

QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS

POINT & SHOOT

RSL QUEENSLAND
LAUNCHES ITS
PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE 2023
POINT & SHOOT
PHOTOGRAPHY
EXHIBITION

THAT'S THE ANZAC SPIRIT

A RECORD
NUMBER OF
QUEENSLANDERS
COMMEMORATED
ANZAC DAY 2023
ACROSS THE STATE

AIR FORCE HOLIDAYS

EXCLUSIVE, AFFORDABLE
ESCAPES FOR THE
DEFENCE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES LANDMARK SUNSHINE COAST MEMORIAL

A NEW CENOTAPH MARKS
THE OFFICIAL COMPLETION
OF BLI BLI'S AVENUE
OF HONOUR



RSL
Queensland

2023 // EDITION 02

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



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Front Cover

Tom Robertson, a member of the Military Jeep Club of Queensland, drove Navy veteran David Brennan, his wife Gloria and three of their great grandchildren Edith, Charlotte and Pia, along Adelaide Street as part of the Brisbane ANZAC Day march.

THE ANZAC spirit

"ANZAC Day is a day for all Australians to pause, reflect and remember those who have served our nation."

April 25, 108 years ago, marked the moment our Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, our ANZACs, faced their first major battle of World War I: the landing at Gallipoli. By the end of that first fateful day, the battle had claimed the lives of 754 Australians and 147 New Zealanders, and wounded more than 2,000.

One of the enduring gifts they, unknowingly, gifted us as a nation was a set of values that have come to be called the ANZAC spirit.

Writing to you now, I want to reprise the reflections of Charles Bean, Australia's official war correspondent and historian for World War I, who said this about the ANZAC spirit: "ANZAC stood, and still stands, for reckless valour in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship, and endurance that will never own defeat."

This ANZAC spirit is not something that ceased to exist when the guns eventually fell silent.

More than 100 years on, while there are no longer any living survivors of the Gallipoli campaign, our commemorations continue, eternal flames still burn as a symbol of our nation's gratitude to those who gave their lives, and the ANZAC spirit they ignited burns

“More than 100 years on, while there are no longer any living survivors of the Gallipoli campaign, our commemorations continue, eternal flames still burn as a symbol of our nation's gratitude to those who gave their lives, and the ANZAC spirit they ignited burns brightly in the hearts, minds and lives of all Australians.”

brightly in the hearts, minds and lives of all Australians.

THE ANZAC SPIRIT THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

Over the course of my four decades in service, I have seen several generations of service men and women embrace the same ANZAC spirit. And I have borne witness to the ways our veterans carry this spirit from their time in service to their civilian careers, volunteering opportunities and their social circles – where they ignite the same values of camaraderie, care and compassion in those around them.

The presence and legacy of our veterans and current service personnel helps the ANZAC spirit spread

throughout society and touch the lives of all Australians.

Each year we encourage Queenslanders to attend their local commemorative services and to take the ANZAC spirit with them beyond the dawn and into the days, months and years ahead.

RECOGNISING SERVICE PEOPLE, PAST AND PRESENT

One of RSL Queensland's core missions is to enable and support the commemoration of the service and sacrifices of veterans. In the lead up to this year's ANZAC Day, I attended media calls to promote this message and encourage Queenslanders to join in local events. Our State Deputy President Wendy Taylor was

also busy on ANZAC Day at Anzac Square and the Brisbane March, sharing the message with media.

On ANZAC Day itself, I joined thousands of people around Australia in recognising the invaluable contribution of our ANZACs and all Australian Defence Force members who have served and continue to serve for our nation. I began the day at the Currumbin RSL Dawn Service, where I had the privilege of addressing the service, and then travelled back to Brisbane CBD to host the Premier and watch the march. Both events were extremely moving, and I was honoured to pay my respects to our Defence community.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to mark this important day, particularly the Sub Branch volunteers who helped organise more than 400 commemorative events around Queensland. Your work is invaluable in keeping the ANZAC spirit alive.

Lest we forget.



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

Helping veterans and their families in real and meaningful ways



101

individuals and families
helped into safe,
permanent housing



263

nights spent in
RSL short-term
accommodation



\$814K

provided in
emergency funding



1,143

new clients
welcomed



3,719

calls handled



50

jobs found for veterans
and their partners



1,635

claims submitted



39

scholarships granted

From January to March 2023, RSL Queensland
provided a broad range of programs and services
to support veterans and their families.

FIND OUT MORE

 rsl queensland



RSL
Queensland

A more CONNECTED RSL

OUR 2030 Strategy is in full flight, with many activities associated with our service delivery now being executed. The outcome we're seeking is a more connected RSL – one that provides additional resources and support to the veteran community.

You can see examples of this in the RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centres in Cairns and Brisbane. The Cairns Centre, which houses the North Queensland District office, RSL Queensland staff/services and Mates4Mates, has already opened, while the Brisbane Centre in Stafford is scheduled to open in August and will include offices for RSL Queensland, Mates4Mates and other ESOs.

The Brisbane centre has attracted interest from 7th Brigade, which would enable us to help both the current and ex-serving community. This would give us the equivalent of a community centre that could provide a forum for workshops and families to come together.

If you haven't already done so, you can read our Strategy on a Page and learn how we're delivering our mission at rslqld.org/about-us/strategy.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AIDS SERVICE UPTAKE

As we've highlighted before, our membership numbers grew in 2022 for the first time in many years. The League at large is working hard to provide care, commemoration

“ *It's our job to keep the ANZAC spirit alive and, as always, I'd like to recognise the hard work of our Sub Branches. Your dedication year after year ensures that ANZAC Day is commemorated by people from the smallest towns to the biggest cities around the state.* ”

and camaraderie to their communities, and to encourage others to join.

This strong engagement is contributing to the continued growth and uptake of our veteran services. Our client contact enquiries grew by 26% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2023 (2,590 in Q1 2023 versus 1,899 in Q1 2022). Wellbeing also had a massive growth of 71% compared to the same period the previous year (379 in Q1 2023 versus 221 in Q1 2022). This includes financial assistance and our homelessness and wellbeing programs.

As you will note in the financial highlights of our 2022 Annual Report, which you can find at rslqld.org/news/annual-reports, we are starting to make some adjustments to the organisation. The next few years are likely to be rocky in terms of the public's discretionary spending. This will impact both Art Union ticket sales and the number of veterans reaching out for help.

We must ensure that our organisation is spending money in the right place and is also the right size to facilitate a

sustainable model of support. We want to create a model that is sustainable for us and ensures that our veteran community's needs are met.

THE RSL IS THE CUSTODIAN OF ANZAC DAY IN QUEENSLAND

ANZAC Day is one of the most significant events in our national calendar. There's nothing quite like standing in solidarity with your local community and honouring our service men and women.

Anecdotally, ANZAC Day service attendance is increasing, and it's hard to find a service that isn't packed. It's our job to keep the ANZAC spirit alive and, as always, I'd like to recognise the hard work of our Sub Branches. Your dedication year after year ensures that ANZAC Day is commemorated by people from the smallest towns to the biggest cities around the state.

We were pleased to complement this work with our public awareness campaign *That's the ANZAC spirit*. The campaign encouraged all Queenslanders

to recognise and remember service people, past and present, with our website hosting information about more than 400 Sub Branch services where people could pay their respects.

It was also pleasing to see several sporting teams get involved and partner with us to promote the day. You can read more about this on page 26.

STATE CONGRESS ENABLES UNIFIED APPROACH

As I write this column, we are in the final few weeks of planning for our 2023 State Congress. I'd like to thank all delegates for taking the time to attend this important event.

This year, we are focused on 'commemoration' and in the business sessions we will showcase the great work being done at some of our Sub Branches across the state.

Congress is an opportunity for our Districts and Sub Branches to come together and continue our goal of a united approach. The health of RSL Queensland is demonstrated in our ability to have robust discussions about the future of the organisation.



Robert Skoda
Chief Executive Officer
RSL Queensland

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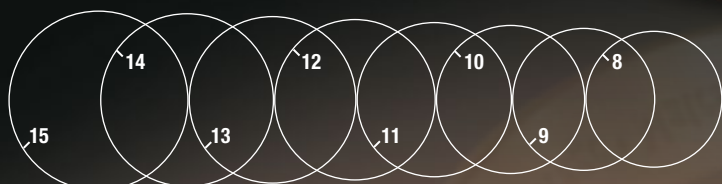


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MAILBOX

SUB BRANCH STORIES A FAVOURITE

I just finished reading *Queensland RSL News* Edition 1 2023 and just wanted to say how much I enjoyed it. It is a great read, whether you are from a service background or not, and that is a big achievement. I particularly liked the stories about the smaller Sub Branches and what they are doing.

Rhonda Doyle

Bowen RSL Sub Branch

MEDALS FOUND

Two sets of medals have been found in a trunk purchased at an auction. The medals are in excellent condition and housed in a specially-made display case. The medals are for W.A. Leslie R93355 (10 medals from WWI/WWII) and H.A. Leslie WX60351 (eight medals from Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam). They are currently being kept safe in the Caloundra RSL Military Display. Please email curator@caloundrarsl.com.au.

BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA DAY CORRECTION

The list of key 2023 commemorations on page 10 of *Queensland RSL News* Edition 1 2023 incorrectly included a date for the Battle for Australia Day. We apologise for this error. The commemoration is gazetted as the first Wednesday in September each year, which in 2023 is 6 September. If you wish to mark this day, the Battle for Australia Commemoration Committee will hold its annual service at Chermide Historical Precinct at 11am on 6 September.

DOGS AWARDED THE DICKIN MEDAL

I read with interest the article 'Unflappable: How Pigeons helped the Allies win two World Wars' by Tim Schaefer in *Queensland RSL News* Ed 1 2023. Tim mentions 18 dogs who were awarded the Dickin Medal.

One of those dogs was Judy, a purebred pointer dog, born in 1934 and rescued from the streets of Shanghai as a ship's mascot for HMS *Gnat*, a river gunboat. Judy's duties were to help with security, pest control and companionship. Judy failed training as a gundog onshore and fell overboard several times, needing rescue. However, with her superior hearing, Judy alerted the sailors when river pirates were close by and could detect hostile Japanese aircraft, giving an advantage to the gunners. Judy's is a very interesting story.

Brenda M. Tranter

Honouring those who were only 19 Veterans Remembered Watch

50th Anniversary Edition



Poignantly Engraved

**“We would do anything for a mate...
anything except leave him on the battlefield”**

They were the forgotten diggers. A generation of young men who fought for Australia like their fathers before them. But they returned as outcasts, casualties of a war nobody understood. Yet time heals the injustices of the past. Now they are heroes, as revered as the warriors of Gallipoli, Tobruk, Kokoda and Korea. The Bradford Exchange is proud to honour these brave diggers with a quality timepiece imbued with the spirit of the Anzacs that flows in their veins. Commissioned to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, the “Veterans Remembered Watch” honours those who were only 19...

A Moving Achievement in Craftsmanship and Design

As a bold salute to our heroes, this handsome chronograph is hand-crafted from rugged stainless steel and intricately engraved with a wealth of icons associated with the war. Against the dramatic black and green face, the famous Iroquois ‘Huey’ chopper looms large and proud in a gleaming silver tone. The side is engraved with the words Sacrifice • Mateship • Pride and serve as a reminder that the courage of these men will always be appreciated. The reverse of the case is etched with a touching quote from veteran Gary McMahon, 6th Battalion RAA, recalling the mateship and courage which defined a generation of veterans.

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NEWS

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF THE RSL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The program has supported more than 4,512 veterans and Defence partners with their job search.

IN 2023, the RSL Employment program celebrates five years of supporting veterans and the partners of current and ex-serving Defence members in their search for meaningful employment.

Launched as a permanent service offering in 2018, the program is available online and over the phone and is free to all veterans and their families.

Working closely with organisations nationally, the program connects veterans and partners of current and ex-serving Defence members with rewarding employment opportunities that help provide purpose and direction as they transition to civilian life or settle after relocating. Equally, it provides employers across Australia with access to a highly skilled, experienced and driven candidate pool for their workforce.

Beginning in Queensland in 2018, the program was extended to South Australia in 2020 before being rolled out nationally in 2021, providing all veterans and their families

with access to support in finding and securing jobs across a variety of skill areas and industries.

Now, more than 4,000 members of the veteran community have used the service for support in their job search, including: career counselling, interview coaching, assistance in identifying transferrable skills for the civilian job market, resumé writing and application support,

as well as placing them into employment.

RSL Queensland Deputy CEO – Veteran Services Troy Watson says securing meaningful employment is about more than just finding a job for veterans and their partners; it's about providing the right tools and support to help ease the transition some may face heading into civilian life.

"We know that some people may need additional assistance when adapting to civilian life, but it's more than just finding a job. Securing meaningful employment helps provide purpose and direction, and can result in a fulfilling career," Troy says.

"Our business and community connections are at the core of how we link our clients to a wide range of jobs across multiple industries. The organisations we work with truly understand and value the unique skills and characteristics ex-Defence members and their partners bring to their organisation time and time again."

Ensuring this support is reflected across all facets of the program, RSL Employment also continues to support employers through the development of onboarding documents, online modules and access to strategy templates to help employers better understand veterans and how to use their transferable skills in their organisation.

Over the past five years, the program has been recognised for its impactful contributions, taking home the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Award for Excellence for Supporting Spouse Employment in 2020 and was a finalist for the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Awards – Excellence in Supporting Veteran and/or Partner Employment in 2021 and 2022.

In 2023, the program has passed the milestone of placing more than 1,000 veterans and Defence partners in jobs with employers around the country. ←



LEARN MORE: If you're an Australian Defence Force veteran, or the partner of a current or former Defence member, we can help you take the next step towards finding meaningful employment. Explore our free programs for ex-service people, partners, and potential employers at rslqld.org/employment

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DEFENCE AND VETERAN SUICIDE

IN the first half of 2023, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has continued to focus on private hearings and special reports. Private session applications closed on 28 April and the last date for submissions to the Royal Commission is 13 October 2023, with the final report due by 17 June 2024.

At the recent Perth hearing block, the Royal Commission has indicated that a consultation about an implementation body will be announced soon. RSL is advocating for the establishment of a National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Wellbeing to lead an implementation body that is created through an Act of Parliament and is independent from government. ⇐

LEGISLATIVE REFORM

IMPROVING the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) legislative framework was highlighted as a key priority for the Australian Government in the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Interim Report. It's a priority that RSL Queensland has long called for.

The proposed pathway to simplify veteran compensation and rehabilitation legislation was released for public consultation in February 2023. It proposes, but does not guarantee, that:

- new claims under existing schemes will cease after a transition period, from which point all new veteran claims will be dealt with under a reformed Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA) as the sole ongoing Act
- all benefits under existing schemes – including the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) – will continue unaffected, with only new claims or claims related to deteriorated conditions to be covered by the reformed MRCA.

RSL Queensland is consulting with a range of stakeholders, including advocates, veterans and their families, and is working through RSL Australia to make a submission to the public for consultation.

Further information on the public consultation process is available on the DVA website.

FEDERAL BUDGET 2023-24

The RSL welcomed the 2023-24 Federal Budget (handed down on 9 May), and the more than \$328 million in funding allocated to veterans and their families through DVA. A key focus of this funding is to reduce the DVA claims backlog and to ready the department's IT infrastructure and supports for the forthcoming reformed veterans' entitlements legislation.

RSL reporting about provisions in the Budget which are intended to help veterans and their families can be found at rslqld.org/news/latest-news/rsl-australia-welcomes-additional-funding-in-2023-budget.

ESORT OVERVIEW

The meeting of the Ex- Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) on 9 May discussed the following:

- the Douglas decision and Treasury Amendment Bill
- DVA Veteran and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
- advocacy services reform
- review of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal
- DVA Modernisation Program supporting systems and claims processing
- improvement to DVA claims administration – tri-Act claims.

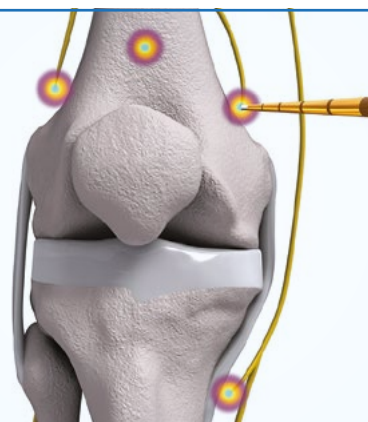
A full ESORT update is available on the DVA website. ⇐

Further information about RSL's engagement in the Royal Commission can be accessed at rslaustralia.org/royal-commission

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NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2023

FROM 15-21 May, Australia celebrated National Volunteer Week – a week which recognised the dedication and vital support that volunteers across the country provide to various causes within their communities.

This annual celebration saw RSL Queensland thank and recognise the many wonderful volunteers who generously invest their time, experience and effort in our organisation and vast network of Sub Branches to provide support to veterans and their families. We also acknowledged the important contribution veterans make to supporting each other and the wider community through volunteering for causes they are passionate about.

"I'm sure it'll come as no surprise that those who have served in the ADF are more likely to volunteer than those who've never served (Census, 2021)," MAJGEN Stephen Day DSC AM said in his message to members.

"And this goes back to purpose – having a purpose, giving back to those around us, making a contribution to our local communities and connecting with our mates – something I see within each of our Districts.

"The same values of service,

courage and respect that unify our service men and women are what drive them to continue to serve through volunteering.

"To all of our volunteers – I want to personally extend my thanks, gratitude and respect to you for your ongoing commitment to providing care, commemoration and camaraderie in your community."

You can read more stories about our volunteers in the next edition of *Queensland RSL News*. ✦

DISASTER RELIEF AUSTRALIA PARTNERSHIP

Coinciding with National Volunteer Week, RSL Queensland announced an exciting new partnership with Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) designed to recruit new volunteers and support disaster relief operations.

For more information visit disasterreliefaus.org, email info@disasterreliefaus.org or phone 1300 372 287.

INDIGENOUS VETERANS COMMEMORATED IN ANNUAL CEREMONY

THE contributions of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have served and sacrificed for Australia were recognised at RSL Queensland's annual Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony on 27 May 2023.

In line with National Reconciliation Week, the Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony has been held annually in Brisbane since 2006, becoming an integral part of the RSL Queensland commemorations calendar.

RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM said the ceremony was an opportunity for the community to acknowledge that many Indigenous veterans were treated neither equally, nor fairly, during but particularly after their return from service.





"RSL Queensland aims to create a deeper understanding of our military history by helping to tell the story of Indigenous veterans," Stephen said.

"We continue to acknowledge that Indigenous veterans made a significant contribution in serving our nation, yet many were denied the same pay or entitlements as other Australian veterans who fought for their country in the same wars."

Navy veteran and proud Torres Strait Islander Uncle Marsat Ketchell addressed the ceremony as the keynote speaker. Following 26 years of service, Marsat has played a key role in advocating for Indigenous service men and women and is committed to supporting veteran wellbeing and integration into the community.

"Today is an opportunity to share my story and to share the truth. The truth that we are still here despite the fact that in the



past, both during and after their service, Indigenous and some non-Indigenous personnel and veterans were not treated equally. We did serve and we'll continue to serve," Marsat said.

Marsat hopes that if there's one thing to take away from the ceremony, it's the importance of culture and tradition and how it

can be integrated into Defence.

"It is time to join together and recognise the strength of uniting in our differences. For us to be fully operational, in Defence Force terms, we need to understand each other and the importance of our culture and tradition integrated into the Commonwealth Defence Force culture and tradition." ←

TOP: Keynote speaker and Navy veteran Uncle Marsat Ketchell.

INSET: WO1 David McGarry, Australian Army elder Aunty Lorraine Hutton OAM, and MAJ Richard Mason.

THAT'S THE ANZAC SPIRIT



**A**

s the sun rose in cities and towns across Australia, we stood together to remember and reflect on the

sacrifices made by our ANZACs.

Each service is a little different, but one thing remains the same: the sense of community you feel when coming together on ANZAC Day. We continue to express gratitude for those who have served or are currently serving the nation and recommit ourselves to honouring their service.

On 25 April 1915, Australian and New Zealand soldiers faced their first major battle of World War I. They fought with endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour, and mateship – values we've come to know as the ANZAC spirit, and values that live on in us.

There's no greater way to honour our ANZACs – and all who followed in their footsteps – than by attending an ANZAC Day service and keeping the ANZAC spirit alive.

On the following pages you'll find a selection of images showing how Queenslanders from Cairns in the north to Warrangarra in the south and Mt Isa in the west commemorated the day.

KIDS HONOUR VETERANS WITH 10,000 ANZAC DAY GREETINGS

Ten thousand special messages greeted veterans on ANZAC Day, courtesy of children from across Queensland.

 **Belinda Crossman**

“There were some tears in their eyes; they were blown away by the messages from the kids.”

MORE than 170 primary schools took part in *Postcards of Honour* – a new initiative by RSL Queensland – to learn about ANZAC Day and create unique postcards acknowledging current and former Defence members for their service.

As part of the activity, RSL Sub Branch volunteers visited classrooms across the state, giving students the opportunity to meet a real veteran and hear their stories in person.

“The students are really well engaged and they love talking about the ANZACs,” Beachmere State School teacher Amanda Morley said.

“The kids have thought really hard about what ANZAC Day means, about freedom, about respect, and honouring those men and women who served and still serve today.”

Each postcard was brightly hand-decorated on one side and penned with a heartfelt message on the other.

“ANZAC Day is a day to remember and appreciate those who have served or are currently serving. To

whoever gets this postcard, I would like to thank you for all of your effort and service,” read one from Sierra, aged 11.

Sub Branches displayed or hand delivered the postcards to veterans for ANZAC Day, and say the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

“There were some tears in their eyes; they were blown away by the messages from the kids,” Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Secretary Caroline Breadsell says.

“Our veterans have asked that we make a book of the postcards we received so that they can all share the love.

“It was a very heart-warming experience for me when I was sharing them with our members on ANZAC Day and to see their reactions. This is for sure why we do what we do.”

Following the successful launch of *Postcards of Honour*, RSL Queensland hopes to share the activity with more schools next year. ←





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Veterans Bill Davern, left, and Barry Benson receive their postcards; Chaplain Frances Maltby, left, and Townsville veteran Adam West; veterans, from left, Chris Heagney, Adam West and Joel Crowe looking at the postcards.

“There is some amazing work that goes into our unit, but the most important linkages are the families. When we can identify someone, the ultimate measure of success is being able to inform families that their loved ones have been found.”

RETURNING AUSTRALIA'S LOST SOLDIERS

How Lieutenant Colonel Tim Dawe and Unrecovered War Casualties – Army find and commemorate the lost Australian men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

 **Sarah Webb**

LIEUTENANT Colonel Tim Dawe knows better than anyone the healing power of resolution when it comes to losing a loved one.

For the past few years, he has worked for Unrecovered War Casualties, a unit within the Australian Army that – in the ANZAC spirit of endurance – investigates and identifies the remains of historic Australian Army service personnel who were killed in the line of duty on foreign soil.

From unmarked graves in Europe filled with fallen soldiers from World War I, to sites in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Greece and Turkey, the unit, now in its 13th year, operates across all corners of the globe to give names to Aussies – in many cases, more than a century after they were lost.

CLOSURE FOR FAMILIES

Now, with technological advances enabling the unit to identify more service men and women than ever before, LTCOL Dawe says they're not only able to maintain the legacy

of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, but also provide closure to families and loved ones.

“For us, it's all about families, and we continue to do whatever we can to recover our soldiers' remains and give them a name,” LTCOL Dawe says.

“When a loved one – such as a grandmother's first husband – was never recovered, we find that loss often still resonates throughout those families. So being able to bring that resolution is massive.

“And that's the big one for me. I'm often asked to describe why I do the work I do, and that's why. We strive to properly commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice.”

IDENTIFYING REMAINS CAN TAKE YEARS

While the unit has completed hundreds of successful investigations over the past decade, with around 40 Australians identified in the past few years alone, LTCOL Dawe says it sometimes takes years to successfully identify found



remains, with everything from DNA matching to family and international relations creating a raft of challenges for the team.

There are also geographical hurdles.

"Many of these casualties happened 60 to 100-plus years ago, and they happened in places such as the Pacific where bone remains degrade a lot more quickly than they may do in Europe, for example, and that's because of soil types and composition," LTCOL Dawe explains.

He says those harder-to-reach destinations provide their own obstacles (think a helicopter flight to the highlands of Papua New Guinea or a bumpy 12-hour bus ride in the backwaters of new Eastern Europe), with local counterparts often engaged on the ground to secure the remains until members of the unit can deploy and conduct forensic testing.

THE POWER OF NEW TECHNOLOGY

"There's also research and development. We're always attuned to the potential for new data sets of information or new technology and

new forensics capabilities," LTCOL Dawe says.

"An example of such a partnership is how Defence has funded a DNA project hub with the Queensland University of Technology. The predominant focus of that is to enhance our ability to extract DNA profiles from degraded human remains."

By adding those technological and specialist quivers to their bow, the unit has been able to solve tough cases that would have been filed in the proverbial 'too hard basket' just a few years ago.

"That's why we never close cases that haven't been resolved. We're always conscious that a fresh review or new technology could provide the key piece of the puzzle. In fact, we recently resolved a case in Belgium where the remains were recovered in 2006 and that was thanks to a new DNA strategy," LTCOL Dawe says.

THE STORY OF JAMES AND LOTTIE

LTCOL Dawe says another case involved the poignant tale of Lieutenant James Kennedy – an officer and a member of the 26th

Battalion who was living at Miles, Queensland.

After enlisting in 1915, James boarded a troop ship from Brisbane that was bound for Egypt (via Melbourne). On that ship James met nurse Lottie Kendall and the pair formed a relationship.

"Once they arrived in Egypt, James deployed to Gallipoli with his battalion. When he returned to Egypt, Lottie was pregnant with James's child, so they decided to get married at Shepherd's Bush Hotel in Cairo, on 29 February 1916," LTCOL Dawe says.

"Their son, Bruce, was born on 23 June 1916 and on 29 July 1916, James was badly wounded at Pozieres. During his recovery in the UK, he and Lottie and baby Bruce were able to spend a period of time together. But while James was offered a staff job, he refused the position, telling Lottie he needed to go back to his men.

"Soon after arriving back in France in November 1916, he was killed in action and his remains weren't found, despite indications he was buried on the battlefield just north of a position known as the Maze, Flers."

Lottie and Bruce returned to Victoria, and while pieces of the puzzle surfaced over the coming years, it wasn't until 2019 that Unrecovered War Casualties

LEFT: Lieutenant Colonel Tim Dawe and Andrew Bernie from Unrecovered War Casualties – Army.

BELOW: Lieutenant James Kennedy's service medals - Queen's South Africa Medal, 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal.





HONOURING A LEGACY OF SERVICE

*Army veteran Annette Love shares
her family's story of courage,
sacrifice and resilience.*

 **Sarah Webb**

received a submission from a public interest group called Fallen Diggers, who do a lot of work with the unit.

"Their submission proposed that an individual in a grave was in fact James Kennedy, and once we looked at all the sources of evidence, I subsequently had the pleasure of tracking down and informing James Kennedy's two grandsons and granddaughter that he had been identified and found," LTCOL Dawe says.

"And to top it all off, on 22 July last year, we were able to have a small ceremony and rededicate the grave of an unknown officer buried at Guards' Cemetery, Les Boeufs, as that of James Kennedy.

"Lottie never remarried and, unfortunately, she died in a car accident in 1971, never knowing that James had been found. But his family now do, and that is a great example of what we do.

"There is some amazing work that goes into our unit, but the most important linkages are the families. When we can identify someone, the ultimate measure of success is being able to inform families that their loved ones have been found.

"And telling families that you've had a hand in finding their loved ones is a really humbling experience."

As for what's next for the unit, LTCOL Dawe says they have 200 active cases they will continue working tirelessly to resolve, with the public always encouraged to come forward if they have any information to share about fallen soldiers lost abroad. To reach out to Unrecovered War Casualties – Army, email army.uwc@defence.gov.au. ←

GENERATIONS OF SERVICE

Annette Love was destined for a career in Defence. Her family's proud military history can be traced back to WWI through her grandfather and two great-uncles, followed by four uncles and a second cousin in WWII. Her father, husband and son served in the Army, her brother in the Air Force, and another son in the Navy. From a young age, Annette realised she also wanted to serve her country.

"My granddad was a WWI veteran," Annette says. "He used to take me to visit all the other veterans in his street. We'd help them out by doing their grocery shopping. Back then, Granddad was 86 years old himself!

"My dad did the same thing on the Gold Coast, so I grew up always wanting to do the same."

Enlisting in 1988, Annette trained at Kapooka in an all-female platoon. She then worked as an Army Lance Corporal and personal trainer for almost 10 years, before transitioning into public service Defence roles for the rest of her career.

"I loved everything about the Army," Annette recalls. "I even liked moving around; I thrived on new locations, new jobs, new postings, and new places to find."

AN UNBREAKABLE BOND

It was Annette's late father, Joseph William Conroy, who inspired her path in life.

"Dad was 14 when war broke out in New Guinea, and his father was a Coast Watcher in Rabaul at the time," she explains.

"They helped move villagers through the mountains to safety when the enemy was closing in.

"Later, they made a raft and floated to Australia to get away. By the time they arrived, they were dehydrated, had lost all their weight and their clothes were in rags."

Shortly after this ordeal, her father was sent back to New Guinea. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) before transferring to the Army to serve in the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) as an interpreter. He



LEFT: Annette Love aged around four.

BELOW: Annette Love with her family at an ANZAC Day commemoration.

eventually moved to the Gold Coast and became a fireman.

Years later, a young Annette wrote a letter to her father, who was in America at the time.

"I said that by the time he got home, I would be in the Army – and that's what I did."

A LIFETIME OF COMMEMORATION

With such a deep commitment to service, Annette has unsurprisingly never missed an ANZAC Day in her life. One of her earliest memories is attending an ANZAC Day service. It's a moment she shares with emotion.

"As a little kid, I wore my brothers' slouch hats because they were all Army cadets," she recalls fondly. "ANZAC Day was huge when I was young. I can still see myself standing on Nerang Street in Southport, waiting for Dad to march past us.

"Afterwards, we'd go to the RSL Club so Dad could be with his mates. I used to open doors for the dignitaries, which he loved to see!"

During Annette's time in the Army, her father would meet her in the town she was posted in so they could commemorate together.

"I moved around every two years, so we've done ANZAC Day in country towns around Wodonga, up in Townsville, Brisbane, Wagga Wagga, and Melbourne," she says. "No matter where I've been, Dad always came."

Her goal is to one day attend an ANZAC Day in Perth to watch the sun rise over the west coast, and to visit Gallipoli.

"ANZAC Day is a day that we stand united as a nation. No matter who you are, we need to stand up for the people who have gone before us – the legion ethos is that we stand together to move forward, and never go backwards."

PAYING THE ANZAC SPIRIT FORWARD

Annette's service didn't stop at the end of her career. After leaving Defence, she explored her interest in fashion design, incorporating thoughtful use of shapes, symbols and fabrics to honour those who

have served and sacrificed for Australia.

"I needed something different, and it's very left-field," she chuckles. "Of course, all my designs are military. Whenever I find myself trying to try something new, suddenly I find myself pleating and returning to the precision of tailoring."

She has also used these skills in other ways: crafting quilts for veterans and Army dogs, organising a group to crochet beanies and gloves for those experiencing homelessness, and knitting toys with her mum to donate to local children's hospitals.

"If there's one thing I can say about the Australian Defence Force, it's that no matter what, we look after each other," Annette says.

"To me, the ANZAC spirit is, as my father would say, 'always being there for you, cobber'. It's about helping and being there for each other." ←

"To me, the ANZAC spirit is, as my father would say, 'always being there for you, cobber'. It's about helping and being there for each other."



ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS A TRUE COMMUNITY EVENT

Growing 25 times bigger in 30 years, Tamborine Mountain's Dawn Service – like so many around Australia – unites its tight-knit community in a special way.

 **Kylie Hatfield**

“Our ANZAC Day service is a very big event for our community. It’s a great example of how our Sub Branch connects with other organisations to bring the community together in commemoration.”

FOR Royal Australian Air Force veteran Phill Hunter, there is something very special about an ANZAC Day Dawn Service, especially in his tight-knit community of Tamborine Mountain.

“The early morning service is so unique and very characteristic of how us Australians and New Zealanders commemorate,” Phill says.

And he’s not the only one who

feels this way. Phill is President of the Tamborine Mountain RSL Sub Branch and has seen a swell in local attendees at the annual Dawn Service, particularly over the past 10 years. It’s a trend he predicts will continue.

“I can remember back to when I first joined the Sub Branch in the mid-90s; there were 20 or 30 of us at the Dawn Service. Now, we





have around 500 members of the community join us, and it's growing," Phill says.

"The Dawn Service is very popular within the community; and in fact, I would say that our Dawn Service will eventually overtake our daytime service in popularity."

A COMMUNITY UNITED IN COMMEMORATION

The Sub Branch's traditional Dawn Service is held at 5am on ANZAC Day. It's followed later in the morning by a march through the streets of Tamborine Mountain to the town's central Cenotaph, where the 11am ANZAC Day service is a significant community event.

"Our ANZAC Day service is a very big event for our community. It's a great example of how our Sub Branch connects with other organisations to bring the community together in commemoration," Phill says.

The Sub Branch engages the local Lions Club to run a gunfire breakfast, while the community band provides music to accompany the march and locals supply vehicles for veterans to ride in during the march. Local schools are also involved in the laying of wreaths.

"Our Sub Branch takes a significant amount of pride in

delivering a service that respects the contribution of our wider community."

STRONG HISTORY IN TIGHT-KNIT COMMUNITY

The community spirit they have forged around ANZAC Day is a feather in the cap for the 83-member Sub Branch, which has proudly represented Mt Tamborine's ex-service men and women for around 80 years.

The Tamborine Mountain RSL Sub Branch was formed in 1946 but has a history and association with the local area dating back at least 10 years prior to that. The surrounding area of Mt Tamborine has a population of about 7,000 people.

"The majority of our members are retirees, with several younger members as well. We consider ourselves to be a typical Sub Branch – we're small and our age group is more senior," Phill says.

With an ageing membership, it's been both a necessary and successful endeavour for the Sub Branch to engage with the wider community to deliver such significant events as the ANZAC Day service.

"Being a tight-knit community in Tamborine Mountain, our Sub Branch is well-known



for representing the veteran constituents of our community. This is highlighted especially with the commemorative services that we run for our community on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. But we couldn't do it without support," Phill says.

"As a Sub Branch, we certainly couldn't handle all the requirements ourselves, nor afford to pay for them. We're so grateful to have the support of other organisations and individuals in our community who chip in to help us all commemorate."

RELATIONSHIPS BUILT OVER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

The strong community support can be attributed, in part, to the relationships that the Sub Branch has built within the community, with Phill himself serving on the Sub Branch's board for 25 years.

"I joined the Tamborine Mountain RSL Sub Branch when I was 33 years old and still serving in the Air Force. It's the only Sub Branch I've belonged to because I've lived here all that time," Phill says.

"Very early on in my membership I was asked to join the Sub Branch's Board as the treasurer, which I did in 1998, and I've remained on the Board ever since." ←

ABOVE:
Tamborine Mountain RSL Sub Branch President Phill Hunter flanked by Tamborine Mountain High School students.

ABOVE LFET:
Tamborine Mountain RSL ANZAC Day service.

OPPOSITE PAGE: WWII veteran Ian Hart (aged 96) and his daughter Tina proudly marched in the Tamborine Mountain ANZAC Day parade .

“But when you lead the march and you’re more relaxed and you’re waving, and you see the respect in their eyes, you know the gestures are real. They’re thanking you for your service – not only mine, but for the brave men and women that have served before.”

LEADING THE DAWN SERVICE MARCH WITH PRIDE

Leading Toowoomba’s Dawn Service march is a proud honour for retired soldier Geoff Skinner, who served in the Army for more than 47 years.

 **Belinda Crossman**

FOR the past few years, Warrant Officer Geoff Skinner (Retd) has had the honour of leading the Toowoomba Dawn Service march.

It’s a proud yet nervous occasion for the former infantry soldier, who is humbled by his community’s support.

“It’s a great community spirit. Your heart’s pounding and you don’t want to do anything wrong because you want it to go so well for the community, to thank them for coming out,” Geoff reflects.

“It’s a special day for being part of the Defence community.”

An iconic photo taken of Geoff leading the march through morning fog at the 2022 Toowoomba Dawn Service was used in RSL Queensland’s 2023 ANZAC Day campaign to encourage all Australians to honour all those who have served.

INSPIRED TO SERVE

Defence runs in Geoff’s family. His four maternal uncles served in WWII, and his wife, son and stepdaughter served or still serve

in the Royal Australian Air Force.

Geoff, meanwhile, served in the regular Army and Reserves for more than 47 years, enlisting as a teenager in 1973.

“My parents took us to the Dubbo Show and there was a military display. After that, I always sort of had the military in my mind,” he says.

“When I was 17, I decided to join the Army, headed off to Kapooka and was allocated to the Infantry Corps.”

LIFELONG MEMORIES AND MATESHIP

Geoff’s Army career took him across Australia and beyond – to New Zealand, Vanuatu, Malaysia, and Iraq.

He recalls many fond memories from service: instructing the next generation of soldiers at Kapooka and Battle Wing (Land Warfare Training Centre) Canungra, teaching other countries in operations and deployment, and representing the Defence Force in sport overseas.

Then there was the ANZAC Day experience in Iraq that he’ll never forget.



"I was in Kuwait and a few people were allowed to go out and be part of the ANZAC Day service. That was very special to be so close to Gallipoli," he says.

"You are just trying to get that feeling of what the ANZACs would've gone through.

"It was a special day – one I will cherish for the rest of my life and share with my family."

But the biggest highlights for Geoff have been the friendships he's forged.

"The highlights are the mates you make in Defence. I believe they are your lifetime friends," he shares.

"We all came from different walks of life, and we go through our training. We see the changes happening with our mates, how they're growing up, and we know they're going to stay our mate forever. And out of that comes the sacrifices that we make for each other, our families and so on."

THROUGH WAR AND PEACE

That mateship – along with courage, endurance and humour – helped Geoff and his comrades through the challenges of not just war, but also peace.

Many of Geoff's generation served during peacetime and, sadly, "don't feel that they should march" on ANZAC Day.

"In that period, the only operational service was the deployment to Butterworth. So, a lot of people felt that they had not really done their bit for Australia," Geoff explains.

"I had spent 20 years in the Defence Force but didn't serve in war until later. So, I understand how they feel.

"I know a lot of my guys from that time still suffer. They don't go to RSL clubs because they don't believe they're worthy.

"And they shouldn't feel that way; they should be proud because they did an outstanding job.

"They have the courage to stay there, and you don't realise that really you are a glue to the bigger picture. What you are doing contributes to making the Defence Force as great as it is."

A PROUD HONOUR

When Geoff joined the Army in 1973 – in the Vietnam War's final years – anti-war sentiment lingered among the public. Marching with

his battalion on ANZAC Day was a difficult experience.

"We knew that the community didn't like us, and it was hard to march through the town and have people spitting at you," he recalls.

Fortunately, ANZAC Day is very different these days – especially in Geoff's more recent home of Toowoomba.

"The community really supports ANZAC Day," he says.

"I know they'll be out in support of our veterans and our service men and women. They'll be out there, like us, reflecting on the past and on what ANZAC Day means to them.

"You feel very proud. When I lead the march at Dawn Service it's different from marching in uniform, when you can hear the crowd but can't see it.

"But when you lead the march and you're more relaxed and you're waving, and you see the respect in their eyes, you know the gestures are real. They're thanking you for your service – not only mine, but for the brave men and women that have served before.

"It's an honour to walk in their footsteps." ←

ABOVE:
Warrant Officer Geoff Skinner (Retd) has led the Toowoomba Dawn Service march for the past few years and says it's a special day for being part of the Defence community.

MATESHIP HELPS SHARE THE ANZAC SPIRIT: A THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

“Mateship is one of the central characteristics of the ANZAC spirit and it played a crucial role in helping RSL Queensland bring people together to honour our veterans this year.”

MATESHIP is one of the central characteristics of the ANZAC spirit and it played a crucial role in helping RSL Queensland bring people together to honour our veterans this year.

With this spirit in mind, some of Queensland's newest and most iconic sporting teams, and some

of Australia's biggest advertising companies, partnered with the RSL to help spread the word and urge all Australians to honour the contribution of our service personnel.

“No matter where Queenslanders went, the message of the ANZAC spirit was there to be seen, whether it was on the footy field, the netball court

RIGHT: The crowd at Nissan Arena, Brisbane, stands as the Last Post is played. The Queensland Firebirds defeated the Giants Netball 70-66 at the Suncorp Super Netball ANZAC Round on 23 April.





or on billboards across our state and our nation," RSL Queensland State President MAJGEN Stephen Day DSC AM said.

Ahead of ANZAC Day, we kicked off with the Gold Coast Suns, who once again joined forces with RSL Queensland for the annual ANZAC Round clash, donning commemorative guernseys in front of a crowd of close to 10,000 fans. The guernsey design featured poppies – a symbol of commemoration to honour those who have fallen – against a rising

sun signifying the Dawn Services synonymous with ANZAC Day. Following the game, Suns players' match-worn guernseys were auctioned, with all profits going directly to the ANZAC Appeal.

A more than 22,000-strong crowd turned out to watch another proud partner, the Dolphins, sport their own commemorative jerseys for the NRL's ANZAC Round. They were welcomed to the match by members of RSL Queensland's Brisbane North District, who formed a guard of honour for

players to run through, while MAJGEN Day recited the Ode before kick-off.

Before the Eternal Flame lit up the dawn on ANZAC Day, the Queensland Firebirds played host to more than 3,000 spectators including RSL Queensland State Deputy President Wendy Taylor. With a pre-game service, the athletes honoured the traits of mateship and courage that they carry into their games, and paused to honour those who showed this spirit when they served our country.

Across the nation, thousands of Out of Home signs including billboards, bus stops and shopping centre signage reminded Australians to honour the service, sacrifice and spirit of the ANZACs, thanks to a national partnership between the RSL and the Outdoor Media Association (OMA). For the fourth consecutive year, the OMA and its members generously donated millions of dollars in advertising space to help spread the word about ANZAC Day commemorations, reaching more than 10 million Australians across the country. ←

ABOVE: A bugler sounds the Last Post ahead of the Redcliffe Dolphins vs Gold Coast Titans ANZAC Appeal Round at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, on 23 April.

LEFT: David Swallow and Nick Holman (centre) in the Gold Coast Suns' 2023 ANZAC guernsey, pictured with Palm Beach/Currumbin RSL Sub Branch President Michael Humphreys (far left) and Colonel Bede Galvin CSC and Bar (far right). In collaboration with RSL Queensland, the Suns wore the special guernsey for their ANZAC Appeal Round match against North Melbourne at Heritage Bank Stadium on 23 April. Photo by Chris Hyde/AFL Photos.





▲ Willow (L) and Layken (R) attended the Currumbin Dawn Service remembering their great-grandfather Ross Stevenson, who served in Vietnam.



▲ Djuan & District RSL Sub Branch President Sinjon Burke with Sub Branch member and Vietnam veteran/sapper Des Polden at the local ANZAC Memorial. This year's Dawn Service paid special honour to the 70th Korean and 50th Vietnam War anniversaries, and was followed by a traditional gunfire breakfast.

▼ With worn-out knees, Burton Johnson PSM did the Atherton ANZAC Day March in Garry Vincent's 1972 Rolls-Royce.



► Military vehicles led the ANZAC Day parade in Banyo, where wonderful crowds gathered for the march and service.



▲ A new display at Agnes Waters/1770's Dawn Service, made by Andrew and Lucy Simmons to honour all Australian veterans for their service. This year's Dawn Service was the town's biggest yet, with more than 800 attending. Andrew's grandfather, VX16891 Private Samuel Simmons, was a Rat of Tobruk, while Lucy's uncle Joseph Anthony Horner Delta Coy served with 3 RAR 2nd Tour 1971.

▼ Jacob Lack playing the Rouse at Stretton State College's ANZAC Day ceremony, proudly wearing his great-great-grandfather CPL Raymond Lack's WWI medals.

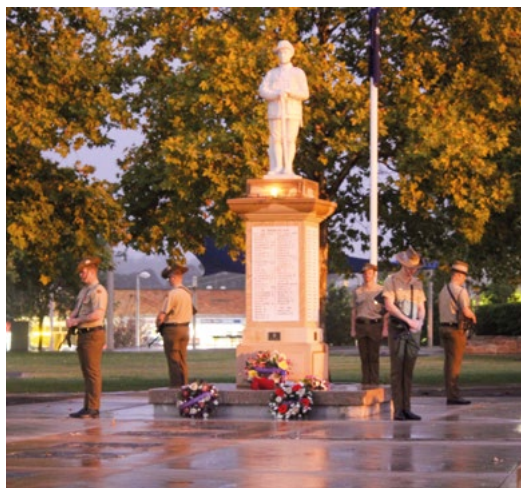


▲ The catafalque party from 11 CSB (Greenbank Army Reserves) and local guests assembled around Beaudesert War Memorial. Hundreds filled Brisbane and William Streets to watch Beaudesert's main ANZAC Day service and parade, which featured the Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band, RSL veterans, National Servicemen, Army vehicles, Jimboomba Cadets, emergency services, schools and community groups.



▲ 11th Army Cadet Unit – Logan gathered at the Beenleigh War Memorial during local ANZAC Day commemorations.

► An estimated 10,000 people attended the ANZAC Memorial Service in Bulimba Memorial Park. The parade down Oxford Street was led by the Queensland Navy Band and followed by 60 veterans, local Scout and Guide members, and representatives from local schools.



▲ Early morning light hits the cenotaph and catafalque party at Crows Nest's ANZAC Day Dawn Service.



◀ A group of veterans heading the march through the main street of Cooroy, where a crowd of 1,500-2,000 people gathered to pay their respects.

▼ Craftsman Jacob McLeod from 2CER formed part of the catafalque party at the Pine Rivers RSL service.



▲ The catafalque party at Charters Towers' ANZAC Day service.



▲ Veteran Paul Reeve, centre, with St Joseph's School students Elsie and Arlo Reeve at the Townsville ANZAC Day service.



▲ Former members of the 8th/9th Battalion, 8/9 RAR Mick Rice, Joe McIvor, Mick Spruce and Dave Galloway (pictured L-R) commemorate after the Brisbane city march.



▼ John Nicola at the new memorial in Calamvale Community Park on ANZAC Day.



▲ Cadets lined the memorial gardens and crowds spilled out onto the street during the Dawn Service at Pine Rivers, which an estimated crowd of 3,000 attended.

▼ Andy Plunkett, Al Barry and Captain Angus Cutts at the Tieri Dawn Service. Al, a community volunteer, holds an appreciation plaque presented to him by the Emerald RSL Sub Branch to recognise his efforts in coordinating the Tieri ANZAC Day services over a number of years. Captain Angus Cutts, who grew up in Tieri, serves in the RAEME Corps and was the serving military guest from Townsville.



▲ The small township of Dulacca, west of Miles, holds a service to commemorate ANZAC Day that is very well attended each year by Miles RSL Sub Branch members and the local community. The students of both Dulacca and Drillham State Schools take an active role in this service. (Photo published with parents' permission.)



▲ Gracemere & District RSL Sub Branch Vice President Tony Harris addresses the 2,000-strong Dawn Service crowd after commanding the dawn march, which included about 40 veterans and family members. Students from Waraburra State School and The Cathedral College, Welfare Officer Bas Soper, 95yo ex-3RAR Korean War veteran Vince Mathers, Chaplain Gordon Kerkham, and volunteer Ricky Luck are also pictured.



▲ RSL members forming up before the morning service after marching through the streets of Forest Lake. Many young people attended, including Army and Air Force Cadets, who mounted the catafalque; Australian Air League members; and students from local schools. The commemorative address was delivered by the Reviewing Officer, Commander 11th Brigade, Brigadier Mark Armstrong. Warrant Officer Patrick O'Shea, 1 Squadron, RAAF Amberley addressed the assembly.

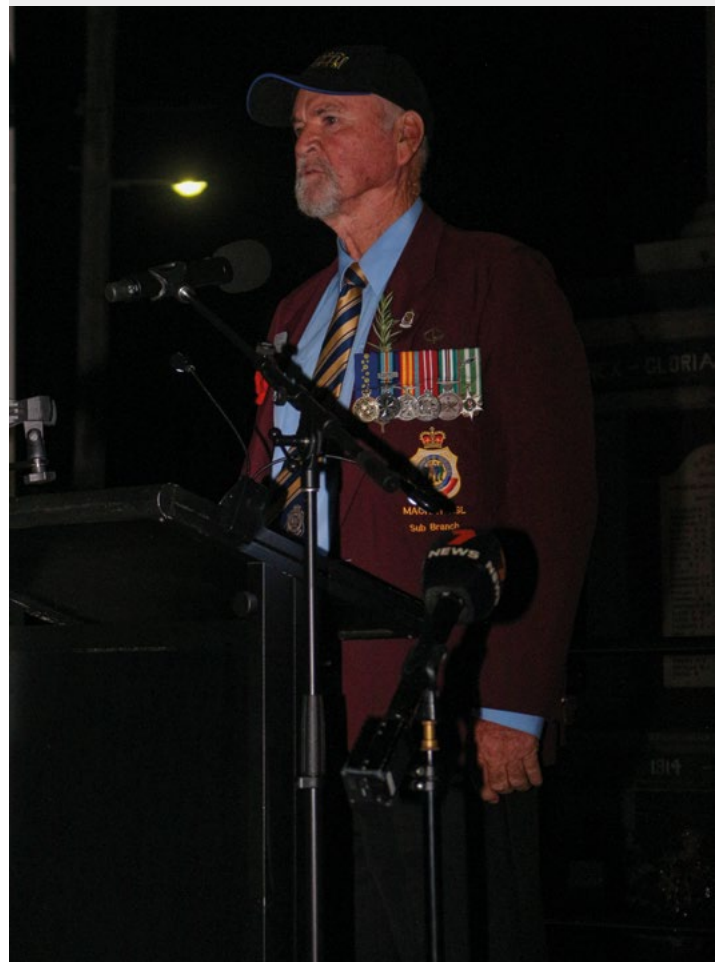


▲ On 23 April, the Emerald Tigers Rugby League Football Club held an annual ANZAC clash between a local team representing NZ and another representing Australia. Before the match, Emerald RSL Sub Branch members formed a guard of honour for the teams, Sub Branch President Noel Mallyon recited the Ode, and the Last Post and Rouse were played. Special ANZAC jerseys were provided for the match and two of them were auctioned to help fund Sub Branch welfare and commemorative activities. The Tigers had the pleasure of presenting Noel with a cheque for the funds raised.



▲ Jarvis Black and his family at the Surat service.

▼ Mackay Sub Branch President Ken Higgins OAM reciting the Ode at Mackay's Dawn Service.

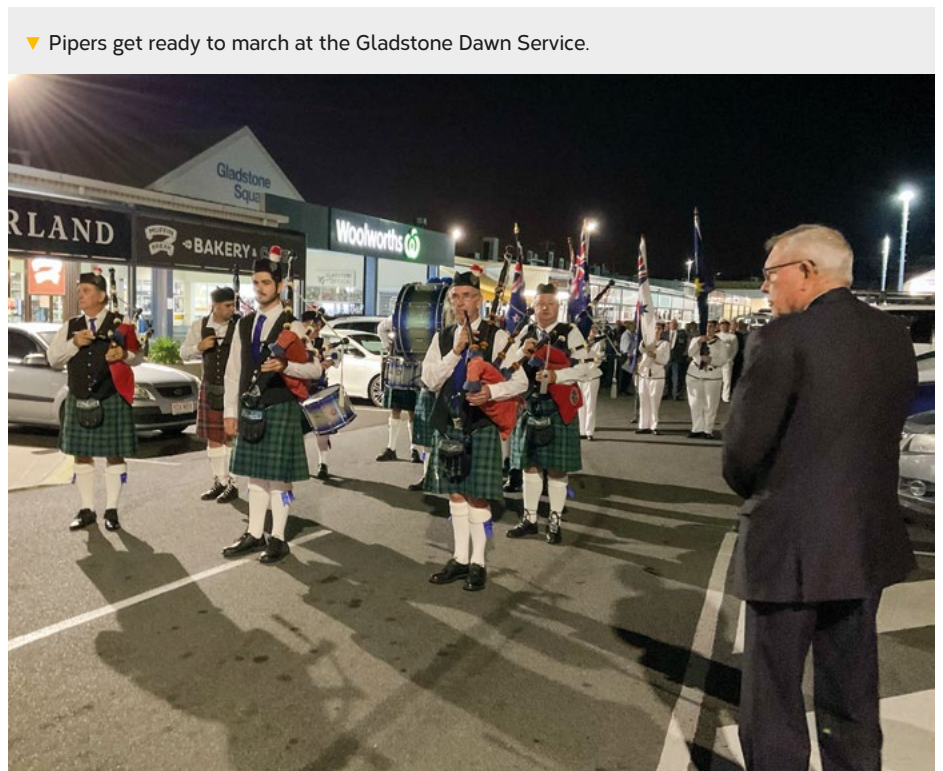




▼ Army Transport Association and Vietnam veteran Gary Kerr with his granddaughter Anna Kerr prior to the Brisbane ANZAC Day march.



▲ Legacy Brisbane CEO Brendan Cox (L) and RSL Queensland CEO Rob Skoda (R) lay wreaths at Greenslopes Private Hospital's ANZAC Day service.



▼ Pipers get ready to march at the Gladstone Dawn Service.



▲ Rotary volunteers hand out LED candles, supplied by RSL Queensland, at Greenslopes Private Hospital's Dawn Service.



▼ Duncan Lovering, Zane Allen and Paul Tochey at the Brisbane ANZAC Day service.



▲ PIB-PIR Association members after a wreath-laying ceremony at the South West Pacific Campaign Memorial, Anzac Square, Brisbane. Pictured (L-R) are Greg Ivey, Donald Graham, Major-General J. Singirok (PNG Defence Force) and Kev Horton.

▼ Thousands of people turned out for the Dawn Service at the Light Horse War Memorial, Freedom Park, in Hervey Bay. The crowds further swelled for the main service (led by Sub Branch President Brian Tidyman). A private function was held for Sub Branch members and their guests at the Services Memorial Club.



▲ Karl Aschhoff conducting the ANZAC ceremony in the nursing home where he resides.



▲ The Macleay Island Dawn Service was held at the local war memorial, backdropped by the ocean.

► Rain failed to deter thousands from attending the Dawn Service at Brisbane's Shrine of Remembrance.





▲ Dawn Service at the Maryborough Cenotaph, a marble monument that gives equal prominence to a nurse, airman, sailor and soldier beneath the soaring figure of Nike, winged goddess of victory. Photo by Nancy Bates.

▼ Residents of Palm Lake Care and Palm Lake Resorts Bethania and Waterford attended a solemn service at their newly updated memorial, with 11 ACU Meadowbrook providing the catafalque party and flag orderlies.



▲ The combined school choir singing at the Port Douglas ANZAC Day service. Both the Dawn Service and morning service were well received by local schools, the general public, visiting members of the ADF, as well as local veterans.

▼ A swathe of red poppies leads to Australia's only community memorial bridge, located in Mt Joseph. On ANZAC Day a message was read from New Zealand, where a 'sister bridge' at Kaiparoro was built as a WWI memorial. Messages are traditionally exchanged between the two communities to mark 25 April.



▲ Veteran Barry Haydon, centre, with Geoffrey and Bradley Haydon at the Kingaroy ANZAC Day service.

▼ The Meandarra Glenmorgan RSL Sub Branch and Auxiliary commemorated ANZAC Day with a Dawn Service, gunfire breakfast, main service, street march, double helicopter flyover, lunch, and game of two-up (pictured). Much to the crowd's delight, the two-up winner generously placed his winnings into the Legacy tin and on the bar for all to enjoy.





▲ Vietnam and Afghanistan veterans, and a tribute to Simpson's donkey, were part of the Maryborough ANZAC Day parade. Photo by Glenn Morris Photography.



▼ Flag party at the Redcliffe Memorial, where many thousands turned out for the Dawn Service, mid-morning march and service.



▲ A piper leads the Dawn Service procession through the grounds of Farleigh Sugar Mill.

▼ The sun rises behind the cenotaph in Anzac Park during the Southport Dawn Service. Photo by Simon Leonard.



▲ Cadets from 133 ACU lower the flag to half-mast for the Dawn Service at Burleigh Heads War Memorial.



▼ Veterans and community members gather for a photo in front of Kalbar War Memorial on ANZAC Day.



▲ Fourteen veterans and their partners travelled from across Australia to talk with Tamborine Mountain school students before ANZAC Day, then attended the local Dawn Service. Photo by Richard Birchley.



▲ 100 Army Cadet Unit Beaudesert provided the catafalque party for Rathdowney's ANZAC Day service, which was run by Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch member and parade marshal Peter Higgins and attended by approximately 200 locals.

▼ Prior to the ANZAC Day services at Runaway Bay RSL Cenotaph, Padre James Hall conducted a service dedicated to PTE Thomas Halloran, a recently lost soldier of 5RAR in Darwin. Veterans and friends gathered as a plaque was laid by the family. LTCOL Chris Gilmore and MAJ John Moulton of 5RAR attended from Darwin.



▼ Veterans prepare to lay poppy wreaths at Deception Bay's ANZAC Day commemorations.

► Veterans and community members pay their respects at the Mareeba ANZAC Day service.



◀ Once again, attendance records were broken at Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch's Dawn Service, street parade and community service (pictured), which was led by Sub Branch President Hugh Polson and featured words from local secondary school leaders.



▲ Just a few of the marchers at the ANZAC Day main parade organised by Rosewood RSL Sub Branch.

▼ Hundreds turned out for the Stanthorpe Dawn Service and thousands lined the streets to view the parade. This year also saw the largest collection of wreaths laid at the wreath-laying service. Pictured here at Stanthorpe War Memorial are (L-R) Warrant Officer Gino Micallef; former Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan AO (Ret'd); Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch President Martin Corbett; and Reviewing Officer LTCOL Lachlan Searle. Photo by Sandra McEwan Photography.





▲ Jeff Bidstrup (R) from Trumpeters Corner presenting a special wreath to Wandoan RSL Sub Branch Secretary Pat Devlin (L). The wreath, made from barbed entanglement wire representing that used in WWI, will be mounted permanently at Wandoan RSL Sub Branch.

▼ Pictured at the Bli Bli Cenotaph on ANZAC Day were, from left, Sunshine Coast District Vice President Trudie Avery, Deputy President Skip Antony, President Ian Hall OAM, District Secretary Kath Barry, District Administration Assistant Rebecca Caddy and District Wellbeing Coordinator John Welch.



▲ A member of the catafalque party stands in position at Tweed Heads' ANZAC Day service as wreath-layers and other visitors pay their respects in the background.

▼ The 11th Warwick Light Horse Troop leads the ANZAC Day parade through Warwick.



▲ Guest speaker Peter Howard AM and local Sub Branch President Alexander McKay at the Woodgate Beach Dawn Service, where rain failed to dampen the spirits of the 1,000-strong crowd.



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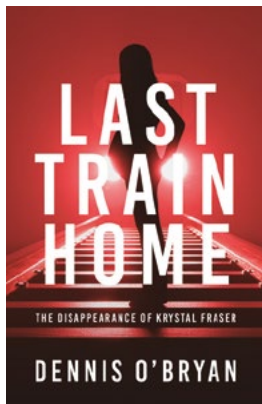
RECENT RELEASES:



ISBN: 978-1-922958-09-9

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

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



ISBN: 978-1-922958-10-5

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

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

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

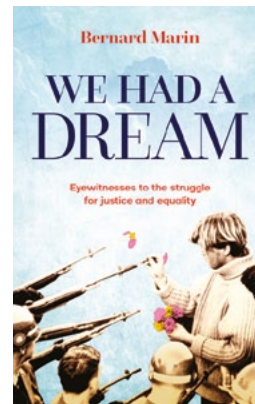
In Last Train Home former police investigator Dennis O'Bryan delves deep into the events and people involved to reveal his discovery of new and compelling evidence.



ISBN: 78-1-922958-02-0

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

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

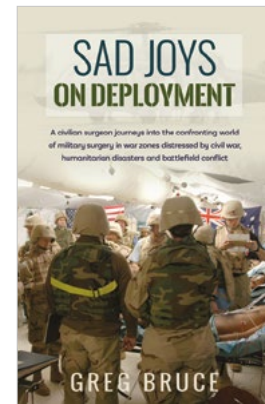


ISBN: 978-1-922958-03-7

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

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

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



ISBN: 978-0-9578709-6-3

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

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

There were good experiences and horrible experiences.

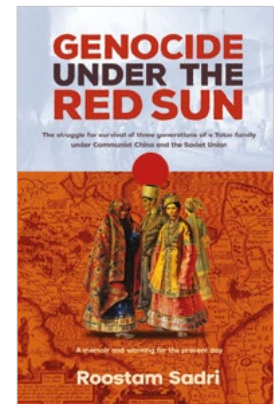
There were contrasts:

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

Friendly allied military forces. Hostile enemy forces

Local civilians, some welcoming, some resentful.

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



ISBN: 978-1-922958-08-2

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

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



BLI BLI COMPLETES AVENUE OF HONOUR

Pictured at the cenotaph unveiling were, from left, Caloundra RSL Sub Branch Board member Tony Ferris, President Ian Hall OAM, Sunshine Coast Councillor Division 9 Maria Suarez, Sunshine Coast Mayor Mark Jamieson and Commander for North Coast Police Region Darryl Johnson APM.

On 14 April 2023, Bli Bli unveiled a new cenotaph, marking official completion of the township's Avenue of Honour. Sunshine Coast and Regional RSL District President Ian Hall OAM shares the story behind this landmark project.

 **Courtney Adams**

THE INCEPTION OF A NEW MEMORIAL

Ian Hall is a Vietnam veteran who has held RSL Queensland membership in Morven, Bundaberg, Innisfail, Kedron-Wavell, and Woodford. He then became President of the Woodford RSL Sub Branch, which led to his current role as President of the Sunshine Coast and Regional District.

"The Sunshine Coast has a tremendous number of veterans and it's growing every day. Our District has 12 RSL Sub Branches, which are all very involved in looking after these veterans," Ian says.

In 2015, work commenced on a residential estate called Parklakes in the township of Bli Bli. During construction, the RSL Sunshine Coast and Regional District was approached by the estate's engineering company, Covey Associates, with an idea.

"A young lady named Jennifer came to us wanting to establish a memorial to the service personnel that came from around the area," Ian recalls.

"Many young men and women from around here served in WWI and WWII, but there was nothing there to remember them or commemorate their service. That's how the Avenue of Honour came to life."

UNVEILING THE CENOTAPH

Involved as an integral part of the project from the beginning, Ian was tasked with representing his RSL District by consulting on an inclusive design to honour veterans, as well as securing funding for its build. On 14 April, the Bli Bli Avenue of Honour's completion was celebrated with a community ceremony unveiling the cenotaph.

RIGHT: The ribbon is cut to officially unveil the memorial.

BELOW: Sunshine Coast and Regional President Ian Hall OAM speaks to media during the unveiling.

BOTTOM: A veteran pays his respects during the unveiling.

"There was a very big crowd made up of community members and veterans. Two local schools were involved in raising the flags, and we had the Sunshine Coast Lord Mayor and our local Federal Member make speeches," Ian says.

"This Avenue of Honour is made up of shrubbery and commemorative plaques with the names of operations or areas where Australian Defence Force personnel have served.

"It's distinctive because nowhere else in Australia has all 14 operations and 12 peacekeeping operations displayed, so we have 26 plaques set around 26 Queensland fig trees, with 26 stones from each local area at their bases.

"I was extremely happy because this is something that's been very dear to me right from the word 'go'. I did whatever I could to



ensure this was put in place, and now this cenotaph is here for our community and those who follow."

A COMMUNITY-CENTRED FUTURE

Eight years in the making, the community's new memorial site has had an overwhelmingly positive response, with its first major event coming up in just a few days.

"Having this Avenue of Honour now means that we can hold ANZAC and Remembrance Days here, instead of having to travel out to other areas," Ian says.

"This ANZAC Day, the community of Bli Bli will come together in a positive way. It's there for everyone to reflect on what's taken place and the people who have gone forth and made the supreme sacrifice."

The custodians of Bli Bli's Avenue of Honour are a group of approximately 100 veterans living

in the Parklakes estate, known as the Halcyon Veterans. They will work together with the Council in maintaining the grounds and memorials for visitors and future generations.

"These veterans see that they are the guardians of this memorial – it's there for them and the community, and they're very committed to looking after it," Ian says.

Sunshine Coast and Regional District RSL is extremely grateful to Covey Engineering, Mansell Concreting and Cam Crossley for their support and contribution to the cenotaph. Special thanks are also extended to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Federal Minister for Fairfax Ted O'Brien MP, Sunshine Coast Council and Mayor Mark Jamison, Ward 9 Sunshine Coast Councillor Maria Suarez, and the Bli Bli Progress Community Association for their support in bringing the Bli Bli Avenue of Honour to life. ✦

MATES **4** MATES

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
FOR OUR DEFENCE COMMUNITY

**Celebrating 10 years
with the community.**

CHECK OUT OUR BIRTHDAY EVENTS WITH
VETERANS AND FAMILIES.

+

EXERCISE FOR CHRONIC PAIN.

WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT AN EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGIST
TO MANAGE YOUR PAIN.

**Introducing our Healthy
Relationships Program.**

PROVIDING STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE CONNECTIONS.

+

MEET A MATE.

GET TO KNOW THE VETERANS WHO MAKE ALL THE
DIFFERENCE AT MATES4MATES.

10Years
OF MATES

A message from Emma.



Recently I've been reflecting on my first 12 months as the General Manager of Mates4Mates. What an absolute privilege it has been to be part of such a supportive and life-changing organisation.

From our team on the ground in the centres and online, delivering social connection activities and clinical services, to our head office and leadership team, everyone's passion to support the Defence community has inspired me every day since joining Mates4Mates.

Although scattered across the country, from the Northern Territory to Tasmania, the Mates4Mates staff have supported one another and worked together in the face of significant change, while continuing to put the wellbeing of clients first. This is what I'm most proud of during my time so far. Despite floods, relocations, building renovations, and many other changes, they've remained positive and encouraging and kept our community moving forward.

I also wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who joined us in

Ipswich earlier this year to officially open the Ipswich Family Recovery Centre. It was an honour to officially open the centre alongside the Honourable Shayne Neumann MP, Jennifer Howard MP and other distinguished guests. The team and I are excited to continue our commitment to supporting veterans and their families within the local Ipswich community through this new location.

As we move into the second half of the year, we continue to celebrate 10 years of Mates4Mates with special events held across our centres with the veterans and family members who trust us to support them in their recovery journeys. We share some wonderful photos from these events on pages 4 and 5. To those who have been part of the Mates4Mates journey since 2013, thank you! Without your support, we wouldn't be able to help provide a way forward for those who have been impacted by service.

2023 has already been a year of growth. This includes internal expansion within Mates4Mates as we continued to invest in our staff and built out the Mates4Mates Executive Leadership Team. Adam 'Buzz' Lawson is our new Head of Operations featured on page 6 who brings with him over 20 years' experience in the Defence and veteran support space. I know that the leadership team, in alignment with our 'Journey to 2030' Strategic Plan, will provide a clear direction for our staff, clients and the organisation moving forward.

As you read through the stories in this edition of the Mates4Mates magazine, I want to say thank you to all the staff, clients, supporters and

partners who have been instrumental over my first 12 months at Mates4Mates. The opportunity to meet and speak with our clients and their families so far this year has been invaluable. Hearing their experiences of how Mates4Mates has helped them, even in the smallest of ways, is a great reminder of the connection our staff and services have with the community.

Emma

General Manager of Mates4Mates

Make the call that makes the difference.

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

mates4mates.org

1300 4 MATES

Keep up to date! Follow us:



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



Providing support for healthier relationships.

The Healthy Relationships Program was developed this year by the Mates4Mates clinical team to help veterans and family members better understand the difference between healthy and unhealthy interpersonal relationships.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month is marked each year throughout May to raise community awareness. While the topic of domestic abuse can be disturbing and confronting, it's important to discuss it to help break down misconceptions.

The Healthy Relationships Program, which ran over four weeks in May, provided veterans and family members who participated the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of relationship styles as well as learn tips and strategies to assist in developing healthy interpersonal relationships.

Mates4Mates Clinical Program Manager, Clare Mitchell believes it's important for everyone to understand the nature of healthy and unhealthy relationships and how they function, including understanding issues in our own relationships or others that we care about or work with.

"We see a significant number of veterans and family members who report struggling with relationships. This program was developed to raise awareness about the nature of healthy and unhealthy relationships and provide participants with strategies and increased understanding of their own relationships."

- Clare Mitchell, Clinical Program Manager.

"In addition, discussing this difficult topic can raise awareness, reduce shame and increase the likelihood of people seeking support and assistance if they become aware that they are in a domestically violent relationship."


Mates4Mates facilitates a wide range of clinical Skills for Recovery Programs throughout the year for veterans and family members impacted by service, both online and in person across our locations. To find out more, head to **mates4mates.org** or email us at **programs@mates4mates.org**.

If you need support, please call the National Sexual Assault, Family & Domestic Violence Counselling Line on **1800 RESPECT** (1800 737 732) or **000** in an emergency.



Shop your support.

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

 **mates4matesshop.org**

10 Years

OF MATES



Celebrating 10 years with the community.

To celebrate 10 years of Mates4Mates, family-friendly birthday events were held within local Defence and veteran communities across Australia – and of course there was cake involved!

As the birthday celebrations continue throughout the year, Mates4Mates staff have had the opportunity to mark this important milestone with the veterans and family members who have accessed our support services over the last 10 years.

Picnics in the park, BBQ lunches, coffee (and cake!) catch ups, and more were held across each Mates4Mates location, including outreach regions and online.

Before North Queensland Regional Manager, Marcia Morgan joined the Mates4Mates team, she was a Mate herself, and she shares how important this year's birthday milestone is to her as both a veteran and a staff member.

"We held birthday events across Townsville, Mackay and Cairns and it was wonderful to celebrate, reflect and look towards the future," Marcia says.

"Having been a Mate since the very beginning, Mates4Mates has been beneficial for me both physically and mentally."

"It's an honour to celebrate a decade of supporting the veteran community with them and family members."

- Marcia Morgan, North Queensland Regional Manager.



Ipswich BBQ.



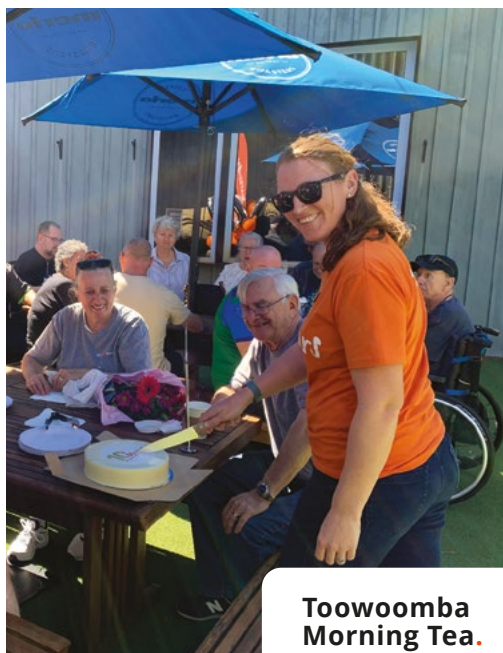
Cairns BBQ.



'Imagine This'
online activity
submission.



**Launceston
Morning Tea.**



**Toowoomba
Morning Tea.**



**Palmerston
Party in the Park.**

With the Brisbane Family Recovery Centre being the first Mates4Mates location to open in 2013, the Mates community has grown over that time to serve almost 10,000 veterans and family members throughout South East Queensland, North Queensland, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and online.

South East Queensland Regional Manager, Laura Duckworth says it has been a privilege to be part of the growth of Mates4Mates, not only within the Brisbane centre but across Australia.

"To look back over the last 10 years, to see where we started and look at where we are now, it's magnificent," Laura says.

"The growth and transformation of Mates4Mates over the years is exceptional and we have achieved so much in our 10 years of providing services to veterans and their families."

**"As we take this moment to
celebrate our 10th birthday
and reflect on our purpose
and passion, the team and I
are so excited to see where
the next 10 years takes us."**

**- Laura Duckworth, South East
Queensland Regional Manager.**

To those who have been part of the Mates4Mates journey since 2013, thank you. Without your commitment, engagement and support, Mates4Mates wouldn't be able to help provide a way forward for those impacted by service.



A few words from Buzz.

G'day, I'm Buzz, and I'm the Head of Operations at Mates4Mates. Part of my new role provides me with the privilege of working with our five Regional Managers and their teams across all our locations and online.

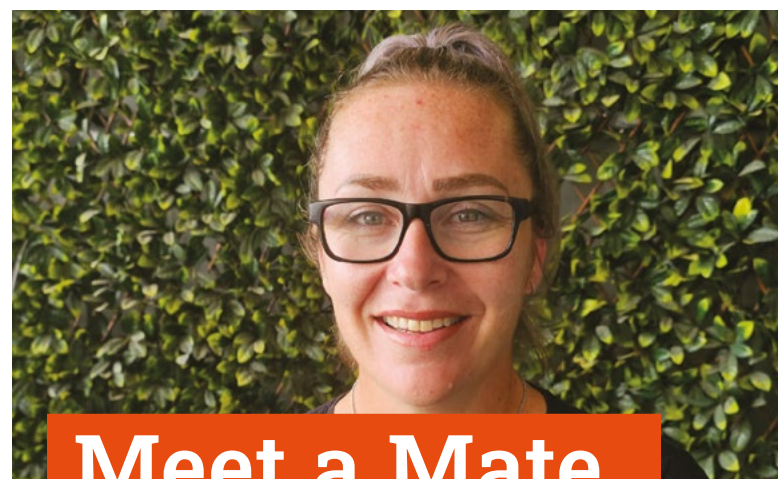
Veteran and family care is a real passion of mine, having previously served in the Royal Australian Air Force and Royal Air Force for more than 20 years.

Over my first few months at Mates4Mates, I've been racking up the frequent flyer miles and travelling to our centres across North Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Tasmania, as well as visiting our centres in Brisbane and my old hometown of Ipswich. I've had the chance to meet with veterans and family members in each region and hear their stories of how our teams are supporting them on the ground.

Mates4Mates had over 17,000 attendees at our social connection activities in 2022, both in person and online. I've discovered that we have Mates who regularly join us for social connection activities from every state in Australia and from many countries internationally.

Before joining the Mates4Mates team, I simply didn't realise the size and scale of the operation and I suspect many don't because our staff just humbly go on with delivering support services to veterans and their family members!

If you're a veteran or family member impacted by service, head over to **mates4mates.org** to see what activities and events we have coming up near you or online.



Meet a Mate.

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

Alicia recently started attending the Townsville centre over the last 12 months along with her three children.

What's your favourite social connection activity?

"The monthly golf activity as well as the Life Skill Workshops are my favourite activities, plus all the great school holiday programs that I can enjoy with my three kids. I also use the gym quite regularly at the centre."

"Whatever the activity may be, the Mates4Mates team provides a safe environment to catch up with other veterans and family members while learning new skills."

Why do you enjoy being a Mate?

"Mates4Mates has given me the opportunity to learn new skills in an environment where I feel safe and accepted. Being a Mate has also given me the opportunity to spend more time with my kids whilst doing fun activities together."

Visiting an exercise physiologist for chronic pain.

At Mates4Mates, our team of exercise physiologists are here to provide clinical exercise interventions for veterans and family members with a broad range of health conditions, including chronic pain.

While chronic pain is common in veterans due to the lasting effects of injuries that may have occurred in the military, there is an unknown paradox that exists around pain management and exercise.

Many people with pain fear exercise as they worry it could cause an exacerbation of their pain or injury. Contrary to this popular belief, exercising when we have pain helps to alleviate the pain if we do it correctly and with the right guidance.

For example, if we have joint pain, the best way to reduce the pain is to increase the strength of the muscles around that joint as this will provide more overall strength and support.

It's important to remember that exercise not only reduces the severity of chronic pain, but also contributes to the general benefits associated with improved overall physical and mental health.

When making the decision to seek support from an exercise physiologist to manage your chronic pain or another health condition

while experiencing pain, you will first be stepped through an initial consultation.

Your exercise physiologist will sit down with you and discuss your goals and your current conditions. If pain is a big factor, your exercise physiologist may spend a bit of time helping you understand how to best tackle it and find ways to reduce it together.

The key strategies an exercise physiologist will explore with you are education, movement, mobility, activation and strength. Education is at the forefront of treatment for chronic pain to establish a foundation for understanding how to manage your pain first before undertaking any exercises.

Once you have a good grasp of those five strategies, you will feel more

confident to self-manage your exercise prescription and move through life with less pain and more function.

From there, your exercise physiologist will provide you with an individualised program that you can do in your own time, and you can even book in for ongoing appointments for structured guidance.

Exercise physiologists are trained in understanding and managing chronic pain and can assist with developing programs to suit the individual's needs. The team at Mates4Mates is here to provide you with a safe environment to engage in exercise.

To find out more, reach out to Mates4Mates on **1300 4 MATES** for a confidential chat with an exercise physiologist.



✍ Written by Harley Fox,
Mates4Mates Exercise Physiologist

MATES4MATES

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impacted by service.



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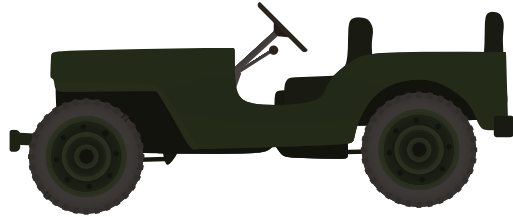
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KEEPING HISTORY, COMMUNITY AND CAMARADERIE ALIVE

It may be small, but Pittsworth RSL Sub Branch is making a big impact by connecting and supporting the veteran and wider community, and preserving military history.

 **Belinda Crossman**

STRONG LINKS TO DEFENCE

Home to around 3,000 people, Pittsworth has long held links to Defence. 19 ACU (Australian Cadet Unit) Pittsworth is based in town, and Leyburn Airfield and Oakey Army Aviation Centre – both built in the 1940s – lie 30 minutes away.

"There are so many people who have links to World War I, World War II, even Malaya, Malaysia and Vietnam," Pittsworth RSL Sub Branch Vice President and Secretary Mike Vogler says.

"There are a few younger

veterans around, but they'll take time before they get back into society and then hopefully they'll come on board with us."

SOMEWHERE TO BE WITH COMRADES

Pittsworth RSL Sub Branch occupies the Soldiers Memorial School of Arts, built in 1930 to give soldiers "somewhere to go to be with their comrades."

"To me, that's what the RSL is about," Mike says. "And we still have that rapport with each other.

Even though we're a small group, we come, we laugh, we do the serious things seriously. But we do have fun."

Mike joined the Army at 17, serving in Malaysia and touring Canada during his 12-year career. He went on to work in farming and aged care before retiring. "Now this is my life, this Sub Branch," he says.

For a long time, though, that was far from the case.

"When I left the Army, I was quite disillusioned. I took my family and went back to the land. I did



ABOVE: Pittsworth RSL Sub Branch member Mal Norris CSC, who organises the public address system for ceremonies.

ABOVE RIGHT: Mike and Allan in the WWII-era jeep.

RIGHT: Allan Petersen is a former 'Nasho' and President of the Pittsworth RSL Sub Branch.

27 years without joining a Sub Branch; I did 20 years without marching on ANZAC Day.

"Then I had a call from a friend who said our battalion was being disbanded. I went to Brisbane, walked into the sergeant's mess. People came up to me and said, 'Where have you been? Have you been on holidays?' And I'd been out of the Army for 20 years.

"It just goes to show that that camaraderie is still there and that's what we try to foster within the Sub Branch."

Pittsworth RSL Sub Branch President Allan Petersen – an



'ex Nasho' who served out of Wacol from 1970-73 – encourages uninvolved local veterans to find out what they're missing.

"Come along and see what we've got here. We've got a lot to offer," Allan says.

"Being a small organisation, a lot of people think that when they walk through the door, they'll get [given] a job, but that's not the case. We have a cup of tea or coffee, sit down, and have a good old yarn. That's what it's all about."

Pittsworth RSL Sub Branch gladly supports members in various other ways, whether it's sharing advice, engaging the nearest RSL Advocacy team, helping members reach specialist appointments (40km away in Toowoomba), or visiting members in aged care.

STRONG COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Thanks to Allan, Mike and other dedicated members, Pittsworth RSL Sub Branch maintains strong connections with the community. It has steadfastly supported Legacy for 60-odd years, and its ANZAC Day Dawn Service, gunfire breakfast and other events are well attended and received by locals.

Another popular Sub Branch initiative is to lay books in place of wreaths for ANZAC Day.

"Organisations donate books, and we distribute them to where they'd like them to go – schools, aged care and that sort of thing," Mike explains.



"If you lay a wreath with fresh flowers, within three days it's finished. But a book is a memorial that lasts forever."

PRESERVING HISTORY

Pittsworth RSL Sub Branch has worked hard to build another lasting legacy: a remarkable memorabilia collection – extending to Pittsworth Pioneer Historical Village – featuring medals, photos, and even a restored 1944 Jeep that saw service in WWII.

"We've got a lot of stuff on display now," Allan says. "It's something that we can show our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in the future."

The collection has helped showcase the Sub Branch and attract new visitors.

"We'll have people walking through and we are always picking up somebody that's involved [in service], knows somebody that has served, or is a member of the RSL."

REAPING THE REWARDS

While it took Mike 27 years to join his Sub Branch, he's a central part of it now.

"What I find rewarding is the preservation of history and the camaraderie with other members. It doesn't matter where you served, what you did... we all get on well and joke and carry on as if we're still 18-year-olds." ←

ABOVE LEFT:
Many of Pittsworth's veterans are members of the Sub Branch.

BELOW:
Pittsworth RSL Sub Branch Vice President/Secretary Mike Vogler.



AIR FORCE HOLIDAYS



ABOVE:
Air Force Holidays
Chair, Air
Commodore
Martin Smith
(Retd),
says all funds
raised by the not-
for-profit go back
into improving
the apartment
experience or
into base welfare
amenities.

*Take a break on the
sunny Gold Coast
without busting the bank.*

 **Belinda Crossman**

IN the heart of the
Gold Coast, just
100m from the
beach, you'll find
Ambassador Apartments
– a holiday resort exclusive to
current and former ADF members,
their families, and Defence
public servants.

Swaying palms surround the
sparkling pool, and 11 spacious,
modern apartments offer stylish,
self-contained homes away
from home.

Decorated in calming coastal
shades, each apartment features
either two or three bedrooms with
ensuites plus a balcony and fully
equipped kitchen.

The Chevron Island location
is quiet yet incredibly central –
only strolling distance from the
endless beaches, restaurants and
attractions of Surfers Paradise.

And the best part? Rates are at

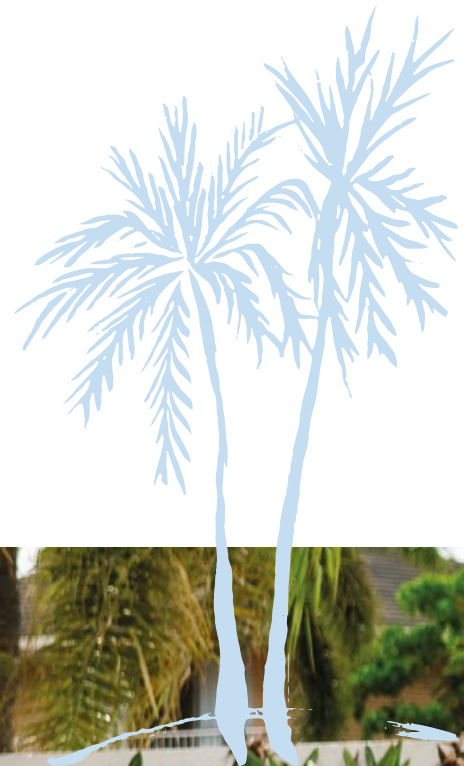
least 30% cheaper than what you'd
pay for similar accommodation.

FROM WARTIME SUPPORT TO WELFARE AND RECREATION

During World War II, Royal
Australian Air Force (RAAF)
canteen services across the globe
supported some 300,000 Australian
Air Force aviators.

Those services disbanded after
the war, and the funds they'd
generated were recommitted to
providing welfare and recreational
amenities for the Air Force
community.

EXCLUSIVE, AFFORDABLE ESCAPES FOR THE DEFENCE COMMUNITY



Air Force Holidays sprang from that in 1972 and now offers a high-quality holiday apartment experience at a great price for anyone who served in the ADF (full-time or part-time), their immediate families, and current public servants in the Department of Defence.

"To us, they're all part of the Australian Defence community and able to enjoy the same quality facilities at the same rates," Air Force Holidays Chair, Air Commodore Martin Smith (Retd) says.

"Throw in a Jetstar flight from wherever you are to the Gold Coast – I can't imagine you could get a cheaper, greater holiday experience."

Air Force Holidays is a not-for-profit governed by a Board of Directors, who work on a voluntary basis. All funds raised go back into improving the apartment experience or into base welfare amenities – services for current and future generations at RAAF air bases.

"So, nothing leaves the company other than hopefully happy people

who've enjoyed their holiday experience," Martin says.

A FRESH NEW ERA

Ambassador Apartments has been part of Air Force Holidays for 20 years now – and guests keep flocking back.

COVID travel restrictions put a temporary lid on bookings, but Air Force Holidays took that opportunity to give the apartments a full makeover.

And under a new policy, spouses and immediate family of current or former ADF members can now

"The Chevron Island location is quiet yet incredibly central – only strolling distance from the endless beaches, restaurants and attractions of Surfers Paradise."



AMBASSADOR
9-13



stay in the member's absence.

"Particularly when we've got our Defence Force people deploying overseas, I want to make the experience available for the families as well," Martin says.

EXPANDING HOLIDAY HORIZONS WITH CANBNB

While the Ambassador's location is hard to beat, Martin understands that it's geographically bound to the Gold Coast.

So, keen to expand its offerings, Air Force Holidays is trialling a partnership that offers customers 18% off Canberra, NSW South

Coast and Snowy Mountains accommodation advertised on canbnb.com.au.

Running until December, the trial offer is open just to RAAF members – but, if it's successful, Martin hopes to extend the offer to all customers.

"We'd like to be wherever people would like us to be. We've got some work to do to get there, but I'm excited to see if we can pull it off."

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY

During his 33 years in the RAAF, Martin was instrumental in building



the Australian Air Force's air base capability, from establishing Tarin Kot (the coalition partners' major forward operating base in Afghanistan) to developing future logistic concepts for global forces during a stint at the Pentagon.

But when he stepped back into a reserve capacity in 2020, his new

appointment by the Chief of Air Force – while unexpected – felt like a natural progression.

"While I was in full-time service, I was always an advocate for aviator welfare services. What could we be doing better to look after our people and their families? So, it was a natural extension, as I did work in that space, to be appointed as Chair of Air Force Holidays.

"I am an Air Force brat, as we describe ourselves if you've come from an Air Force family. So I've always considered the Air Force to be more than a job. I look at it as a community, and that community has always been really important to me."

TIME WORTH CHERISHING

As a third-generation aviator who served in more than 30 countries, often at short notice, Martin knows just how much downtime means to the Defence community.

"We are such a busy Defence Force these days. Where we're



constantly training and deploying, we cherish the opportunity when we can be a family unit to really enjoy each other's time, get away from business as usual and have a great holiday.

"With all the challenges that Defence families experience, to provide them with a little bit of rest and respite in such a lovely part of the world – for me, that's very satisfying to be part of."

BELOW: Air Force Holidays Chair, Air Commodore Martin Smith (Retd), has always considered the Air Force to be more of a community than a job.



For more information (including other holiday discounts available to the Australian Defence community) visit airforceholidays.com.au

Queensland partnership *benefits veterans*

A new partnership joining two leading veteran organisations will deliver significant benefit to Queenslanders who have served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

RSL QUEENSLAND has joined forces with Bravery Trust, a national charity that provides veteran-specific financial aid and financial counselling services across Australia.

The partnership will enable Bravery Trust's expertise in financial counselling to be delivered to those in need through the RSL Queensland services network.

Bravery Trust Chair Garth Callender says the partnership will capitalise on Bravery Trust's capability in the financial sector to provide the best possible support to veterans who have sacrificed so much in service of our nation.

"Our team has an in-depth understanding of the ADF and the unique challenges faced by veterans," Garth says. "We recognise that financial

circumstances can be complex, especially for those who have limited earning capacity due to illness or injury or are facing financial hardship.

"Maintaining financial stability when relying on limited income or a pension can be stretching, particularly when faced with unexpected circumstances and expenses. Our financial counsellors work closely alongside veterans and their families to provide timely support and guidance.

"Our services span from sorting through and establishing strategies in relation to debt, as well as advocating on behalf of veterans to a variety of creditors including landlords, banks, financial agencies and essential service companies."

RSL Queensland Deputy CEO Veteran Services Troy



RSL Queensland Deputy CEO Veteran Services Troy Watson, left, and Bravery Trust Chair Garth Callender.

Watson says RSL Queensland is proud to be partnering with Bravery Trust in order to support more veterans and their families across Queensland in setting themselves up for financial success.

"This partnership allows us to work longer-term with veterans and their families to identify the best pathway towards financial independence, with a strong emphasis on supporting those who are on the cusp or in the midst of profound hardship," Troy says.

"Our primary goal is to empower those who are

facing a range of difficult crossroads, offering strategic financial counsel that not only provides practical solutions but also gives peace of mind during a time that can often be overwhelming for families.

"Through this partnership, we can extend on the impact of our existing services aimed at supporting those in times of critical need. The partnership will ensure that veterans and their families are not only given immediate aid, but also provided with the education and financial literacy tools to move towards financial independence in the long term." ←

Point & Shoot

AN EXHIBITION OF UNDERSTANDING



As RSL Queensland launches its partnership with the 2023 Point & Shoot Australian veteran photography exhibition, we speak with founder Mark Direen to learn about the positive impact of sharing visual stories of veterans for their communities.



ABOVE: Mark Direen's photo of a vehicle patrol resupply in Afghanistan in 2002.

RIGHT: Mark Direen's photo of the city of Kandahar in Afghanistan in 2008.

BELOW: Mark Direen took this photo of the late Corporal Dave O'Neill in Afghanistan in 2002.

Tell us a little about the man behind Point & Shoot.

I joined the Army as soon as I turned 18 and served for 16 years: six years in the Infantry Corps and 10 years in the Australian Special Air Service Regiment (SASR).

While in the SASR I worked in domestic counterterrorism at the Sydney Olympic Games and did one tour to East Timor and five to Afghanistan. During this period, I was trained in photography as part of reconnaissance operations.

After I left the full-time Defence Force in 2009, I started my company, Point Assist, so I could work as a security consultant for the Department of Foreign Affairs

and Trade. Two years later, I added a trekking arm to the business and in 2016 I moved to expedition and adventure travel guiding full-time. When COVID-19 hit, with travel and adventure on hold, I shifted my focus to documenting and sharing the experiences of others, which I've found a very rewarding space.

How did Point & Shoot come to life?

My own experiences as a soldier were the impetus for this exhibition. Working in high-threat



environments is both physically and mentally demanding. For me, taking photos helped me to not only document my experiences but also to process them. As I shared these images and their stories with those closest to me, I began to wonder about all the other stories that were out there, and so Point & Shoot was born.

How has the exhibition grown since you first started?

People's reactions to Point & Shoot have blown me away. Our first event launched in my hometown of Hobart in 2020 and I included a few of my own photos because we didn't have many submissions. With both public and veteran support, we then toured across the state in 2021 and last year we ran our first national exhibition in Canberra, where we attracted almost 200 submissions. In 2023, we're showing in Brisbane and Townsville, which has already





received great interest. I'm ecstatic that RSL Queensland is now involved as a partner too. I'm a big advocate for the RSL; they do a lot of good for veterans and try to represent them the best they can, which is great.

What can exhibition patrons expect from the collection?

Point & Shoot isn't about displaying the best photos, but sharing stories of everyday service personnel. The thing that resonates with me the most is that to the veterans, these are just everyday photos. However, to the public they represent extraordinary stories of courage and sacrifice. I have seen many powerful moments where members of the public have come to look at the images, and you can see the penny drop as they begin to better understand some of the sacrifices that veterans have made.

How has the exhibition helped the veteran community?

There's such a small percentage of the Australian population who have served in the military and sacrificed

for their country. When veterans share their stories and talk about their experiences, if they have had difficult times either during their service or post-service, that's when a lot of healing can take place. Being able to share with their family, friends or the public is good for veterans' mental health and for moving forward with their lives.

Likewise, what effect has the exhibition had on the Australian public?

Connection is an integral part of the human experience, created through shared understanding. Therefore, having communities understand what veterans go through is hugely important. At each event we continue to be thanked by members of the public for putting the Point & Shoot exhibition together because they walk out with a better

understanding of what it really means to serve and sacrifice for our country.

The stories are coming direct from the service personnel, so it really is the authentic experience of our people. For community leaders, it might also influence their decision making in the future. We hope every viewer finds it a worthwhile experience.

How far are you hoping to take Point & Shoot?

My partner, Sam, and I work together on the exhibition, and our ultimate goal is to tour it nationally across the country. Providing the opportunity for more people to view the exhibition and grow understanding in communities is something we are passionate about. There's a lot of work that sits behind every exhibition, but we love sharing these stories. ←

LEFT: Photo taken in 2001 by Mark Direen of a woman leaning on a motorbike on the street in East Timor.

BELOW: Photo taken in 2002 by Mark Direen showing the resupply by helicopter of special forces soldiers on patrol in Afghanistan.



RSL Queensland is proud to partner with the Point & Shoot exhibition, which is touring Brisbane and Townsville in October 2023. For more information, visit pointandshoot.online

FLOOD- AFFECTED VETERANS FIND NEW HOME

 Lani Pauli

“Brian Shute and Chris Warner might describe last year as one of their hardest, but the support of the Gympie and Murgon RSL Sub Branches meant the two veterans finished 2022 with brighter days ahead.”

With the help of the Murgon and Gympie RSL Sub Branches, veterans Brian Shute and Chris Warner have been able to rebuild their lives following the floods.

BRIAN and Chris might describe last year as one of their hardest, but the support of the Sub Branches meant the two veterans finished 2022 with brighter days ahead.

Displaced during the Gympie floods and forced to live in a caravan, the pair had a hard time getting back on their feet.

Chris says he hadn't found himself in such dire straits before.

“During the floods, a good Samaritan took in me and my dog. All I had with me was a bag

of some papers,” he shares.

“Having the unit has been amazing. It is flat, so easy for me to get around on my mobility scooter. Brian and I are still unpacking, really.”

Murgon RSL Sub Branch President Kevin Gill says when a vacant unit became available in a veteran housing block, the District decided it would be perfect for Chris and Brian.

“We all agreed that Chris and Brian both met the criteria to be

able to be offered the unit and move in,” he says.

“Their living arrangement in the caravan was fast becoming untenable. Chris also lost his car in the floods and couldn't manage getting into town to do groceries and the like. They were 60km out of town, which isn't possible to travel via his mobility scooter.”

Together, both Sub Branches raised funds to set Chris and Brian up with new electricals and second-hand furniture to create their new home.

“They moved in just before Remembrance Day and the accommodation is a couple of kilometres from town. They both have greater independence now being able to get into town to run errands,” Kevin shares.

He says they're also starting to come to community events, which is helping them feel a sense of belonging.

A COMMON SITUATION ACROSS QUEENSLAND

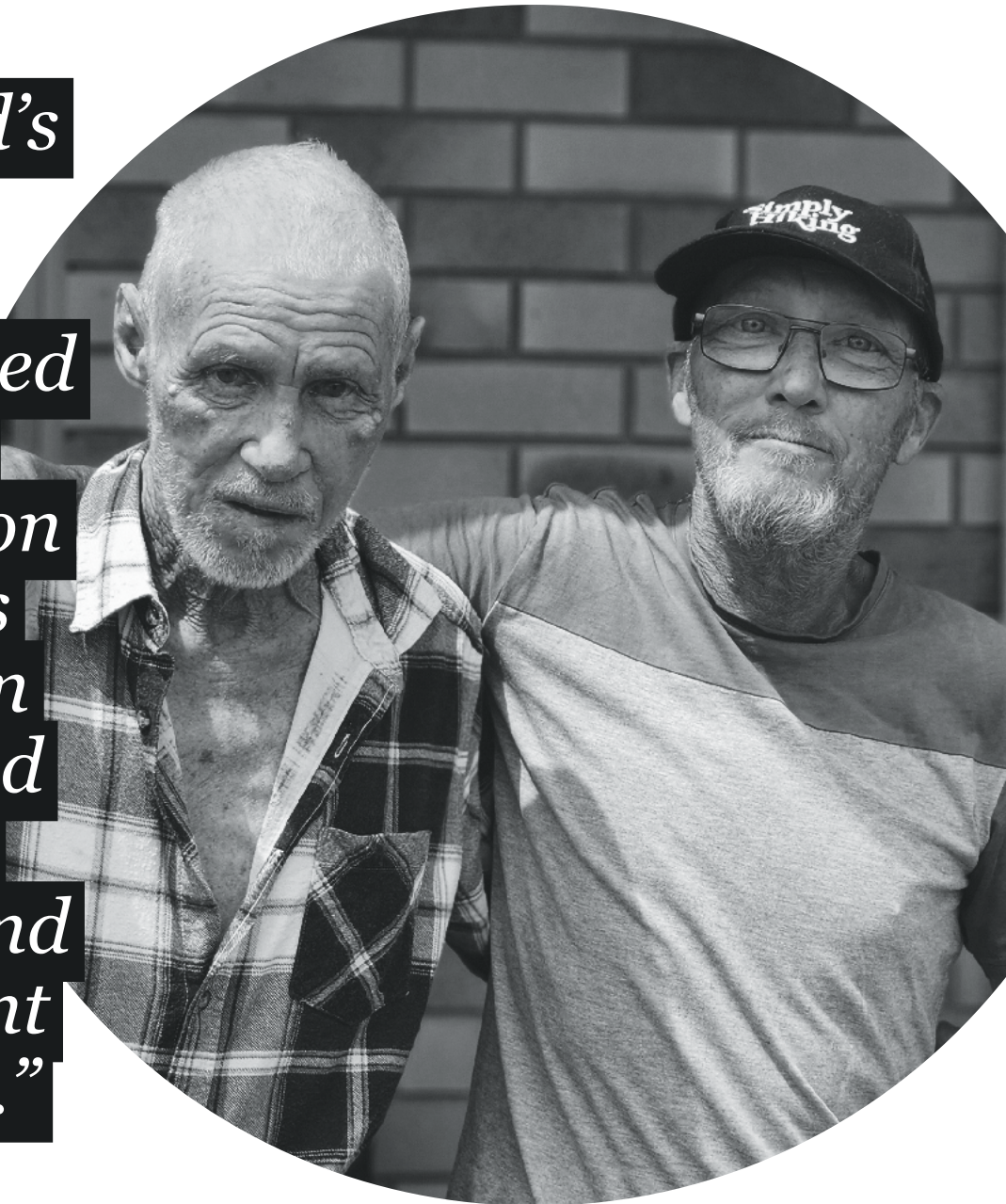
Homelessness – particularly among ex-serving male veterans around 55 years of age – is one that RSL Queensland is seeing increase.

RSL Queensland's Veteran Homelessness Program (delivered in partnership with The Salvation Army) supports those veterans in the Wide Bay and Burnett region seeking help to find stable, permanent accommodation.

The program also links veterans with other RSL Queensland programs, including Department of Veterans' Affairs advocacy and wellbeing, employment, and scholarship programs.

Murgon is situated in Queensland's South Burnett region – within the Wide Bay and Burnett District. In South Burnett, residential vacancy rates are dropping, making stable accommodation options even harder to find.

*“RSL Queensland’s
Veteran
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Burnett region
seeking help to find
stable, permanent
accommodation.”*



Vacancy rates dropped from 0.3% during the June 2022 quarter to virtually no vacancies at 0.1% in the September 2022 quarter. A healthy vacancy rate is between 2.6–3.5%.

Kevin shares there are still many people displaced after the floods.

“We’re seeing many veterans in our District in need of suitable and stable accommodation after the severe weather events of 2022 or being unable to afford ongoing rental increases,” he says.

“I’m thankful, in this instance, we were able to work with the Gympie Sub Branch to arrange accommodation for Chris and

Brian that helps them get back on their feet.”

SETTLING INTO A NEW HOME

While they’re still settling in and getting used to being so close to everyday services like the supermarket and chemist, Chris says the Sub Branch is still there for them.




“For example, they are trying to get a fall bracelet for me to help with my vertigo,” he says.

“It’s okay to get help. Reach out; you don’t have to do it alone. It all works better and while it is new to me being a part of a community like this, it has been beautiful.”

ABOVE: Veterans Brian Shute and Chris Warner.



For information about the RSL Queensland Homelessness program, please contact:

 rslqld.org/find-help
 134 RSL
 vs@rslqld.org

KEEPING THE SUB BRANCH ALIVE



“Peter is the kind of guy that lives RSL Queensland’s values every day – he embodies that service to others, and he’ll be sorely missed.”

Veteran and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Membership SME, Peter Jones, reflects on decades of service and the wins that warmed his heart as he prepares to call it a day at RSL Queensland.

ON 29 March, 79-year-old Peter officially hung up his hat after more than six decades of service.

Those decades span a military career that encompassed two deployments to Borneo and Vietnam, an education career that saw the former teacher rise to the ranks of deputy principal at Caloundra State High School, and a lifelong commitment to community service that saw the passionate Sub Branch member

and volunteer receive a Life Membership in 2005.

Those decades also encompassed a career with RSL Queensland that started back in 2006 when Peter became Secretary at Brisbane North District – all the way to the role of CRM Membership SME. Here, his passion for data played a big part in driving our organisation’s membership numbers skyward in recent years.

While it’s safe to say that Peter has earned some time in the sun (he’s got a few cruises booked in for some much-needed R&R) the passionate vet said RSL Queensland’s cause and that of the Sub Branches would remain close to his heart.

“I’ve spent a great portion of my life in community service, and that’s because I’ve always wanted to help others,” Peter said.

“While I enlisted in the Australian Army as an apprentice in 1960 and served overseas twice, I didn’t suffer any major catastrophes except for breaking my foot while I was jumping over a fence, so it has been my privilege to serve and support veterans who did the hard yards.



"And that's why keeping my local Sub Branch alive at Deception Bay is the big one for me. That's the most impactful community service project I've been a part of."

"Back when I was elected Secretary in 1994, we only had 19 members and over the years I have poured my heart and soul into keeping it going. We managed to build that membership up to 100 at one stage."

Peter served his Sub Branch as Secretary for 28 years and was also named President of the Deception Bay RSL Sub Branch in 2013, serving in that role until last year. He also served as Treasurer and Pension and Welfare Officer before being elected as Treasurer at Brisbane North District – ahead

of his paid position as Secretary in 2006 – which combined with his role with the RSL Queensland Memberships team in 2010.

Over the years, Peter was also an RSL Trustee of the ANZAC Day Trust (2007-2012), a DVA Veterans' Children Education Scheme RSL Board Member (2012-2020) and an RSL Meritorious Service Medal awardee (2019).

Speaking of medals, the remarkable vet received an Australian Active Service Medal (1945 to 1975 Clasps Malaysia and Vietnam), a General Service Medal (1962 Clasp Borneo), a Vietnam Medal, an Australian Defence Medal, a South Vietnam Campaign Medal (Star) and Pingat Jasa Malaysia.

Then there are the many other community organisations Peter served in, such as APEX.

"Having a supportive wife has allowed me to be a part of so many community service roles and I believe what makes a community great is the organisations within it."

It's that passion, knowledge and dedication to his craft and the community that will ensure he's sorely missed at RSL Queensland, said Marketing Manager Membership & Network Jazz Tyrril.

"Peter offers that vast experience

that crosses over from Sub Branch land into State Branch land and he's the guru of MMS – which is the database we use here,"

Jazz said.

"His ability to know which data to pull out and his knack for always being on the ball is outstanding and he has a gift for getting to the bottom of any kind of anomaly and rectifying it."

"Peter is the kind of guy that lives RSL Queensland's values every day – he embodies that service to others, and he'll be sorely missed."

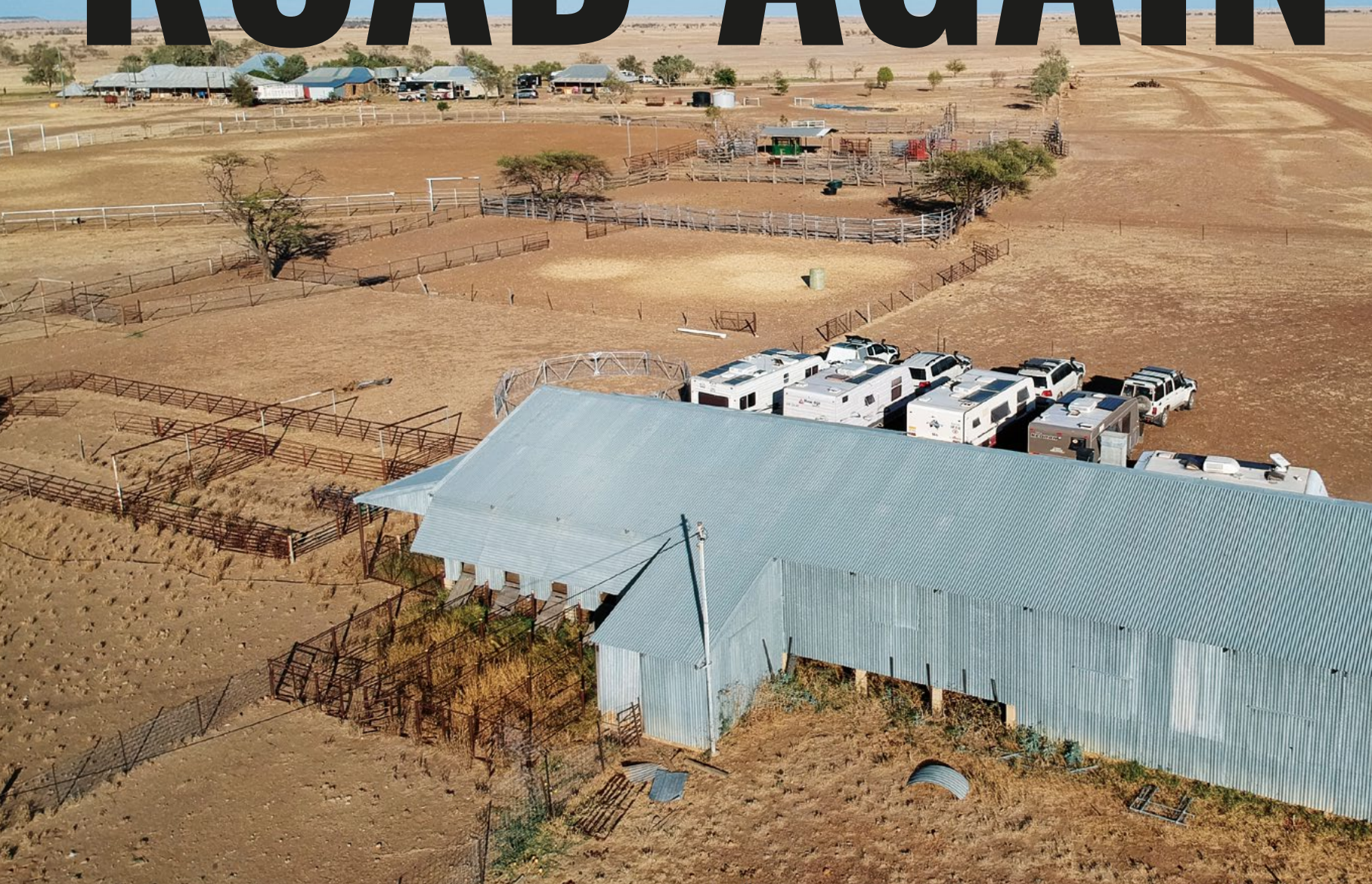
As for what's first on the retirement agenda for Peter, he said downsizing from his Deception Bay home was high on the list – "I've got 48 years' worth of clutter to get rid of" – followed by the aforementioned cruises around Australia and beyond with the love of his life.

"I'm happy to be retiring after all these years but I'm truly appreciative of my time here at RSL Queensland and the incredible projects I've had a chance to be a part of," Peter said.

From all of us here at RSL Queensland, thank you Peter for your incredible service to our organisation, to our nation and to the countless veterans you've supported over the years. ←

ABOVE: Peter Jones has committed his life to community service, from the Army to working as a teacher, volunteering as a passionate Sub Branch member and finishing his career within the memberships team of RSL Queensland.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN



Caravan and recreational vehicle (RV) clubs offer nomadic travellers a mobile community to share their experiences. Roustabouts RV Club is shifting gears to support veterans and their families on the road.

“Being a Roustabout can be a positive change to your lifestyle. Mixing socially with other club members and visiting rural and remote regions helps you become more community conscious.”

PUTTING PEDAL TO THE METAL

When Roustabouts RV Club (Roustabouts) Secretary and RAAF veteran Chris Lloyd learned there was an opportunity for his club to pioneer a caravanning and touring equipped 4WD RV experience tailored for veterans, he decided to take action.

“Membership to Roustabouts offers me an environment of understanding and respect. While our members may not have served in Defence, they respect what we have done,” Chris explains.

“Recently, a military veteran mentioned to me that there was currently no caravan club that actively supported veterans. This was hard to believe, but when I investigated further, I found they were correct.”

Following this revelation, Chris approached Roustabout’s executive to discuss creating a support network for the veterans in their membership base. They are now engaging with North Gold Coast RSL Sub Branch to get their ideas off the ground.

BELOW: Veterans commemorating ANZAC Day at The Sheeppark Inn near Grawin.





ABOVE: An aerial view of people gathered together at a campsite of caravans and recreational vehicles.

RIGHT: Caravans and RVs line up in outback Australia.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY THROUGH CARAVANNING AND TOURING

Modern caravan and RV clubs offer friendship, organised touring, a support network, and a community of like-minded people to share their travels with. Clubs like Roustabouts also offer important resources and training such as first aid, caravan and rig maintenance sessions, and state-of-the-art medical equipment for their members.

Additionally, caravan and RV clubs are often run by a group of committed volunteers, who work hard to ensure their members enjoy the best possible experience on the road. Roustabouts' volunteers host long weekend 'musters' within a 300km radius of Brisbane, as well as 'long paddock drives' and 'mystery tagalongs' for those who are more adventurous. For veterans, sharing the experience with other travellers can be cathartic.

"Our veteran members do not generally talk about their past, but if they're having a bad day there is always a mate to talk to or a group

to sit with and have a coffee," Chris says.

"The best thing about our club is going on a trip around Australia with other members, knowing there is security and mates to talk to."

VETERANS IN RVs

Through the support of clubs like Roustabouts, veterans can belong to a group that offers more than just travelling companionship. In building their support network, Chris says they are committed to

providing a range of experiences across social, technical and commemorative activities to ensure veterans get the most from their membership.

"Working with veterans in this way has mutual benefits – it makes our club stronger and provides an outlet for veterans," Chris says.

"Being a Roustabout can be a positive change to your lifestyle. Mixing socially with other club members and visiting rural and remote regions helps you become more community conscious."

Roustabouts also organises events for ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day and Vietnam Veterans' Day in country regions.

"To mark these occasions, we usually offer coffee mornings and musters at veteran-friendly parks like Standown Park and Yarak," Chris says.

For those interested in joining, Roustabouts uses a simple online registration process and regularly communicates with members to ensure they can plan and budget ahead of time. ←



Ready to hit the road? Learn more about Roustabouts RV Club at roustaboutsrvclub.com.au or get in contact via office@roustaboutsclub.com.au



GALLIPOLI
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Compassion

**MAY HELP
REDUCE
YOUR PTSD
SYMPTOMS**

*Being compassionate, both to yourself and to others,
and being open to accepting compassion, can have
a positive impact on veterans with post-traumatic
stress disorder (PTSD) and their partners.*



“New research out of Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF) found that Compassionate Mind Training (CMT) increased compassion in veterans, helping to reduce the severity of their PTSD symptoms.”

NEW research out of Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF) found that Compassionate Mind Training (CMT) increased compassion in veterans, helping to reduce the severity of their PTSD symptoms.

CMT is a psychoeducation and skills-based program that incorporates building skills in the areas of cognitive-behaviour therapy and mindfulness. However, building compassion is at the core of its approach. The aim of CMT is to help people develop self-compassion, compassion for others, and openness to receiving compassion from others.

A reported 85% of current serving and recently discharged Australian Defence Force members experience a traumatic event at some point during service.

Targeting compassion and self-compassion during therapeutic activities may be helpful for those with PTSD.

“Living with PTSD can be enormously challenging, not just for the individual veteran, but also for the veteran’s whole family system, including partners, children and parents,” Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation lead researcher Dr Madeline Romaniuk says.

“We know from existing research that practising compassion and self-compassion may be an important addition to psychological therapy for victims of trauma. Findings indicate that as compassion levels increase, PTSD levels decrease, so it’s important to explore these potential benefits for veterans.”

GMRF’s pilot study investigated

the use of the CMT group program on ex-service personnel with PTSD as well as their partners.

“This is the first study to explore CMT for veterans and the first to include partners for the duration of the program. It is vital to provide therapies, skills-building and support for both veterans with a mental health condition and their partners. This program was unique as it gave participants an opportunity for couples to do this together, and the feedback was excellent,” Dr Romaniuk says.

For the ex-service personnel who participated in the study, PTSD symptoms steadily decreased over the course of the CMT intervention. Specific findings also included:

- an improvement in compassion-based experiences
- a reduction in depressive, anxiety and stress symptoms

“We know from existing research that practising compassion and self-compassion may be an important addition to psychological therapy for victims of trauma. Findings indicate that as compassion levels increase, PTSD levels decrease, so it’s important to explore these potential benefits for veterans.”



- a reduction in external shame and self-criticism
- an increase in quality of life
- an increase in relationship satisfaction for the duration of the program.

“The results showed that the use of CMT for ex-service personnel with PTSD and their partners might particularly help in the ongoing reduction of PTSD, anxiety and stress symptoms and the improvement of compassion-based experiences, including reduced

feelings of shame and self-criticism,” Dr Romaniuk says.

The article ‘Compassionate mind training for ex-service personnel with PTSD and their partners’ was published in the *Journal of Clinical Psychology & Psychotherapy*.

The study was a collaboration between GMRF and the Compassionate Mind Research group at The University of Queensland, and was proudly funded by Medibank’s Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund. ←

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE:



“CMT is a psychoeducation and skills-based program that incorporates building skills in the areas of cognitive-behaviour therapy and mindfulness.”

MATESHIP



ANZAC BIRTHDAY WISH GRANTED AT BUNDABERG

31 March was a special day at Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch, celebrating the 100th birthday of long-time member, Richard Pethybridge. Richard is believed to be the last surviving veteran of the Darwin bombing in 1942. In recognition of a long life of service, Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch President Graham Crowden and District Deputy President Graham Davis visited Richard and presented him with a certificate. The icing on the cake was granting Richard's birthday wish to attend the 2023 ANZAC Day Service in Darwin, flying him there and back to make it happen.

TRIVIA NIGHT RAISES FUNDS FOR CANCER WAR

After noticing an increase in members requiring cancer treatment services in Toowoomba, Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch leaders decided to help. The Sub Branch held a trivia night and auction to fundraise for the John Stedman Oncology Unit at St Andrew's Hospital. The evening was a huge success, with 146 people attending and raising over \$3,600. Pictured is Paulette Prodger (holding Rodney the Owl) and Greg Watt of Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch presenting the cheque to St Andrew's Hospital staff, Sigrid, Hugh and Julie.



BOWEN RSL COMMUNITY CONNECTS AT AGM

Bowen RSL Sub Branch held its Annual General Meeting on 25 February. It was a great opportunity for members to come together and connect. During the meeting, donations were issued to the Bowen Neighbourhood Centre and Queensland Country Women's Association.



DEDICATED MEMBERSHIP OFFICER RETIRES

Since 2011, Greg Holmes has served the veteran community as Cooroy-Pomona RSL Sub Branch's Membership Officer. His mission has been to look after fellow members and to increase and retain membership at his Sub Branch. After 12 successful years, Greg decided to retire from the role, and is now focusing on his Committee and Garden of Remembrance responsibilities. Greg is pictured here with various Cooroy-Pomona RSL Sub Branch staff.

EMERALD SUB BRANCH MAKES DONATION TO LEGACY

The generosity of Emerald RSL Sub Branch was highlighted in May as Secretary Bryan Ottone, President Noel Mallyon and Treasurer Shane Pilkington presented Legacy Rockhampton with a cheque for \$1,000. Jo Peace and Jan Catup are pictured receiving the donation on behalf of Legacy Rockhampton.



CHARTERS TOWERS LIFE MEMBER REACHES 75 YEAR MILESTONE

RSL Charters Towers Women's Auxiliary Life Member Norma Moylan celebrated a special milestone in April. At a special morning tea hosted by RSL North Queensland District, Norma was presented with her 75 Year Certificate by District President Garry Player. Norma is very active in the Charters Towers community. As well as her involvement with RSL Charters Towers Women's Auxiliary, Norma has also been a member of the Queensland Country Women's Association, Legacy and Lions.



RACERS MEET UP AT RSL'S RUN ARMY TENT

Run Army was once again held in April to raise funds for Legacy. Narelle Peach ran with the Queensland University Regiment (QUR) team. Narelle is the president of the Grantham-Ma Ma Creek RSL Sub Branch, a Major in the Army Reserve, and Officer Commanding (OC) of the Regional Induction Company Squadron at QUR. Narelle, left, is pictured with Matt Grant who is also a major in the Army Reserve and a Public Affairs Officer. Both members were appreciative of the RSL tent.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION AT GIN GIN SUB BRANCH

Gin Gin RSL Sub Branch has recently introduced numerous new initiatives and events to support local veterans and engage with their local community. Their Veterans Coffee and Catch-up (pictured) takes place every Thursday, hosted at the Gin Gin Rest Area, to reach veterans passing through the area. The Sub Branch has also been working on its online presence, with the establishment of their Facebook page. As a result, membership numbers are reported to have increased significantly.



CROWS NEST BUZZING AT BOOK LAUNCH

Earlier this year, Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch hosted the book launch of local teenager Daisy Zagorsky's *The French Brothers*. Daisy researched, wrote, and published the book in the wake of the 80th anniversary of CPL John 'Jack' French VC's ultimate sacrifice. The book tells the stories of his brothers, which Daisy delivered a synopsis of to fascinated RSL members. Daisy is pictured with Sub Branch members at her book launch.



LIFE MEMBER

Home Hill RSL Sub Branch recently awarded Allan Petersen a Life Membership at a presentation which took place in January. Allan originally joined the Sub Branch in 2006 as a Life Subscriber. He is extremely passionate about all things RSL and veterans, even visiting local schools during the Postcards of Honour and Draw to Remember programs to share his experiences. Allan is pictured receiving his Life Member certificate from Bill Whitburn.

AWARDS FOR RSL MEMBERS AT KINGAROY-MEMERAMBI

Kingaroy-Memerambi RSL Sub Branch recently held its AGM, where a number of awards were presented. President Donald Davey J.P. (Qual) (pictured above) was awarded Life Membership of RSL Australia. Wide Bay-Burnett District President Neville Tarry presented the prestigious award to Donald. Barry Krosch (pictured top left) was also awarded his 50-year service certificate and Les Porter was awarded his 30-year service certificate.



GONE FISHIN' AT GRACEMERE

Gracemere & District RSL Sub Branch veterans, from left, Norm Collins, Tony Harris, Kevin Cotter and Peter Lloyd are pictured with their impressive catch, including PBs from a charter out of 1770. Among other social activities, the Sub Branch organises fishing charters for its more adventurous members. These outings have been fantastic for fostering camaraderie. After each trip, the fillets are vacuum-packed and divided up to members, including those who are unable to get out on the water.



STANTHORPE SUPPORTS SCHOOL'S KOKODA CHALLENGE

Staff and students from St Joseph's School Stanthorpe formed three teams to participate in the 2023 Kokoda Challenge. To help with the epic 48km undertaking, Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch donated six pairs of hiking poles to share between the school's 15 young walkers. These poles were reportedly a lifesaver on the journey, particularly helping on steep ascents. Through their efforts, St Joseph's raised \$5,138 for the Kokoda Youth Foundation.

MARYBOROUGH COMMEMORATIVE WALL GETS THUMBS UP

Vietnam veteran John Bretz, left, and fellow veteran Alan Miller are pictured at Maryborough's new wall of pavers, commemorating those who have served with the ADF. The wall marks a new era for the Maryborough RSL Sub Branch Board, which is being led by a new, younger generation of veterans including President Andrew Upston, Vice President Shane Epps and Treasurer Mel Stephens.



CENTENARY BIRTHDAY AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

WWII veteran Jim Grebert reached a special milestone on 12 February, celebrating his 100th birthday. Jim, the oldest member of the Sandgate RSL Sub Branch, celebrated his special day over lunch at the Sandgate Post Office Hotel with family and friends. Brisbane North District then organised Jim to be flown to Canberra to attend a celebratory event where RSL Australia presented his 100th Year Certificate. This was followed by a visit to the Australian War Memorial, where he laid a wreath during the Last Post Ceremony.





RARE CERAMIC PIECE GIFTED TO RSL MUSEUM

Mossman RSL Sub Branch members took the time to acknowledge long-time member Ra Ribes for his gift of a valuable figurine to add to their meeting hall's substantial museum. Ra's glazed ceramic depicts the heroic Simpson and his donkey, who passed into our national history for their deeds among the ANZACs at Gallipoli. Ra is pictured (sitting, second from right) surrounded by members of the Mossman RSL Sub Branch.



NORTH QUEENSLAND CELEBRATES ONE CENTURY

Over the weekend commencing 31 March 2023, RSL's North Queensland District celebrated 100 years. This milestone marked a century of providing vital care, commemoration and camaraderie to veteran communities across a network of coastal, rural and remote RSL Sub Branches. Festivities were hosted in Townsville, and included the Centenary Dinner, as well as Life Membership presentations and a wreath laying ceremony. Pictured is the cutting of the cake by current and previous District Presidents.



UNMARKED GRAVES DEDICATED AT STANTHORPE

Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch Vice President Glen Gibson has worked tirelessly over the past year researching and locating unmarked graves of Stanthorpe's WWI veterans. On 27 February, five unmarked graves were honoured with symbols of respect when monumental plaques bearing the veterans' names were dedicated at their grave sites. The five veterans were John Graham, Charles James Larkins, Bernard Maguire, Harold Bernard Mann and William Williams. Pictured are Rae Gleeson and Margaret Smith at the ceremony.



DOROTHY MORROW HONOURED ON ANZAC DAY

Attending ANZAC Day services over the past few years has been tricky for WWII veteran Dorothy Morrow, due to COVID-19 concerns. However, the 102-year-old was this year honoured for her service as a guest of honour at Pine Rivers' ANZAC Day service. Pine Rivers RSL Sub Branch Welfare Coordinator Mary Lynch delivered Dorothy and her carers to the parade, where SES volunteers raised her to the dais so she could wave to onlookers. Dorothy was then presented her veteran lapel pin to a standing ovation.



SPIRIT OF ANZAC AWARDS PRESENTED IN TIARO

Five state schools in the Tiaro district received Tiaro RSL Sub Branch Spirit of ANZAC Awards in March. The award winners are selected by their schools and reflect qualities of resilience, camaraderie, respect, hard work, dependability and generosity. The winning students included Max Kummerfield of Mungar State School, Harmonei Willis of Tiaro State School, Hamish Doona of Bauple State School (pictured), and Lilly Cheers of Gundiah State School.



DISTRICT PRESIDENT HONOURED AS TOWNSVILLE RSL LIFE MEMBER

On 31 January, Townsville RSL Sub Branch member Garry Player was awarded a Life Membership from the North Queensland District. Garry joined the Sub Branch in 2000 and has held the position of Vice President since 2018. He has also served as the President of the North Queensland District since 2019. Garry is very active in the welfare space and has made significant contributions to the veteran community in Townsville, both as a volunteer and through his service on the RSL Queensland Board.



TWO RSL LIFE MEMBERS APPOINTED IN TOOWOOMBA

Toowoomba RSL Sub Branch members Trevor Fuelling and Lindsay Morrison were recently awarded Life Membership. Trevor joined Tully RSL Sub Branch in 1965 before joining Toowoomba in 2001, while Lindsay joined Toowoomba in 2004. They are pictured together with their certificates, which were presented by District President Dennis Pollard and RSL Queensland Vice President Bill Whitburn at a ceremony prior to the Western District AGM.

NATIONAL DAY FOR WAR ANIMALS

Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch held a ceremony to honour the deeds and sacrifices of animals in war on 24 February. Sub Branch President Brian Tidyman led the service, which included a prayer from Reverend Jeff Jarvis and wreath laying at the Light Horse War Memorial in Freedom Park. A special mention goes to the Maryborough Correctional Centre, RAAF Police Dog Unit (pictured), the WBB QMI 5LHR Hervey Bay Troop Inc and Stable Minds Equine Assisted Therapy for bringing their charges and participating in the service.



COMMUNITY



WAR ANIMAL ADVOCATES MEET IN SWITZERLAND

On a recent trip to Geneva to meet with the United Nations Council, AWAMO President Nigel Allsopp, left, caught up with co-founders of the British War Horse Memorial Susan Osborne, centre, and Alan Carr. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect over a mutual passion for promoting the recognition and honouring of animals involved in war. The trio is actively involved in many war animal projects between them, including AWAMO's current work in Ukraine.

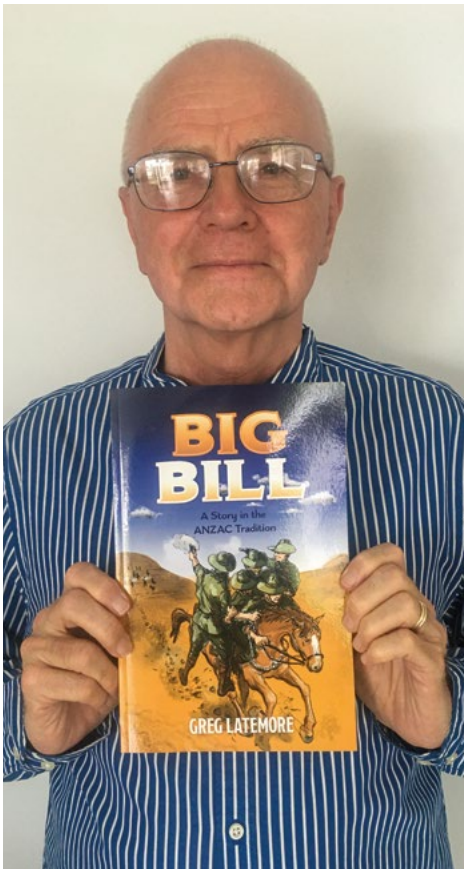
CADETS HELP UKRAINE'S FURRY FRIENDS

Back in February, 10 Emergency Service cadets between aged between 11 and 16 banded together to construct more than 20 pipe feeders and water bowls to help nourish Ukraine's many displaced dogs and cats. Thousands of beloved pets have been left homeless by the war, with shelters working over-capacity. AWAMO will dispatch the feeders and bowls, which will help to reduce these animals' suffering.



STORY OF BILL THE WAR HORSE TOLD IN CHILDREN'S BOOK

The exploits of famous war horse 'Bill the Bastard' have been reimagined for a new, younger audience in the children's book *Big Bill*. The book was written by Dr Greg Latemore (pictured), the great-nephew of Major Michael 'Mick' Shanahan DSO (1870-1964), who rode Bill during WWI as part of the 2nd Light Horse Regiment. Bill and Mick rescued four Tasmanian troopers at the Battle of Romani in August 1916. The book is available to purchase online.



AWAMO VISITS VETERINARY TROOP CONTINGENT IN CYPRUS

During a trip to Cyprus to spend time with family, AWAMO President Nigel Allsopp had the pleasure of visiting the Royal Army Veterinary Corps (RAVC) Troop contingent in Cyprus on ANZAC Day. The 1 Military Working Dog Regiment (pictured) commands the small Troop on the island. As a serving dog handler, Nigel reported it was an amazing experience.



ARMY VETERAN LEN SETO CELEBRATES 100th BIRTHDAY

Sunshine Coast local and WWII veteran Leonard 'Len' Seto recently celebrated his 100th birthday with his nearest and dearest at the Caloundra RSL Sub Branch, where he's been a longstanding member. During the festivities, Len was presented with a certificate from Sub Branch President Heather Christie to acknowledge his outstanding achievements in service and beyond. When asked what the secret to living a long life is, Len advises eating plenty of chocolate and ice-cream.



BRIBIE NASHOS UNVEIL MEMORABILIA DISPLAY

14 February is widely known as a day of love, but it's also a day of paying respect towards Australian Nashos. Bribie Island National Servicemen's Association marked this year's Nasho Day by unveiling a display of memorabilia in the foyer of Bribie Island RSL Sub Branch. From 1951 to 1972, more than 287,000 young Australian men completed compulsory military training through the Nasho program.



PIERRE SEILLIER AWARDED HONORARY ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL

The efforts of Laidley RSL Sub Branch members have paid off – Frenchman Pierre Seillier has been awarded an honorary Order of Australia Medal. Pierre's life mission has been to honour the memory of Australian troops who have travelled across the world to fight for his countrymen. Pierre's incredible passion has extended to RSL Sub Branches Australia-wide by providing artwork for their commemoration ceremonies, and he has also been instrumental in establishing the Cobbers Primary School nearby his hometown.



SAILING THROUGH SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND'S NAVY WEEK

All things naval were on show during Navy Week 2023 (23 February to 1 March). A series of events was hosted to mark the occasion, including the Naval Association of Australia's service, as well as parades and open days. This photo shows Naval Association of Australia Liaison Patricia Nuss, right, with an Australian Navy Cadets staffer at the HMAS Moreton's open day, which was well attended.



VIETNAM NATIONAL MOURNING DAY

On 30 April 2023, the Vietnamese community in Australia's Queensland Chapter held a commemorative ceremony at Inala's Vietnam War Memorial. Veterans, community members and distinguished guests gathered and paid their respects by laying wreathes and flowers at the memorial site to honour those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam War. Vietnam National Mourning Day is held on the anniversary of the fall of Saigon, marking the end of the War.



BRENDA TRANTER RELEASES NEW BOOK

Congratulations to author Brenda Tranter, who released her new book *Captured! Living with Death on the Sumatran Railway* at Caloundra RSL Sub Branch in November 2022. The story is about the life of Australian Lieutenant A.E. Tranter, who spent time in Malaya training young soldiers during the waiting period prior to WWII. It's a tale of survival, tolerance, responsibility, and understanding. The book is available to purchase online.

WIN



ONE MORE MOUNTAIN: A PARVANA STORY

In Kabul, 15-year-old Damsa runs away to avoid being forced into marriage by her family. She is helped by Shauzia, who takes her to her friend Parvana's Green Valley school.

It has been 20 years since Parvana and Shauzia had to disguise themselves as boys to support their families. And when the Taliban were defeated in 2001, they began to rebuild their lives. But everything changed in 2021 when the Taliban rose to power again and the restrictions they imposed had a devastating impact on women and girls and their hard-won freedoms.

With little warning, Kabul airport is shut down and danger is everywhere. And when the Taliban comes to Green Valley, Parvana and Shauzia's community face new dangers from an old enemy as Afghanistan is once again under siege.

A hauntingly compelling story of courage, heartbreak and resilience.

One More Mountain by Deborah Ellis is published by Allen & Unwin (RRP: \$16.99).

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

THE FIRST ASHORE

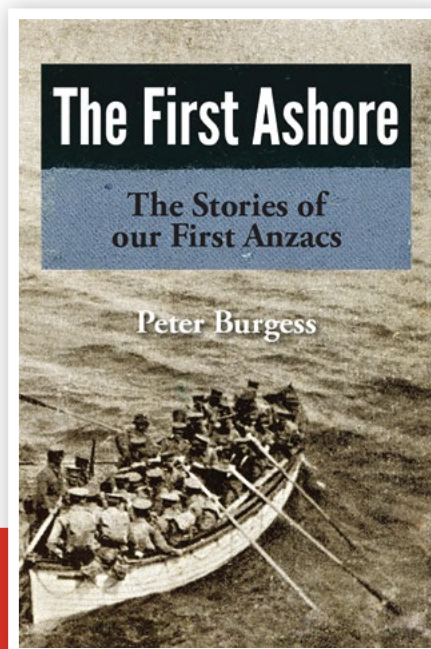
A small but significant group of Queensland's 9th Battalion ANZACs hold the unique honour of being the first soldiers ashore at the Gallipoli landing. Their identity was a serious matter of battalion and unit pride for WWI diggers and for many Queensland communities and families. Today, these men represent a proud connection to the ANZAC legend.

The author's extensive research of wartime letters, diaries, newspaper reports and interviews has confidently identified 26 of the approximate 30 ANZACs who landed in this first boat ashore.

Each story intimately reveals the experience of ordinary Australians at war. Heroic actions and horrendous ordeals are recounted, and neglected aspects of the Gallipoli landing, such as the role of 9th Battalion scouts, highlighted. Mateship, self-sacrifice, dedication to duty and changing identity become recurring themes.

A strong focus is also placed on the post-war lives of those who survived. The problems of repatriation and the war's devastating impact on families and communities are revealed. Many men from the first boat suffered broken lives but, for some, their unique identity as first ashore, 'original' ANZACs inspired strength and leadership. Important contributions were made to community and veteran affairs.

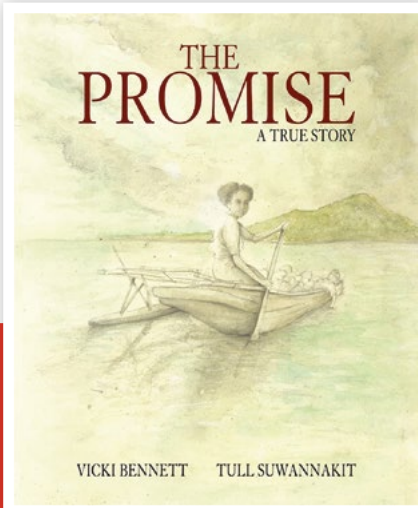
The First Ashore by Peter Burgess is published by Publicious Self-Publishing (RRP: \$32.99).



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



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



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

FOR AN ANGEL'S BREATH

In 1968, Saigon and the surrounding jungles of South Vietnam were the deadliest place on Earth. For young Australian soldier Mike Bennett, fear had no place in the hell that was the Vietnam War.

On a mission to find a huge diamond – The Angel's Breath – Bennett, together with two fearless, misfit soldiers, a French mercenary and two American CIA agents, venture where no sane men should ever dare walk: a jungle controlled by a criminally insane North Vietnamese Army officer.

Bennett soon learns that no risk is too great when the lives of the people around him are on the line. In fact, he is prepared to go to hell and back for mateship, love and for The Angel's Breath.

For an Angel's Breath by Michael Kiker is published by Xlibris (RRP: \$24.99).

THE PROMISE

Papua New Guinea nurse Maiogaru Taulebona hid a wounded Australian airman in a cave, deep in the jungle near Milne Bay in WWII. With two words, "I promise", she was bound to the task of saving his life.

Hiding him in a canoe under a pile of vegetables, Maiogaru paddled him through Japanese-occupied waters to safety. Her bravery was recognised when she was awarded the Loyal Service Medal.

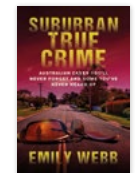
The Promise by Vicki Bennett & Tull Suwannakit is published by Boolarong Press (RRP: \$29.99).

QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS WINNERS EDITION 1, 2023



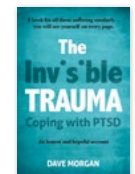
EIGHT HUNDRED HEROES

C Cass, Deception Bay
M Cooper, Minyama
R Egan, Mt Warren Park
C Brown, Cleveland



SUBURBAN TRUE CRIME

W Meurant, Urangan
C Webb, Tingalpa
A Haydock, Beerwah



THE INVISIBLE TRAUMA

R Riley, Wavell Heights
T Templar, Yamanto
P White, Agnes Water
M Whiteley, Sadliers Crossing



THE MIGHTY 747

B Lagas, Collingwood Park
A Kruger, Pelican Waters
R Callander, Carrara
B Barwick, Hervey Bay

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



EXTERIOR



GYM



ENTRANCE



MASTER BEDROOM



DECK



DINING



ENSUITE



LIVING ROOM



POOL + FIREPIT

VIP CLUB

MORE MILLIONS FOR MEMBERS

RSL Art Union Draw No. 407 (AU407L) conducted by Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) ABN 79 902 601 713 of ANZAC House, 283 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006 under the following licence numbers: ACT: R23/000051, NSW: GOCAU/2332, QLD: 29819, SA: M14354, VIC: 10010/23. Prize value: \$4,538,345. The total number of tickets available for AU407L is 5,896,600 which may include a maximum of 1,513,500 bonus tickets. Drawn at ANZAC House. Winners notified by registered mail. Results published at www.rslartunion.com.au/winners on 02/08/23. Eligible VIP members will receive bonus entries into the following additional cash draws associated with AU407L: Five (5) Weekly \$5K Pay Day Draws, total prize value: \$25,000. Eligible customers who purchase additional tickets in AU407L will receive bonus entries into the following additional cash draws: Double Dip (37), total prize value: \$2,000; Double Dip (38), total prize value: \$2,000. Results published at www.rslartunion.com.au/winners on the draw date of each draw. For eligibility criteria and draw dates, refer to www.rslartunion.com.au/termsandconditions. Entrants must be 18 years or over. Proceeds are for the purpose of veteran welfare and support. Some items shown in pictures are for display purposes only. Images correct at time of photography. Videography correct at time of filming. Vehicle is a Tesla Model 3 RWD. Registered in QLD, on-road costs, GST and dealer delivery costs included (excl. Sunshine Coast QLD). Vehicle excludes comprehensive motor vehicle insurance. Vehicle is subject to the relevant auto dealers standard terms and conditions of sale and availability. Vehicle images shown are for illustrative purposes only. Selling costs and market

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JUST in time for her 60th birthday!

Brisbane woman Lucy* was physically shaking when told she'd won RSL Art Union Draw 403 in March, scooping the \$6.3 million Noosa Villas prize – just weeks before her 60th birthday.

In a 'dream come true', Lucy now owns two stunning villas, with more than \$300,000 worth of furniture and appliances throughout. Each has four bedrooms and three bathrooms, while one boasts a private pool, and the other has shared pool access.

"It's not quite real," Lucy said. "Not at all. It hasn't sunk in yet. It still feels a bit of a dream and you're going to wake up soon and realise."

Lucy now has a lot to consider. She could move into one villa to enjoy the iconic Noosa lifestyle and rent out

the other for an estimated \$80,600 per year or rent out both for \$161,200. Lucy, who won with a \$10 ticket, could also choose to sell one or both villas to become an instant multi-millionaire.

"This win has definitely given me more financial freedom," she said. "When my husband died, my retirement plans were limited. This win has definitely eased those concerns. However, like any great shock in life I'm going to let it sink in and decide slowly on my next steps. I don't see myself retiring yet, but I now have the confidence to do so comfortably if I choose."

It was after her credit card was hacked that Lucy decided to become an RSL Art Union VIP member in 2020.

"I had to stop everything on that card and transfer it to

another one," she explained. "When I finally got my card sorted, I said, 'Right, we're going to automatically do this and I never have to think about it and I'll just automatically have a ticket in every draw'."

Growing up, her family had a holiday house at Maroochydore ever since her mother was a teenager.

"We were lucky enough to have a holiday home our family would frequent, and it always made for such great memories," Lucy recalled fondly. "My son said to me, 'I can't believe that we've now got a holiday house'. It's sort of profound that now I'm able to supply the next generation of the family with the same great holiday adventures and memories. My children and their children and their

future cousins can all grow up together as well."

Lucy's son said their granddad's ashes are out at Noosa beach.

"My wife and I also met at Noosa and got married at Noosa two years ago now. So Noosa makes sense, so lovely," he said.

Lucy's message to others is you've got to be in it to win it.

"A lot of people are very angry with me at the moment; of course a lot of people are also very happy for me, too! I would tell people to not hesitate," she said. "You build these marvellous homes for the right reasons. You can't dream about winning a prize home unless you buy a ticket!"

****Lucy's name has been changed for privacy reasons. 14***

COMMUNITY CONNECT

LEGACY CHARITY RIDE

Following the success of last year's event, 50 people (mostly veterans) will set off from Ipswich on small motor scooters on 24 August for an 18-day, 2,500km trip to Lavarack Barracks, Townsville. Nicknamed 'Scootaville', the event will raise funds for Legacy and has been organised by the Radschool Association. Radschool is a registered charity representing the men and women who were trained by the Air Force to maintain or operate its electronic equipment. Association Secretary and Treasurer Trevor Benneworth says the trip will involve passing through a variety of iconic Queensland towns including Dalby, Roma, Charleville, Blackall, Longreach, Winton, Cloncurry, Richmond, Hughenden, Charters Towers and finally Townsville. "The event provides an opportunity for the men and women taking part to form new friendships, meet some wonderful people along the way, see and enjoy some outback hospitality and to discuss any troubles they might have in a friendly and social atmosphere," Trevor says. There are still a few spots available for riders or supporters, although riders will need to hold a current motorcycle licence. For a small fee everything is provided, including a scooter, riding jacket, helmet and bedding. Along the route, Councils have made their showgrounds available for the group to stay overnight in their pavilions. If you are interested in participating or being a corporate sponsor, please email Trevor at trev@radschool.org.au.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TEAMWORK MEDALLION FOUND

An Australian Army Teamwork Medallion in a presentation case has been found at Hervey Bay tip. It bears the name of Michael Hindmarsh, Australian Army. Please contact Simon Morley at Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch via 07 4197 7477 or subbranch@herveybayrsl.com.au.

RAAF SURFACE FINISHING REUNION (SURFIN)

The first reunion of RAAF Surface Finishing (SURFIN) mustering/trade group held in 2017 was a huge success, with the final activity culminating in a visit to the RAAF Amberley Heritage Centre as pictured. Due to COVID, a second reunion has not been possible until now. An event for current and ex-serving members of the mustering will take place on 15-17 September 2023 in Ipswich, Queensland. For further details, please contact Garth Steinhardt on 0487 195 418 or surfinreunion@gmail.com



JOIN THE VETERANS AND FAMILIES PIPE BAND

Musicians of varying skill levels are invited to join the newly formed Veterans and Families Pipe Band in Townsville. The band offers members a fun opportunity to play the Highland bagpipes and Highland snare drum at weekly lessons at the Oasis Centre. Sessions include music theory on both instruments and lessons to enable players to master the bagpipes and drums to a competent level. This hobby could take players around the world, including to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow and to domestic competitions in Australia. Pipe Major John Ferguson began his career in the Scots Guards in 1977. He has served as an infantry soldier in nearly all parts of the world, starting his piping career in the City of Bradford pipe band in West Yorkshire, England. John has played bagpipes for many well-known people including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, His Royal Highness King Charles III, Her Majesty the Queen Mother, John Denver, His Holiness Pope John Paul II and former UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. John served in the Scots Guards for 11 years and moved to Australia to join the Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) in 1987. He still serves in the 3rd Battalion RAR to this day. The weekly lessons take place at 6.30pm for learners and 7.30pm for more advanced players. For more information, please contact John on 0449 116 651.

REUNIONS

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE SOUTH VIETNAM 1966-72 ASSOCIATION REUNION

A reunion will be held for the HQ1ATF Association from 21-25 November 2024 at the Discovery Hahndorf Resort in South Australia (145A Mount Barker Road, Hahndorf). The weekend will include a barbecue, wine tasting in the Barossa Valley, visit to the Adelaide War Memorial (where the HQ1ATF/D&E Platoon memorial will be unveiled), a commemorative service at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, the Association meeting and an informal dinner. For more information about the itinerary, email John Verhelst at jeverhelst@gmail.com. For information about the resort, contact 1 300 763 836, hahndorf@discoveryholidays.com.au or discoveryholidays.com.au.

LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Adams	James	FX787133	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Alchin	Wilfred	NX133732 (N261124)	Mareeba Sub Branch Inc.
Aldridge	Alfred	1/720283	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Allen*	Robert	23412268	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Arthur	James	R51638	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Auld	Arthur	QX29156	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Austin*	C	1/728339	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Bagot	Kenneth	213505	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Ballantine	Thomas	18678	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
Bannerman	Douglas	1/712886	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Barth-olomew	William	2269411	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Barton	John	149974	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Baulch	George	Q222023	Gordonvale Sub Branch Inc.
Baxter	John	1716145	Gladstone Sub Branch Inc.
Beauchamp	Paul	1/714601	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Beeby	Paul	1737002	Warwick Sub Branch Inc.
Bennett	Valma	W43285	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Bercene	Ronald	38743	Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch Inc.
Best	John	A14431	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Beston	William	B4231	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Bibb	Kenneth	22582185	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Bird	Raymond	23234175	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Black	Clem	17805	RSL Queensland
Blong	Neville	2442-793	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Bolam	Rosina	VF388562	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Boland	Herbert	NX87346	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Boyes	Caroline	F360215	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Bradley*	Paul	2192169	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Bridge	Robert	1/721551 / A19570	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Bridge	Malcolm	R59549	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Bruce	Mary-Terese	W115642	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Buckingham	Alan	42471	Roma Sub Branch Inc.
Burr	William	36654	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Busk	Robert	1410838	Wowan Sub Branch
Bye	James	1712930	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Cahill	Brian	R50158	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Camp	Alan	129926	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Campbell	Samuel	23532451	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Carleton	Alan	151529	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Carlile	John	A314544	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Chambers	Patrick	1410424	Calliope Sub Branch Inc.
Christian	Brian	1201461	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Christie	Edith	30000	Crows Nest Sub Branch Inc.
Clark	Ray	2/709208	Beaudesert Sub Branch Inc.
Clarke	John	33018	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Clifton	Reginald	22445941	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Comino	Keith	1/704074	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Inc.
Commerford	Anthony	8530770	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Coombes	William	A14062	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
Cordery	Cyril	1735823	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Cornwell	Geoffrey	163412	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Cossey	George	3789116	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Cox	William	A217037	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Coy	Peter	026006	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Crawford	Craig	221967	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Dangaard	Robert	1202871	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Daniel*	Phillip	1/2445/ 14608	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Darwin	Lawrence	A110625	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Davis*	Graham	166446	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
De Vere	Ray	42463	The Gap Sub Branch Inc.
De Vries	Hans	123D	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Degnian	John	47397	Innisfail Sub Branch Inc.
Dobe	Arthur	QX52158	Proserpine Sub Branch Inc.
Donald	James	NX86555	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Donlevy	Patrick	1/707202	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Donnell	Marvin	AF1482213	Bayside South Sub Branch Inc.
Drummond	George	4133205	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Duncan	Ross	3/777478	Chinchilla Sub Branch Inc.
Eagland	Jeffrey	R59369	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Eckert*	Donald	1/716067	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Ellis	Frederick	204242	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Evans	Raymond	1900301/ 13940	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Evans	Keith	6708931	Yarrabah Sub Branch
Fairweather	David	3796393	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Findlay	Douglas	B2892	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Finlay	Clement	214336	Gladstone Sub Branch Inc.
Flanagan	Eric	N375004	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Flux	Doreen	W/373712	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Ford	Gregory	A213856	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Frame	Ian	P50718	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Francis	Gene	124214	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch Inc.
Freeman	Norman	1/703939	RSL QLD State Branch
Frith	Valma	F1/122	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Furney	Brian	167514	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Galbraith	Neville	16872	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Gard	Jason	1109032	Warwick Sub Branch Inc.
Garland	Neill	54004	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Gerahty	Sydney	13134	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Giacomantonio	Sabatino	16808	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Ginsberg	Samuel	185905V	Samford Sub Branch Inc.

LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Goodwin	John	R59299	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Goss	Allan	N/A	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Gould*	Thomas	TX11492	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Grainger	Reynold	15419	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
Gray	Rex	123340	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Gustard	Michael	555462	Thuringowa Sub Branch Inc.
Hambleton	Gregory	1738003	Goodna Sub Branch Inc.
Hammerton	Edward	13766	Innisfail Sub Branch Inc.
Hampton	George	162485	City-New Farm Sub Branch Inc.
Hardgrave	Ernest	1201414	Beaudesert Sub Branch Inc.
Harm	Kevin	1712799	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Harris	Mervyn	D45160	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Hart	Raymond	1764575	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Hauser	Robert	A12562	Boonah Sub Branch
Hawker*	Shamus	3789235	Toowoomba Sub Branch Inc.
Hawkins	Raymond	R59689	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Head*	Warwick	A119678	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Heath	Stuart	VX111647	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Heath	Graham	435848	Gracemere & District Sub Branch Inc.
Heather	Cecil	A19436	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Heatherill	William	40600	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Heidke	Douglas	0221941	Tamborine Mountain Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Henderson	Donald	1/708214	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Herron	Keith	A116209	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Hodges	Clifford	A219069	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Hoey	Ross	R110417	Warwick Sub Branch Inc.
Holznagel	Bernie	01/721564	Murgon Sub Branch Inc.
Holznagel	Bernie	1/721564	Murgon Sub Branch Inc.
Huffadine	Gary	F17715	Mossman Sub Branch Inc.
Huigens	John	215681	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Hunter	Heather	Q142229	Kawana Waters Sub Branch Inc.
Hurley	Sean	236288	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Hutcheson	Allan	5411264	North Gold Coast Sub Branch Inc.
Hyslop	Hugh	38021	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Ireland	Phillip	6341NS	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Jackson	George	n31747	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Jamieson	William	4311693	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Jamieson	David	R66582	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Jarvis	Graham	A113556	Toowoomba Sub Branch Inc.
Jeffers	Robert	183147 / 8668682	Thuringowa Sub Branch Inc.
Johnson	William	A211979	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch Inc.
Jones	Owen	426107	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Kalisperis	Brian	216662	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Keast	Ernest	218664	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Kilah	Robert	A19300	Sunnybank Sub Branch Inc.
King	Francis	MERCHANT NAVY	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Kjellgren	Ernest	58758	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Langham	Jim	212938	Thuringowa Sub Branch Inc.
Langton*	Kenneth	2/5361	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Leepere	Karin	8076295	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Logan	Thomas	119741	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Lominga	Robert	QX60066	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Macey	Robert	180124	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Mansfield	Brian	2/767109	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Mansini	Norman	434467	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Marshall	Ian	O16593	The Gap Sub Branch Inc.
May	Percy	15084	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
May*	Ronald	2/718302	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Mayhew	Robert	R53015	Stephens Sub Branch
McDonald	Arnold	435850	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
McGrath	Murray	1109259	Gordonvale Sub Branch Inc.
McGregor-Jones	Paul	16573	Mareeba Sub Branch Inc.
McKenzie	Kenneth	NX87771	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Mclachlan*	Diane	W124869	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Mellick	John	QX40786/14762	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Mellish	Victor	71045	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Miller*	Charles	31476	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Miller*	Charles	3/1476	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Mills	Reinold	QX48265	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Moir*	John	2/732730	Oakey Sub Branch Inc.
Morris	Noel	1731905	Kuttabul Sub Branch Inc.
Murley	Barry	42621	Charters Towers Sub Branch Inc.
Murphy	Rodney	137265	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Murray	Peter	18487	Glasshouse Country Sub Branch Inc.
Neil	Robert	4047122	Glasshouse Country Sub Branch Inc.
Neill	Douglas	0115448	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
Nelson	Robert	37084	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Newman	Michael	A16855	Atherton Sub Branch Inc.
Newman*	Kenneth	1/727611	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Newton	Norman	A13621	Deception Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Norris	John	216099	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
O'Driscoll	John	1716790	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
O'Hagan	John	QX59154	Stephens Sub Branch
Osborn	Ernest	NX141054	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Parkes	John	6/703814	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Patrick	David	1708398	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Paul	Frederick	R53547	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Pearson	Kenneth	CSKX 803042	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Pershouse	Donald	QX53927	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Pettigrew	Graeme	435246	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Phillips	Clive	2748022	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Pilling	Alan	18549	Springwood Tri-Service Sub Branch Inc.
Platten	Hedley	R93451	Gladstone Sub Branch Inc.
Pooley	Albert	7922341	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Pope	Colin	R63035	Warwick Sub Branch Inc.
Popowycz	Michael	A110879	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Pratt	Ronald	18630	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Prentice	Christian	R58103	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Prodger	Ian	R110427	Crows Nest Sub Branch Inc.
Quinn	Terrence	RNZN14167	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Radley	Robert	675242	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Reed	Alexander	US51919650	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Riches	Keith	3/775656	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Ridgway	Robert	4720062	Helidon Sub Branch Inc.
Riedel	Allan	157062	Tully Sub Branch
Roberts	Darryl	1203674	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Rodgers	Gordon	CJ/ X581812	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Rogers	Jeff	NX180897	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Rogers	Keith	A115563	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Rogers	Eunice	QF141344	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Ross	James	62392	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Rothwell	Tod	23204190	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Rowe	Mary	W306195	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Ryan	David	3791335	Tully Sub Branch
Rycen	Allan	1711702	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Rycen	Allan	a111713	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Sangster	Ronald	R29886	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Sawford*	David	CJ957856	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Scar-borough	Barry	1716697	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Schank	Alan	434903	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Schofield	Clifford	vx128083	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Scott	Charles	1735769	Babinda Sub Branch Inc.
Scott	Noel	1731929	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Sergeant	Steven	229348 / 8250501	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Shaw	Gary	215412	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Shaw	Francis	114560	Beachmere Sub Branch Inc
Shoemark	Ronald	A17602	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Simmons	David	XX96309	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Sloper	Bruce	O42716	Yepoon Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Peter	213257	Mount Isa Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Allan	1733514	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Smith	Frederick	A57269	Herbert River Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Leslie	222933	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Michael	8570578	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Smith*	Gordon	1732633	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Smits	Laurence	3411650	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Snowling	Robert	3722631	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch Inc.
Solomon	John	37022	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Soulsby	Michael	326460	Goombungee Sub Branch Inc.
Stephenson	Robert	7662NS	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Stewart	George	B4827	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Stone	Michael	1205113	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Surmon	Arthur	170339	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Tanner	Elizabeth	112695	Babinda Sub Branch Inc.
Toner	R	Q151573	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Trackson	Ronald	1/722192	Babinda Sub Branch Inc.
Trackson*	Edward	QX27485	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Turner*	Colin	QX22766	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Vaughan	Stanley	1/719363	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Vautin	John	214185	Kilcoy Sub Branch Inc.
Waldock	John	Q121514	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Walker*	Owen	215647	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Walsh	Mervyn	1/2543	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Walsh	Laurence	A111131	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Ward	Raymond	713406	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Ward	Peter	R64890	Wondai Sub Branch Inc.
Waters	Michael	A14689	Toowoomba Sub Branch Inc.
Waters*	Richard	C/MX887907	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Watters	Russell	2793664	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Watters*	S	–	Moranbah Sub Branch
Watts*	Russell	6138NS	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Welfare	Cecil	150924	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Weston	Norman	1736796	Blackall Sub Branch Inc.
Wheller	Reginald	368229	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Whittaker	Francis	133965	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Wientjens	John	301204/178	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Wiggins	Phyllis	NF462984	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Wiles	Alan	167154	Kooralbyn Valley Sub Branch
Wilkinson	Laurence	1203522	Goodna Sub Branch Inc.
Wilkinson*	Shaun	8232103/185899	Toogoolawah Sub Branch Inc.
Williams	Keith	NX10678	Salisbury Sub Branch Inc.
Wilson	David	1719029	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Wilson	Charles	QX32160	Texas Chapter of the Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.
Wilson	Raymond	QX18860	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Wolters	Lawrence	340175	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Wrighter	Norman	NX204219	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Young*	John	44875	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Zahn	Malcolm	5114947	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.

RSL Employment

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