 2016 Finke Desert Race, just south of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. Despite facing severe mechanical problems along the way, they made it and crossed the finish line. “One hundred and forty-six cars started and 62 cars finished, including us in last position on three wheels!” Ben says. “The whole experience was great, but it was the amazing teamwork Ian and I had undertaken to get us there that I will always remember.”

Ben took part in the third Finke Desert Race in June this year, where he led the 1962 Series A2 Rover, used as an ambulance in Vietnam during the war.


In September 2016, Ben visited East Timor as part of the Timor Awakening program, run by the Veterans Care Association and sponsored by the RSL. In returning to the country 17 years after he was first deployed, Ben reflects, “In all that time I’d held a lot of pain, anguish and regret. But going back there, I could see how vibrant it was, how forgiving people can be, and it was very healing and inspiring for me.”

Ben’s aspiration is to continue his journey towards recovery, as well as help other veterans in getting the services they need.

“I really believe that passion is the opposite of depression. If you can find something you’re passionate about, it can lift you up from that dark place and help you.”

RSL (Queensland Branch) provides funding to initiatives like Mates4Mates and RSL RAEMUS Rover so they can help thousands of veterans, just like Ben, on their journey to recovery.

For more information on the program, visit <https://www.rslqld.org/ADF-Community/RSL-Partnerships/RSL-Raemus-Rover>.

*In the next edition of Queensland RSL News we will introduce you to Cameron Sherwood, who developed strong bonds of mateship and loyalty through the program that helped with his recovery.* 





# MEPHISTO

## *A SIGNIFICANT SOUVENIR*

The Workshops Rail Museum, Ipswich, is currently home to an important piece of military history.

 John RE Brown

**THE** largest specimen in the Queensland Museum collection is a 33-tonne WWI tank, highly valued, because it is the only remaining German tank in the world from that conflict.

Named Mephisto by its original enemy crew, it is also part of a story in which it was purloined by a Queensland Australian Imperial Force unit. With British assistance, the unit went into no man's land at Villers-Bretonneux to retrieve the tank from a shell crater that held it captive.

The tank was then shipped to Australia

on the same vessel as the unit that had delivered it into Allied hands. Arriving in Brisbane in 1919, a special crane lowered it to the wharf, and two steamrollers hauled it to the Queensland Museum, which would be its curator for the ensuing century.

In recent years, it has gone through a restoration and conservation process at the Australian War Memorial. It returned to Queensland in June 2017, and the public can currently view it at the Workshops Rail Museum, before it is eventually returned to the Queensland Museum, where it will likely remain in perpetuity.

The concept of the design and use of tanks in trench warfare originated from Allied sources, with minimal interest exhibited by Germany, which concentrated on producing armour-piercing projectiles.

The first British tanks were used in the battle of the Somme in September 1916, with mixed results, and up until the battle of Cambrai in 1917 it was difficult to demonstrate conclusive outcomes. But improvements were constant, and the French also produced an excellent tank, of which large numbers were manufactured.

**CLOCKWISE  
FROM TOP RIGHT:**

Mephisto's namesake Mephistopheles, the red-garbed Faustian demon of German literature;

The 57mm field gun mounted at Mephisto's bow; Mephisto at the Australian War Memorial in January; Australian soldiers inspect Mephisto at the 5th Tank Brigade demonstration ground, Vaux-en-Amienois, France.

An enemy artist had painted a scene on the front of the tank representing a demon with a British tank tucked under its arm.

A British artist retaliated, as the picture shows, by reversing the idea. (AWM: E02935)

Germany finally saw the writing on the wall and produced 20 Sturmpanzerwagen A7V tanks in time for the Villers-Bretonneux campaign, where three of the new vehicles came into conflict with five British tanks. Mephisto's crew was forced to evacuate its vehicle under heavy machine gun fire, but the vehicle was later retrieved by the Germans.

The A7V was cumbersome and resembled an angular tortoise. It could hold 16 to 26 men in very uncomfortable conditions. A 57mm field gun was mounted at the bow and the body bristled with six Maxim MG08 machine guns. Each weapon required two men to operate it under conditions of extreme heat. The vehicle was slow and underpowered, as was the case with most WWI tanks.

Mephisto – named after Mephistopheles, the red-garbed Faustian demon of German literature – was engaged in an operation at Monument Wood near Villers-Bretonneux when it became lodged in a shell crater and had to be abandoned.

In a fluid operational situation, the tide of war washed over Mephisto a number of times, until members of the 26th Battalion AIF, a Queensland unit supplemented with Tasmanians, went over under darkness with five British tanks or gun carriers, and hauled it out of its shell crater and back behind Allied lines. The operation was carried out under fire from the enraged Germans and a cloud of poison gas.

The details of Mephisto's journey to Australia are somewhat unclear. One story suggests there was apprehension that the Imperial War Museum was casting covetous eyes in the direction of the 26th Battalion's iconic acquisition. And as the 26th came into Australian waters, there were further fears that the Commonwealth Government might insist on making a prior claim. That was dealt with by diverting the ship directly to Brisbane, where Mephisto was gladly accepted by the Queensland Museum.

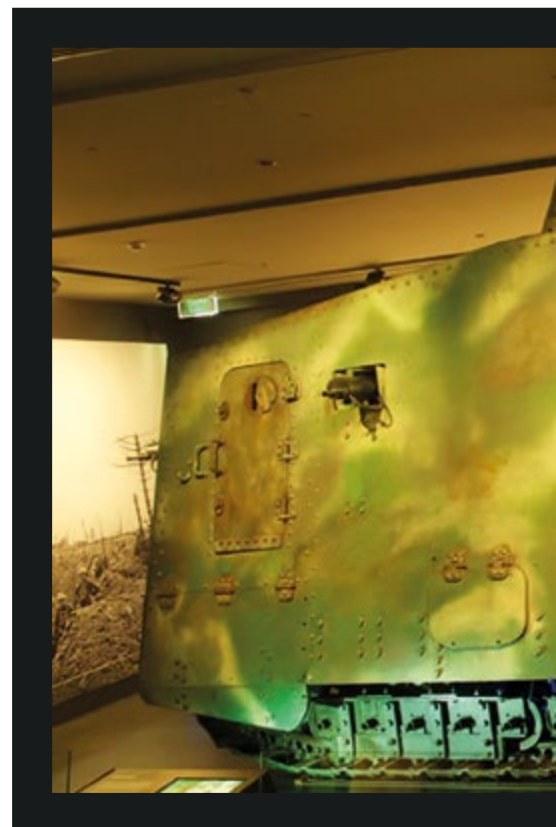
The title Mephisto was reinforced by the original German owners, who painted an image of the demon on the

top corner of the front of the tank, with a British tank tucked under its arm. Before the tank was dispatched to Australia, someone painted a British lion on the side of the vehicle, with a paw clamped firmly on an A7V.

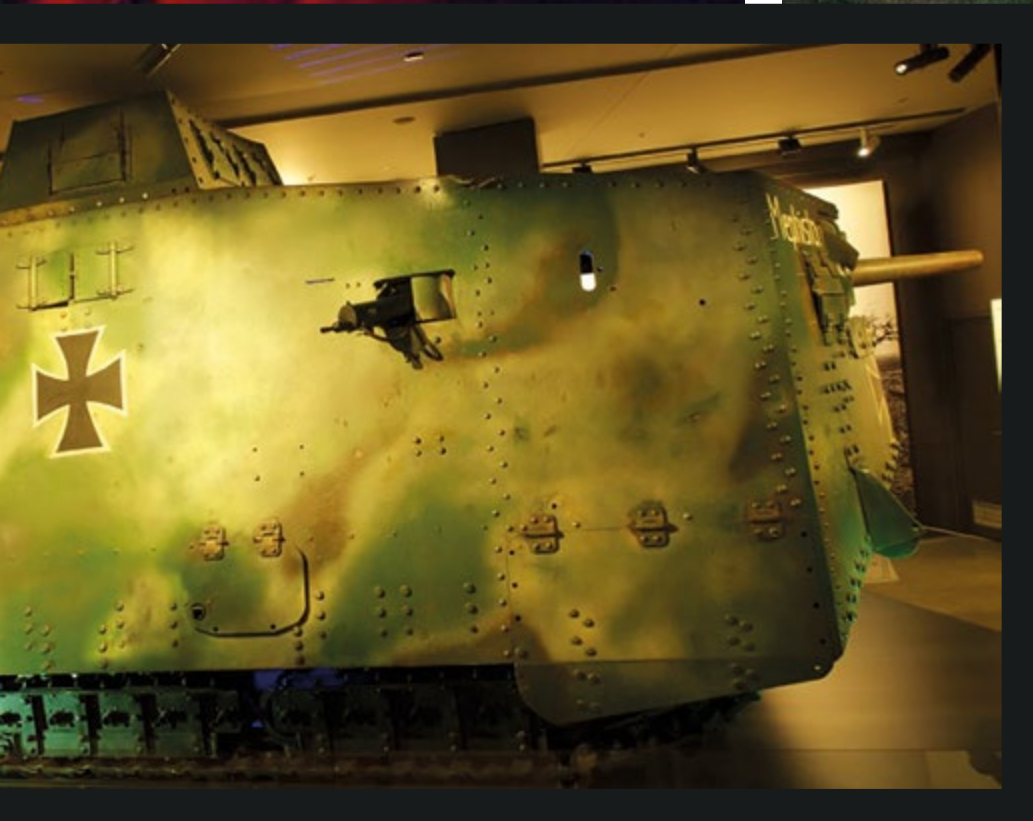
With its unique character and global status as an only survivor of its class, Mephisto has become an Australian cultural icon. It also has a significant heritage in Queensland, because of its connection with the 26th Battalion of the 7th Australian Brigade.

The Mephisto story will now have an additional dimension, which will come from a current doctoral project, where the tank's interior will be restored with 3D scans. Viewers will then be able to take a sound and light show tour through the vehicle's interior, in a way that has never previously been possible.

And while the German museum authorities built a replica of an A7V in 1988 for display, Queensland's version, when it returns to its proud owners, will continue to be displayed as the only original WWI Sturmpanzerwagen left in the world. ←







**“MEPHISTO — NAMED AFTER MEPHISTOPHELES, THE RED-GARBED FAUSTIAN DEMON OF GERMAN LITERATURE — WAS ENGAGED IN AN OPERATION AT MONUMENT WOOD NEAR VILLERS-BRETONNEUX WHEN IT BECAME LODGED IN A SHELL CRATER AND HAD TO BE ABANDONED.”**



# SEPT.

## THIS MONTH IN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY HISTORY

**01.09**  
**1939**

**Germany invades Poland**

The German invasion of Poland led to the declaration of war against Germany by the United Kingdom and France and began WWII.

**03.09**  
**1939**

**Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declare war on Germany**

The Allied Forces of Great Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand responded to Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland by declaring war.

**04.09**  
**1942**

**▼ Japanese evacuation of Milne Bay, New Guinea begins**

The fighting at Milne Bay resulted in the first defeat of a Japanese amphibious landing in WWII.



**04.09**  
**1943**

**◀ 9th Division land at Lae, New Guinea**

The first major amphibious operation undertaken by the Australian Army since the failed Gallipoli Campaign, the Australians invested a significant amount of effort into planning the operation.



**06.09**  
**1951**

**HMAS Anzac bombs targets near Haeju, Korea**

HMAS Anzac was detached from HMS Glory's screen to bombard targets near Haeju, Korea. Anzac was one of 11 Australian ships to serve in Korea.

**07.09**  
**1943**

**Liberator crash kills 59 Australians**

A liberator crashed on take-off at Port Moresby hitting five trucks carrying men of the 2/33rd Battalion; 15 were killed instantly, 44 died of their injuries and 92 were injured, but survived.

**08.09**  
**1943**

**Italy announces unconditional surrender to the Allies**

Prior to this, the Italians had been fighting with the Germans. Despite the Italian surrender, the Allies faced more than a year of difficult fighting against the Germans in Italy.

**08.09**  
**1951**

**Peace treaty (WWI) signed with Japan**

The peace treaty signalled the formal end of hostilities with Japan, though the fighting had ended some six years before.

**11.09**  
**1914**

**▼ Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force lands at Rabaul**

The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force landed at Rabaul and went into action at Bitapaka. This was the only major New Guinea action of WWI.

**12.09**  
**1955**

**2RAR advance party arrives in Penang, Malaya**

Australian forces served in Malaya as part of the Far East Strategic Reserve. Their primary role was to deter external communist aggression against south-east Asia.

**14.09**  
**1914**

**HMA Submarine AE1 lost off New Guinea**

The AE1 and AE2 were the first submarines to serve with the Royal Australian Navy. The AE1 disappeared without trace during operations for the capture of German New Guinea.

**15.09**  
**1939**

**Government announces mobilisation of the militia and establishment of the second AIF for service abroad**

Australia needed to raise a volunteer force for overseas service, while the militia were only allowed to serve in Australian territories.





|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>16.09</b><br/><b>1942</b><br/><b>Japanese advance in Owen Stanley Ranges stopped at Ioribaiwa</b><br/>The Japanese were too ill-equipped and their supply lines too extended over forbidding terrain to enable them to reach their objective – Port Moresby.</p>  | <p><b>16.09</b><br/><b>1943</b><br/><b>Japanese abandon Lae after heavy fighting</b><br/>Lae was the focus of a major land, sea and air operation by Australian and American forces. Fighting lasted until September 16, when the encircled Japanese garrison were either killed, captured or escaped.</p> | <p><b>17.09</b><br/><b>1944</b><br/><b>Damien Parer killed</b><br/>Australian cameraman Damien Parer was killed while filming American troops on Peleliu in the Pacific. Parer's documentary, <i>Kokoda Front Line!</i>, won an Oscar for Best Documentary in 1943.</p> | <p><b>18.09</b><br/><b>1918</b><br/><b>Australian attack on Hindenburg Line</b><br/>The 1st and 4th Australian divisions were successful in breaching the forward edge of the main German defensive line across the Picardy region of France.</p>   |
| <p><b>19.09</b><br/><b>1918</b><br/><b>5th Light Horse Brigade capture Nablus</b><br/>Nablus fell to the Australians during the final period of the war against Turkey. British Empire troops made impressive advances and destroyed several Turkish armies between the Mediterranean coast and the Jordan River.</p> | <p><b>19.09</b><br/><b>1943</b><br/><b>► 2/6th Independent Company capture Kaiapit, New Guinea</b><br/>Kaiapit was needed for the airstrip that was to be constructed there once the Japanese had been driven from the area.</p>   |    |   |
| <p><b>20.09</b><br/><b>1912</b><br/><b>Official formation of the Australian Flying Corps</b><br/>The Australian Flying Corps went on to serve in Mesopotamia, the Middle East and the Western Front and was the forerunner of the Royal Australian Air Force.</p>   | <p><b>21.09</b><br/><b>1914</b><br/><b>▼ German New Guinea surrenders</b><br/>The former German New Guinea was placed under a military government until 1921, when Australia received a mandate from the League of Nations to govern the country.</p>  | <p><b>21.09</b><br/><b>1971</b><br/><b>Battle of Nui Le, South Vietnam</b><br/>Soldiers of B Company and D Company, 4RAR/NZ, fought an intense battle against a large enemy force from 33 North Vietnamese Army Regiment in the north of Phuoc Tuy province.</p>        | <p><b>23.09</b><br/><b>1942</b><br/><b>General Blamey appointed Commander in Chief of Allied land forces in New Guinea</b><br/>On the orders of General Douglas MacArthur and Prime Minister John Curtin, Blamey assumed personal command of New Guinea Force during the Kokoda Track campaign.</p> |
|    |  | <p><b>25.09</b><br/><b>1918</b><br/><b>ANZAC Mounted Division capture Amman</b><br/>The capture of Amman came during the final days of the fighting in Palestine, as British Empire troops routed the Turkish armies and won a series of decisive victories.</p>        | <p><b>25.09</b><br/><b>1942</b><br/><b>HMAS Voyager grounded and destroyed at Betano Bay, Timor</b><br/>HMAS <i>Voyager</i> brought the 2/4th Independent Company to Timor to reinforce Australian troops. The ship came in close to shore to land the troops, but ran aground.</p>                 |
| <p><b>26-27.09</b><br/><b>1943</b><br/><b>Operation Jaywick destroys Japanese shipping</b><br/>An Australian Special Operations Australia Unit operating from the former fishing vessel, <i>Krait</i>, mines Japanese ships in Singapore Harbour. Seven ships were sunk or badly damaged.</p>                         | <p><b>28.09</b><br/><b>1950</b><br/><b>► 3RAR arrives in Korea</b><br/>The Battalion was immediately committed to the United Nations forces' northward advance against the retreating North Koreans.</p>   |   |   |

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

# Fathers of the ANZACS

## BOER WAR MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove described Australians who served in the Boer War of 1899-1902 as “fathers of the ANZACS” when he dedicated the \$4 million Boer War Memorial before 1300 people at ANZAC Parade in Canberra on May 31.

 Graham Davis

“**WE** treasure them,”  
Sir Peter added.

A total of 23,000 Australians served in the Boer War; 1000 of these did not return.

Queensland bookkeeper Victor Jones was the first soldier to die, while nurse Frances ‘Fanny’ Hines from Victoria was the first woman Defence member to perish, struck down by pneumonia, Sir Peter revealed.

He noted that all six colonies provided troops for the conflict and six Victoria Crosses were awarded. “Sometimes it was called the forgotten war. Not today,” Sir Peter said.

The memorial depicts four mounted troopers galloping out of the bush.

Twenty years ago, Colonel John

Haynes OAM realised there were numerous memorials to other conflicts beside ANZAC Parade in Canberra, but none dedicated to those who served in the Boer War. He formed the National Boer War Memorial Association Inc. and, as its president, led the group towards this year’s dedication.

Colonel Haynes spoke first at the dedication, expressing an emotional sigh of relief that the project had come to fruition. Hundreds of direct descendants of Boer War veterans joined Sir Peter and Lady Lyn Cosgrove, Defence Minister Marise Payne, CDF ACM Mark Binskin AC, the diplomatic corps and other VIPs at the ceremony. Sir Peter and Lady Lyn also unveiled a plaque marking the occasion.

They laid floral tributes on the memorial as the Federation Guard provided the catafalque party, the Duntroon Military Band the music, and riders wearing the uniforms of the era lined the knoll behind the memorial. Speakers praised the work of the memorial’s sculptor, Louis Laumen.

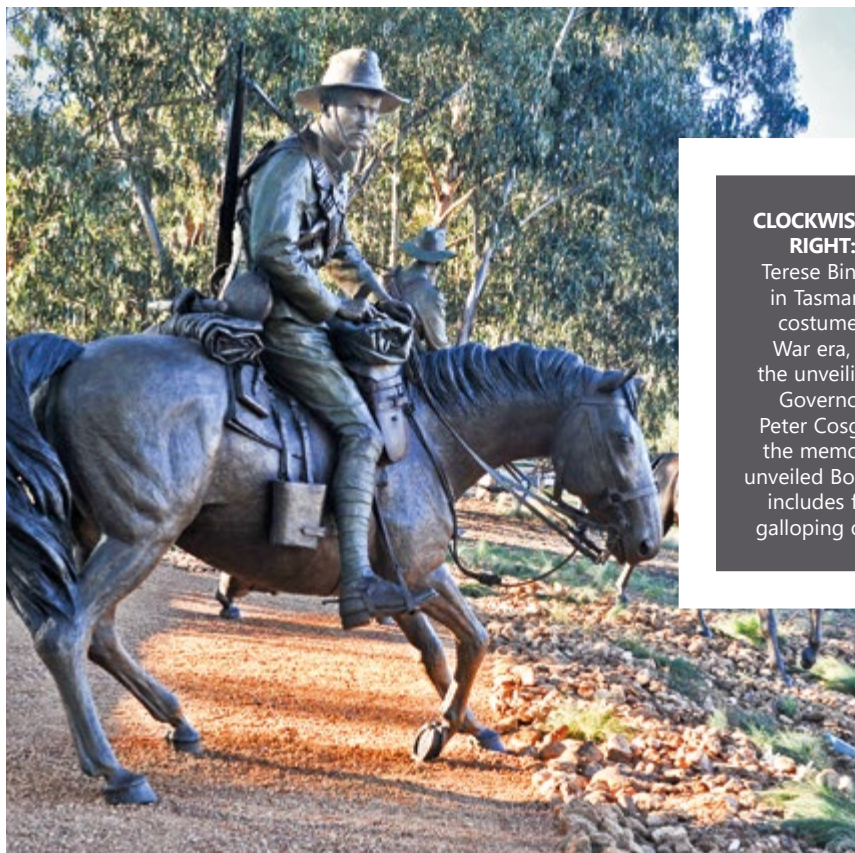
Among the principal wreath layers were Barbara Horgan and Colonel John Cox, the daughter and son of a Boer War veteran.

Sherwood Sub Branch Vice President and Chair of the Dedication Committee, Lieutenant Colonel Ron McElwaine OAM, estimated that 1300 people attended the dedication. ←





**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** "A trooper comes out of the dawn" – one of the four bronze horsemen that make up the Boer War Memorial; Riders, a nurse, soldiers and a sailor in uniforms of the Boer War era; 96-year-old Valma Hunter from Woombye proudly holds a photo of her Boer War veteran father, Corporal Joseph Lock of the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen. Her daughter, Diane Melloy, is a Boer War and WWI researcher, writer and speaker.



**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE RIGHT:** Wayne and Terese Binns of Longford in Tasmania, dressed in costumes of the Boer War era, pay tribute at the unveiling in Canberra; Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove dedicates the memorial; The newly unveiled Boer War Memorial includes four horsemen galloping out of the bush.







# QUEENSLAND ANZAC OF THE YEAR

Few are as knowledgeable about the role of animals in war zones as veteran Nigel Allsopp; and certainly no one is more dedicated to seeing they are remembered.

 Matilda Dray



**REDLANDS** RSL Sub Branch member Nigel Allsopp received the Queensland ANZAC of the Year Award for his dedication to recognising the work of animals in war zones. Nigel was presented with the award at the RSL Queensland State Congress gala dinner on June 24.

“It is a great honour to receive this award,” Nigel said. “I like to think it is the animals of war finally getting some recognition for their deeds and sacrifices. After all, none volunteered; they were all drafted and only a handful until recent times ever returned home.”

Nigel has worked with animals his entire life, including more than 30 years professionally. He feels a calling to speak on their behalf as they have no voice of their own.

“They have given this nation so much. We could not have gone to any war without them; even today, they save Diggers’ lives by detecting roadside bombs,” Nigel commented.

Born in the UK, he was raised on a farm and began his career with a three-year stint in the New Zealand Defence Force’s (NZDF) infantry. Nigel then joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force and spent 18 years as a dog handler, rising to the rank of dog master, where he was responsible for all aspects of canine operations and training within the NZDF.

During this time, he served in many roles, including close protection duties escorting heads of state and royalty, with tours of duty in Moscow as NZ embassy security and Mogadishu, Somalia, as a guard commander.

Following this, Nigel spent 10 years at various international wildlife parks and zoos, where he was highly regarded as an animal trainer and behavioural enrichment specialist. He also served in the Royal Australian Air Force Reserves for five years, and today is Senior Constable in the Queensland Police Service (QPS) Dog Section, where he trains specialist detection dogs for various government departments.



**ABOVE:** Redlands RSL Sub Branch member Nigel Allsopp accepted the Queensland ANZAC of the Year Award for his dedication to recognising the work of animals in war zones at the RSL Queensland State Congress gala dinner on June 24. **RIGHT:** Nigel shakes hands with Police Commissioner Ian Stewart APM and is congratulated by RSL (Queensland Branch) State President Stewart Cameron CSC and RSL National President Robert Dick.



One of Nigel’s passions is the history of animals in Defence, and he is the president and founder of the Australian War Animals Memorial Organisation (AWAMO). The organisation has many achievements, including recognising the 11 tracker dogs left behind after the Vietnam War, with a commemorative tribute at the Australian consulate in Ho Chi Minh City in late 2016. In July 2017, the AWAMO opened the Australian war animal memorial in Pozieres, France.

Nigel is also the author of nine published books, including *Australian War Dogs* and *A Centenary of Australian Animals at War*, both of which are used by the education department. He has also donated thousands of his books to

schools, hospitals, educational groups and museums.

In 2015, Nigel won the QPS Award for Excellence, and in 2017 will receive a Certificate of Merit for specialist dog handler of the year from the Commissioner of Police.

Redlands RSL Sub Branch is extremely proud of Nigel’s achievements, and Deputy President Ian Gray extended his congratulations to their member.

“I have known Nigel for many years, and his achievements are many,” Ian said. “He has worked tirelessly for many years to get war animals recognised for their deeds and sacrifices during peace and war for this nation.” ←

**“IT IS A GREAT HONOUR TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD. I LIKE TO THINK IT IS THE ANIMALS OF WAR FINALLY GETTING SOME RECOGNITION FOR THEIR DEEDS AND SACRIFICES.”**

# NEW ANZAC DAY CHIEF PARADE MARSHAL APPOINTED

Kedron-Wavell RSL Sub Branch member, Major Earle Jennings AM RFD ED (Ret'd), has been appointed the new Chief Marshal of the Brisbane ANZAC Day Parade.

**MAJOR** Jennings has been Deputy Marshal for the past 12 years and succeeds Les Lupuljev, who held the post for more than 30 years.

After being called up for national service in 1959, Major Jennings was posted to the Australian Army Intelligence Corps. He continued his service in the CMF/Army Reserve, rising to the rank of Major before his retirement.

He holds the Reserve Forces Decoration and the Efficiency Decoration, and was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his work with the CMF/Army Reserves. He has been the National President of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia since 2000.

The Brisbane parade has had only half a dozen chief marshals in the 101 years since it became the first ANZAC Day Parade in Australia.

Chair of the ANZAC Day Combined Parade Committee, Lieutenant Colonel Wendy Taylor (Retd), paid tribute to Mr Lupuljev's outstanding work in the complex task of organising the participation of Navy, Army and Air Force personnel, former servicemen and women, nurses, Queensland Mounted Police, community groups, visiting foreign service personnel, Light Horse and historical re-enactment units, military vehicles, guns and tanks.

"Mr Lupuljev was instrumental in the parade keeping pace with growing



numbers of participants, both from the military – due to Australia's ongoing commitments in Afghanistan and the Middle East – and from a wide range of community groups," LTCOL Taylor said.

"There has also been an emphasis on illustrating the development of mechanical warfare, with the inclusion of light armoured vehicles, trucks, armoured personnel carriers, tanks and very large artillery pieces. This has been welcomed by all the small children who line the route."

Major Jennings will pay close attention to security as part of his new role.

"The committee is conscious of our duty to safeguard parade participants and spectators, and we work closely with the Queensland Police and

national security forces and agencies," LTCOL Taylor said.

The 2018 event will highlight the development of war transport to mark the centenary of the end of WWI. This war saw a major transition from using horses for cavalry and heavy transport to mechanical transport, including trucks, armoured vehicles and aircraft.

The committee has asked to borrow the Queensland Museum's historic German tank Mephisto to lead the Cavalcade. Mephisto, captured in a night raid by Australian troops on the Western Front, is undergoing restoration and conservation work at the Ipswich Railway Workshops before being housed permanently in the museum. ←

**ABOVE:**  
Major Earle Jennings AM RFD ED (Retd), right, with members of the Australian War Memorial staff examining the plans for the National Service Memorial in Canberra.



# HISTORIC NAVY STATUE UNVEILED

An imposing two-metre bronze sailor now takes pride of place at Brisbane's Southbank.

 Rudi Bianchi

**CHIEF** of Navy Vice Admiral Tim Barrett unveiled the first free-standing sailor statue in Queensland on May 27 in the presence of Queensland Governor His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC, dignitaries and a crowd of nearly 500 people. It was a proud moment for the naval community, who have bemoaned the lack of a statue for years.

Some time ago, members of the Far East Strategic Reserve Association (Navy) Queensland made it their mission to address the matter. The association approached Brisbane City Council and the Lord Mayor gave his blessing.

At his suggestion, the project came under the banner of the Naval Association of Australia (Queensland Branch), given that it is the state's most senior naval ex-service organisation.

Various sites were examined and Council offered the unused octagonal plinth in the South Brisbane War Memorial Park at Southbank. This proved ideal as it overlooks HMAS *Diamantina*, now located in South Brisbane Dry Dock.


The bronze statue is two metres high and the sailor wears the distinctive bell-bottom trousers that have long been associated with the Navy. Standing beside his well-worn kit bag and waving goodbye to family and

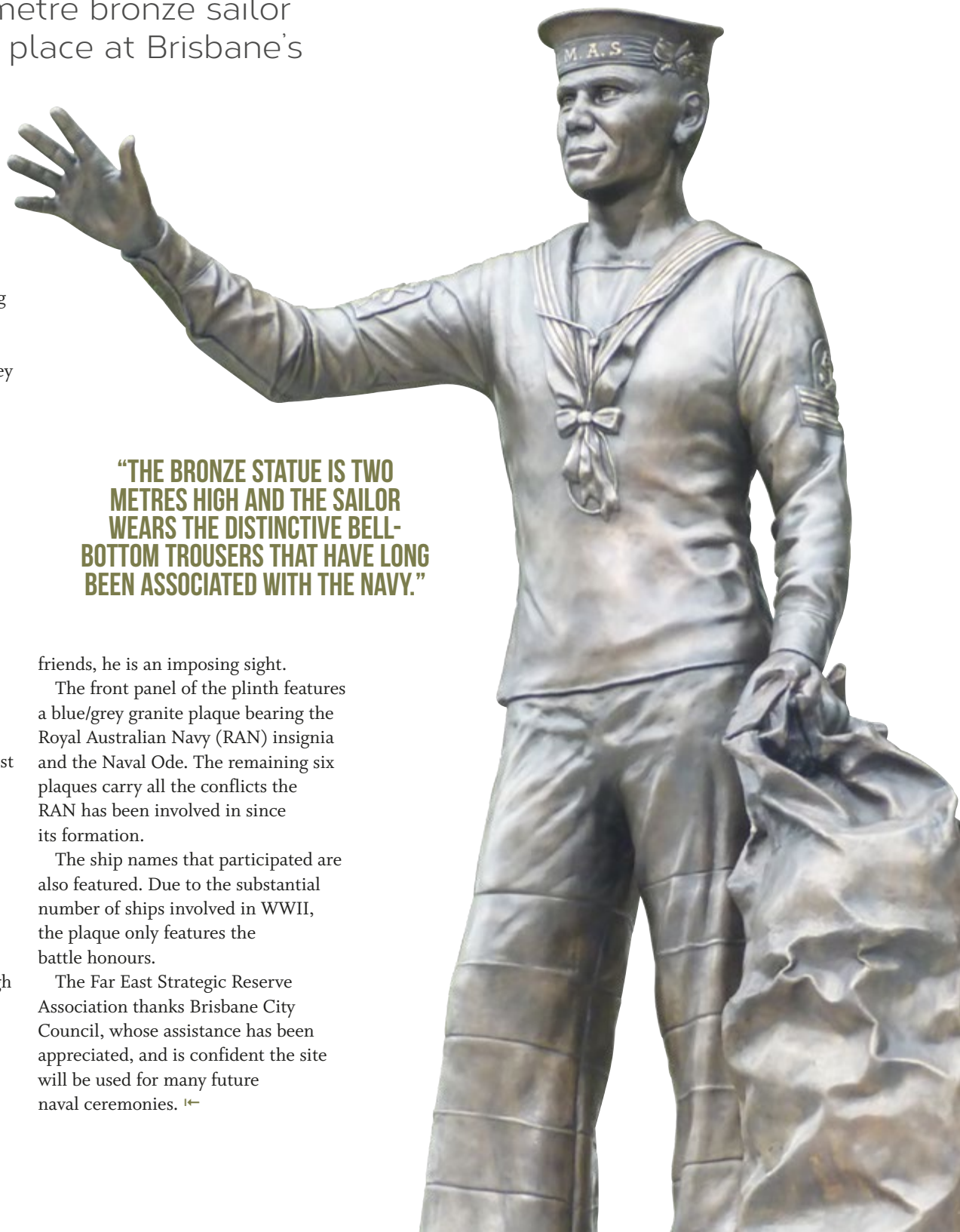
**"THE BRONZE STATUE IS TWO METRES HIGH AND THE SAILOR WEARS THE DISTINCTIVE BELL-BOTTOM TROUSERS THAT HAVE LONG BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE NAVY."**

friends, he is an imposing sight.

The front panel of the plinth features a blue/grey granite plaque bearing the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) insignia and the Naval Ode. The remaining six plaques carry all the conflicts the RAN has been involved in since its formation.

The ship names that participated are also featured. Due to the substantial number of ships involved in WWII, the plaque only features the battle honours.

The Far East Strategic Reserve Association thanks Brisbane City Council, whose assistance has been appreciated, and is confident the site will be used for many future naval ceremonies. 





## ALISON ARMSTRONG RECOGNISED

Maleny RSL Sub Branch recently recognised the contribution of Alison Armstrong OAM, who has been serving the local community and her country for more than 60 years. In 1942, Alison joined the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service and worked with Y Unit in the heavily restricted naval depot of HMAS *Magnetic* in Townsville. She married RAAF pilot Elliot Armstrong in 1945 and they raised a family of four on a property near Toowoomba. Over the years, Alison was involved in numerous organisations, including RSL, Country Women's Association, the National Party, Toastmistress, War Widows Guild, National Council of Women Queensland, Council of Ex-servicewomen and the Queensland Cancer Fund. She has received numerous awards, including the Order of Australia Medal in 2007 for services to the community, particularly through organisations supporting war widows, veterans and their families.



## RIMAU COMMEMORATION

Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch members, ex-service organisations and the local community attended a service at Dayman Park on July 9 to remember the 23 operatives who lost their lives during an abortive raid on Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour in September 1944. President Brian Tidyman led the service, TS *Krait* cadets acted as the catafalque party and Padre Vic Burgess conducted the Prayer for the Fallen.



## BROOWEENA BRIDGE CEREMONY

Members of the Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch 9th Battalion WWI Re-enactment Group participated in the Brooweena Bridge Ceremony on May 20. The bridge was built in 1921 by employees of various properties surrounding the monument. Under the command of CSM Ian Williams, the group mounted an honour guard on the bridge and an eternal flame was displayed as a mark of respect and in memory of those who enlisted in WWI from the community of Brooweena.

## VIETNAM WAR DOGS RECOGNISED

Thanks to the efforts of the Australian War Animal Memorial (AWAMO), the 11 tracker dogs that were left behind after the Vietnam War will have their names displayed on a commemorative certificate at the Australian consulate in Vietnam. The campaign was led by AWAMO President Nigel Allsopp, who hopes it will help heal some of the lingering sadness dog handlers have about leaving their four-legged mates behind.





### BUNDABERG'S SALUTE TO SERVICEWOMEN

The launch of Bundaberg's Salute to Servicewomen at Hangar 161 featured the Australian Honour and Commemorative Roll, Bundaberg Honour and Commemorative Roll and Courage Under Fire tribute. Events were held during the Centenary of ANZAC to mark 100 years since four Australian Army nurses were awarded Military Medals for "courage under fire". Pictured (L-R) are Bundaberg & District Ex-Servicewomen's Association Secretary Leone Wilson OAM, Hon. Keith Pitt MP Federal Member for Hinkler, Bundaberg Regional Councillor Helen Blackburn, Royal Australian Air Force Air Commodore Sue McGready CSC, State Member for Burnett Hon. Stephen Bennett MP, Bundaberg & District Ex-Servicewomen's Association President Jennifer Waldron, Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps and Royal Australian Army Medical Corps Lieutenant Colonel Janet Rasmussen (Ret'd), Council of Ex-Service Women's Associations (Queensland) Chairman Rosie Forster, Tribelangi Bunda, Kabi Kabi and Gooreng Gooreng Elder Cheri Yavu-Kama-Harathunian, Royal Australian Air Force Flight Lieutenant Aimee Mocatta and Royal Australian Navy Warrant Officer Monica Jean Roberts.



### HIGHFIELDS SUB BRANCH PERSEVERES TO HONOUR SEAN MCCARTHY

After a four-year battle with the local council, Highfields RSL Sub Branch has successfully campaigned to have a local street renamed in memory of Signaller Sean Patrick McCarthy, who was killed on July 8, 2008 by an Improvised Explosive Device in the Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan. The Sub Branch is close to where Sean served with 7 Signal Regiment and completed his Electronic Warfare Operator Training. His family continues to live in the Highfields area. Sean was on patrol with the Special Operations Task Group when he became the eighth Australian killed in the Afghanistan conflict. Toowoomba Regional Council was initially unsupportive of the renaming, but the Sub Branch persevered, organising several campaigns, media coverage, getting support from local state and federal members, campaigning councillors on an individual basis and gathering almost 2000 signatures from the local community. The renaming procedure is likely to be finalised in early 2018.

↑ The plaque at the Australian memorial site at Task Group 633.2. (Department of Defence)

### INAUGURAL SERVICE AT 'Z' FORCE TRAINING AREA

Members of the Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch 9th Battalion WWI Re-Enactment Group attended the inaugural memorial service at the 'Z' Force Training Area on Fraser Island to honour the men who trained in the area during 1943 to 1945. Although these men saw covert operations through southeast Asia, including Timor, New Guinea and Indonesia, the most memorable were the men who served on Operation Jaywick and Operation Rimau. The service was attended by some members from the Queensland Park Ranger Service and guests from Kingfisher Bay Resort.







### RE-DEDICATION OF CHINESE HERITAGE WAR MEMORIAL

Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch recently conducted a service to re-dedicate the Australians of Chinese Heritage War Memorial (ACHWM). The service was attended by members of the Sub Branch and the wider community and was followed by a 200-people strong fundraising dinner at a local Chinese restaurant. In addition to maintaining the memorial garden, proceeds from the dinner will fund the seven \$1000 bursaries presented annually to students at various high schools throughout the region, ensuring the ANZAC spirit lives on in the community.

→ *The ACHWM Committee: Brian Ryan, left, Aileen Ryan, Ralph Seeto, Harry Claassen (Sunnybank Vice-President), Hugh Polson (Sunnybank President), Lewis Lee (Chair of the ACHWM Committee), Dr M Cheong, Douglas Ng and Kim Chang. (Photo: Alvin at APhoto Studio)*

### DOG CARE PACKS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

During conflicts in Afghanistan and East Timor, the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation often sent K9 care packages overseas to help service dogs. The organisation still has a few leftover packages and it continues to give these to veterans who are homeless or unable to afford treats for their best mates.

### DONATE BLOOD AND HELP THREE-YEAR-OLD ELKI

Maleny residents are being encouraged to donate blood and join the awareness group, Elki's Donors, to help three-year-old Elki, who was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia in 2015. Her treatment requires regular blood transfusions over two years and so far Elki has received blood donations from at least nine different people. To join the group, a blood donor can sign up for the team and purchase a promotional shirt if they wish. No team donations are specifically earmarked for Elki, but the more blood donated, the more lives can be saved. Maleny RSL Sub Branch member Ken Smith has made several donations and is pictured giving Elki a handmade Trauma Teddy, donated by Mapleton resident Eileen.







### QUEENSLAND RAIL INVESTS IN JULIA CREEK RSL

Works completed by Queensland Rail at Julia Creek RSL were recognised on June 14. Led by Sergeant Mark Mulligan, the RSL has made numerous improvements to its facility in recent years. Mark recently approached Queensland Rail to ask if they were interested in extending the RSL memorial garden to pay tribute to the horsemen and the special bond that extended to the rail link. Many horses used by the Army during WWI were sourced from the area and they were transported using the railways.



### SUNSHINE COAST ORGANISES EXPO FOR VETERAN COMMUNITY

Sunshine Coast and Regional District RSL once again hosted the Veteran, Families and Community Expo on July 23 at Lake Kawana Community Centre. The event helps veterans and their families tackle one of the most challenging aspects of military service – adapting to civilian life after completing their service. There were over 40 exhibitors, a great line-up of speakers, free exercise classes and a firetruck and balloon artist for the kids.

→ Sunshine Coast Young Veteran members Geoff Casson, left, Jane McFadden and Tay Sukhanthapree.



### CROLL MEMORIAL WALL HONOURS FALLEN

Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL held a commemoration for the restoration and unveiling of the Croll Memorial Wall on June 28. The project was part of the ANZAC Centenary Grant program by the Queensland Government. The newly restored wall now lights up at night in honour of all who have fallen in combat for Australia.

### MORETON DONATES CANOES TO CADETS

Moreton District Branch recently donated 15 canoes, paddles, life jackets and trailers to 139 Australian Army Cadet Unit Lockyer. The donation will benefit many cadets aged 12-20 in South East Queensland, who will learn new water skills, gain confidence and practise teamwork. The canoes will have their first trial run in October on the Bremer River, when 40 cadets will row more than 50km over two days.





## GRAHAM BLEAKLEY AWARDED LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Woodford Sub Branch presented a Life Member award to Graham Bleakley, second from the right, on July 22. He is pictured with Sub Branch President Ron Nipperess, left, Barbara Bleakley and District President Tony Ferris.



## HELP ROB AND HIS DOG ON A THREE-YEAR REMEMBRANCE RIDE

Rollingstone RSL Sub Branch member Rob Eade and his service dog are currently on a three-year trip around Australia on a motorised trike in memory of fallen soldiers. Rob is placing a small Australian flag on war memorials around the country with the names of local veterans who sacrificed their lives. His journey began in June 2016 in Baldivis, Western Australia, with a plan to pass through Kalgoorlie and continue across the Nullarbor and through South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory, before finishing back in Perth with a finale at King Park War Memorial. Rob began his journey through Queensland in July and expects to travel 6176km through more than 30 towns in the state. He visited ANZAC Square on July 27 when he passed through Brisbane. Rob is hoping for assistance from RSL Sub Branches and veteran groups in the towns he visits, such as accommodation, a home cooked meal or even a hot shower. Contact Rob on [rob1anzac@bigpond.com](mailto:rob1anzac@bigpond.com) or search "Remembrance Ride Oz" on Facebook.



## ALLAN SCOTT GIVEN ANZAC OF THE YEAR AWARD

Innisfail RSL Sub Branch Vice President and former President Allan Scott was presented with the ANZAC of the Year Award during a Far Northern District Board meeting on May 28. Allan was one of only seven people to receive the annual award from RSL National, which recognises the achievements of Australians who have given service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.







### KOREAN VETERANS' DAY

Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch President Brian Tidyman led a service for Korean Veterans' Day on July 27. He was assisted by Vice President Toby Tidyman and Committee member Simon Morley. The service was attended by members of the local community, including Korean War veterans, Local Member for Hervey Bay Ted Sorenson, and representatives from the Naval Association of Australia Fraser Coast Sub-Section, Vietnam Veterans' Association, Tri-Service, HB Old Salts, HB & District Veterans Association, HB RSL & Services Memorial Club, HB Social Bowls Club, HB Ex-Servicewomen's Social Club and the RSL Women's Auxiliary, all of who laid wreaths at the cenotaph. Korean veterans pictured at the service are Bill Boswell, left, John Hammond, Peter Collins, Max Boag and Victor Fayat.



### WARWICK SUB BRANCH TURNS 100

Warwick RSL Sub Branch, which has long claimed to be Queensland's oldest "continuous" Sub Branch, will celebrate its centenary on November 12 at the group's annual reunion. The Sub Branch was formed in August 1917 and member/author John Telfer is currently writing a history book based on the organisation's records that will be launched at the event. While other Sub Branches were established prior to 1917, Sub Branch President John Skinner, pictured, said Warwick's continuous claim means they have not had a break during those years. Twenty people attended the Sub Branch's first meeting on August 2, 1917 in the Majestic Café in King Street, almost opposite where the Sub Branch office is located today. Meeting minutes for the past 100 years provide an interesting overview of the Sub Branch's work and there are hopes it can track down six years of missing minutes from 1998 to 2004.



### NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S AT STATE CONGRESS

The National Servicemen's Sub Branch sent three delegates to the RSL (Queensland Branch) State Congress in Brisbane in June: delegate Mark Cash, left, second delegate Eric Beutel and alternate delegate Vince Koch. The trio attended all events and sessions over the weekend and left with information to pass along to their Sub Branch.



### 10TH BERT DOWNE MEMORIAL GOLF DAY

Esk RSL Sub Branch held its 10th Bert Downe Memorial Golf Day on June 18. Bert was a Sub Branch member and Vietnam veteran who died from exposure to Agent Orange. This year saw 37 players compete in a two-person Ambrose. Funds raised will be used for the Sub Branch's welfare program, which includes supporting 18 widows in the Brisbane River Valley. Sub Branch President Charlie Elwell and Dave Hunter are pictured with the golf day winners.



### BRISBANE NORTH HOLDS ANNUAL BOWLS DAY

More than 50 bowlers attended Brisbane North District Council of Auxiliaries' Annual Bowls Day at Gaythorne Bowls Club. The professionals section was won by a mixed team comprising Doug (Nundah/Northgate), Sarah and Louise (Deception Bay) and Bernie (Kedron/Wavell). The amateur section was won by Greg Lord's team (Nundah/Northgate). Banyo's amateur team, pictured, won the fancy dress award. Money raised from the day will help fund Diggers Day on September 5, when around 200 residents from residential care and respite centres will be provided with morning tea, lunch, a small gift and entertainment.



### CURRUMBIN RSL SECURES YOUNGER VETERANS GRANT

Currumbin RSL will receive \$24,000 as part of the Federal Government's Supporting Younger Veterans grant. The program is designed to support younger veterans as they leave the Australian Defence Force and integrate back into civilian life. Currumbin RSL already works with several veteran-focused community groups, including the Veterans' Support Centre and Soldier On. Federal Member for McPherson Karen Andrews, second from the left, presented the grant to Currumbin RSL representatives Sub Branch Vice President Bill Thompson, left, Currumbin RSL CEO Anne Stovin and Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch's Ron Workman on June 30.

### BARCADDINE RSL SUB BRANCH UNVEILS NEW MEMORIAL

Barcaldine RSL Sub Branch unveiled a new memorial on ANZAC Day, thanks to funding from the Queensland Government's Community Benefit Fund and capital works supplied by Barcaldine Regional Council. The original concept for the memorial came from the late Garry O'Rourke, with plans developed by his daughter Kathryn. Before his passing, Garry was an active member of Barcaldine RSL Sub Branch and Vice President of the North Queensland District. At the unveiling, the Sub Branch thanked members of the Australian Defence Force for their assistance, including Sergeant David Harrison (11 Combat Services Support Battalion), Catafalque Party Commander Corporal Katrina Holmes (31/42 RQR), Catafalque Party Lance Corporal Steven Gross, Sapper Michael Adams, Sapper Jobe Dalton and Sapper Nathan Grennan all from 35 Squadron, 11 Engineer Regiment Rockhampton.







# TO TELL OR NOT TO TELL — WHAT A QUESTION!

It was a call that changed the course of Tanya Moore's\* life forever, as RSL Art Union's Samantha Watson revealed that the Victorian local is the first-prize winner of Draw 346, and the new owner of four luxury townhouses on the Gold Coast, valued at \$3.5 million.

Receiving this call at work, Tanya tried to contain her excitement as Samantha explained the options and the opportunities this prize would

bring. Once Tanya gathered her thoughts, she explained that she had postponed her PhD due to financial reasons and could now think about continuing her study.

Tanya is a proud, long-time supporter of the Art Union, purchasing tickets since 2011, and is pleased to play a part in helping veterans and their families. Tanya had a good feeling about the draw and pre-ordered a \$20 book of tickets. Going with her hunch paid off, as the third

ticket in her \$20 book was the winning ticket! Plus, as a \$20 book buyer, Tanya also receives an extra \$40,000 in gold bullion!

Ms Moores is now heading off on a well-deserved holiday to visit her son in Finland, and had just one question for Samantha: "Would you tell your son that you won this prize over the phone today, or in person, in Finland?"

As the new owner of the four luxury townhouses in Paradise Point on the Gold Coast, Tanya

now has a world of options in deciding what to do with the \$3.5 million prize. She could make the move to the Sunshine State and live in one of the homes; rent out one, two or all four homes; or sell them.

Congratulations to Tanya and all the winners in Draw 346. From all of us here at RSL Art Union, thank you for your ongoing support as a VIP member.

*\*Name changed for privacy reasons.*



# WIN ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT

*Your own piece of paradise*

**\$** <sup>FIRST EVER</sup>  
**4 MILLION**  
BEACH HOUSE

TICKETS  
ONLY  
**\$5**



**DRAW  
349**

**DRAW CLOSES 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2017**  
**DRAWN 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL  
RENTAL RETURN

**\$104,000**

FURNITURE & ELECTRICAL  
APPLIANCES INCLUDED

**\$150,780**

RSL Art Union No. 349 Licence No. 29819 (by permission of the Queensland Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation). ACT Permit No. R17/00102. VIC Permit No 10523/17. NSW Permit No. GOCAU/1919. TAS HOUSE, 283 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006. Promoter: Vic Reading, Locked Bag 4032, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006. Conducted by Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch). or over to enter. Full terms and conditions are available at [www.rslartunion.com.au](http://www.rslartunion.com.au).





This brand new RSL-built home features three levels of Hamptons style living, each with stunning panoramic beach views. The ground floor has been thoughtfully designed to create a functional family hub where everyone can gather and enjoy this magnificent home. Along with the expansive gourmet kitchen, you will find a cosy living space, formal dining area and outdoor living area that features a six-person spa, separate dining space and direct beach access.

As you continue to explore this 387 sqm home, you will find four bedrooms and a study area on the first floor, including a beautiful master suite that features beach views from the bed and bath. The top floor of this home is where you will want to spend most of your time, with a rooftop terrace that boasts stunning views all the way from Surfers Paradise to Coolangatta.

**WE'RE OPEN!** 167 JEFFERSON LANE, PALM BEACH QLD 4221

Come and visit the team and see what you could win. Display open 16<sup>th</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> October from 9am – 5pm (AEST), **seven days a week.**



SECURE YOUR TICKETS EARLY SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT!  
[RSLartunion.com.au](http://RSLartunion.com.au) or 1300 775 888



Permit No. 75607. SA Permit No. M13341. First prize value: \$4,012,955. Close date: 8pm (AEST), Tuesday 3rd October 2017. Draw Date: Public draw 10am (AEST) Wednesday 11th October 2017 at ANZAC  
 Proceeds are for the purpose of veteran welfare and support in Australia. Prizes drawn in order (e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd). The total number of tickets available for AU 349 is 3,030,000. Entrants must be 18 years



*Your guide to*

# GOOD HEALTH

## THE IMPORTANCE OF A REGULAR VISIT TO YOUR GP

When it comes to serious illness, one piece of advice generally holds true across the board: early detection could save your life. While the first port of call for many of us might be “Doctor Google”, it is a visit to your local GP that could make all the difference to your future health.



**AS** their title suggests, a GP is a generalist. This means they are trained to assist you with a range of physical and mental symptoms and, where required, refer you to specialists. Over the course of regular visits, a GP is able to establish a better picture of your overall health and compile a detailed record of your family history of illness and other risk factors for disease.

Here at the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF), we understand the importance of the GP, and we want to equip them with the knowledge they need to provide the best possible holistic care to their patients.

We also understand that knowledge comes through innovative medical research.

In 2013, GMRF and RSL (Queensland Branch) commenced an ambitious research project to help veterans and their families. The PTSD Initiative was a world-first study, investigating the physical and psychological toll of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Vietnam veterans.

PTSD is a debilitating condition that develops following exposure to a traumatic event. It has a 5 per cent prevalence rate in the Australian population and up to 20 per cent prevalence among veterans. Sufferers of PTSD can experience severely affected quality of life, including relationships, social and vocational functioning, and physical health.

The systems of your body do not operate in isolation. If you're having issues with one system, there is a significant chance of problems developing in other parts of your body. The findings of our PTSD Initiative, as you'll see in the box to the right, reveal the whole-body impact of PTSD.

With the study now published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, we have translated this research into clinical practice, with an education program to help general practitioners and other healthcare professionals better identify the signs and symptoms of PTSD.

To date, 466 health professionals have enrolled in our online education program, with 359 completions. Of those, 94 per cent stated they would

Long considered a solely psychological condition, this research found that PTSD contributed to long-term poor physical health outcomes for sufferers, including:

- Almost four times more likely to have suffered a heart attack in the past
- Two to three times increased risk of suffering from gastrointestinal problems, including irritable bowel syndrome and its associated symptoms, in addition to reflux and stomach ulcers
- Two times more likely to have abnormal liver texture, suggestive of liver disease
- Four times higher risk of fatty liver
- Most likely to exhibit decreased lung function
- Three times more likely to suffer from obstructive sleep apnoea

**20%**  
(up to)  
prevalence rate  
of PTSD among  
veterans

**94%**  
Of health professionals who  
completed the GMRF online  
education program stated  
they would be confident  
managing a patient with  
PTSD

**5%**  
prevalence rate  
of PTSD in the  
Australian  
population



be confident managing a patient with PTSD, having completed the education. When a patient with PTSD comes in for a check-up, a doctor who has completed the education program will be able to flag the physical health ailments (outlined on the previous page) as being of higher risk. Conversely, if a patient presents with a cluster of the relevant physical conditions, the doctor has the training – backed up by research – to organise appropriate screening for ailments and provide, where possible, immediate treatment.

From the interviews conducted in our PTSD Initiative, we know many Vietnam veterans went years – decades, even – before receiving

the diagnosis of PTSD. In that time, they suffered not only from the PTSD itself, but from other physical, social and mental issues. Unfortunately, we cannot rewind the clock to provide the immediate support these veterans deserved, but we can now provide better treatment pathways to current and former service personnel, as well as all who suffer from PTSD.

We have now delivered the education to 230 GPs face-to-face as part of our national PTSD roadshow, and have further presentations planned for GP conferences in Brisbane (early September) and Melbourne (mid-November). This is in addition to the GPs who have completed the education online.

**“THE PROBLEM MANY VETERANS MAY FACE IS THAT THE CIVILIAN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM RELIES ON THEM ACTIVELY SEEKING OUT TREATMENT.”**

## RESEARCH IN PRACTICE



GP Ambassador of the GMRF education program, Dr Phil Parker, is committed to enhancing veteran health.

GP Ambassador of the GMRF education program, Dr Phil Parker, is committed to enhancing veteran health. With over 27 years' experience as a military doctor, Dr Parker is now working as a community GP in Brisbane, and understands the important role a GP plays in early intervention for PTSD and other serious illnesses.

“As a veteran, you should feel entitled to attain medical care from your GP for possible PTSD symptoms. There are many ex-serving members, who have left Defence, who have been exposed to a whole new world of healthcare that they don't really understand, or don't know how to access. A GP is there to guide them through the process,” Dr Parker said.

“The problem many veterans may face is that the civilian healthcare system relies on them actively seeking out treatment, as opposed to a military system where they had an obligation to undertake regular check-ups and treatment for any conditions they have suffered,” Dr Parker said.

According to Dr Parker, families play an important role in encouraging veterans to regularly visit their GP, and in the development and ongoing management of treatment plans for PTSD or other serious health issues.

Take Richard McLaren, a Vietnam veteran and participant in our PTSD Initiative study, for example. Diagnosed with PTSD in 1995, Richard has suffered from severe depression, attempted



## “WE HAVE TRANSLATED THIS RESEARCH INTO CLINICAL PRACTICE, WITH AN EDUCATION PROGRAM TO HELP GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND OTHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS BETTER IDENTIFY THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF PTSD.”

Richard McLaren (pictured with his wife Karen), a Vietnam veteran and participant in the GMRF PTSD Initiative study, said his GP has been a key part of his support network.



suicide, anxiety attacks, social dysfunction and phobias.

“PTSD is a very selfish condition; you cannot think of anything else but yourself, whether you want to or not. It’s been important in my situation to have a very supportive and understanding partner beside me,” Richard said.

Richard’s GP has been a key part of his support network. It is a relationship that Richard says is based on a trust that has been built up over a length of time.

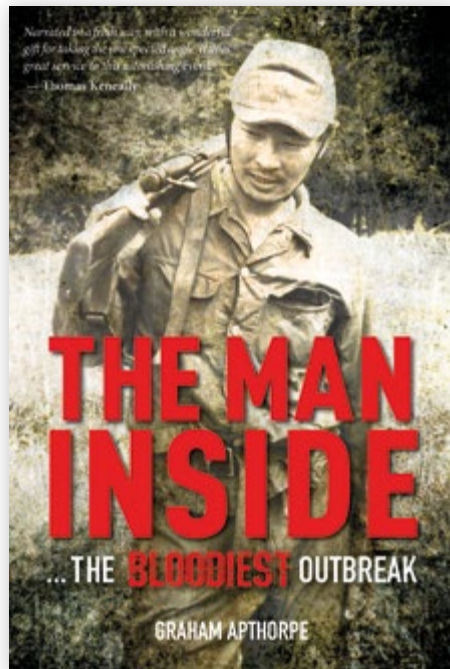
“Going to your GP is like going to a psychologist for the first time, where you need to give them the whole picture so they will get a better understanding of your situation. Veterans need to show a willingness to trust in their doctor.

“It is vital that you are honest from the beginning and your feelings and symptoms are recorded. You may also need to request a longer consultation with your GP to develop a mental healthcare plan,” Richard said.

Once a relatively unknown condition, many Australians now understand that PTSD is a condition suffered by individuals employed in roles where their safety is put at risk. Acceptance of PTSD by the general population as a “real” condition and a significant social cost to the country is growing. This, and increased media attention, instils confidence among sufferers that medical treatment is available, accessible and encouraged.

So, please do not underestimate the role your GP can play in your overall health. A regular check-up with your GP will often be your first line of defence in early diagnosis and treatment of serious illness. They may not have all the answers, but they are well-placed to make sure you get the help you need.

*You can help us spread the word by mentioning the education program to your GP and other healthcare providers, and referring them to [www.thinkgp.com.au/gmrf](http://www.thinkgp.com.au/gmrf). They might be interested to know that they will earn Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points for completing the course.* ←



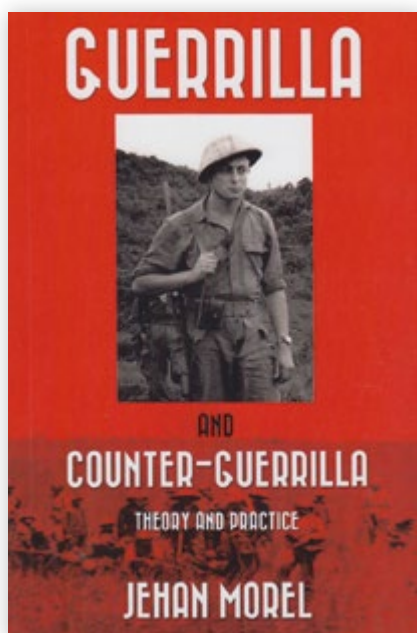
## THE MAN INSIDE

The war in the Pacific has turned; thousands of the previously invincible Japanese soldiers are now being captured in New Guinea and interned at the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp. Unlike other POWs, the traditional Japanese Bushido Code and their fanaticism leaves them ill-equipped for surrender and imprisonment. Ashamed, subdued and sullen, one man, Second Lieutenant Maseo Naka, is an exception. Obstructing the Australian authorities at every turn, he was the first Japanese soldier to escape from Cowra. This action becomes the precursor for the more than 1000 Japanese prisoners who escape in the bloodiest breakout of WWII, which ultimately saw 234 Japanese and four Australian guards killed. His escape, and the defiance, guilt and shame that motivated it, led to his court-martial.

Naka, nevertheless, stands out as very human; another tragic victim of the global inferno that was WWII. Adhering to the Samurai Code of Bushido, he doggedly undertakes actions that he views as necessary for the maintenance of his “honour”. Through the insights of those around Naka, together with new research, including the personal accounts of Australian interrogators, the author shows how this handsome loner provided the impetus for the dramatic events in the early hours of August 5, 1944, where hundreds of Japanese soldiers stormed the camp defences for honour, or death.

*The Man Inside* by Graham Apthorpe is published by Big Sky Publishing (RRP: \$29.99).

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN** one of four copies of *The Man Inside*, email your name, address and contact number to [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org) (with the subject 'The Man Inside') or post to 'The Man Inside', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Competition closes September 4, 2017.



## GUERRILLA AND COUNTER-GUERRILLA

Seasoned soldier and scholar of military science, Jehan Morel, introduces us to the world of guerrilla and counter-guerrilla warfare in a book that is part practical handbook and part historical examination of the major contemporary geopolitical movements.

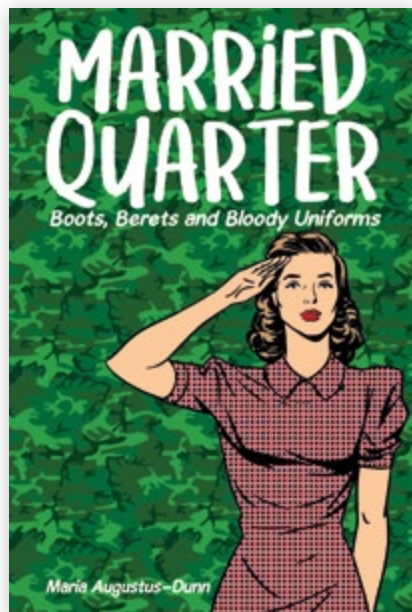
Relying on first-hand expertise from his counter-insurgency experiences in multiple combat theatres in French Indochina and Central Africa, and on his encyclopaedic knowledge of asymmetric conflicts, this thoroughly researched book provides inner glimpses of their actual nature. It is a world where the strong fervour and boldness of rebels needs to be supported by clarity of purpose, strategic planning and perfect execution to achieve their goals: proclaiming the independence of a country under occupation, winning the fight against the country's ruling regime or beating a foreign invading army through a war of attrition.

Counter-guerrilla warfare is also subjected to the same methodical examination that provides the ideal structural foundation of its organisation and the recommended approaches when facing an insurgency.

*Guerrilla and Counter-Guerrilla* by Jehan Morel is available on Amazon.com (RRP: \$16.77).

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN** one of four copies of *Guerrilla and Counter-Guerrilla*, email your name, address and contact number to [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org) (with the subject 'Guerrilla and Counter-Guerrilla') or post to 'Guerrilla and Counter-Guerrilla', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Competition closes September 4, 2017.





## MARRIED QUARTER

Serving the nation in uniform is a career choice. But have you ever wondered about the life of a partner of these brave men and women?

*Married Quarter* is a light-hearted glimpse into the world of the service family, through deployments, postings, illnesses and into retirement.

You will laugh and cry as Maria Augustus-Dunn tells you her story: from the perils of dining-in nights to meeting the King of Cambodia; from her disastrous attempt at making a cheesecake to seeing her husband off for a 12-month deployment; from arriving in Townsville in the middle of a cyclone to breaking down on the side of a mountain in Tasmania with a caravan in tow. *Married Quarter* takes you on a 21-year journey of the highs and lows of life as the spouse of a serving soldier.

This book is dedicated to the thousands of unsung heroes – the military spouses of Australia.

*Married Quarter* by Maria Augustus-Dunn is published by Big Sky Publishing (RRP: \$29.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Married Quarter*, email your name, address and contact number to [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org) (with the subject 'Married Quarter') or post to 'Married Quarter', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Competition closes September 4, 2017.



## QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS WINNERS

*Edition 3, 2017*

### BAREFOOT TO BOEINGS

P Hope, Cleveland  
N Turner, Deception Bay  
R Milham, Wynnum  
D Backwell, Eight Mile  
Plains

### BOMBER BOYS

I Edie, Aitkenvale  
G Thomas, Jindalee  
J Clarke, Birkdale  
P May, Pyrmont

### SCORCHED EARTH

M Sankey, Toogoolawah  
M Saari, Kholo  
D Edwards, Urangan  
R Byers, Eight Mile Plains

### THE UNSEEN ANZAC

D Deering, Forest Lake  
G Vaivarins, Toowong  
L Swayn, Keperra  
G Mehay, Roma



## WATCH OVER ME

It is the present day. The foggy northern city of Port Angelsund is under occupation by the soldiers of Garrison. Sylvie is a young woman just trying to survive. When she is singled out for punishment at a Garrison checkpoint, a young lieutenant rescues her from torture. Though she knows the terrible risks of collaboration, she cannot stop herself from falling in love. Watched by Garrison's vast machinery of surveillance, Sylvie discovers she is also under the protective and suspicious gaze of her lover.

When her older brother returns on a terrorist mission that will throw the city into chaos, Sylvie's loyalties are tested beyond breaking point. Her deep bond with her brother and her illicit passion for her Garrison officer are loves that cannot coexist. Whatever she does is betrayal.

*Watch Over Me* by Claire Corbett is published by Allen & Unwin (RRP: \$29.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Watch Over Me*, email your name, address and contact number to [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org) (with the subject 'Watch Over Me') or post to 'Watch Over Me', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Competition closes September 4, 2017.

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# KASTELLORIZO

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# THE LITTLE BIG ISLAND



Kastellorizo Harbour, Greece.



Tim Dawe finds a little Greek island with a big heart – and a surprising connection to Australia.

**THIS** Greek island is remote. It's as if Zeus hurled Kastellorizo from faraway Mt Olympus to the edge of the Dodecanese, just 2km from the Turkish coast. And this rocky outpost is tiny; it's less than 10sq km. Ironically, its official name – *Megisti* – means big, because it's surrounded by tiny

islands. Two aspects of Kastellorizo stand out: its remarkable history and survival, and the superglue bond of its Australian descendants, 'Kassies'. More on this later.







**ABOVE:**  
Sixth century  
Lycian tomb cut  
into the rock  
face.

**RIGHT:**  
Harbour  
entrance.

The ferry from Rhodes rounds a headland into Kastellorizo's deep, U-shaped harbour bathed in bright sunlight that's sliced in an inky-black shadow from the massive escarpment behind. The Greek flag flies over the stone castle ruins dominating the skyline. A red-topped minaret stands sentinel at the entrance. Terraces of mansion houses radiate their vibrant colours. Ocean-going yachts bob, and people scatter from their café tables lining the narrow *kordoni* (walkway) around the harbour. This scene shatters in a foghorn blast. It's theatrical.

There is much to see here, yet it's possible to see most of the sights in a day or two. I'm here for seven days, necessitating significant changing of gears, adjusting to the slow daily routine. It's late in the tourist season

with fewer yachts moored, and only one cruise ship from Cyprus.

I start my circumnavigation of this harbour-side village from my usual table at Radio Café on the waterfront. Two-storey houses rise steeply behind the *kordoni*; many restored, some crumbling, all the former mansions of a wealthy shipping class. At the harbour entrance the mosque, a legacy of the Ottoman occupation, is now a cultural centre presenting its treasured black and white film featuring many former residents giving their first-account history of the island.

Steep steps winding around close-knit houses reveal the Church of St

Nicholas with its stone bell tower and frescoes. Around the corner a small, courtyard-based museum displays a collection from the island and wider Dodecanese. Higher up is the scuttled shell of the Knights Castle. Prominently placed, it's a stand-out feature over the harbour with views across the Aegean to the Turkish town of Kas. It stands out at night, too – under floodlights.

I step through centuries in a few metres, finding remnants of a Turkish *hammam* and a *granary* before taking the high stone path clinging to the shoreline to picturesque Mandraki. Its name means 'little harbour' and it

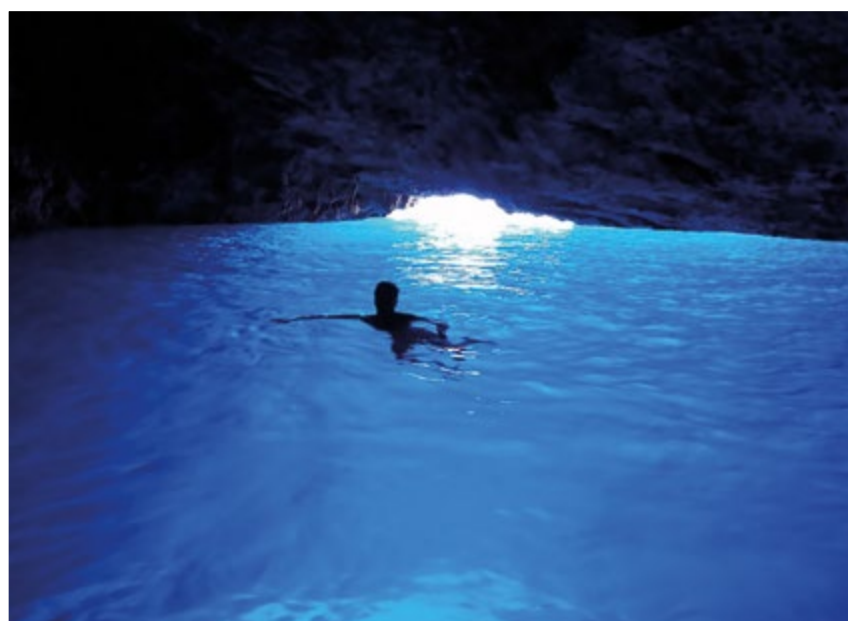






traditionally provides shipbuilding and maintenance services. Stillness hovers over bougainvillea-covered houses, far from boisterous cafés. Diverting to visit the 6th century Lycian tomb cut into the rock, I find the recommended – and welcome – spot for a cooling swim.

There are no beaches in Kastellorizo; it's not that sort of island. Swimming starts with walking down rocks or stone steps, and includes footwear. If the silky water is not wondrous enough, underwater is spectacular. The rock ledge drops near-vertically to unfathomable depths. Crystal clear turquoise and blue dissolve into a kaleidoscope with pinpricks of sunlight shafting through skittish, silvery fish. Everywhere there are broken amphorae. It's extraordinary.



I circle back via the tiny village of Horáfia and the Church of St Constantine and St Helen. Built in 1835, it's a three-aisled domed basilica with an intricate pebble floor and filled with icons. Outside, the square

features a life-size statue of 'the lady of Ro', a local patriot who heroically defied the Turks by hoisting the Greek flag on the island speck, Ro.

Arguably Kastellorizo's premier attraction, the Blue Grotto (*Parasta*) on

**ABOVE:**  
Two-and-three-storey traditional houses in port in Kastellorizo, Greece.

**LEFT:**  
The Blue Grotto (*Parasta*).



the south-east, is a 45-minute boat ride away. The low, slit entrance to this sea cave allows cautious access only at low tide. Once inside the large chamber, with its stalactites and the odd seal, the magic of light begins. Its angle infuses the space with a strange blue light. It's world class. Another must-do boat ride is to Kas, founded by Kastellorizians in the 18th century. It's a lovely tourist town of 8000 – Turkey's gem on the Turquoise Coast. Friends and I hire a fisherman for transport. We shop and walk a little, particularly to the ancient amphitheatre, later enjoying a splendid open-air dinner. Back to the island in blackness.

A stone path slashes a white zig-zag across the darkened, near-vertical escarpment at the foot of the harbour. It's quite a climb, best done early in the day. With each step there are ever-higher, glorious glimpses through cypress pines of the harbour and the village. The last step presents something dramatically different: a flat, rocky and barren plateau. It's hot and the silence is palpable. There's barely a weed to feed a stray goat, but there's evidence of former habitation, and the ruins of St George of the Mountain monastery. And a goat.

An extremely brief history of Kastellorizo could be characterised as 'caught in the crossfire'. The Knights of St John, who ruled the eastern Mediterranean from 1309-1522, built their castle here on intersecting ancient sea lanes. They were ousted by the Venetians, who were ousted by the Ottomans. But it's recent history that Kassies remember. In 1913 the islanders rebelled against a weakened Ottoman Empire but were rebuffed by Athens, causing Kastellorizo to become a pawn of the Great Powers in two world wars. The entire population of 15,000 was evacuated during WWII before the village was flattened by German bombing and later razed by fire; a once prosperous community reduced to rubble. Most chose not to return. Many settled in Australia. Today there are 327 island residents,

yet 50,000 Kassies live in Australia.

It's those Kassies from the diaspora that I see, and hear, around me. My visit coincides with the AFL Grand Final. It's odd to see scores of Aussies yelling at TV screens in these tiny harbour-side cafés. Locals look bemused or, heads down, ply the barrackers with food, ouzo and coffee. It's a joy moving between Kassie families, many inter-related, some with three generations here. We gather for dinners and outdoor dancing. I hear of 'Kassie fever', an irrational exuberance – particularly buying degraded property – and the phrase 'giving back to the island of our forebears'.

Locals tell me that as single men they built houses in Darwin or picked grapes at Mildura. Unable to adjust, they returned from remote Australia to remote Kastellorizo. Some Kassies visit occasionally, others once or twice a year, but all enjoy a strong bond of not only Greek but Kastellorizian heritage. It's a casual, carefree atmosphere of kinship, and a privilege I share briefly. But it's time to leave this little island with its big heart. ←

**"OCEAN-GOING YACHTS BOB, AND PEOPLE SCATTER FROM THEIR CAFÉ TABLES LINING THE NARROW KORDONI (WALKWAY) AROUND THE HARBOUR. THIS SCENE SHATTERS IN A FOGHORN BLAST. IT'S THEATRICAL"**



An ocean-going yacht waits in the harbour.



## FACT FILE

### TRANSPORT FROM RHODES

- [www.bluestarferries.com](http://www.bluestarferries.com)
- [www.fantasticgreece.com](http://www.fantasticgreece.com) (airline)
- [www.olympicair.com](http://www.olympicair.com)
- [www.aegeanair.com](http://www.aegeanair.com)

### ACCOMMODATION

- [www.megistihotel.gr](http://www.megistihotel.gr)
- [www.mediterraneo-megisti.com](http://www.mediterraneo-megisti.com)

### KAS, ANTALYA, TURKEY

- [www.papoutsistravel.4ty.gr](http://www.papoutsistravel.4ty.gr)
- For a local boat to Kas or elsewhere, enquire along the kordoni.



| Last Name   | First Name | Service No.      | Sub Branch   |
|-------------|------------|------------------|--|
| Ace         | Terence    | S4776            | Townsville Sub Branch Inc.                         |
| Ballingall* | Robert     | 41266            | Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.                     |
| Barber      | Ernest     | PM4970           | Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.                       |
| Barnes      | John       | B/4994           | Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Beetson     | Ronald     | 27411            | Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.                         |
| Besgrove    | Selwyn     | 1/722695         | Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.                            |
| Birch       | Charles    | 408156           | Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.                       |
| Blain       | Gordon     | 151605           | Bray Park-Strathpine Sub Branch Inc.               |
| Bleakley    | Ivan       | QX36879 (Q41757) | Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc. |
| Boase       | Walter     | V510788          | Clayfield-Toombul Sub Branch                       |
| Bowers      | Frank      | 4025628          | Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Brandli     | Margaret   | SF113613         | Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.          |
| Brebner     | Ivor       | 23128845         | Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.          |
| Brennan     | Terence    | 4119765          | Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Brewer      | Leonard    | NZ/414235        | Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.                       |
| Brooke      | Charles    | RN131537         | Southport Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Brooks      | Wayne      | A123774          | Proston Sub Branch                                 |
| Brown       | Raymond    | A45107           | Townsville Sub Branch Inc.                         |
| Burling     | Ronald     | 171612           | Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Camm*       | Robert     | 3/713624         | Nambour Sub Branch Inc.                            |
| Campbell    | Alastair   | 1/710493         | Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Canard      | Robert     | 4/1026           | Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Carter      | Evelyn     | 102222           | Warwick Sub Branch Inc.                            |
| Chambers    | Douglas    |                  | Maleny Sub Branch Inc.                             |
| Chawynski   | Vladimir   | 37016            | Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.               |
| Chinn       | Robert     | 155228           | Innisfail Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Clark*      | Arthur     | R206625          | Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.                          |

| Last Name   | First Name | Service No.      | Sub Branch                                   |
|-------------|------------|------------------|--|
| Cook        | Ronald     |                  | Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.                    |
| Cooper      | Kenneth    | 14485326         | Goodna Sub Branch Inc.                       |
| Cornell     | Charles    |                  | Nundah-Northgate Sub Branch Inc.             |
| Cowell      | Raymond    | 3786782          | Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.               |
| Crook       | John       | 3005746          | Richmond Sub Branch (NSW)                    |
| Crowson     | Robert     | S10300 - 2/61668 | Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.    |
| Cunnington  | Annette    | W85818           | Atherton Sub Branch Inc.                     |
| Day         | Gordon     | 7776NS           | Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.       |
| De Horne    | John       | A115952          | Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch                   |
| De-Giovanni | Adalberto  | 10683896343      | Maleny Sub Branch Inc.                       |
| Dennis      | Desmond    | 150774           | Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.    |
| Depper      | Cecil      | 1/400350         | Bardon Sub Branch Inc.                       |
| Duffy       | Geoffrey   | 1/702593         | Seaforth Sub Branch Inc.                     |
| Dunne       | Michael    | A312632          | Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.    |
| Dyball      | Harold     | 23696            | Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.                    |
| Ebb         | Edward     | b2910            | Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.       |
| Eeles       | John       | VX47100          | Caboolture-Morayfield & Dist Sub Branch Inc. |
| Ellems      | Allan      | A115968          | Herbert River Sub Branch Inc.                |
| Espie       | Gregory    | F46649           | Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.                    |
| Fieldhouse  | Joy        | W182001          | Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.                 |
| Fielding    | Adrian     | 0119268          | Tin Can Bay Sub Branch Inc.                  |
| Fossey      | Ferne      | F35009           | Caboolture-Morayfield & Dist Sub Branch Inc. |
| Fraser      | Thomas     | QX4931           | Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.                    |
| Geldard     | Kenneth    | QX24634          | Miles Sub Branch                             |
| Gibson      | Trevor     | WX41894          | Clayfield-Toombul Sub Branch                 |
| Giezen      | Cornelis   | 219428           | Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.                    |

| Last Name | First Name | Service No.      | Sub Branch   |
|-----------|------------|------------------|--|
| Gilbert   | Alan       | R58140           | Redlands Sub Branch Inc.                           |
| Gode      | William    | A170046          | Russell Island Sub Branch Inc.                     |
| Goltz     | James      | 1/703696         | Grantham-Ma Ma Creek Sub Branch                    |
| Gorey     | Maurine    | WR2403           | Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Grant     | Wayne      | S128995          | Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc. |
| Hamilton  | Marcelle   | 1/33239          | Sarina Sub Branch Inc.                             |
| Hayden    | Bryan      | 165109           | Sunnybank Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Hemmings* | Raymond    | A16361 (123494)  | Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.              |
| Hepburn   | John       | 68063            | Cairns Sub Branch Inc.                             |
| Horne     | Charles    | 13044496         | Mossman Sub Branch Inc.                            |
| Howard    | Kevin      | 13359            | Bardon Sub Branch Inc.                             |
| Howe      | David      | A124425          | Gympie Sub Branch Inc.                             |
| Hughes    | Brian      | 1/719605         | National Servicemens Sub Branch Inc.               |
| Hughes    | David      | 2/57841          | Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Hull      | June       | QF272028         | Mackay Ex-Service Women Sub Branch Inc.            |
| Hunt      | Carl       | 23116430         | Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.                         |
| James*    | Rhondda    |                  | Cooktown Sub Branch Inc.                           |
| Jameson   | James      | 1737125          | Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc. |
| Johnson   | Edith      | 275931 / W245931 | Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.               |
| Johnson   | Keith      | FX619913         | Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Johnstone | John Cowan | 4166807          | Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.                   |
| Jones     | John       | 14211            | Innisfail Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Jones     | Reginald   | 6148085          | Sunnybank Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Juckel    | Dieter     | 38520            | Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.                         |
| Keith     | Mervyn     | 1/701267         | Townsville Sub Branch Inc.                         |
| Kimlin    | Alexander  | 426351           | Redlands Sub Branch Inc.                           |
| King      | Robert     | R51986           | Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.             |
| Kinnane   | Neal       | 14546            | Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.                             |

| Last Name | First Name | Service No.        | Sub Branch   |
|-----------|------------|--------------------|--|
| Klassmann | Francis    | 4703897            | Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.                         |
| Ladley    | Colin      | 1/709819           | Finch Hatton Sub Branch Inc.                       |
| Lamberton | Robert     | 860355             | Cairns Sub Branch Inc.                             |
| Landy     | Gerald     | 1911077            | Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.                    |
| Legge     | Daphne     | 101196             | Dalby Sub Branch Inc.                              |
| Lucas     | George     | 22026718           | Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.          |
| MacCarthy | Kenneth    | 135163             | Mareeba Sub Branch                                 |
| MacQueen  | Ian        | 214212             | Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.               |
| Major     | Mervyn     | 426997             | Redlands Sub Branch Inc.                           |
| Marsden   | Elizabeth  | 270923             | Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.                             |
| Marsh     | John       | A112701            | Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Marshall  | Edgar      | 79201              | Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.                        |
| Maskill   | Kenneth    | NX167652 (N199202) | Helidon Sub Branch Inc.                            |
| Maynard   | Walton     | QX60038            | Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.                      |
| McCrone   | Thomas     | 1715907            | Sarina Sub Branch Inc.                             |
| McCrystal | Neil       | QX49393 (Q126192)  | Samford Sub Branch Inc.                            |
| McKeown   | James      | 14515              | Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.                      |
| McPhail   | Charles    | A13575             | Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.                      |
| Mellows   | James      | PLY115190          | Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Menagh    | John       | 1731899            | Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc. |
| Murchie   | Dana       | R117559            | Caboolture-Morayfield & Dist Sub Branch Inc.       |
| Murphy    | Frank      | QX36241 (Q8139)    | Dalby Sub Branch Inc.                              |
| Murray    | Dorothy    | 99189              | Gympie Sub Branch Inc.                             |
| Naylor*   | Malcolm    | 119042             | Nambour Sub Branch Inc.                            |
| Neal      | Doreen     | VF508827           | Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.          |
| Nicholson | Eric       | 14916089           | Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.                          |
| Obersky   | Daniel     | 2337               | Gordonvale Sub Branch                              |



| Last Name   | First Name | Service No.       | Sub Branch                                   |
|-------------|------------|-------------------|--|
| O'Brien     | Noel       |                   | Caboolture-Morayfield & Dist Sub Branch Inc. |
| O'Hora      | Terence    | R95628            | Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.                    |
| O'Rourke    | Sidney     | N239871           | Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.             |
| Orr         | Morris     | NX135809 (N53350) | Southport Sub Branch Inc.                    |
| Osbaldeston | Eric       | QX9172            | Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.                |
| Page        | Victor     | 1733648           | Malanda Sub Branch                           |
| Palmer      | Warwick    | 2794047           | Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.         |
| Peel*       | John       | 14183997          | Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.                |
| Plant       | Clyde      | 14940             | Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.    |
| Rainbow     | Ernie      | 327782            | Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.                    |
| Reidlinger  | Robin      | 0119826           | Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.                      |
| Rice        | Graham     | 101092            | Redlands Sub Branch Inc.                     |
| Rice        | Joseph     | 6410243           | Redlands Sub Branch Inc.                     |
| Rice        | Harold     | 61853             | Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.                       |
| Richards    | Frederick  | NX207425          | Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.                    |
| Robertson   | Preston    | A12812            | Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.          |
| Ross        | William    | B3860             | Redlands Sub Branch Inc.                     |
| Satchell*   | Rayson     | 64768             | Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.    |
| Sawyer      | Ronald     | 37891             | Townsville Sub Branch Inc.                   |
| Sheeran     | Stanley    | QX53405           | Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.                    |
| Siren       | Stig       | 53242             | Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.         |
| Smith       | Douglas    | Q108403/ QX49875  | Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.                    |
| Smith       | Kevin      | QX39877 (Q99469)  | Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.         |
| Solway      | Michael    | 122175            | Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.       |
| Souter      | Robert     | V508657           | Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.                  |

| Last Name      | First Name | Service No.    | Sub Branch                                |
|----------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Spethman       | Dorothy    | WR/903         | Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.             |
| Stirling       | Harold     | 30256          | Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.                |
| Stone*         | Victor     | B3878          | Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.     |
| Taylor*        | Colin      | QX51759        | Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.             |
| Tiziani        | Luigi      | SX39752        | Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc. |
| Tocque         | Donald     | 2729938        | Mareeba Sub Branch                        |
| Turner         | Barry      | R46189         | Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.              |
| Van Dyken      | Tom        | A217790        | Russell Island Sub Branch Inc.            |
| Volker         | Graham     | 2958           | Townsville Sub Branch Inc.                |
| Wallis         | James      | 150940 / A1374 | Redlands Sub Branch Inc.                  |
| Wanless        | Richard    | A219114        | Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.                 |
| Watkins-Barber | Dorothy    | NF480560       | Cairns Sub Branch Inc.                    |
| Webb           | Henry      | A124580        | Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.    |
| Webb           | James      | NX193863       | Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc. |
| Webster        | Robert     | R52646         | Gladstone Sub Branch Inc.                 |
| Weir           | John       | 178894         | Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.                 |
| Whelan         | Graeme     | R94350         | Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc. |
| Whiles         | John       | 22195121       | Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.                 |
| Whitlock       | Gordon     | PM6640         | Southport Sub Branch Inc.                 |
| Whitmore       | Arthur     | NX57938        | Southport Sub Branch Inc.                 |
| Williams       | Fenwick    | 143890         | Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.                 |
| Williams       | Ian        | NX152278       | Redlands Sub Branch Inc.                  |
| Wilson         | Dorothy    | W24627         | Redlands Sub Branch Inc.                  |
| Wilson         | Allan      | 435494         | Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.    |
| Wregg          | Colin      | 1732815        | Centenary Suburbs Sub Branch Inc.         |
| Yates          | Walter     | A12148         | Toowoomba United Sub Branch Inc.          |

# COMMUNITY CONNECT

## NUNDAH NORTHGATE HOSTS BATTLE OF MILNE BAY SERVICE

Nundah Northgate RSL Sub Branch will host a memorial service to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay on Sunday, August 27, 2017 in Nundah Memorial Park at the corner of Bage Street and Buckland Road, Nundah, commencing at 10am. All veterans, their families and members of the community are invited to attend. For further information, call the Sub Branch on 07 3256 7887 or email [nu07770@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nu07770@bigpond.net.au).

## NEW HOME FOR OLD MEMORIAL

The Battle for Australia Memorial will be dedicated at its new home at Chermide Historical Precinct, 61 Kittyhawk Drive, Chermide, on the Battle for Australia Day, September 6, 2017. Due to the Queens Wharf Brisbane project, the memorial was shifted from its old location on George Street to its new location last year by the stonemasons of the Queensland Government, who created the memorial. The dedication ceremony will precede the annual Battle for Australia Commemoration Service for the 75th anniversary, which begins at 10.30am. The service will be followed by morning tea in the Milne Bay Memorial Library and Research Centre. For further information, contact Pat O'Keefe on 0407 574 097 or [pjok1941@gmail.com](mailto:pjok1941@gmail.com).

## SEARCHING FOR DESCENDANTS

A group is seeking to contact descendants and relatives of Australians who were decorated by Serbia for their services anywhere in the Great War, or served in Serbia in 1914-16 or at the Salonika (or 'Balkan' or 'Macedonian') Front in 1916-1919. These ancestors include AIF soldiers, Australians who served in British Forces at Salonika, AANS nurses who served in Salonika and medical volunteers with the Scottish Women's Hospitals, British Red Cross and similar organisations. There are several Queenslanders who served in these groups, whose current relatives we would like to contact to exchange information and to invite them to a ceremony of commemoration of these Australians in the Great War, scheduled for 2018. To contact the group, please email them at [bjpiris@gmail.com](mailto:bjpiris@gmail.com).



## DATE CLAIMER – BEERSHEBA CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

On October 31, 1917, after riding through the desert for two days, the 4th and 12th Regiments of the Australian Light Horse were given the order to capture the wells at Beersheba. Their bold charge across five kilometres of open landscape against Turkish cannon and machine guns is remembered 100 years later as the last great cavalry charge. To commemorate the centenary of Beersheba, 2/14 Light Horse Regiment

(Queensland Mounted Infantry) will lead a Freedom of Entry to the City of Brisbane March on the morning of October 28. This will be followed by a Family Fun Day hosted by RSL (Queensland Branch). Keep an eye on the RSL Runner for more details closer to the date.

## EXHIBITION COMMEMORATES BEERSHEBA

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



Volunteers Ken Matuszczak and Robert Bell from the Australian Army Flying Museum at Oakey enjoying a tour of Victoria Barracks Brisbane hosted by the Army Museum South Queensland.

## SEARCHING FOR DESCENDANTS OF GE WOODLEY

Looking for descendants of GE (George Ernest) Woodley – QX24119 2/28th Battalion Private. Date of birth: September 20, 1909; place of birth: London, England; enlisted: Mount Nebo, Queensland, on October 7, 1941; discharged: January 9, 1946. Listed in the 2/28th Battalion Nominal Role. Next of kin: Clive Woodley. Would have served in New Guinea. I have his Dog Tag and would like to reunite it with his family. George would have crossed paths with Sgt Joseph (Joe) White (WX6080) (my grandfather) at some point. I have been asked by my late grandmother Madeline (Madge) White to continue the search for the family of George Ernest Woodley. I can be contacted on 0439 388 474.

**Madeline Evans (granddaughter)**

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY

The Australian National Flag Association (Queensland) encourages Australians to commemorate National Flag Day on September 3. This will be the 116th "birthday" of the Australian flag, and many



## 1 FIELD SQUADRON GROUP RAE

Reunion of 1 Field Squadron Group RAE will take place at Twin Towns Services Club at Coolangatta-Tweed Heads, August 25-27, 2017. Contact Robin Farrell on 07 4661 7791, [info@1fieldsappers.org](mailto:info@1fieldsappers.org) or PO Box 703, Warwick, Qld, 4370.

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MILNE BAY

Nundah Northgate RSL Sub Branch will host a memorial service to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay from 10am on Sunday, August 27, 2017 in Nundah Memorial Park, at the corner of Bage Street and Buckland Road, Nundah. All veterans, their families and members of the community are invited to attend. For more information, call the Sub Branch on 07 3265 7887 or email [nu07770@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nu07770@bigpond.net.au).

## 10TH INTAKE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN 50TH ANNIVERSARY

We would like all National Servicemen called up for National Service in October 1967 to join us for a reunion in Sawtell, NSW, from October 1-8, 2017 for a 50th reunion of our conscription. Accommodation is available at the Sawtell Beach Holiday Park, 5 Lyons Rd, Sawtell (02 6653 1379/1800 200 555, or [info@sbhnpark.com.au](mailto:info@sbhnpark.com.au)). Overseas service not a requirement. Contact Peter Beauchamp on 0418 751 812 or email [pbeaul@bigpond.com](mailto:pbeaul@bigpond.com) for further information about the reunion.

## HMAS DUCHESS REUNION 2017 – NEW VENUE AND DATES

Registrations are now called for the 8th reunion of HMAS *Duchess* crew members, to be held at Surfers Paradise RSL (not Tweed Heads, as previously advised) for October 6-8, 2017 (not November). The cost will be \$200, which includes Friday and Saturday night dinner and Sunday lunch. Payment required by September 8, 2017. For the flyer, phone Rod Clarey on 0409 267 388 or email [rod.clarey1@bigpond.com](mailto:rod.clarey1@bigpond.com), or contact Bruce Bowmaker at 0403 243 795 or [littlefish.in@bigpond.com](mailto:littlefish.in@bigpond.com).

cities and towns around the country will hold a special flag raising ceremony to mark the day. Governor-General Sir William Deane officially proclaimed that "to commemorate the day in 1901 on which the Australian National Flag was first flown, September 3 in each year shall be celebrated as Australian National Flag Day". More information about the flag can be found at [www.australianflag.net.au](http://www.australianflag.net.au).

## ARMY MUSEUM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

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

## KINGSHOME MEMORIAL TREE

Details are being sought about "Kingshome", the site of the very first war veterans' home in Queensland on Swann Road at Taringa in Brisbane. The site houses a magnificent Kauri Pine, believed to be 100 years old. Does anyone know anything about this tree and whether it was planted as a memorial to soldiers? It is under threat of destruction by developers and they want to save it. Contact Monique Mayze on 0407 654 888 if you have something to share.

## 26 RADIO APPRENTICES RAAF REUNION

The 45th anniversary reunion of the 26 intake RAAF radio apprentices will be held on the Sunshine Coast over the weekend of October 27-29, 2017. The function will be at Maroochy RSL, with a bus trip to the hinterland also organised. All members who joined the intake are encouraged to contact organiser Peter "Pygmy" McAndrew on 07 5444 6165.

## RAASC VIETNAM SUPPLY PLATOONS

### ASSOCIATION REUNION

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

## 27 INTAKE RAAF APPRENTICES

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



The Kingshome Memorial Tree.



# RSL QUEENSLAND

## SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY FAMILY

     @rslqueensland



RETURNED & SERVICES  
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA  
QUEENSLAND BRANCH