

QUEENSLAND

RSL NEWS



VP DAY
75

COMMEMORATIVE
EDITION

Lest We Forget



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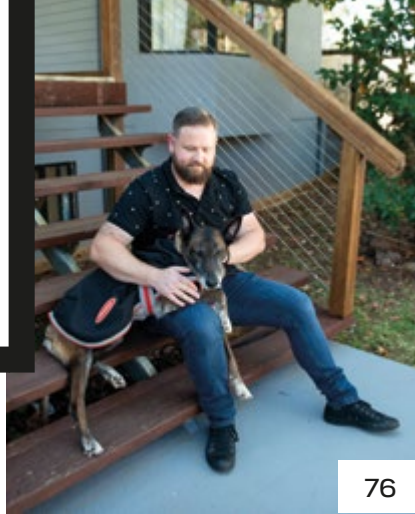
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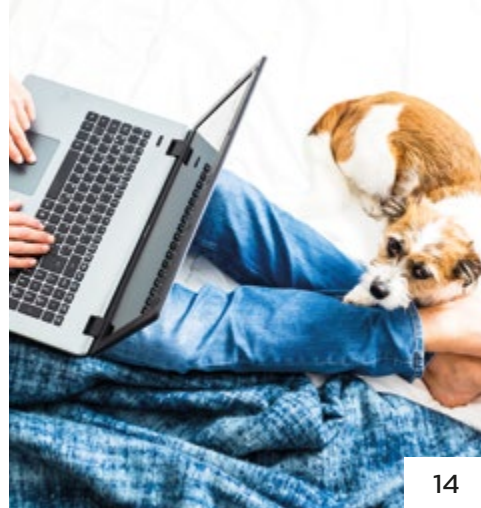
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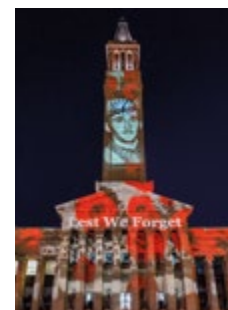
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Front Cover

RSL Queensland made history when it projected the moving story of the end of WWII on Brisbane City Hall for the 75th anniversary of VP Day.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO HOLDING A SAFE AGM

Fellow members and friends,

On 10 August, I had the privilege of joining Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner to launch RSL Queensland's VP75 commemoration in King George Square. The ranks of our WWII veterans grow thinner each year, and it was important that we honour their sacrifice on the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific Day.

To further pay tribute to these brave men and women, please enjoy this special commemorative edition of *Queensland RSL News*. Inside you will read stories of veterans who fought in the jungles of New Guinea, the dusty battlefields of the Middle East, on the raging waters of the Pacific and on the home front protecting Sydney skies from enemy aircraft.

You will also find out what life was like in Queensland during the war and take a road trip through the state to some of the sites of military significance. This is both an opportunity for reflection and a chance to celebrate how lucky we are to live in peace.

A DIFFERENT BUT SAFE AGM IN 2020

As you are likely aware, your Board has made the difficult decision to postpone the RSL Queensland AGM to 24 November due to COVID-19. As restrictions are constantly changing, planning for the safest way to hold the event has been very complex.

To simplify matters, the 2020 AGM will include only business-critical activities, with non-essential sessions such as the business sessions and gala dinner cancelled. We have also rescheduled any vote on the draft

"WE'VE DETERMINED THAT A HYBRID MEETING FORMAT WILL PROVIDE THE BEST BALANCE BETWEEN CONTROLLING DELEGATE EXPOSURE TO UNCONTROLLED HEALTH RISK, AND PROVIDING SUB BRANCH DELEGATES THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAFELY TRAVEL, MEET, SOCIALISE AND DEBATE."

2020 Constitution until such time as we can meet and debate this important decision face-to-face, hopefully at the 2021 AGM.

We've determined that a hybrid meeting format will provide the best balance between controlling delegate exposure to uncontrolled health risk, and providing Sub Branch delegates the opportunity to safely travel, meet, socialise and debate.

This hybrid approach will see delegates from five Districts (Brisbane North, Gold Coast, Moreton, South East, Sunshine Coast) attending the AGM at our current venue of RNA Showgrounds. Delegates from the remaining Districts will assemble at one central venue per District.

All locations will be linked

via audiovisual meeting tools, and voting technology will be provided in each location to enable real-time voting on essential business motions. Delegates in each location will be provided opportunities to speak for and against motions, facilitated in the same way that a traditional face-to-face meeting would be.

PLEASE KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE

The past few months have been difficult but it's wonderful to see members begin to gather again for commemorations and social events. Thank you to the Sub Branches who have been working hard to ensure events and office spaces comply with COVIDSafe plans.

I would like to remind everyone again that we are responsible for keeping each other safe and healthy. Many of our members are in the highest risk category should they contract this virus so we must work together and do everything we can to protect each other.

Please continue to follow the COVIDSafe guidelines – maintain social distancing, wash your hands, don't shake hands and stay home if you're sick.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING TAX CHANGES

I am pleased that all our Sub Branches supported an important administrative update to our RSL Queensland Constitution. This update enables us to remain registered as a charitable institution under the Taxation Administration Act 2001 (QLD), ensuring we will not incur significant additional State Government taxes for which we would otherwise have been liable. This in turn preserves funds for providing veteran services.

I want to thank you all for your unanimous support of this change – a further demonstration of the positive outcomes we can achieve for veterans as we work together shoulder to shoulder.



Tony Ferris
State President
RSL Queensland

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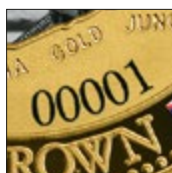
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70th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY: The 6th of June 1944 is etched in history forever as the day Allied forces began the major offensive against Germany that led to the liberation of Europe. 'D-Day' was the largest amphibious assault in history, and the courage of all those who took part in the assault of the Normandy beaches will never be forgotten. An important crown coin has been released to mark the anniversary of the D-Day Landings, showing an image of troops approaching the Normandy beaches in a landing craft and the engraved coastline bearing names of all five beaches below. A crown coin has been struck to honour the men whose bravery ensured our freedom. Struck to a high specification, only 19,999 numbered issues will ever be minted.

The earliest applications will receive the lowest edition numbers. For this reason applications will be processed on a strictly first-come, first-served basis and are limited to one per Australian household. Successful applicants also qualify to view the next coin in *The 70th Anniversary D-Day Commemorative Coin Collection* for only \$79.99 (plus \$9.99 postage and handling) sent entirely without obligation on our 14-day home approval service. Applicants may cancel at any time and all purchases are covered by The Bradford Exchange 14-Day Money-Back Guarantee.

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THE WORK WE DO FILLS ME WITH PRIDE

First, I would like to thank all our members for your continued commitment to complying with government guidelines during this time of COVID-19 restrictions. I understand that it has been challenging for everybody, but I've also heard some great stories of how Districts and Sub Branches have been ably adapting.

Sub Branches have shown enormous resilience, successfully embracing the use of technology to remain connected with their members, deal with important issues and continue delivering services to veterans. Your ability to be flexible and adjust to a changing environment is deeply appreciated.

Please remain vigilant and continue to comply with the health authorities' guidelines.

A FITTING TRIBUTE FOR OUR WWII HEROES

Saturday 15 August was a special day on our Defence calendar, marking 75 years since the end of World War II, known as Victory in the Pacific Day (VP75). To mark this historic anniversary, the team at RSL Queensland created several ways for the community to commemorate the occasion, including a VP75 digital projection onto the walls of the magnificent Brisbane City Hall, which told the story of Australia's WWII heroes.

RSL Queensland State President Tony Ferris and Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner launched the

projection in King George Square on 10 August in front of members of the public and a big group of RSL Queensland staff. It was a moving experience and I have received such positive feedback, including from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel the Hon Darren Chester, on this outstanding initiative.

I'm constantly filled with pride for the work we do and the difference we make to the lives of our veterans, but our VP75 campaign stands out as a true highlight. The City Hall projection ran every evening up until VP Day, and if you didn't get a chance to see it, I encourage you to watch it on our website at rslqld.org.

To further support the commemoration of VP75, our marketing team was also out visiting Sub Branches to capture the stories of some of our surviving WWII veterans. We were truly honoured to hear what it was like to be part of Australia's war effort and I would like to thank Joe, Doreen, David, Audrey, Stan, Donald, Bob and Shirley, who gave their time to share their personal stories. You can read some of them on pages 42-53 or, alternatively, watch the videos online.

WE ARE ON TRACK WITH OUR STRATEGY

As you're likely aware, RSL Queensland commenced work on its 2025 strategic plan on

1 January 2020. A mid-year check-in has recently confirmed the great news that despite the impacts of COVID-19, our organisation has proved its resilience and our strategy remains on course.

Everything we have committed to deliver within the first time-horizon is on schedule, including some exciting initiatives for our members.

This includes the new Membership & Network team being established under General Manager Lisa McIlroy. Lisa and her team will focus on two main areas: first, helping Districts and Sub Branches address the decline in membership – an issue that I know is a continuous struggle. Second, it will help Districts and Sub Branches grow and remain sustainable.

Lisa is in the process of building out her team and you will notice that she now has a regular column in RSL News where you can read more about how this is progressing. Stay tuned for more exciting developments as the team expands.



Melanie Wilson
Chief Executive Officer
RSL Queensland

AN ELEGANT TRIBUTE TO OUR COURAGEOUS HEROES

DIAMONESK®

Lest We Forget

HIDDEN MESSAGE RING

34 glittering
Diamonesk®
simulated diamonds

Hand-crafted in
sterling silver



ENHANCED WITH
SWAROVSKI



3 RINGS IN 1
Poignantly engraved



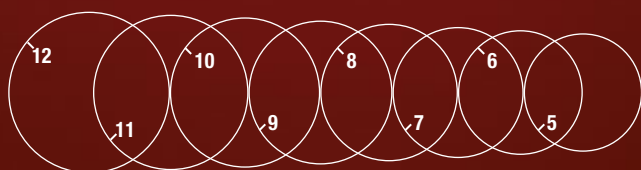
The vibrant poppy is a symbol of remembrance honouring those who sacrificed all so that we remain free. Now, the "Lest We Forget Hidden Message Ring" commemorates our fallen and the distinctive colours of the poppy in an exquisite design you will be proud to wear.

Exquisitely hand-crafted of shimmering sterling silver, the stunning jewellery creation is actually a trio of rings – radiant with 34 Diamonesk® simulated diamonds. The centre band features a beautifully detailed poppy whose vivid hues are created by hand-applied red and black enamel. Three genuine red Swarovski crystals are set on either side of the poppy with two more on the top and bottom bands for a total of 8 of the worlds' favourite precision-cut crystal. Each band is engraved with one word from one of the most eloquent expressions of thanks in the English language – "Lest We Forget".

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Place one of your own rings on the chart and find a circle that is completely covered by your ring (a simple band works best for accurate measuring). Write your size on the coupon. Women sizes range between 5–12.

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HOLISTIC APPROACH TO VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

We know how serious the issue of homelessness is within the veteran community. And now we have new, alarming statistics that reinforce the importance of our Veteran Homelessness Program.

Recently, the *Australian Journal of Social Issues* published research that found approximately 5,800 veterans experienced homelessness across a 12-month period.

In the wake of this report, RSL Queensland is reaffirming its deep commitment to providing wellbeing and welfare assistance and critical support to our Defence family.

I'm proud to say that our program – delivered in partnership with The Salvation Army – has so far helped 234 veterans and their families find safe, permanent accommodation.

By addressing the root causes behind veteran homelessness, while at the same time working to find them suitable accommodation, we aim to break the cycle that has led to them becoming homeless in the first place.

We are seeing a 26 per cent increase in demand for our homelessness program year on year, with most veterans falling within the 40-60 age bracket.

RSL Queensland provided practical, evidence-based services and programs targeted to the most pressing needs that

“OUR VETERAN SERVICES TEAM WORKS CLOSELY WITH VETERANS TO GUIDE THEIR TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE, WITH A FOCUS NOT JUST ON HOUSING BUT OTHER AREAS THAT CAN IMPACT HOMELESSNESS SUCH AS EMPLOYMENT, WELLBEING, QUALITY OF LIFE, RELATIONSHIPS, ADVOCACY AND ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.”

transitioning service people face.

We all know service people often feel a profound sense of loss when they leave Defence and some struggle fitting back into civilian life.

Our Veteran Services Team works closely with veterans to guide their transition to civilian

life, with a focus not just on housing but other areas that can impact homelessness such as employment, wellbeing, quality of life, relationships, advocacy and assistance through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

More importantly, we would like to work with our Sub Branch

volunteers and combine our respective strengths to provide a robust and holistic support model.

As the largest ex-service organisation in Queensland, we invest in research, targeted programs and proven initiatives to make this transition as easy, smooth and accessible as possible.

We build these programs to give our Defence community the most comprehensive support possible and I encourage Sub Branches that aren't aware of our services to reach out to us for more information and then promote these services to your members. I am sure we can all agree that it would be very disappointing if a needy veteran missed out on support due to a lack of awareness.

Remember, you can always contact us on 134 RSL if you know of a veteran who is experiencing homelessness.



Robert Skoda
General Manager Veteran Services
RSL Queensland

Shoulder to shoulder with our Defence family, in April–June 2020.



57 individuals and families
helped into safe,
permanent housing



178 nights
spent in RSL short-term
accommodation



\$148K
provided in
crisis funding



3,152
calls handled



30 jobs found
for veterans and their partners



1,051 DVA
claims handled

Between April and June 2020, RSL Queensland provided a broad range of programs and services to support current and former ADF members and their families.

Find out how we can help you.

134 RSL | rslqld.org



RSL
Queensland

PRESERVING OUR SUB BRANCH HERITAGE

I'm excited to be writing my inaugural column for *Queensland RSL News* in the role of General Manager of the new Membership & Network team.

You – our members – are the heart and soul of RSL Queensland. There are currently 34,000 of you, attached to 224 Sub Branches across the state.

You volunteer hundreds of hours of your time to help fellow veterans in need, provide opportunities for social connection, and commemorate important anniversaries. We would not be able to look after veterans in local communities or deliver our services without you.

And that is why we have established the Membership & Network team – to revitalise the support we provide members and Sub Branches and safeguard your role in the organisation. We know that we need to grow our membership to ensure the future of RSL Queensland and preserve our heritage for the next 100 years.

SUB BRANCHES HAVE COMMON CHALLENGES

Since taking on this role, I've had some very insightful conversations with numerous members and District Presidents, during which we've identified four common challenges facing Sub Branches:

- Financial stability
- Governance challenges

**“THAT IS WHY WE HAVE
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MEMBERSHIP TO ENSURE THE
FUTURE OF RSL QUEENSLAND
AND PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE
FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS.”**

- Declining membership
- Diversifying income.

In total, we will be putting together a team of 14 people within Membership & Network to help address these challenges.

On the **Network** side, our new Head of Network Services Marius Daniels will oversee a

team comprising a Fundraising Manager, Financial Analyst and four Regional Managers to support the existing District Secretary team.

The **Memberships** team will be led by Head of Membership Services Teresa Brook. We have also hired a Membership Insights

Analyst and are in the process of recruiting another four roles to support Sub branches with membership.

If you would like support, please reach out via your District Secretary as you would normally do, and we will be able to provide a tailored solution to meet your needs.

A TRUE PARTNER TO OUR SUB BRANCHES

Over the coming months, I look forward to getting out into Districts and Sub Branches to understand the challenges for each Sub Branch and build trusting relationships with you. The new team is here to support you.

For me, the most exciting thing about this role is knowing that I can help with the work you carry out on a daily basis and ensure the legacy of the RSL endures into the future.



Lisa McIlroy
General Manager
Membership & Network
RSL Queensland



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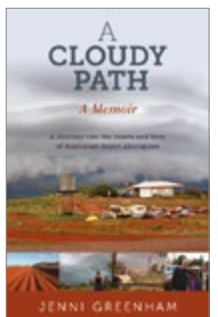
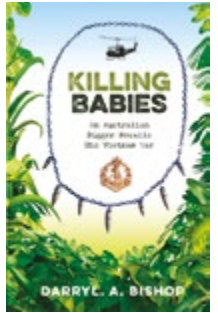
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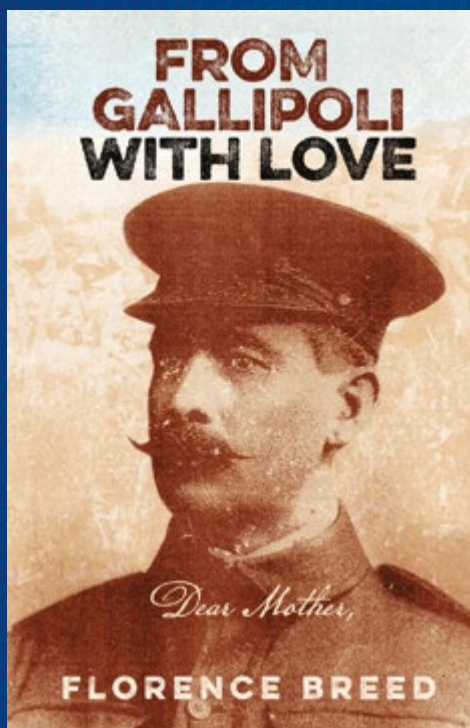
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FEATURED TITLE



WRITINGS

FROM THE

ANZACs

OF THE

WIMMERA.

WORLD

WAR ONE

from

SID HARTA PUBLISHERS

It was the soldier, not the poet,

Gave us freedom of expression.

'Twas the soldier, not the preacher,

Gave us freedom of religion.

'Twas the soldier, not Trade Unions,

Gave us better work conditions.

And 'twas the soldier made this country free,

Not party politicians.

Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear,

And Freedom of Speech which we hold dear ..

'Lest We Forget' are words we say

When marching every Anzac Day.

So keep alight that undying flame

To honour those who deserve great fame.

NEWS



MEET SOME NEW FACES IN OUR EXECUTIVE

THERE have been a few new additions to the RSL Queensland executive leadership team recently, with the creation of the new Membership & Network team and a Chief Marketing Officer hired to oversee the amalgamated Art Union and veteran services marketing teams.

In keeping with our organisation's commitment to the veteran community, it was fitting to capture the team in front of Brisbane's iconic Shrine of Remembrance at ANZAC Square.

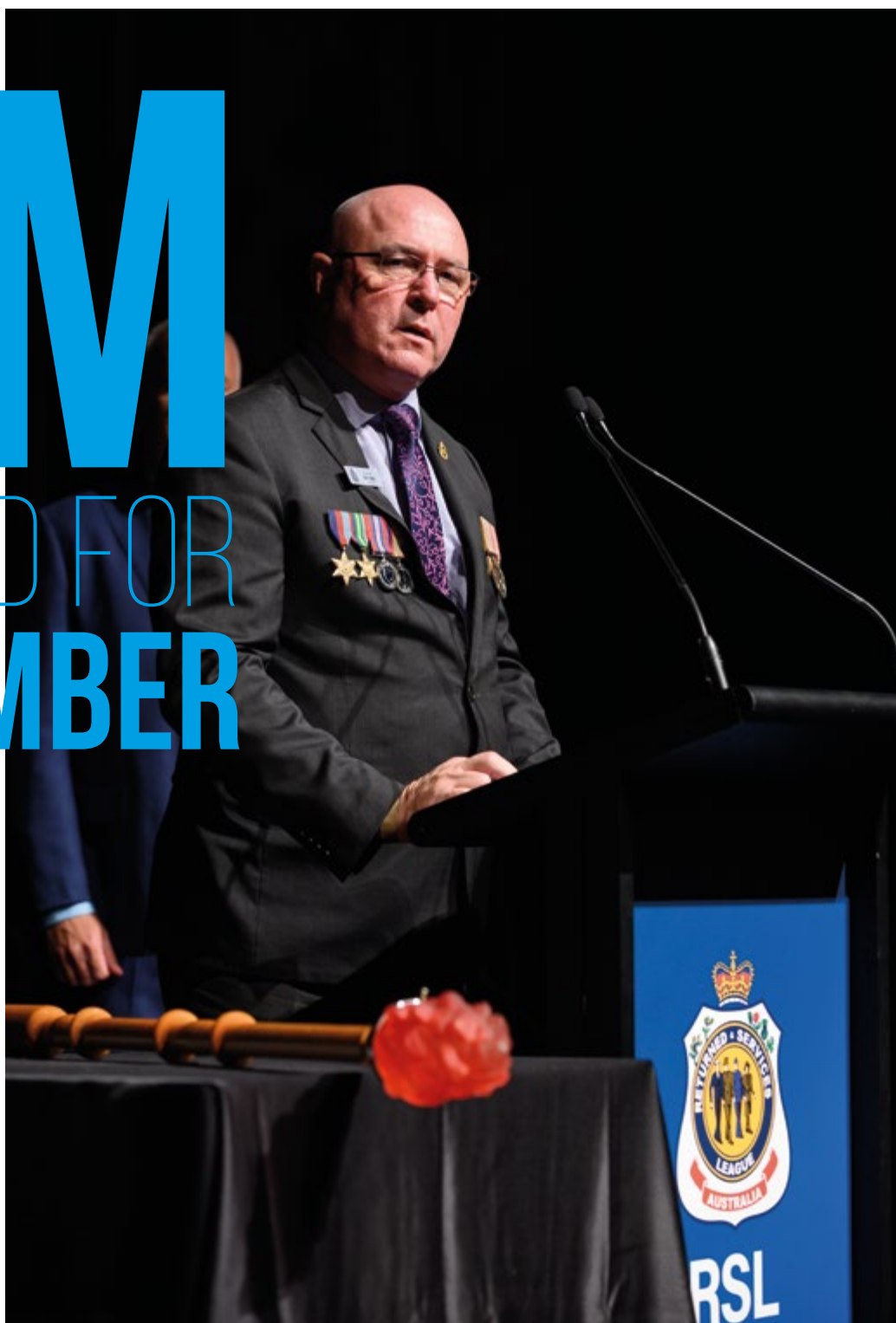
Chief Executive Officer Melanie Wilson (front left) leads a team comprising (back left to right) Chief Financial Officer Greg Pratt, Lotteries General Manager Tracey Bishop, Veteran Services General Manager Robert Skoda, Chief Information & Strategy Officer Simon Button, Membership & Network General Manager Lisa McIlroy, Chief Marketing Officer Greg Ellevsen, Chief Legal Officer Maria Forgione and Chief Human Resources Officer Leigh Goldsmith (front right).

AGM

SCHEDULED FOR 24 NOVEMBER

MEDALS OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

GREENBANK RSL Sub Branch member William Marklew and National Servicemens Sub Branch member Barry Scott both received Medals of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday 2020 Honours List. William was given the award in recognition of his service to industrial relations, particularly to trade unions, while Barry received his award for service to animal conservation and to the community. Our apologies that these names were not included in the previous edition.



THE RSL Queensland Board made the difficult but necessary decision to postpone the RSL Queensland AGM to 24 November, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To fulfil regulatory requirements, it is essential that we hold the meeting before the end of 2020.

Of course, we need to find a way to ensure the safety of the delegates participating, while meeting government requirements on physical distancing, and the generally challenging public health environment.

While this means that our traditional

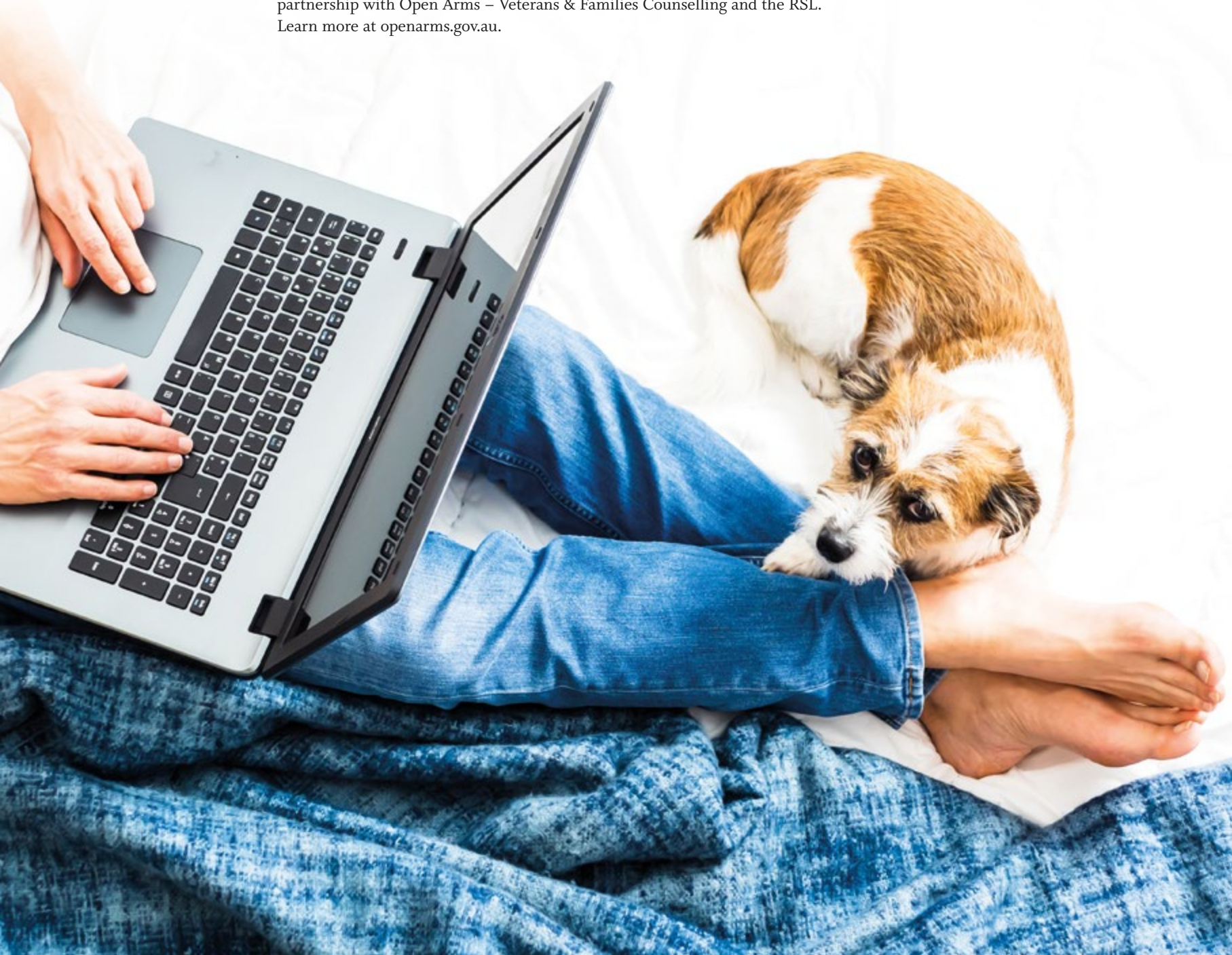
single-location event is not possible this year, we will stage the AGM via six smaller concurrent gatherings, linked through technology. This approach meets full COVIDSafe requirements, while still enabling delegates to safely travel, meet, socialise and debate.

Sub Branches are invited to register their delegates to attend the meeting via their District Secretary. Further details of this year's meeting can be found at rslqld.org/Whats-On/2020-State-AGM.

SUICIDE INTERVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY WORKSHOPS

AS we know, veterans are more likely to die by suicide than the average Australian. Understanding the warning signs and how to help can be lifesaving. A free online suicide prevention course is available for current and ex-Defence, together with anyone who has contact with, or supports the veteran community.

The course is funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs and delivered in partnership with Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling and the RSL. Learn more at openarms.gov.au.





VETERAN SLEEP THERAPY STUDY
FINAL CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN 2020

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VETERAN SLEEP STUDY TRIAL

GMRF is offering veterans who experience nightmares and poor sleep the opportunity to join a waitlist to participate in the Veteran Sleep Therapy Trial. The treatment will offer innovative coping and behaviour management techniques to improve sleep quality for veterans with PTSD.

“Overall, this program was above my expectations and helped me learn about my sleep,” said one Veteran Sleep Therapy Trial participant.

To find out if you or a mate is eligible, visit <https://bit.ly/2WCN7AR>.

FREE COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION FOR WWII VETERANS



TO mark the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII, all surviving WWII veterans are eligible for a Commemorative Medallion and Certificate of Commemoration. Almost one million Australians served in WWII, which was the largest global conflict of the 20th century.

The certificate and medallion are being produced by the Department of Veterans' Affairs to thank living veterans for their service. Apply on the DVA website or by phoning 02 6191 8217.





VP DAY
75

COMMEMORATIVE
— EDITION —





HISTORIC PROJECTION HONOURS OUR BRAVE HEROES

RSL Queensland made history when it projected the moving story of our World War II heroes on Brisbane City Hall for the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific (VP Day).

 Matilda Dray

EXCLUDING the annual Christmas light show, it was the first time Brisbane City Council granted permission for another organisation to use the heritage listed building for such a purpose.

RSL Queensland State President Tony Ferris and Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner launched the projection in King George Square on 10 August, which ran every evening up

until VP Day on 15 August.

The projection included around 60 historic photos and videos depicting the story of the harrowing war years through to the jubilation when peace was finally declared. Thousands of people watched the VP75 tribute in Brisbane city over the six days.

“I couldn’t think of a better opportunity to use this amazing building for an important public purpose,” Cr

Schrinner said to those gathered to watch the projection get switched on.

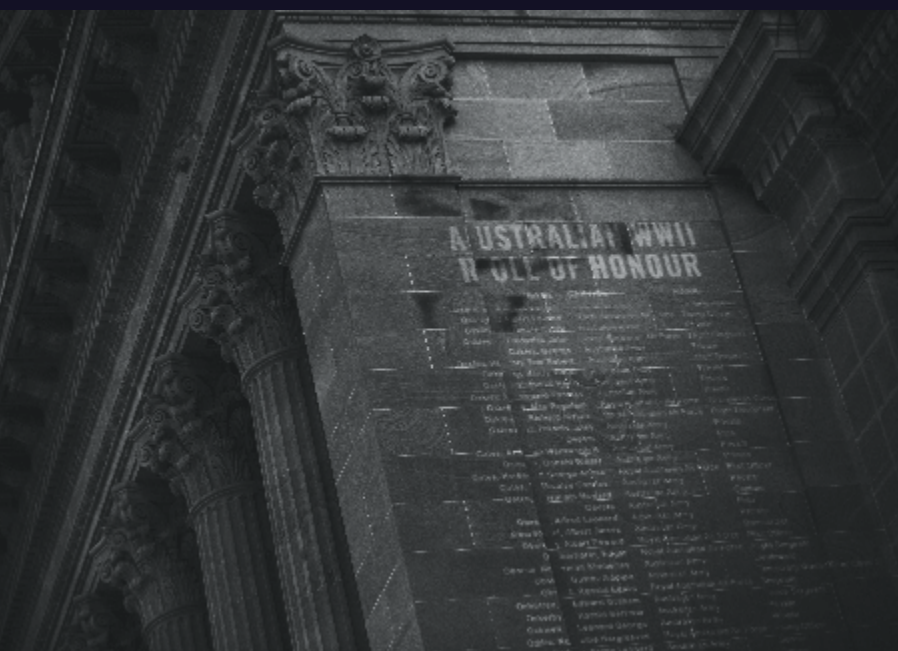
He praised RSL Queensland for creating the fitting tribute in honour of the veteran community.

“Hopefully, it is a cause for celebration, but also a cause for reflection. And thank you to the RSL for making it happen, and for the work they do supporting veterans in our community.”

**“IT IS HIGHLY
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**“IT REALLY DEPICTS
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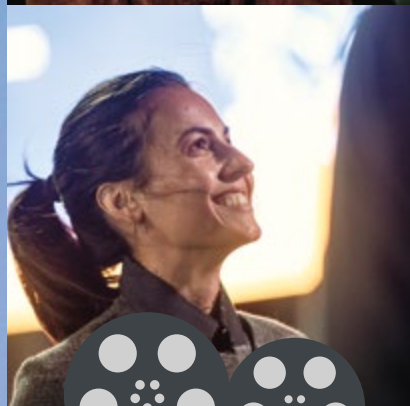
During the war, City Hall was the site of many civil defence activities, war bond rallies, temporary offices for war organisations, as well as the RSL welfare rooms.

“It is highly appropriate that the story of the service men and women who defended Australia during World War II, and the great celebration that greeted the war’s ending, will be told on the facade of City Hall,” Mr Ferris said.

“The ranks of our remaining World War II veterans grow thinner with each year. But we have them to thank for the lifestyle we enjoy today.”

Most of RSL Queensland’s District Presidents visited Brisbane City Hall to watch the VP75 projection and found it an emotional experience.

“It really depicts what those soldiers went through. They really did it tough. To see the families out there welcoming them all home was very moving,” Brisbane North District President Merv Brown OAM said. ←



WATCH THE PROJECTION

If you didn't get a chance to see the projection in person, you can watch a video at rslqld.org/VP75





HOW AUSTRALIANS CELEBRATED VP DAY

When World War II ended, there was singing and dancing in the streets for days. “They were all going mad... All the excitement, they couldn’t get over it,” one Brisbane veteran recalls.

 Kylie Hatfield

“**THE** war is over... Let us remember those whose lives were given that we may enjoy this glorious moment and look forward to a peace which they have won for us,” said Australia’s Prime Minister Ben Chifley in his address to the Australian people at the end of WWII.

After six years and close to one million Australians serving in our armed forces, Japan’s unconditional surrender brought the war to an end. 15 August 1945 was recognised as VP Day, or Victory in the Pacific Day, in Australia, with celebrations erupting around the country and wherever Aussies were serving at the time.

CELEBRATIONS AT HOME

Australia’s government declared VP Day a public holiday and crowds flooded the streets of cities and towns in celebrations that lasted for days.

WWII veteran Bob Lominga recalled the scenes in Brisbane city as people celebrated in the streets: “Oh, they were all going mad... When you go across Queen Street, well, you just imagine what was going on; Queen Street and Mary Street and all those streets there in Brisbane itself. All the excitement, they couldn’t get over it.”



A crowd of civilians and servicemen celebrate Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day in a city street. Others are perched on the roofs above the shops. After the announcement of Japan's surrender there were scenes of rejoicing throughout Australia. (AWM: P10364.007)

**“NEWSPAPERS AT THE TIME
REPORTED THE FROLICKING,
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CELEBRATION. THERE WERE
RAGTIME BANDS PLAYING, PEOPLE
BANGING POTS, CAR HORNS
SOUNDING, WHISTLES BLOWING,
SOLDIERS PLAYING TWO-UP,
PEOPLE HUGGING EACH OTHER
AND KISSING COMPETITIONS.”**



Newspapers at the time reported the frolicking, jitterbugging, skipping, flares and confetti as people filled the streets in spontaneous celebration. There were ragtime bands playing, people banging pots, car horns sounding, whistles blowing, soldiers playing two-up, people hugging each other and kissing competitions.

The partying continued into the night when torchlights lit up the streets, and into the days that followed. A Victory March saw 9000 personnel march through the streets of Brisbane to the cheers of 60,000 onlookers; a gala event was held with fireworks; churches held special thanksgiving services; and dancing and singing in the city streets continued.

CELEBRATIONS IN SERVICE

However, for those Australians still in active service, celebrations were much more subdued.

Veteran David Mattiske was serving onboard the HMAS *Shropshire* in the Subic Bay at the entrance to Manila in the Philippines when word of the surrender broke. But it's the events that led up to the surrender that David remembers most.

"On 6 August, I can remember very clearly early in the morning, all of a sudden, the TBS (talk between ships) announced that an atomic bomb had been dropped at a place called Hiroshima. And so, we were aware then that this may be the end of the war," said David.

"Then we heard about the second bomb. And there was a sense of relief because we were already fairly certain of where we were going to do the bombardment and landings in Japan. And we found out later that we were right."

The *Shropshire* sailed on to Japan and arrived in Tokyo Bay on 31 August ahead of the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender, which took place on 2 September.

"Actually, it was a very interesting situation. At first, the intimation was that there would be a signature by the British Admiral on behalf



of the Commonwealth, but the government in Canberra said, 'No, we as combatants are going to sign in our own right.' And General Sir Thomas Blamey had been flown into Tokyo and so he signed on behalf of Australia," said David.

For veteran Joe Treers, who was onboard the HMAS *Whang Pu*, the celebrations started onboard and continued when they docked in Townsville.

"When it actually happened, we were at sea at the time. So, there was just a celebration among the crew. That was all. And then we got to Townsville, and we went ashore and went up to the pub and we couldn't get a beer because they had no glasses," recalled Joe.

"(One of Joe's fellow servicemen) went away and he came back with three empty beer bottles. So I went back to the ship, put hot wire across the top of the bottle and then plunged it into freezing water. And this cracked the top of the bottle off. Then I ground the edge and we had three of them. And that's how we got our beer."

ABOVE:
A crowd of civilians and servicemen celebrate Victory in the Pacific Day in Brisbane City. (AWM: P10364.003).

LEFT:
Sailors and civilians "skipping in George Street", outside the Criterion Hotel in Brisbane, 15 August 1945. General Douglas MacArthur's General Headquarters was situated nearby in the AMP Building on Queen Street between 1942 and 1944. (AWM: P10364.005).

For many who continued serving – like Joe, who served until 1960 – the celebrations of the end of the war were short-lived as they got on with their jobs.

A CELEBRATION OF PEACE

VP Day was as much a celebration of the end of the war as it was about impending peace.

Japan's formal surrender occurred onboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on 2 September 1945. However, it took a number of years for life to return to a sense of normality in Australia.


In his address to the Australian people following the end of the war, Prime Minister Ben Chifley called on all Australians to continue working together for the good of the country.


"Here in Australia there is much to be done. The Australian government which stood steadfast during the dread days of the war will give all that it has to working and planning, to ensure that the peace will be a real thing... Let us join together in the march of our nation to future greatness." ←



JITTERBUGGING AND KISSING COMPETITIONS — REFLECTIONS ON THE FIRST VP DAY

On Saturday 15 August, Queenslanders commemorated the 75th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific – a day remembered for Japan’s acceptance of the Allied demand for unconditional surrender, effectively putting an end to World War II.

 State Library of Queensland

 Brisbane John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

ON 15 August 1945, Australian Prime Minister Ben Chifley announced on radio that Japan had unconditionally surrendered to Allied forces. After three years of brutal fighting, the War in the Pacific was finally over.

The first VP Day was celebrated with jubilation as crowds filled streets in towns and cities across Australia to celebrate the much-anticipated end of the war as citizens looked towards a future free of conflict and fear of invasion. To manage celebrations, authorities closed pubs, as they had on VE Day.

However, this did not dissuade individuals from partying, with crowds gathering in streets and strangers dancing together, including in front of the Criterion Hotel in Brisbane and ANZAC Square.

The *Courier Mail* reported that Brisbane was filled with frolicking, jitterbugging, ragtime bands, people banging pots, blowing whistles and firing flares, kissing competitions, soldiers playing two-up, and “pandemonium” reigned. There were “showers of confetti”, and when the sun set, searchlights lit up the city, by which time Brisbane was “delirious on peace night”.

Today, VP Day remains an occasion to commemorate all those Australians who served and died in WWII, and especially those who served and fought in the War in the Pacific. This year, State Library of Queensland created a variety of resources to look back on the years of commemorations, cavalcades and camaraderie.

Moving images and film can be accessed via State Library’s interactive online tool, Explorer, at explorer.slq.qld.gov.au. The tool allows you to delve into WWII images and film, tag and describe photos, and share your own stories and images. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the story of Queensland. ↩



LEARN MORE AT ANZACsquare.qld.gov.au
OR VIA ANZACsquare@slq.qld.gov.au

An Airman embraces
his girlfriend in
Brisbane.



LIFE IN QLD DURING WWII

After Japan entered WWII in December 1941, everyday life changed drastically. Personal recollections paint a picture of life on the home front.

 Kylie Hatfield
 Brisbane John Oxley Library,
State Library of Queensland



“MY MOTHER BOUGHT TWO GREY BLANKETS AND MADE US EACH A DRESSING GOWN AND OUR PYJAMA PANTS WERE MEN’S LONG UNDERPANTS, WITH THE FLY STITCHED DOWN OF COURSE. WE MUST HAVE LOOKED FUNNY, BUT EVERYONE WAS IN THE SAME SITUATION AND WE WERE THANKFUL FOR ANYTHING THAT HELPED.”

FROM air raid shelters in backyards to rationing food and clothes, and even accommodating troops in their neighbourhood, changes to the way Queenslanders lived during the war were sudden and significant.

“All us school kids, we just could not understand what it was about. It was something that was brand-new to us, but we just had to realise that we had to live with it, that Australia was at war,” RSL member Roy Hartman recalls.

TROOPS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Roy was a schoolboy living in Granite Creek when the war began. He remembers having troops move into his local area and become a familiar part of life.

“I can always remember as a kid coming home from school and the American Air Force fighters and bombers would come up Granite Creek Gorge on their way back from a mission. [They had] an engine smoking, a hole in here, and half the

tail missing. It was a wakeup call for us young fellas, to think that was what was going on,” said Roy.

The American Air Force camp settled into Granite Creek in 1942 and integrated with the township, with Roy recalling his personal experiences with the troops.

“We at home, we had mango trees, and bananas and pawpaws, and we used to go over to the Americans with all this fruit. And of course, they’d never seen a mango before, they probably hadn’t seen a banana before. But we used to come home with Holy Crumble Bars and chewing gum,” said Roy.

“The Australian Army moved in right opposite our house and my mum was a very, very good scone maker. She used to make scones and take them across to give them to the Diggers. They got to know my mum very well and they used to call her Aunty.”

For Hazel Wilkings (nee Mallyon), who was nine years old when the war broke out in 1939, growing up in Rockhampton during the war meant

OPENER:
RAAF De Havilland Mosquito bombers over Brisbane’s city centre.

RIGHT:
A display mannequin wearing an outfit that could be purchased with ration coupons.





troops were a regular sight. Hazel and her family would band together with their neighbourhood to support the troops.

“We listened for the troop trains passing through, which had Aussie soldiers on them coming home from New Guinea as they often stopped waiting for other trains to come as it was rather a busy line. One late afternoon we heard a train stop and men’s voices calling out – it sounded like ‘paper, paper’. Suddenly, my mother realised they were from up north and had been out of touch and wanted some newspapers to read. She quickly sent us around the neighbourhood and, joined by friends, we collected as many papers as we could, and all headed for the train. How grateful they were and how eagerly they read them,” recalled Hazel.

EVERYONE HAD A PART TO PLAY

With many men conscripted into training and overseas service, those who stayed at home had to step into their roles, as Terry Norris described on the ABC back in 1973:

“Almost all of the men in Australia went away to the war. My dad, for instance, he trained in an Army camp here for about four months and then he was sent up to New Guinea. And we didn’t see him again for, ooh, well over two years. And because so many of the men were away at the war, the jobs normally done by them, of course, had to be done by the women. My mum, she worked in a clothing factory. She made Army shirts, as a matter of fact,” Terry recalled.

While Hazel’s father wasn’t sent away, he was given responsibilities at home.

“My father worked for the Postmaster General’s Department and this was regarded as a protected industry. However, there were jobs for everyone and he became an Air Raid Warden and patrolled a certain area and made sure everyone knew what to do and if they had their windows and

all lights covered as required,” said Hazel.

Even Hazel herself, along with her classmates, were given tasks to contribute to the war effort.

“We all learnt how to knit at school and spent our spare time knitting socks for the soldiers or squares to make rugs.”

SHELTERS IN THE BACKYARD

Air raids were a very real threat during the war, with panic increasing after the bombing of Darwin in February 1942 and the failed attacks on Townsville in July 1942. It was common for households to build an air raid shelter in their backyard, as Hazel’s family had done.

“We dug an air-raid shelter between the end of the garden and the garage, and the fowl yard on the other side. My father built it in with a roof and walls to stop it caving in. It was dark and just high enough to stand up in. When it rained, we bailed the water out as it was about a foot deep and it always seemed to be damp and smelly. When we heard the air raid siren it was time to go into the shelter. I was very pleased when the war was over and we could fill it in,” said Hazel.

LIVING ON RATIONS

Many key food items were rationed during the war, with coupons needed to purchase butter, sugar, tea and meat. Petrol was also rationed, forcing many private cars off the roads. Even clothing was in limited supply.

“Clothing became scarce – or should I say materials to make clothes as we were only allowed so many coupons each. My mother bought two grey blankets and made us each a dressing gown and our pyjama pants were men’s long underpants, with the fly stitched down of course. We must have looked funny, but everyone was in the same situation and we were thankful for anything that helped,” said Hazel. It took a number of years after the war ended for rationing to be abolished, with coupons required for some items until 1950. ←

THEN — AND — NOW

HOW LIFE DURING WWII MIRRORS OUR 'NEW NORMAL'

From masks to rationing, gardening and lockdowns – some WWII restrictions have made a comeback during COVID-19.

 Kylie Hatfield



COVID-19 has been dubbed the greatest challenge the world has faced since WWII. Comparing a global health crisis to a world war might be a long bow to draw, but there are some obvious similarities between restrictions put in place on civilians during WWII and those we have experienced in recent months.

RATIONING GIVES US EQUAL ACCESS

To help manage supply shortages and civilian consumption during WWII, rationing regulations were introduced in Australia in mid-1942. Food ration coupons were needed to purchase meat, tea, sugar and butter, and eggs and milk were rationed when supply was low. Clothing and petrol were also rationed.

We've again had to resort to rationing during the COVID-19 pandemic, when major supermarket chains introduced restrictions on certain items in response to an increase in consumer buying or 'hoarding', with shelves stripped bare by customers stocking their homes for periods of isolation. As a result, purchase limits were placed on toilet paper, tissues, eggs, tinned food, pasta and rice.

Fortunately, Australia's own production and supply chains meant that, during both WWII and the pandemic, we didn't experience the extremes of supply shortages that other countries did.

VEGE PATCHES POP UP IN YARDS AROUND THE COUNTRY

In 1942, the publicity campaign 'Dig for Victory' was launched to encourage households to plant and grow their own fruit and vegetables to support the demand for fresh produce during the war. Known as Victory Gardens, the idea was embraced by those who already had a vege patch – extending their plantation across any usable garden space – and many who hadn't before ventured into growing their own food.

Home vege gardens saw a revival earlier this year, with vegetable seedlings and fruit trees being bought out of nurseries as families entering lockdown realised the value and importance of growing and harvesting their own fresh produce in times of scarcity and necessity. Backyard chook pens even saw a resurgence to meet the demand

for eggs when store supplies ran low.

What was originally promoted as a patriotic activity that every family can do to contribute to the war effort has become a hobby for many in times of isolation.

MASKS FIRST HINDERED DETECTION, NOW THEY HINDER INFECTION

While health professionals recommend the wearing of face masks to help stem the transmission of COVID-19, it was our cars that were required to wear masks, or headlight covers, during WWII to limit the amount of light omitted from vehicles driving at night.

This practice was introduced as an air raid precaution to hinder aerial detection and was known as a 'blackout', or a 'brownout' in Australia. As our security requirements weren't as high as other countries, the need to reduce light was less significant.

FROM CURFEWS TO LOCKDOWNS

Every state and territory in Australia experienced a lockdown of sorts in the first half of 2020, in an attempt to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Orders to stay in our homes to isolate or not

"HOME VEGE GARDENS SAW A REVIVAL EARLIER THIS YEAR, WITH VEGETABLE SEEDLINGS AND FRUIT TREES BEING BOUGHT OUT OF NURSERIES AS FAMILIES ENTERING LOCKDOWN REALISED THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF GROWING AND HARVESTING THEIR OWN FRESH PRODUCE IN TIMES OF SCARCITY AND NECESSITY."

BELOW:
Ration books for food and clothing. (AWM: 042770)

move outside of our suburbs or states has seen millions of us confined. But it isn't the first time that a lockdown of sorts has been put in place.

In 1942, a curfew was introduced in northern Queensland, whereby so-called 'enemy aliens' – people of German, Italian and Japanese descent or nationality – were not allowed out of their homes between 8pm and 5am. The curfew was introduced as law in response to a growing concern for the security of Australia's north.

As with our recent restrictions, there were special exemptions during the WWII curfew for hospital and essential workers. Overall, the law was considered a failure and was finally abolished in 1945.

AUSSIE ATTITUDE ONE OF UNITY

With almost one million Australians serving in WWII, the message at home was one of 'equality of sacrifice': we're all in this together and we all need to do our part for our country. The sense of unity among Australians, who pulled together and worked hard, has been lauded for decades.


Similar messages have been spruiked in the wake of the measures introduced to protect the wider community from the potentially significant health impacts of COVID-19. And research has found that we're generally onboard, with 86 per cent of Aussies positively changing their behaviour in response to government advice around COVID-19. ←





THE LEGACY OF HIROSHIMA

There's no doubt that the bombing of Hiroshima brought a swift end to WWII. But what were its lasting impacts on the world?

 Kylie Hatfield

THE bombing of Hiroshima on 6 August 1945, and Nagasaki three days later on 9 August, were the final significant acts in the long and destructive Second World War.

Never before had a bomb of this magnitude been detonated. An estimated 120,000 people were immediately killed by the blasts, with thousands more dying from the after-effects in the months that followed. Japan's Emperor Hirohito described the weapons as a 'new and most cruel bomb' when he announced Japan's unconditional surrender on 15 August.

While the bombings served as a catalyst for the end of WWII, their impact on the world was significant and is still felt today.

THE LEAD-UP TO THE BOMBINGS

With the war in Europe coming to an end in May 1945, Japan was threatened with 'prompt and utter destruction' if they refused to surrender to allied forces. Japan rejected the demand in late July, and the United States, with the support of the United Kingdom, proceeded to drop newly developed



atomic weapons over the Japanese manufacturing city of Hiroshima.

When Emperor Hirohito failed to surrender, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. With half of the total death toll occurring on the first days of the respective bombings and the evident wide-spread destruction of the cities, Emperor Hirohito finally announced Japan's surrender on 15 August.

THE END OF THE WAR

Japan's surrender signalled the end of WWII. The date was recognised as VP Day, or Victory in the Pacific Day, in Australia, and VJ Day, or Victory over Japan Day in the United States, Britain and New Zealand. The day was declared a public holiday and crowds spilt into the streets in celebration.

But while the war was over, the impacts of the bombings were felt for years after.

THE AFTERMATH

In the weeks that followed the bombings, both US and Japanese research teams descended on Hiroshima to begin gathering insights

into the impacts of a nuclear weapon. Studies aimed to understand the biological effect of the radiation, how people died from it, and the medical effects on survivors. Research continues to this day on the atomic bomb survivors, known as *hibakusha* in Japanese, who are now in their 80s and 90s, and their subsequent generations.

In the months and years that followed, many more people died from the effects of radiation, and increases in cancers, leukaemia, miscarriage, and infant death were noticeably higher.

Survivors and their second and third generations were also discriminated against over fears surrounding the unknown physical and psychological impacts. Women, in particular, experienced bias as people feared the potential genetic consequences of radiation on their offspring.

The cities were destroyed in the explosions and took years to rebuild. Hiroshima was re-established as a Peace Memorial City, with more than 60 monuments standing as reminders of the war and promotions of peace. The only building in the hypocentre

of the bomb to remain standing, the Industrial Promotion Hall, remains untouched and is now home to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial.

THE FIRST AND LAST NUCLEAR BOMBS

The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the first and last time nuclear weapons have been used in warfare, anywhere in the world. While several countries went on to develop and test nuclear weapons, and continue to house them, it's thought the impact felt by the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – the majority of whom were civilians – was too devastating for any country to use the weapons again since.

Survivors of the bombings have also long campaigned for a world free of nuclear weapons. In 1963, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was agreed to by the US, the Soviet Union and Britain, who agreed to the prohibition of nuclear weapon testing except for underground. In 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted, however, it is yet to be binding. ←

LEFT: The mushroom cloud rising above Hiroshima following the explosion of the nuclear bomb dropped on the city on 6 August 1945. Photo donated by Mr Hiroshi Miyazawa, Governor of the Prefecture of Hiroshima. (AWM: 043863)


CENTRE: A view of Hiroshima showing the damage to buildings caused by the dropping of the first atomic bomb. All that remains of the building in the foreground is the twisted steel frame. (AWM: P01804.003)

BELOW: A section of the bomb-damaged ruins of buildings looking south from the centre of the city. (AWM: 131583)



A ROADTRIP THROUGH WARTIME QUEENSLAND

From Cape York to Brisbane, our state is rich in sites of military significance.

 Kylie Hatfield

WITH the significant role Queensland played in Australia's efforts during WWII, many towns and locations have a story to tell about their military history. Here, we take you on a road trip through some of Queensland's WWII sites you can still visit today.



STANLEY ISLAND

Beginning the surveillance network along Queensland's coast, Stanley Island was the location for No. 45 Radar Station and RAAF camp, built in 1942. Situated among the Flinders Islands off the coast of Cape York, the radar station on Stanley Island sat atop a hill above the beach, and the remains of camp facilities and concrete paths are still visible today.



FITZROY ISLAND

No. 28 Radar Station was built on Fitzroy Island off Cairns in 1942, atop the highest peak on the small island. The station, along with coastal artillery gun emplacements on Cape Grafton, protected the Grafton Passage by monitoring all aircraft and shipping activities into and out of Cairns.

A basic lighthouse was built in 1943, and a camp at the foot of the lighthouse road housed Air Force and Navy troops. The facilities were dismantled after the war ended; however, a lighthouse stands on the site and is frequented by visitors to the island.

ATHERTON TABLELANDS

While Townsville is known as the garrison city of north Queensland, the Australian Army's headquarters shifted to the town of Atherton in December 1942, with military camps, mess kitchens, hospitals, an airfield, Army farms, entertainment halls and a war cemetery established in the area.

It was an ideal location to base personnel and equipment closer to New Guinea, and troops were able to continue jungle training in a more comfortable climate, while others received treatment for malaria. Over 100,000 soldiers were stationed throughout 160 locations across the Atherton Tablelands during WWII.





DUNK ISLAND

Another significant post of Australia's coastline surveillance network was an airstrip and radar station built on Dunk Island. The No. 27 Radar Station was a light-weight air warning radar established on the highest point on the island, Mount Kootaloo.

Those staffing the station were housed at the island's resort until their shifts, when they would trek the slopes along the track forged during the construction of the station to the top Mount Kootaloo. The station was demolished in 1945, but the rusty remnants of the air warning aerial are still in place atop Mount Kootaloo.



MAGNETIC ISLAND

Located close to Townsville, which housed a significant military base and an ideal harbour for shipping, Magnetic Island hosted a signal station and coastal battery to protect the harbour and control the shipping activities.

Searchlights were installed to spot aircraft flying at 30,000 feet, and Australian Coast Artillery Units operated the fortification complex until 1945.

Remnants of the radar and signal stations, searchlight tower, command post and ammunition store are still accessible by visitors.

COOMINGLAH STATE FOREST

Heading south and inland, the Coomingleh State Forest is located west of Bundaberg and has a different story of its part in WWII; it served as a location for detention centres housing German and Italian prisoners of war. The POWs built roads through the forest, which had begun being logged in 1935.

MACARTHUR CHAMBERS

Brisbane's city centre was the headquarters for US General Douglas MacArthur during WWII, with his offices set up in the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) building on Queen Street from mid-1942. As well as General MacArthur's offices, the nine-storey building housed signal units, a communication centre and a code room, and served as headquarters for the US Navy and RAAF Command.

The heritage-listed building, now known as MacArthur Chambers, is today home to the MacArthur Museum, apartments and a retail and food precinct.



K'GARI (FRASER ISLAND)

Unlike the other islands listed, K'gari, or Fraser Island as it was known, wasn't home to a defence battery. Instead, the island hosted the Fraser Commando School, which trained the Special Operations Australia Unit known as Z Special Unit or Z Force.

Over 900 personnel went through the training program between October 1943 and August 1945, learning unarmed combat, jungle craft, demolitions and weapons training. Some remnants of the training facilities are still visible today, located on the western side of the island.

BRIBIE ISLAND

Fort Bribie, located on Ocean Beach on the north-eastern side of Bribie Island, was the major naval defence station of Moreton Bay during the height of WWII. Operational in early 1942, Fort Bribie served as support for the Australian Navy's defence against light raiding warships, acting as the Examination Battery, where ships were required to identify themselves.

The fortifications included searchlight posts, mine control huts, gun placements, a signals operation room, plotting room, observation post and water tank. The building was abandoned at the end of the war and dismantled in the 1950s, however, the ramparts of Fort Bribie are still standing in the eroding sands.





'NYRAMBLA'

One of Australia's most significant sites of military history sits in the unassuming Brisbane suburb of Ascot, at 21 Henry Street. Known as 'Nyrambla', the grand Queenslander built during the late 1800s was occupied by the US Army from 1942 and became the Australian headquarters of Central Bureau, a secret organisation tasked with decoding Japanese radio transmissions. (Read about the nun who served in one of the most secretive units of WWII, based at 'Nyrambla'.)

Computers of the day were installed in the garage to break code, with the most significant intercepted signal leading to the ambush of Admiral Yamamoto, who had planned the attack on Pearl Harbour. After the war, the house returned to being a residence and is currently privately owned.

BRISBANE'S AIR RAID SHELTERS

During WWII, many air raid shelters, or bomb shelters, were built throughout Brisbane's city and suburbs to provide protection for civilians and military personnel from air attacks. Elaborate shelters were built in locations such as Elizabeth Street, Ann Street and North Quay in the city, near the Howard Smith Wharves under the Story Bridge, and even on private properties, like an eight-foot deep shelter that was built in a backyard in Annerley.

Development over the past 75 years has seen some of the shelters demolished, while some of the humble constructions that are still standing now serve other purposes, such as a bus stop near the Teneriffe Ferry Terminal on Commercial Road, or a picnic spot at a small park near Flower Street in the suburb of Woolloongabba.

BRISBANE CITY HALL

The tallest building in Brisbane at the outbreak of the war in 1939, City Hall became a hub for civil defence activities during WWII. The building hosted meetings of allies, war bond rallies, a childcare centre for war workers, temporary offices for war organisations, receptions for dignitaries and the RSL Welfare Rooms (shown below).

The adjoining King George Square also lent itself to the cause, with military parades and salvage drives being held there, as well as providing a quiet spot for relaxation in the city's centre. King George Square continues to serve as an events and activity hub, while visitors to City Hall can tour the historic building, learn about its history and view the Museum of Brisbane exhibitions.



WWII Veteran stories

TAPPING INTO THE PAST

A wireless operator during WWII, Doreen Matthews shares her memories of wartime Townsville.

 Anita Jaensch

NINETY-six-year-old Doreen Matthews still remembers the Morse Code she learnt eight decades ago, deftly tapping out a message for us on the Morse key in the Redlands RSL Museum.

“It was the Naval Reserve I joined at 16, because I just wanted to do something and couldn’t do anything until I was 18. And then when I was 18, I just joined up. I couldn’t wait to get into it with everybody else,” she recalls.

Already proficient in Morse Code from her time in the Reserves, Doreen became a wireless operator with the Australian Women’s Army Service (AWAS) and was posted to Townsville – an experience in itself.

“They weren’t ready for us, they just weren’t. When we first got there, they took us out of the Army trucks that had picked us up from the station and gave us this whole big heap of hay, like straw. It was to fill up the palliasses* – what they called them in those days. That was what we slept on, in tents. All us girls together in this yard with goats running around. Goats and fleas. It wasn’t really good when we first got there.”

Her eyes twinkle. “Did you know how we had a shower? They had four posts, and they had the shower built around it, just by corrugated iron. And they had a kerosene tin tied to a rope. We undid it and lowered it down, filled it up with water and hopped under it quickly.” She laughs. “You didn’t get much of a shower!”



In time, Doreen moved from the temporary camp into billets in Denham Street. As a wireless operator, she was busy sending and receiving crucial coded messages from troops in the Pacific.

“I just remember how many soldiers came through that city on their way to each of the ships to go to war. They shipped everybody out from Townsville and there were soldiers coming and going all the time. So many of them... It’s sad really,” she says.

One of those soldiers was her future husband. On patrol in New Guinea with his troop, he decided to sit down beneath a coconut palm to light a cigarette – just as one of the men stood on a landmine. Of his entire troop, he was the only survivor.

“The blast went above his head. He lost his ear drum and had ended up with war neurosis,” Doreen says.

By the time the war ended, Doreen was married with a child, and the young mother was too busy to join the celebrations. “I just felt so happy about it,” she says wistfully. “I felt like celebrating, but I had a child by then. Too busy!”

“

“ONE OF THOSE SOLDIERS WAS HER FUTURE HUSBAND. ON PATROL IN NEW GUINEA WITH HIS TROOP, HE DECIDED TO SIT DOWN BENEATH A COCONUT PALM TO LIGHT A CIGARETTE – JUST AS ONE OF THE MEN STOOD ON A LANDMINE. OF HIS ENTIRE TROOP, HE WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR.”

This year, however, on the 75th anniversary of that day, Doreen is looking forward to joining in the celebrations her RSL has planned.

“Whatever they’re doing, I go with the flow. I just do that. Just don’t make plans, go with the flow. That’s all you can do.”

* A palliasse is a straw-filled mattress. ←



WWII Veteran stories

SEARING PAIN IN EL-ALAMAIN FOR ONE OF THE RATS OF TOBRUK

Little did Don Simpson know when enlisting in the Army in 1940 that he would soon become part of Australian folklore.

 Tim Schaefer

THE year was 1940, and World War II was raging across the globe. Adolf Hitler and the Axis forces were cutting a devastating path through the European mainland. News reports of the Allies' worsening position were filtering back to Australia.

Donald 'Don' Leonard Simpson, then a 23-year-old living in Melbourne, felt a sense of duty.

"I thought it was about time I did something to help. The outlook for the Allies wasn't looking too good, so I decided then that I would join up," recalls Don, now 101 years old.

Little did he know that decision would soon earn him the title of one of the famed Rats of Tobruk.

For Don, it wasn't just a sense of duty to Australia that inspired him to join the war effort. Don was born in Stoke Newington, London, on 22 December 1918. At the age of three he emigrated with his family to Melbourne to start a new life. So, when Don enlisted in 1940, he was doing so to serve two homelands.

STOPPING HITLER

Don and his fellow Australian troops set off from Australia on the RMS *Queen Mary* as

part of a five-ship convoy. Though the threat of enemy submarines and ships was ever-present, Don says the journey was uneventful.

After disembarking in the Middle East, Don and the 2nd 32nd Battalion set up camp in Palestine, before they were shipped out to the dusty battlefields of Tobruk, Libya and soon became part of Australian folklore. The fighting was fierce and unrelenting.

"We were completely surrounded and completely cut off," says Don. "The only contact we had was with the Navy support, who delivered food, petrol and oil, but only at night-time because of the bombing."

"We were always hungry. They would send us what they could, but we never got a decent meal. It was basically bully beef and biscuits, and we occasionally got a hot meal. But that's just the way it was. That's the trials and tribulations of war. We made the most of what we had."

Amid the fighting, Australian troops earned the nickname 'The Rats of Tobruk' for their use of Tobruk's excellent network of below-ground defensive positions.

German propagandists described the besieged Australians as living like rats in the underground dug-outs and caves. In true larrikin style, the Aussie troops reclaimed the name as a badge of pride and even minted their own unofficial medals bearing the likeness of a rat.

Don says The Rats of Tobruk initially focused on defending their lines against German Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps, who until that point had never been defeated. As they bedded in, the Aussie troops became bolder, and defensive operations gave way to patrols and reconnaissance. But after months of fighting, the Australians were exhausted and their health was suffering. Australian casualties numbered at least 3,000, including 746 killed.

Don was among the troops relieved by Allied forces late in 1941. After a brief time spent supporting Allied forces in the Syria-Lebanon campaign, Don was sent to El Alamein. It was here, on the Egyptian shoreline of the Mediterranean Sea, that Don's time on the battlefield was about to come to an abrupt and painful conclusion.

RED-HOT POKER

In one of the countless skirmishes of the Battle of El Alamein, Don was positioned on a forward slope and was about to retreat behind a ridge when he was struck by an enemy bullet. Although almost 78 years ago, he still remembers the searing pain as the burning piece of metal entered his upper thigh, slicing through his sciatic nerve.

"Because it severed the nerve, all the pain ended up in my foot. It felt like a red-hot poker in the middle of my foot. It was a very strange situation," he says.

Don was rescued by a lieutenant and a sergeant, who picked him up and transported him to a nearby field hospital, where he underwent surgery and received a skin graft.

"I lost the use of my muscles that helped lift and bend my toes. The doctors would use hatpins and draw patterns on my leg to find the live and dead bits. Luckily though, the pain gradually got less and less, and I don't have any pain in it anymore."

Though he recovered well, the injury was the end of Don's campaign. He was eventually transported back to Australia on a hospital ship, and spent several months recuperating in a Melbourne hospital before he was sent home. Don was officially discharged from the Army in 1943.

BITTERSWEET RELIEF

By the time the war ended in August 1945, Don had fully recovered and was working as a painter, decorator, and sign writer.

When the news came through that Japan had surrendered, Don says it was a moment of relief and jubilation.

"There was dancing in the street and everyone was prancing around congratulating each other. It was a wonderful feeling to know it was all over and done with. But there was also some sadness because there was a lot of sacrifice and pain too," he says.

As he reflects on the 75th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific, Don is hopeful the world never experiences anything like WWII again.

"It was really unnecessary in so many ways, but it's just one of those things. Hitler had to be stopped," he says. "It was a terrible business, whichever side you were on." ←



Australian Military Forces

Certificate of Discharge

Certificate No.

This is to Certify that

Pte Donald Leonard SIMPSON
Australian Infantry Battalion
for the A.M.F. on the 1 day of July
served on Continuous Full Time War Service
Australian Imperial Force
Effective Period of *One thousand*
induced and forty seven

which included Active Service
In Australia for *277* days
Outside Australia for *690* days

emerged from Australian Imperial Force

During that service, or by virtue of that
soldier was awarded, or became eligible
and Decorations

War Badge
A 12893

W. H. Smith
Officer in Charge, Records
Victoria - L. of C. Area

This Discharge takes effect on and from the
noon One thousand nine hundred and forty *three*

field =
1943

Confirming Authority.

THE PERIOD OF SERVICE, LESS ANY CONSECUTIVE 21 DAYS OR MORE FOR WHICH THE SOLDIER WAS NOT ENTITLED TO PAY
MAINLAND OF AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA.

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES

CITIZEN FORCES.

Certificate of Discharge.

Certificate No. 75.

Sapper.

3rd. Division.

forces at Seymour.

of June

19 41.

4 Rfts. 2/23 Bn. A.I.F.

Good

years 142 days

W. H. Smith

Lt. Col.

Commanding R.A.E. 3rd Div.

discharge (A.M.F. & O. 177).

SOLDIER'S PAY BOOK.

Army No. *VX 42617* Pay Book No. *77-2013*

Surname *SIMPSON*

Christian Names *Donald Leonard*

Religion *Baptist*

Enlisted in *3rd* Military District.

Date of Attestation *1/7/40*

Date Joined Camp *1/7/40*

Unit

Transferred by

to

SCA Authority *1962*

Discharged *29/11/43*

of 92/15112 C.P.B. Thornbury

1943

1943

WWII Veteran stories

CHEERS, BEERS AND WATER FIGHTS — NEWS OF PEACE IN NEW GUINEA

Stan Mellick OAM spent three years serving in the jungles of New Guinea before the Allies claimed victory.

 Matilda Dray

DO you remember where you were on your 23rd birthday? John Stanton ‘Stan’ Davis Mellick OAM was lying at the bottom of a muddy trench in New Guinea, as one of WWII’s fiercest battles raged overhead.

“It was raining like heck and there were bombers overhead. I was in a slit trench, lying in the mud, and I thought, ‘What a way to have a birthday.’”

Unlike many who fought and died in WWII, Stan was lucky enough to return home and celebrate many more birthdays in safer surroundings, including his 100th this year.

IN THE BLOOD

Stan was born in Ireland in 1920 and grew up in Brisbane after his family moved to Australia later that year. He attended Brisbane Grammar School in the 1930s and over the course of his life was a soldier, pharmacist, poet, author and university lecturer.

His family was accustomed to military life – his father served in WWI attached to the Australian Flying Corps, while his Irish grandfather was a member of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, an infantry regiment of the British Army.

Stan first joined the Army as a cadet at 16,

transferring to the Citizens’ Military Force (CMF) when he turned 18.

“By late 1939 I was commissioned as a second lieutenant, the most junior grade of officer you could be – a one-pipper and you had to say ‘sir’ to everybody. In June 1940, unbelievably, I was appointed as adjutant of Signals in Queensland,” Stan explains.

Having no clue what the role of adjutant entailed, he asked the Regimental Sergeant Major, who gestured to an empty room and told him to sit inside.

“I said, ‘Well, where are the mobilisation orders?’ and he replied, ‘There aren’t any. You’ll have to write them’. So, I sat down in the chair and thought, ‘Mobilisation orders, what are they really?’ and thus began my six years of Army life,” Stan recalls.

DECLARATION OF PEACE

Stan served in New Guinea from 1943 to 1945 on the general staff of HQ 5th Division and HQ First Australian Army, retiring as a Major. He was in New Guinea at the end of WWII when peace was officially declared.

“I was working in a thatched hut under a Tilley lamp and I heard shouting and yells,” he remembers.

“Then somebody ran past chasing another fellow with a bucket of water. I yelled out to them, ‘What’s going on?’ They shouted, ‘It’s over!’ I said, ‘What’s over?’ They yelled, ‘The war!’ and disappeared.”

With peace now officially declared, Stan left the hut to join in the water fights and celebrations.

“There were small groups of blokes chasing each other, cheering and saluting. A few produced some beer obtained somewhere or other. It wasn’t very easy to get hold of that stuff in the islands,” Stan says.

“Everyone was very excited and happy and began looking forward to getting home.”

MAKING PEACE WITH JAPAN

For Stan, it wasn’t until several years later that his own feelings about the war with Japan finally changed.

“We weren’t kindly disposed to the Japanese, especially when we found out how they’d treated our prisoners of war,” Stan remembers.

“Those days have long gone, but my war with Japan finished in an unusual way.”

While working as a university English lecturer, Stan taught a Japanese student called Kyoko, and he was struck by the thoughtful way she described poetry.

“The words make the meaning and the metre carries the music,” Kyoko told him.

“A few months later I got a postcard from her that said, ‘Love from Japan’. I looked at the ‘love from Japan’, showed it to my wife and then said, ‘My war with Japan has finally ended.’”

75 YEARS OF PEACE

Stan and his wife Sally will be spending the 75th anniversary of VP Day at Rocky Creek near Atherton. In 1942, Atherton became a focal point for the Australian Army, due to its proximity to New Guinea.

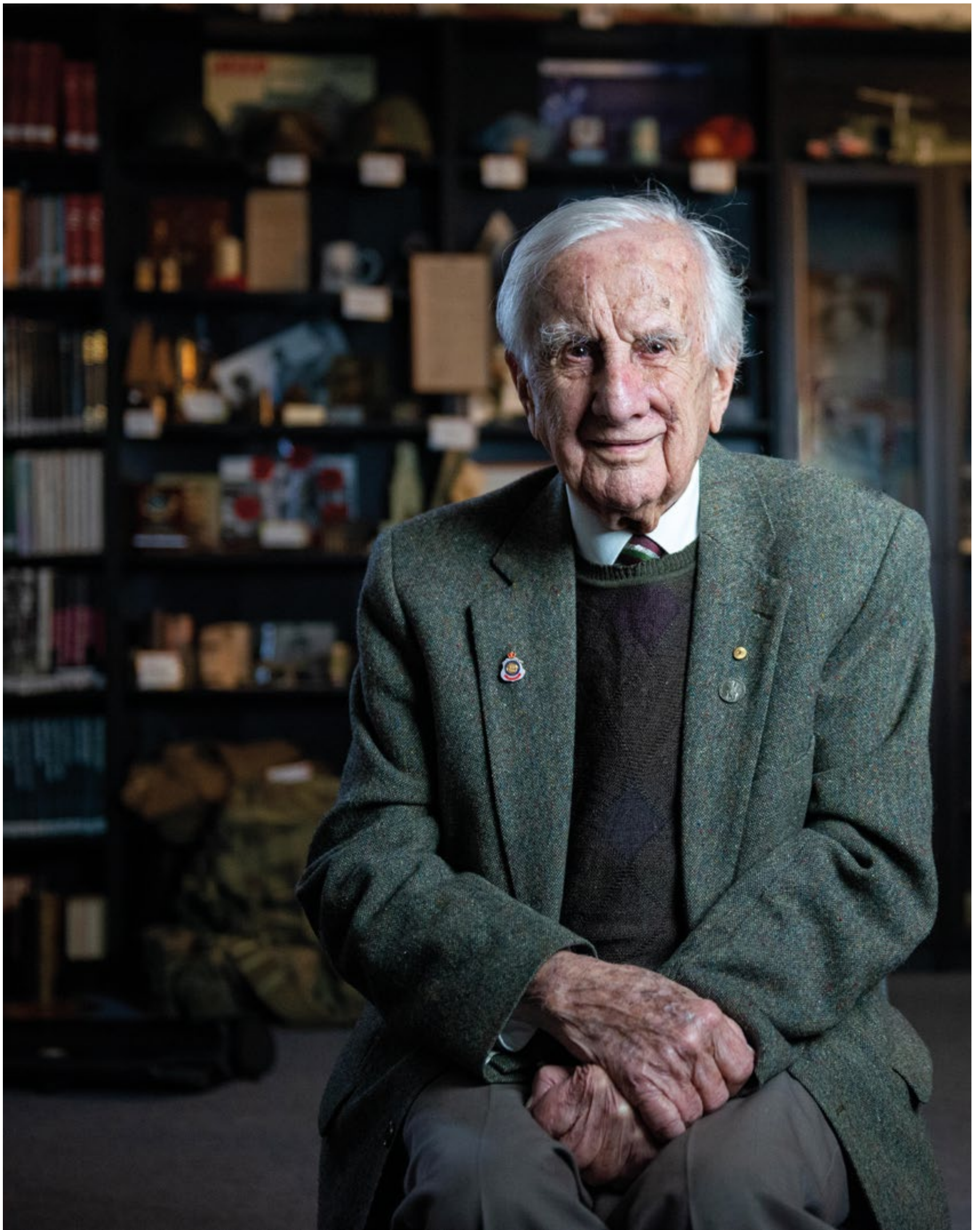
Over 100,000 soldiers were stationed and trained there in some 160 locations across the Atherton Tablelands during WWII. There was also a 2,000-bed hospital ready for anticipated casualties.

In Rocky Creek, metal plaques have been affixed to giant boulders to commemorate the units and regiments stationed around the area. Last year, Stan spoke to visitors from various parts of the country as well as the local community about what the rocks really meant to veterans.

“These stones recall the 10 years that men of World War II gave to maintaining and keeping what we’ve got,” he told them.

“Not only did most of us spend six years in the services, but there was usually another three or four years devoted to getting settled. So, we really lost 10 years of our lives. But we were lucky – other poor fellows never came back. So, what do those boulders at Rocky Creek really mean? A grave or up to 10 years of a young man’s life.”

Stan’s speech – in which he called the whole area a national war memorial – evidently made quite an impression. In the past year, the people of Atherton have established a stone memorial at Rocky Creek and asked him to return in 2020 to witness its unveiling. It will memorialise for all time the thousands who trained there before leaving for active service abroad. ←



WWII Veteran stories

A TALE OF WAR AND PEACE

David Mattiske witnessed firsthand some of the most intense naval battles of WWII's Pacific campaign, before arriving in Japan for the first weeks of peace.

 Anita Jaensch

HIGH on HMAS *Shropshire*'s bridge, 19-year-old David Mattiske watched as the vessel's mine-sweeping paravane cut through the sea far below, carving phosphorescent lines in the dark tropical waters.

Suddenly, he became aware that the port paravane was bobbing up and down strangely. There could only be one explanation – a deadly mine had been caught up in it.

"It was a very tense moment, and not a good thing to happen while we were proceeding into Leyte Gulf, ready to bombard the shores there before the landing of the Army," David recalls.

Unable to detach the mine safely at night, the crew took the necessary measures to safeguard the ship as it sailed on. In the morning, as the crew considered how best to detangle it from the jaws of the paravane, the mine suddenly detached itself and floated down the side of the ship. Once the *Shropshire* was safely past, another ship detonated the mine.

"There was no point being frightened or scared about it all. We had competent officers and they would have to be in control of the situation," David says.

Drafted to HMAS *Shropshire* directly after completing his training at Flinders Naval Depot, David served aboard her until the end of WWII. Despite being involved in some of

the major naval campaigns of the war, the *Shropshire* – and David – made it through unscathed.

THE FINAL MOMENTS OF WWII

He clearly recalls the pivotal moment on the morning of 6 August when it became clear that the war might be coming to an end.

"All of a sudden the TBS (talk between ships) announced that an atomic bomb had been dropped at a place called Hiroshima. And so we were aware then that this may be the end of the war," he says.

Following the Japanese surrender on 15 August, the Australian task force left Subic Bay in the Philippines, bound for Tokyo. David and the crew of HMAS *Shropshire* arrived in Tokyo Bay on 31 August, and were there when the Japanese Instrument of Surrender was signed on the USS *Missouri* on 2 September 1945.

But it's a different historical event that brings a twinkle to David's eye.

"There was to be a ceremony to raise the flag at the British Embassy for the first time since the war started. Thirty people from *Shropshire* were going to be invited to attend, but we weren't allowed to wear our typical Australian type shorts and shirts. We had to go across to the KG5 [King George V], the battleship, and get English gear, the old Bombay Bloomer type of shorts and stuff," David says. "We took that back to the *Shropshire* and immediately cut it up and made it nice and trim, like Australians should be wearing shorts and shirts!"

After the ceremony, the crew members were given lunch by the embassy's Japanese staff, who had continued to maintain the embassy throughout the war.

"Excellent food, and lots of Japanese ice-cold beer," David recalls. "And, of course, we grabbed all the beer first, let the other people have the sandwiches. The first thought that went through my mind was, 'This beer is good stuff. Perhaps this terrible enemy of Japan is not so bad if they can make beer like that!'"

David shows us a couple of cream, gilt-edged cards, embossed with a gold crest. They bear the signatures of all the crew members that attended the ceremony at the

Embassy, along with those of Commodore Collins and Captain Nicholls. Exploring the empty Embassy after the ceremony, David had picked up a couple of the Ambassador's visiting cards from his desk as a souvenir.

"Next morning, I thought to myself, this is a piece of history."

He decided to breach protocol and approach both Commodore Collins and Captain Nichols, to ask them to sign the card.

"Collins had been our first captain, so he knew me as a lookout. He knew me pretty well. I sat down and I told him what I'd got. 'Oh,' he chuckled, 'that's a bit of history, ain't it?' And he signed it. I went next door to the captain's office and the same thing happened."

EMPATHY FOR THE ENEMY


In Tokyo, directly after the surrender, David was witness to the devastation that the Japanese city had suffered during the war.

"The Japanese Army did some terrible things to our prisoners. And yet, on my first trip to the Embassy, our transport took us through the downtown suburbs, which had been burnt out by incendiary fire. And there were acres and acres and acres, not of houses or rubble or anything – it was just burnt out. And there were old men and women and kids scratching around amongst the ashes, looking for things. It was a pitiful sight." David's face dims. "This war business, it's just not right, is it?"

A LIFELONG MEMBER

David's association with the RSL began when his mother signed him up while he was deployed.

"I went along [after the war] and I attended a few meetings. And before long I was secretary, then I was president. The only Navy man there, I think, from memory. And I got to know people at ANZAC House, including Sir George Holland, who would be one of the great national leaders of the RSL and one of the great men of Australia.

"And I remember him saying to me one day, 'David,' he said, 'the future of the RSL is to be involved in the community. We can't just have a little hall somewhere in memory of what went on in the past. We have to get involved with the community.' I thought that was good advice." 



WWII Veteran stories

DEFENDING AUSTRALIA'S SKIES

Stationed on Georges Hill, Audrey Wilson was one of the watchful gunners who ensured no enemy aircraft would darken Sydney's skies.

 Anita Jaensch



THE lions and tigers at Taronga Zoo were waking up, their growls echoing through the quiet morning air. For the young women on guard duty at Georges Heights, it sounded like they were right there, just out of sight. It was a thought that was almost more scary than the possibility that a Japanese Zero might come into view over Sydney Harbour.

"It was amazing," Audrey Wilson says, remembering back to the two-hour watches she undertook during WWII. "You'd hear all the birds, all the animals, and they sounded so close in the stillness of the morning. It sounded so scary, and we had our guns ready just in case!"

The anti-aircraft battery at Georges Heights was a long way from Bermagui, where Audrey had grown up. With seven members of her family already serving, however, she was eager to do her bit for the war effort.

"My two brothers had both gone to the war. One was a commander and one was a paratrooper. My sister had gone to the Australian Women's Land Army. I was working in this general store, all the newspapers would come in, and I'd read them. And I'd think, 'What am I doing here? I need to go too!'"

Because she was only 18, Audrey asked her mother to sign her enlistment papers and,

when she refused, got her father to do it. She had to travel to Randwick to enlist.

"I'd never been away from home. So I caught the milk truck to Bega, I caught the bus to Cooma, and I caught the train down to Sydney. I think I cried all the way."

“

“THE THING THAT GOT ME MOST WAS THE BULLET HOLES. THAT DISTURBED US ALL, WE KNEW HOW CLOSE IT WAS.”

After sitting an IQ test and passing her medical, Audrey was assigned as a gunner to the 1st Australian Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment at Georges Heights. The Georges Heights anti-aircraft battery played a crucial role in the defence of Sydney.

"I worked on a predictor, which worked with searchlights, height finder, plotting room and the guns. We had to know every plane in the sky and we had to keep our eye on every plane, whether it was an old Avro Anson out

of its area or whatever it might have been. That was what I had to mainly do, and be ready in case there was an invasion to take my part working with the guns," she says. "We'd see the Catalinas and the Sunderlands come in and land on Rose Bay with bullet holes in them. Probably been active up New Guinea way.

"The thing that got me most was the bullet holes. That disturbed us all, we knew how close it was."

When the end of the war finally came, Audrey says everyone was "thrilled to pieces".

"I drove the truck with all the girls on it across the Harbour Bridge and parked near the pylon there and we all went on the march. And then, of course, we all went a bit crazy and danced in the streets. That was really great."

Audrey finally demobbed in 1946 and returned home to Bermagui, where the local RSL threw her a welcome home party and presented her with a certificate acknowledging her service.

Of the seven members of her family who had signed up during the war, not a single one was lost.

"They all came home," Audrey says. "They all came home. Even though they were in the middle of it." ←



WWII Veteran stories

SEA WOLVES AND PORPOISES – MEMORIES OF A WAR AT SEA

Navy veteran Joe Treers served in both the Atlantic and Pacific during WWII, dodging Nazi U-boats as well as the Japanese.

 Anita Jaensch

JOE TREERS doesn't remember marking the Japanese surrender in a big way. He was at sea at the time, so it occasioned just a small celebration among the crew of HMAS *Ping Wo*. But when the vessel returned to Townsville, he and a couple of mates decided to go ashore for a beer.

"And we couldn't get a beer, because they had no glasses!" he recalls, grinning. At the beginning of the war, all the soldiers stationed in Townsville had taken a glass home, bringing it back to the pub on nights out.

"So, I thought, 'I know what we're going to do.'" Joe had one of his mates find some empty beer bottles that he took back to the ship. "I put hot wire across the top of the bottle, and then plunged it into freezing water. And this cracked the top of the bottle off.

"So then I ground the edge, and then we had three of them. And I got some paint and painted our Christian names on each glass. And that's how we got our beer."

FROM U-BOATS TO CYCLONES

After 20 years in the Navy, Joe has a treasure trove of stories. During World War II alone, he served in the North Atlantic, the Indian and the Pacific Oceans.

His first ship was the HMAS *Nepal*, an N-class destroyer fresh from the shipyards in Portsmouth, England.

"When they thought we were good enough to go to sea, we did a couple of trips escorting other ships to Northern Russia, to Murmansk. And the only thing we liked about that was to get up there with no trouble," Joe says, playing down the risk. At the time, Nazi U-boats – the so-called 'sea wolves' – were plying the North Atlantic, targeting convoys just like the one the *Nepal* was escorting. In fact, Joe recalls that a couple of ships in the convoy were lost on the return to Glasgow.

The *Nepal* sailed for Kilindini in Eastern Africa, where she carried out escort and patrol duties. On her voyage from Africa to Australia, however, her path crossed a severe cyclone.

"And finally, it got that big that the skipper took over the wheel in the ship," Joe says. "From the crest of the wave to the bottom of the wave was 50 feet. That's how high the waves were. And he took us up on an angle, up this wave, turned it right on the crest and then went back down the wave out the other way, and got us out of the cyclone."

The *Nepal* made it to Fremantle intact, needing only minor repairs.

JOINING THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC

Joe spent the final years of the war stationed in New Guinea, sailing between Port Moresby and Townsville.

"The ship I was on, we never, ever got attacked by the Japanese aircraft. They were attacking mostly North Australia and Naval depots and the other Army depots in New Guinea. And we were just lucky."

A MOMENT OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE OF WAR

On nights when he wasn't on watch, Joe would stand in the forepeak watching the ship cut through the phosphorescent seas, creating an enormous bow wave.

"And you'd see them coming way ahead of the ship, always two of them – porpoises or something like that. And then suddenly, they'd turn and head for the ship, and they'd

come down past the side of the bow and then turn around and come back. And they'd surf in the bow wave. Just like you see them at the beach," Joe reminisces.

GG

"JOE HAD ONE OF HIS MATES FIND SOME EMPTY BEER BOTTLES THAT HE TOOK BACK TO THE SHIP. 'I PUT HOT WIRE ACROSS THE TOP OF THE BOTTLE, AND THEN PLUNGED IT INTO FREEZING WATER. AND THIS CRACKED THE TOP OF THE BOTTLE OFF. SO THEN I GROUND THE EDGE, AND THEN WE HAD THREE OF THEM. AND I GOT SOME PAINT AND PAINTED OUR CHRISTIAN NAMES ON EACH GLASS. AND THAT'S HOW WE GOT OUR BEER.'"

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Joe is a stalwart member of the Toowoomba United RSL Sub Branch, having joined the RSL in Bondi 80 years ago. Until recently, he volunteered a lot of his time to the Sub Branch and he is still a regular at Friday evening social events, where he's a one-man welcoming committee for new members.

"When we get new members come into the RSL at our [Sub] Branch, I ask them – especially if they're ex-Navy – I ask them where they've been and what they've done," Joe says. "I ask more questions than they ask me, because the whole system has changed."

If you've been to a Dawn Service in Toowoomba in the past decade, you've almost certainly come across Joe. Without fail, the 98-year-old mans his post at the bus interchange, serving tea, coffee and – of course – rum to the hundreds of people attending the service.

District Secretary Tracey-Fay Penrose, who helps Joe serve the gunfire breakfast each ANZAC Day, says Joe is an absolute gem.

"He never lets them down, he's always there. It really means something to him." ←





COMMUNITY SHARES STORIES OF PEACE

In the lead-up to VP Day on 15 August, RSL Queensland asked the community to share their stories and remember our remaining WWII heroes. Whether they were personally on the battlefield of WWII or had a family story to tell, it was a place for Queenslanders to share their memories, show their support and connect with one another. Here are some of the fascinating contributions we received.

A FORGOTTEN BULLET WOUND

▶ 📷 I had five uncles who served – two in the Navy and three in the Army (artillery). With God's grace, they all came home. After the war, they were all sitting around my grandmother's kitchen table talking about their experiences and it developed into a competition about who "almost bought it". Finally, one of my uncles who had served in the islands revealed a scar from a bullet that had grazed the side of his head. He won the competition, but when he sat down my tiny grandmother called him by his full name "Edward!" and slapped him across the back of the head. Apparently, he had forgotten to mention to her that he'd been shot. This image shows three of my uncles digging an air raid shelter in the backyard shortly before they enlisted.

Alison Randall



A SECRET LOVE NOTE LEADS TO MARRIAGE

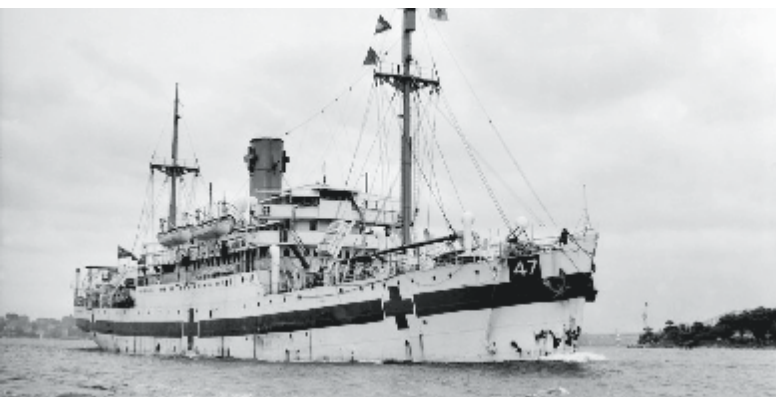
My mother met and married my father during WWII in Brisbane. He was a soldier from country NSW. Her brother was in the Air Force and her sister was a signaller in the Army. My mother was only 17 when the war ended so didn't join the Defence Force, however, she did make paliasses and tents for the war effort. The girls would slip messages to the soldiers into whatever they made. My father responded to my mother's note and they met. They had their first kiss on the newly constructed Story Bridge. My mother told us stories of the air raids and having to go down below her workplace into the bunker many times. She said the Japanese made numerous attempts to attack Brisbane through the Brisbane river – more than was reported – and the torpedoes would light the night sky.

May Clark

BABY FORGOTTEN DURING AN AIR RAID

My mother was born in 1936 and my aunt in 1942 in Townsville, which had air raids during the war. One night, my grandmother and her kids were sitting on the front steps of the house waiting for my grandfather to come home. My aunt was just a baby at the time and was sleeping in a bassinet. When the air raid siren blasted, my grandmother jumped up, grabbed the three older children, and ran to a shelter. Her husband met them at the shelter and asked about the baby. My grandma was in total shock – she had forgotten her baby on the verandah of their home! She wasn't allowed to leave the shelter until the air raid was over. Luckily, when she returned home, the baby was still fast asleep and safe in her bassinet.

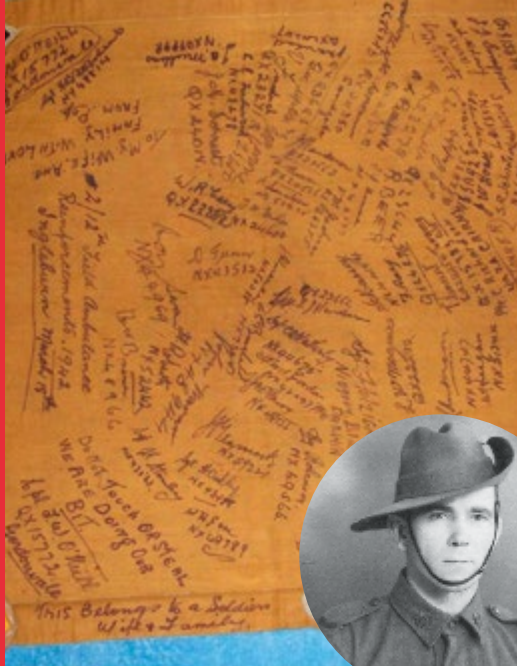
Marie Stevens



HISTORIC HANDKERCHIEF

◀▶📷 My grandfather Tommy O'Neill was with 2nd 12th Field Ambulance, one of the lost souls with the sinking of AHS *Centaur*. He left this hankie behind before boarding the ship. It is signed by so many that were lost when *Centaur* was sunk. It's a very special item in our family.

Annette Rolston



WE USED FLOUR BAGS TO MEND CLOTHES

I was living outside Mitchell and remember the hardship, the poverty, older people working and women cooking for the soldiers. I remember using fat and preserved eggs to make biscuits and fruit puddings. When the war was over, everyone was crying and ringing bells. We survived, without a complaint from anyone, and we all worked for the Red Cross to make money to send away for the war effort. After the war, we used food and clothes rations, meaning we had very little flour, tea or clothes. We used flour bags to mend clothes, so we went to school with self-raising flour bags as patches on our clothes and hats made from sugar bags.

Judith Clark

I COULD HEAR PLANES FROM THE BATHTUB

▶📷 My granny was giving me a bath in the old tin tub in the backyard. I was only about three, but I remember all these planes flying over. I later found out a ship had been sunk in the bay – that's where they must have been headed."

Elsa Westerberg, 80, remembers the sinking of AHS Centaur in 1943

RE-ENACTING THE KISS

▼📷 My husband and I on our 25th wedding anniversary next to the Battleship Missouri Memorial in Hawaii re-enacting 'that kiss'. Pearl Harbour was very moving!

Debbie Burdeu





FAMOUS PHOTO

◀ 📷 My father Ron Walkden photographed and produced this image.
Geoffrey Walkden

THE WAR GOT CLOSE

During the war, my grandparents lived near Gin Gin. Following the fall of Singapore and subsequent advance of the Japanese Imperial Army, they received government orders via the local schoolteacher. The orders were to cut fences and allow stock to run free, and then prepare for evacuation to the Brisbane line the following day. My grandparents refused to budge and some days later the order was withdrawn. It made me realise how close the war got.

Boyd Honor

LEG AMPUTATION REFUSED

▲ 📷 This photo, published in the *Courier Mail*, was of my father and Rat of Tobruk, Eric George Christiansen, presenting General Montgomery with a cigar box in Greenslopes Hospital. Eric was only 19 when he falsified his birth date to enlist in the AIF in 1939. During the Battle of El Alamein, Eric was struck by a mortar bomb at Thompson's Post and then shot in the leg by an advancing wave of German troops. He managed to survive and return to Australia, where doctors recommended that his right leg be amputated. He refused and opted to have his knee cap removed instead. Eric was coerced into presenting this cigar box by the hospital nurses, who threatened to steal his trousers if he tried to leave. In this photo a doily is covering Eric's private parts. During his service, Eric retrieved an Italian flag, which he later donated to an RSL museum. If anyone knows where the flag ended up, his son Lance would love to know the story behind it.

Lance Christiansen

Bribie Island RSL Sub Branch member

MY DAD ON VP DAY

▶ 📷 My father, Noel Eric (Josh) Reynolds, worked in Special Liaison Units during WWII, spending time in Brisbane and Morotai in 1945. He contributed to several books, including *The Ultra Secret* by Fred Winterbotham. After the war, he settled permanently in Toowoomba and established Legal and General Insurance. He was awarded the Defence Medal, the War Medal (British), the Australian Service Medal, 1939-45 Star, Africa, Italy and Pacific Stars. This historic photo is of him on stage on VP Day at the corner of Queen and Edward Streets.

Jane Thomas

CATCHING THE LIFT WITH GEN MACARTHUR

▼ 📷 My great-uncle Denis Healy looking quite dashing in uniform! He served in New Guinea during WWII. His wife, my great-aunt Joan, worked in the US Office of War Information at what is now Macarthur Place; she loved to tell us about the time she caught the lift with General Macarthur himself!

Anita Jaensch



LUCKY NOT BE ON THE SINKING CENTAUR

► 📷 My dad Charles Russell Bruhn served on Bribie Island as a nurse for four years. Being the eldest son, when the war ended, he returning to work on the family farm. He didn't talk much about the war, although he did tell us that he was meant to be on the AHS *Centaur* but was saved due to a change in directive. He lost many friends when the ship sunk, and it was too painful for him to talk about.

Rhoda Ann

SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED

► 📷 After my great uncle Jack Forrest went down on the AHS *Centaur*, my great grandmother refused to use or buy anything made in Japan. Jack's family were from Charleville in southwest Queensland. My mother attending a mission at church at lunch when the Mission Priest came in to tell the students that something terrible had happened and they should go home. When mum arrived home, everyone was crying.

Mark Scott

A MAN OF FEW WORDS

▼ 📷 I didn't get to talk much to my grandad about his time during the war, but I do have this and other photos of him.

Paul Sweet



PLATES FELL OUT OF THE CABINET ON VP DAY

We had the RAAF and the USAAF boys stationed near us during the war and mum played for their dances. My sister and I were thoroughly spoilt by them. I remember a massive fight breaking out one day between the yanks and Aussies. My dad worked on the railway to keep the lines clear. On VP Day, big B17 Bombers flew so low over our house that it shook the cupboards and we could see the pilots in the cockpit. The trains were blowing their whistles and we were banging on kerosene tins, which made our neighbour's plates fall off the cabinet and smash. It was a very happy day.

Fay Ison

THE CLEAN-UP AFTER HIROSHIMA

▼ 📷 These photos of Hiroshima were taken by a soldier who visited Japan to help clean up in the aftermath of the atomic bomb.

Robyn Parrinder



WRITING LETTERS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS

▼ 📷 Both of my grandfathers served in WWII, but it is my great aunt's story that I know most about. Maud Nunn (née Dutton) served as a volunteer in Lae Papua New Guinea with the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) at the 2nd/7th Australian General Hospital from 1944-45. She treated hundreds of wounded diggers during this period. At its peak, the hospital had 1,316 beds occupied by injured soldiers. After the end of WWII, she stayed on to treat POWs and often wrote letters to send home for wounded soldiers who couldn't write due to injury. After serving, she continued to help veterans through her involvement in the Ex-Australian Army Medical Women's service Association.

Teola Marsh



NAVIGATING A DVA CLAIM? WE'LL HELP



Our expert Compensation Advocates provide **FREE** advocacy assistance online, in person or over the phone.

Whether you just need some advice to complete your application or don't know where to start, we're here to help.

CONTACT US



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in person



RSL
Queensland

MATES 4 MATES

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
FOR OUR DEFENCE COMMUNITY

**Recovery
plans — a new
way to achieve
rehab goals.**

**How a global pandemic
changed our approach
to rehabilitation.**

KEEPING VETERANS
CONNECTED ACROSS
AUSTRALIA

+
**VETERANS'
HEALTH WEEK**

WHY SOCIAL
CONNECTION
IS IMPORTANT

+
**80KM OF
COMMUNITY
SUPPORT**

FUNDRAISERS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY
TAKE ON CHALLENGES



A message from our CEO Troy Watson.

As we move closer to the final quarter of 2020, I think most of us would agree that this has been a year that took us by surprise. But despite the setbacks and challenges, it's been humbling to see how staff, Mates and supporters have rallied together to make the most of their circumstances through COVID-19.

The pandemic has changed the way we do things and in terms of service-delivery, there are positive learnings that we've taken from it. We had to adapt and innovate this year, and we've proven we can do that with outcomes that benefit veterans and their families.

We are continuing to offer more services online to accommodate veterans' needs. These now complement our face-to-face services and provide a wider range of programs to access.

Now, as we move ahead and start planning for 2021, we're focusing on sustainable growth and providing new and relevant services to support our members and the wider veteran community.

In this edition, you'll read about our new recovery model and Skills for Recovery programs which we're proud to launch.

In addition, Veterans' Health Week is coming up next month (October 24 – November 1) which you can read about on page 6.

Troy

Follow
us today.



2019 Annual Report.

The Mates4Mates 2019 Annual Report is available at mates4mates.org. Read about our impact in 2019 and how staff continued to support more than 4,600 veterans and their families across our three Family Recovery Centres and outreach areas.

Have your say.

We want to hear from you about what you'd like to read about in the Mates4Mates Magazine. Whether you'd prefer more updates or stories on a certain topic, or areas that we haven't yet covered, we would like to hear from you. Email your feedback to marketing@mates4mates.org.

Make the call that makes the difference.

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

mates4mates.org

1300 4 MATES



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 Communications & Media Manager via marketing@mates4mates.org or call 1300 462 837. Written and edited by Laura McKoy. Design by Sven Kolesarić.



Recovery plans offer a new way to achieve rehabilitation goals.

Whether Mates present with a physical injury or are struggling with their mental health, our staff are ready and available to support them. With a new approach to recovery, we will now be offering all Mates their own tailored recovery plan to assist them in moving forward. Mates4Mates General Manager of Service Delivery and Operations, Bernadette Praske, explains.

When I joined Mates4Mates earlier this year, I was really impressed by our wonderful staff and the breadth of services on offer. But I also saw an opportunity to ensure Mates, and their immediate family members, were getting the most out of our services.

As a result, we adapted our approach to recovery and now offer the option of a tailored recovery plan for each Mate that provides a more targeted and engaged journey.

We know that coming into a multi-service organisation can be overwhelming and with various activities and treatment options available, it can be hard to know where to start.

But now, Mates will know that they're getting the right support, at the right time.

This is an exciting step forward for us as an organisation and for our Mates, and I am greatly looking

forward to seeing the difference that it will make.

So, how exactly will the recovery plans work?

As part of the induction to Mates4Mates, veterans will be assessed by our multidisciplinary clinical team to understand their physical, social and psychological recovery needs. Mates are then assisted to develop a recovery plan that will support the achievement of their goals and improve their overall quality of life.

Existing Mates will also be invited to develop a recovery plan.

Having worked in health and community services for many years, I know the complexity of issues that can present themselves. For this reason, different levels of care will be offered to Mates, depending on their needs.

A recovery plan may include seeing one of our psychologists regularly, booking in sessions

with our knowledgeable exercise physiologists, taking part in online programs or participating in workshops aimed at specific needs like pain management. In addition, we will utilise social and community connection activities to build confidence and a support-base. Recovery plans could last anywhere from three months up to 12 months, or as long as required, and Mates will be supported every step of the way.

We consider our Mates to be experts on their own circumstances and want to empower them to take charge of their recovery and achieve their goals through this new approach.

Often our Mates have given so much to serve our country, and at times, life after service hasn't quite turned out the way they expected. But we're here to make it that bit easier – every step of the way.

“Often our Mates have given so much to serve our country, and at times, life after service didn't quite turn out the way they expected. But we're here to make it that bit easier – every step of the way.”



Bernadette Praske

Mates4Mates
General Manager
— Service Delivery
and Operations

How a global pandemic changed our approach to rehabilitation.

As COVID-19 cases started to rise around the globe, we knew we had a responsibility to keep veterans connected across Australia.

With a significant part of our services focused on face-to-face delivery, all three Mates4Mates Family Recovery Centres closed aligning with Government restrictions. Our entire approach to rehabilitation had to change.

A new strategy for delivering services online was quickly developed and we re-launched services within 24 hours of the lockdown, all the while keeping Mates and family members informed.

Staff developed and hosted a range of online social programs resulting in an online community of connection and support.

The incredible response to our online services meant that we have also retained an online service delivery presence, in addition to our Centres being open again.

Throughout April and May, we:



Made
1,100+
welfare calls to
our Mates.



Delivered **over 270 exercise physiology appointments.**

Delivered
over 650
psychology
appointments
via telehealth.



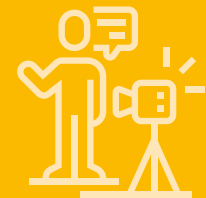
Held 138
activities via
Zoom,
resulting
in **over 480**
hours of online
engagement.



Published **24**
articles on our
website to help
Mates through
the crisis.



Provided
over 700
unique
pieces
of online
content.



Northern Territory Veteran and Family Wellbeing Centre update.



With planning for the Mates4Mates Northern Territory Veteran and Family Wellbeing Centre well under way, we are another step closer to delivering services locally.

We have been working closely with local stakeholders and organisations to understand the needs of veterans and families

in the region, and have been seeking expressions of interests from organisations interested in providing services in collaboration with us. In addition, our first Regional Manager will be appointed in the Northern Territory this year to commence selected services and connect with the veteran community before the Centre is opened.

Meet a Mate.

Townsville Mate,
Garrick Millar, has written
a poem about his personal
journey to recovery.

After discharging from the Australian Army after 25 years, Garrick felt like he had no direction. But after joining Mates4Mates, he found a light at the end of the tunnel.

He initially decided to join for the camaraderie and has since taken part in a wide range of activities and services, and volunteers at the Centre's café.

"Now I feel that I have more direction and feel that I once again belong and am doing something worthwhile."



Garrick said he would encourage all veterans to reach out for support if they needed it.

"I would recommend everyone join Mates4Mates for the very reasons I did – for the camaraderie, good companionship, and general relaxed atmosphere. The different activities offered are really entertaining, and the psychological programs offered are above par."

Recovery

A poem written by Garrick Millar

It is so nice to be me,
I no longer need that convenient tree,
No whiskey needs to be drunk,
To the depths of drugs, I have not sunk.

My mind is still a little bit hazy,
I no longer think that I might be crazy,
My thoughts no longer swirl down a long dark funnel,
Suddenly there's a light at the end of the tunnel.

My dreams are now of a quieter hew,
My smiles are genuine, and my laughter true,
It is true that I am not always happy,
But I no longer feel that my life is crappy.

My days were often filled with dread,
I often felt that I should be dead,
Now it's goodbye to all the fog,
And it's goodbye to you too,
'Black dog'.

**"Joining Mates4Mates has been the best thing
that I have done since leaving the Army."**

Garrick Millar, Veteran, QLD.

Family Recovery Centre highlights.

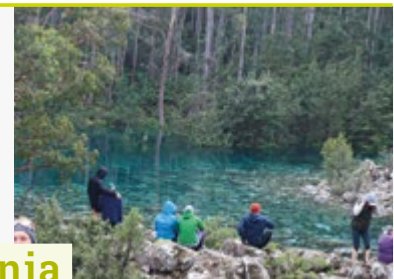
Townsville

Mates recently stepped up for Active August. The month saw them take part in numerous activities which included pop-up PT classes around the city, woodwork lessons, weekend rock climbing events, beach trips and more. The program aimed to provide Mates with the opportunity to try new activities to improve their health and increase accessibility to services. It was a memorable month as Mates connected and learnt new skills.



Brisbane

Staff have been re-engaging with families to reconnect them with others after months of restrictions. They recently held a rock climbing and abseiling day at Kangaroo Cliffs, teaching new skills to both children and Mates, with the help of Green Frog Adventures. Programs like these are an important way for local families to meet others in their community who understand them, and to form new connections and friendships.



Tasmania

Mates have been heading outdoors to take in the scenery and improve their physical and mental health in a social environment. A group recently hiked to see Hobart's Disappearing Tarn on Mount Wellington – a natural phenomenon that only occurs once or twice a year after heavy snow or rainfall. The water pools in a field of rocks – taking on a turquoise colour – before it drains away. The breathtaking views were a nice reward after the hike.

Veterans' Health Week.

✍ Clare Mitchell, Mates4Mates Psychologist

The 2020 focus of Veterans' Health Week (October 24 – November 1) is social connection. Feeling connected to a community group, or with friends and family, can have a positive impact on mental wellbeing.

The relationships and connections that we have with the people in our lives can have a significant impact on our physical and emotional wellbeing, leading to reduced rates of anxiety and depression.

Having healthy social connections can lead to increased feelings of belonging, purpose and happiness. In addition, relationships with others can help to reduce stress and increase feelings of self-worth and confidence.

Research has also shown that positive social connections can reduce the risk of dementia and mental decline in later years, strengthen our immune system and assist in recovery and survival rates from serious medical issues, such as cancer.

Social connections can create a positive feedback loop of social and emotional wellbeing that encourages increased engagement in ongoing social connections.

There are different types of connections that we may have including:

- **Intimate connections** — people you love and care for, such as close family and friends.
- **Relational connections** — people you see regularly and may share an interest with, such as work colleagues or neighbours.
- **Collective connections** — people who share a group membership or affiliation with you. For example, people of the same faith, sporting interests or other groups such as veterans.

We can focus on creating increased connection in each of these different areas. By reaching out to those who are already known to us, we can increase our intimate and relational connections and

improve our sense of belonging and purpose in our relationships.

Looking for opportunities such as volunteering for local clubs or joining organisations such as Mates4Mates can also be effective ways to increase our feelings of social connectedness.

We can also create a sense of social connection through engaging in increased incidental interactions with people that we meet on a regular basis. This may be as simple as engaging in conversation with the barista who serves your morning coffee.

All these types of connections can have a significant impact on how we feel and can assist in living our lives with more purpose and meaning, whilst also boosting our physical and psychological wellbeing.





Fundraising in the community.

Mates4Mates community fundraisers across the country take on challenges, big and small, to make a difference in the lives of those impacted by service.

Western Australian local Jamie Crane will be lacing up his running shoes in October to tackle the Margaret River Ultra Marathon. Training for his first gruelling 80km event has spurred him on to turn his run into a fundraiser for Mates4Mates – a cause that is close to heart.

“Having served as a reservist, I have heard of and seen the impacts that surround our soldiers once

they return home both mentally and physically,” he said.

“Raising money or awareness to help support our service men and women is the least we can do for the service they have provided to keep our way of life safe and to help them return to living the best life they can.”

To prepare for the ultra-marathon, Jamie has been running with mates along similar terrains,

playing sport and keeping fit at the gym.

You can support Jamie at supportmates4mates.org/sponsor and search ‘Mates4Mates Ultra’.

Alternatively, if you have an idea for a fundraiser, register online to make a difference today.

Show your community support

supportmates4mates.org



Raising money or awareness to help support our service men and women is the least we can do for the service they have provided to keep our way of life safe and to help them return to living the best life they can.”

Jamie Crane,
Veteran, WA.

Image: Jamie Crane out training with his niece Sophie and daughter Mila.



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

**VETERANS'
HEALTH
WEEK**



Veterans' Health Week will be held from **24 October to 1 November 2020**, and the theme is Social Connection.

Applications are now open for local community groups and ex-service organisations to host a Veterans' Health Week event.

For more information call **1800 555 254** or visit dva.gov.au/vhw.

COVID-19 restrictions will apply for each State and Territory.

MATES4MATES

**No mate
left behind.**

**NATIONAL
APPEAL
DAY.**

Support our matched-giving appeal, raising funds
to provide more services to veterans and their families.

SAVE THE DATE:
November 5, 2020

Donate on the day or register for a call.

Q Mates4Mates Appeal Day

ONLINE ONBOARDING IN AN OFFLINE WORLD

Handwritten notes, a corporate showbag and a virtual parade of pets: this is what onboarding new staff looks like in lockdown.

RSL Queensland was part-way through a period of significant staff growth when COVID-19 forced the shutdown of its offices across Queensland in March, but we have risen to the challenge of hiring new staff remotely.

While the entire recruitment process is now conducted virtually, RSL Queensland employs thoughtful gestures and personal contact at every step to provide a warm, if socially distant, welcome to new team members.



Applicants are interviewed via video call to provide initial face-to-face contact, and the organisation's HR department and respective team leaders maintain constant contact with successful candidates in the lead-up to their first day.

Chief HR Officer Leigh Goldsmith said two starter packs were couriered to new staff directly in readiness for their first day: the first with their equipment, tools and IT access; the second a 'showbag' including RSL Queensland T-shirt, tote bag, information about the organisation and a handwritten welcome note.

"They also get phone calls on their first day from our IT department to make sure they are digitally connected and from our Employee Experience Coordinator to make sure they feel personally connected," Leigh said.

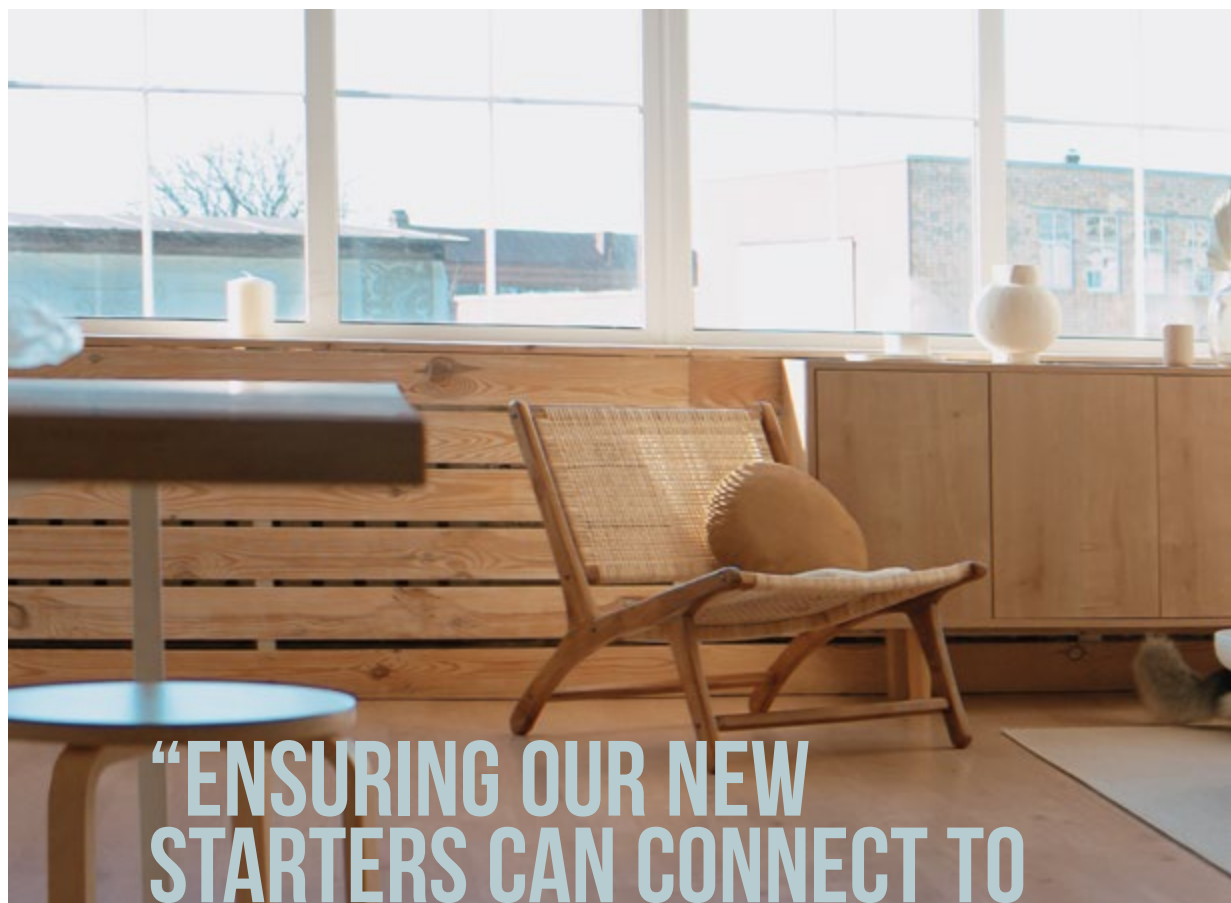
New staff are invited to join Workplace by Facebook, an internal communications platform, where they can meet their colleagues in an informal environment, start engaging in culture and conversation, and post photos of their work-from-home routine and the pets that now substitute for 'colleagues'.

INSTILLING CONNECTION TO PURPOSE

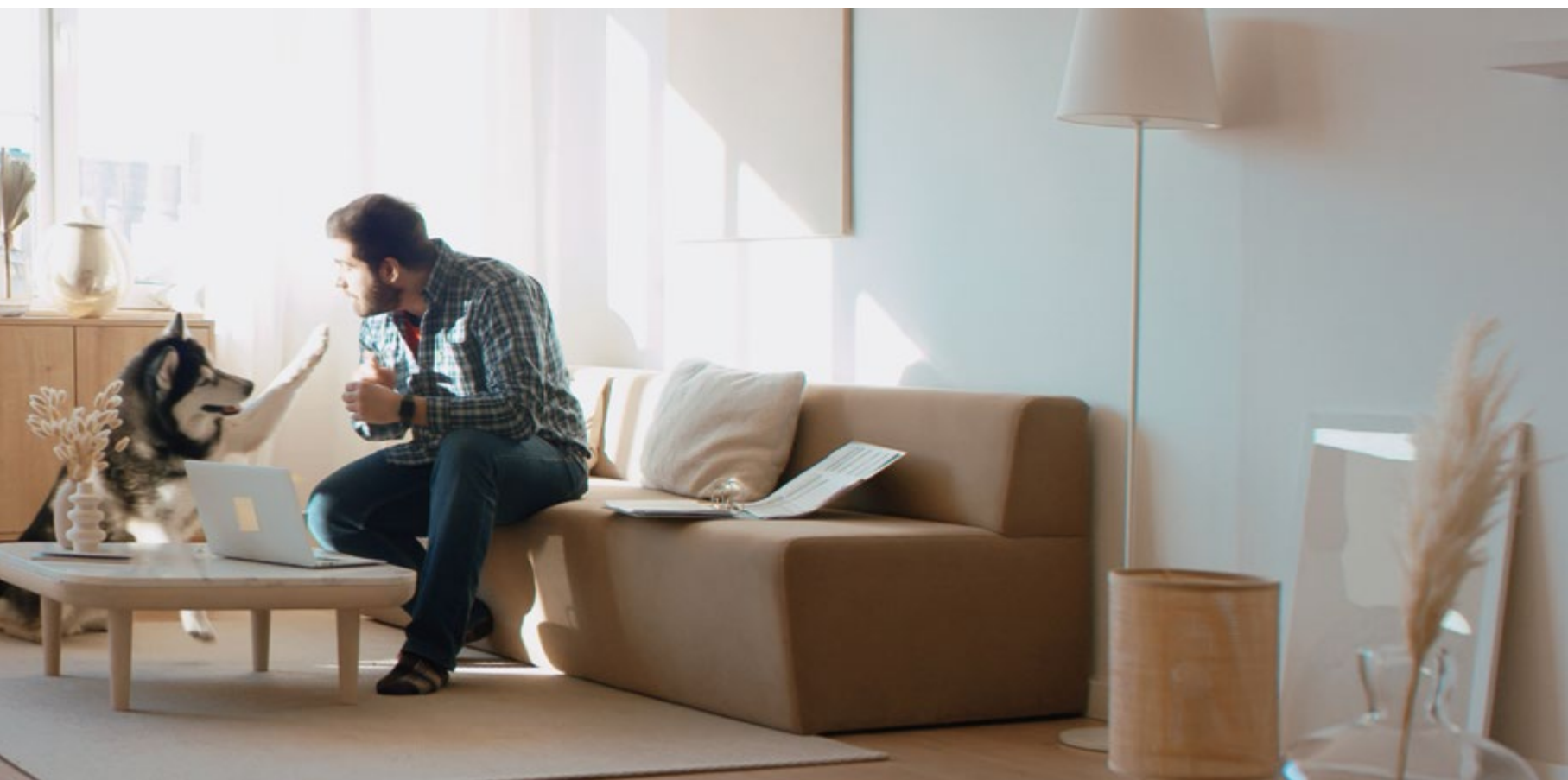
"We are proud of RSL Queensland's contribution to improving a veteran's quality of life, and we want our new starters to feel the same sense of pride and connection to our purpose," Leigh said.

"In a COVID environment, connection to purpose, and feeling welcomed and part of the RSL Queensland family are more important than ever.

"Ensuring our new starters can connect to our ICT network from day one and that there is a friendly face to 'virtually' welcome them shows that we live our organisational values. These gestures are genuine and meaningful and, from an experience point of view, give new staff a positive experience."



"ENSURING OUR NEW STARTERS CAN CONNECT TO OUR ICT NETWORK FROM DAY ONE AND THAT THERE IS A FRIENDLY FACE TO 'VIRTUALLY' WELCOME THEM SHOWS THAT WE LIVE OUR ORGANISATIONAL VALUES. THESE GESTURES ARE GENUINE AND MEANINGFUL AND, FROM AN EXPERIENCE POINT OF VIEW, GIVE NEW STAFF A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE."



Leigh said RSL Queensland's personalised approach to recruitment, right from the initial outreach stage, was key to its success.

The organisation has received effusive and positive feedback from all staff onboarded during its COVID-19 lockdown.

"We knew we had cohesive recruitment, onboarding and employee experiences already, so the only major action we had to take was translating that into a virtual world.

"There's a strong correlation between the recruitment experience and staff retention, so we start by talking to candidates about RSL Queensland's culture and that of their prospective team to help them form an idea of how we work and where they would fit into the organisation.

"We increase our contact and

communication with candidates prior to them starting to keep them informed and reassured during this unusual time.

"Then we make sure we get the fundamentals right – activating their phone, setting up their laptop, ensuring they can log in and go – and connect them to the organisation from day one."

GROWTH STILL ON TRACK

RSL Queensland CEO Melanie Wilson said she was proud of how the organisation's virtual recruitment and onboarding processes instilled candidates with confidence about the culture, security and warmth of RSL Queensland as an employer.

"RSL Queensland is in a growth phase – we've appointed 67 people

across all areas of the business since last September so we can continue to expand the range of services we deliver to veterans," Melanie said.

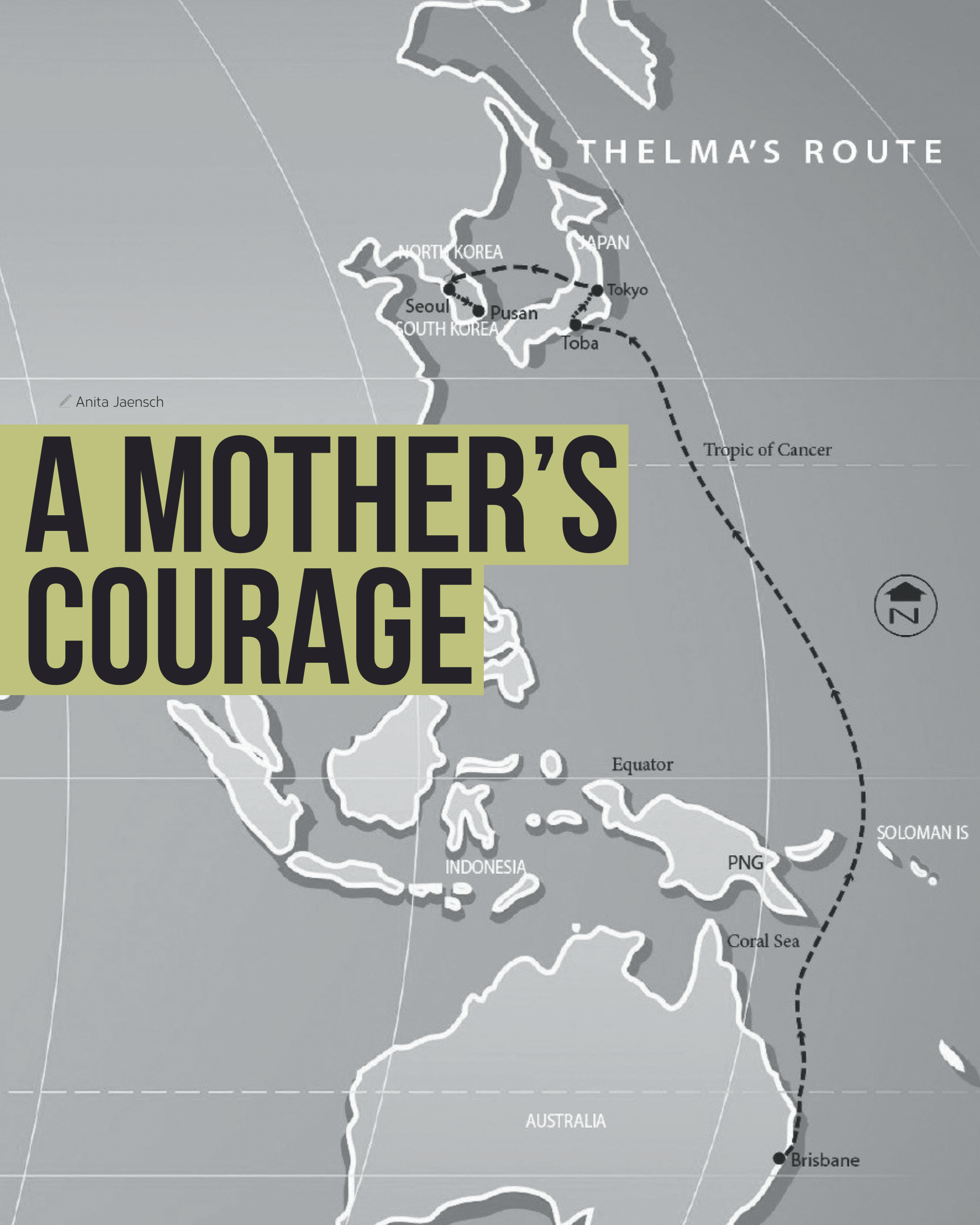
"Our growth has remained consistent throughout the COVID-19 crisis. We are continuing to hire and welcome new staff and, most importantly, our staff retention levels are exceptionally high.

"We expect to appoint a number of additional roles in the coming six months to ensure we realise our vision of being the most valued and trusted partner to enrich the Australian Defence family's quality of life." ←

THELMA'S ROUTE

✍ Anita Jaensch

A MOTHER'S COURAGE



The discovery of an old leather-bound diary revealed a heartbreaking story of love, loss and redemption.

“YOU never think that one of the best stories you’re ever going to read is hidden within your own family and wrapped up in your grandmother’s travel diary, but it was,” says Louise Evans. As a journalist, she had just returned from covering the Sochi Winter Olympics in Russia when she received a postpak from her aunt, containing an old journal.

“I opened the postpak, sat down on the couch and read it, cover to cover it, in one go. And the hairs went up on the back of my neck. I cried in parts, and I was scared in parts, because it was so raw, so intriguing, so frightening and yet, so beautiful. And I thought, what am I going to do with this?”

The journal chronicled her grandmother Thelma Healy’s pilgrimage to South Korea to find the grave of her eldest son, Vincent, who had been killed during the Korean War. And it prompted Louise’s own journey – to tell the story of her uncle’s loss and her grandmother’s abiding love, determination and courage.

THE FAMILY’S GOLDEN BOY

A teenager during World War II, Vincent Healy joined the Army straight out of school, expecting to join the fighting. But by the time he’d done his basic training, the war was over and he was instead deployed to Japan to enforce the surrender.

To his family back home – his mother and nine siblings – Vince could do no wrong. His Army pay packet helped support the family, while

amazing gifts periodically arrived from overseas.

“My Auntie Carmel will sometimes put out the good crockery and she’ll say, ‘Oh, you remember when Vince sent all that crockery from Japan?’” Louise says.

“Because they’re a big family, to get a set of 10 of anything is very difficult. But Vince buys this crockery set in Japan and sends it home, and for the first time everyone’s got matching spoons and plates and cups and dishes.”

Then, in June 1950, North Korean troops marched across the 38th parallel and into South Korea. The United Nations Security Council moved quickly to send forces to the aid of

ABOVE:
Vincent Healy and his mother, Thelma, before Vincent left for Korea.

OPPOSITE:
Thelma worked for 10 years to save enough money to visit her son’s grave. She travelled by boat to Japan, then by plane to Seoul and, finally, by train to Pusan, where Vince lay buried.

South Korea, and Australia committed its armed services to the conflict.

When Australia joined the fray, Vince volunteered to go.

“I think he thought it was his duty to go and fight for the peace and prosperity he believed in,” says Louise.

Vince was among the first troops on the ground, arriving in South Korea with 3RAR in September 1950. But just six months later, the terrible news arrived by telegram – he had been killed, struck in the head by a piece of mortar while bringing an injured digger down the icy hills.

“In the blink of an eye, at the delivery of a telegram, Thelma lost her number one son. Back in those





"I COULD HONESTLY TELL HER THAT SOUTH KOREA IS RISING FROM THE ASHES AND IT WILL BECOME A GREAT COUNTRY. YOUR SON DID NOT DIE IN VAIN. HE HELPED CREATE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL, SOMETHING BIG. GO HOME KNOWING THAT SOUTH KOREA IS ON THE WAY UP AND THAT YOUR SON HELPED SAVE SOUTH KOREA."



ABOVE: Ignoring Army warnings that travel to South Korea wasn't safe, Thelma became the first bereaved mother to visit the United Nations Cemetery in Pusan and see her son's final resting place.

LEFT: Private James Healy takes a last look at the grave of his brother before leaving Korea. (AWM: SWEJ0282)

days, there was no repatriation of the body. There was no repatriation of belongings," Louise explains. "Not even his medals came home. Nothing, absolutely nothing came back of her boy."

A DARING PLAN

Louise's mother Geraldine and her siblings say Thelma was in a fog after the news, barely able to communicate in her grief and loss. With nine children to support, however, she picked herself up and a plan began to take shape in her mind.

"She decides that she wants to find out how Vince died, and she wants to go to Korea. She wants to go and see the country that took her son," Louise says.

To fund her trip, Thelma took a job at the Golden Circle canning factory in Northgate, peeling pineapples.

"She's in a tin shed, she's on her feet for 10 hours. She's got dermatitis on her hands from the acid in the pineapples, but she's happy. For the first time in her life, she's earning money. She does this job for 10 years until she saves up enough money to go to Korea."

Louise's mum and aunts remember piles of travel brochures and maps covering the kitchen table as Thelma meticulously planned her journey – by boat to Japan, then by plane to Seoul and, finally, by train to Pusan, where Vince lay buried.

But there was a final hurdle before Thelma could make her pilgrimage. When she notified the Army that she intended to travel to South Korea, she was advised it wasn't safe. Eight years later, the country still bore the scars of the conflict and was only beginning to resurrect itself. And Thelma would be the first bereaved mother to visit the United Nations Cemetery in Pusan.

"And she says, 'I don't care, I'm going,'" Louise says, unmistakably proud of her grandmother's gumption.

Unable to dissuade her from travelling, the Australian authorities arranged for Thelma to be met by Australia's UN delegate and escorted to

the military graveyard in Pusan, where, after 10 years, she was finally reunited with her beloved son.

When Thelma returned to Australia, her children say she was back to her old self, smiling and laughing again. Even though she was only eight when Thelma passed away, Louise remembers a loving grandmother who smelled of peaches, gave great cuddles and made beautiful scones.

RECONNECTING WITH THE PAST

After reading Thelma's travel diary, Louise was determined to tell her grandmother's story. She spent two years researching the Korean War and her family's history, before putting pen to paper.

The story became a book – *Passage to Pusan* – and then a documentary.

"It was a real labour of love," says Louise. "It was something I felt as though I had to do."

After publishing *Passage to Pusan*, Louise travelled in her grandmother's footsteps back to Korea to shoot the documentary, which was filmed and funded by the Korean Cultural Centre and the Korean government. It was a highly emotional moment for Louise to finally kneel beside her Uncle Vince's grave – as her grandmother did back in 1961.

She was also able to meet Australian UN delegate Cavan Hogue, who met Thelma off the plane in Seoul. Mr Hogue provided a poignant postscript to the story.

On seeing post-war Seoul – poverty-stricken and dirty, still on its knees – Thelma was distraught to think her beautiful son had died for nothing.

"He said to me, 'I could honestly tell her that South Korea is rising from the ashes and it will become a great country. Your son did not die in vain. He helped create something beautiful, something big. Go home knowing that South Korea is on the way up and that your son helped save South Korea.'"

Find out more about Thelma's brave journey at passagetopusan.com. ←

BELOW: Sgt. Healy as part of the Australian occupation force in Japan, 1949.

BELOW LEFT: Thelma's granddaughter Louise Evans, author of *Passage to Pusan*, visits her uncle's grave in Pusan.





MORE THAN 70 NEW STAFF BEING HIRED AS STRATEGIC GROWTH LEADS TO EMPLOYMENT BOOM

A new strategic direction for RSL Queensland is fuelling a bumper recruitment drive, with our organisation set to boost its workforce by about 30 per cent in 2020.

AT a time when many organisations are downsizing, we are on track to hire more than 70 staff state-wide by year's end.

RSL Queensland CEO Melanie Wilson said employment opportunities existed across the organisation from frontline veteran services to RSL Art Union, which generates 95 per cent of its funding.

Of top priority is assembling a new Membership and Network team dedicated to supporting RSL Queensland Sub Branches as they navigate unique challenges, including membership growth and financial sustainability.

"Supporting Sub Branches in this way signals a really exciting shift in focus back to

RSL Queensland's core purpose of ensuring a bright future and enduring legacy for all veterans and their families," Melanie said.

"Our Veterans Services team works tirelessly to support veterans and their families with employment, housing, wellbeing and welfare assistance.

"What hasn't been there until now are the resources to work alongside our wonderful Sub Branch volunteers to help them thrive, grow and effectively service their membership base.

"Owing to the geographic spread of RSL Queensland's 230 Sub Branches, we are looking to base Membership and Network team members right across the state."



Melanie said RSL Queensland's hiring boom was a direct result of the organisation's 2025 Strategic Plan, adopted in October 2019.

"Once we finalised our Strategic Plan, the next stage was to look critically at our organisation and establish where we needed to bolster our resources to deliver on our purpose, vision, values and strategic goals," Melanie said.

"RSL Queensland's strategy is ambitious and our vision is to be the most valued and trusted partner to enrich the Australian Defence family's quality of life.

"We need people who are passionate, people who can connect with our purpose and align

with our values and vision."

A service history is not mandatory for job applicants, with successful candidates appointed from a wide variety of backgrounds and employers.

Since the beginning of 2020, RSL Queensland has hired new staff from across the banking and financial sector, the travel industry and mining operations, as well as promoted and progressed staff internally.

"This is a dynamic time within RSL Queensland as we continue to build the breadth and diversity of skill across the organisation," Melanie said.

RSL Queensland's recruitment drive was



well underway when COVID-19 forced the shutdown of its ANZAC House headquarters in March, but we rose to the challenge. Existing staff transitioned seamlessly to remote working and recruitment continued virtually.

RSL Queensland's 2025 Strategic Plan gave all employees clarity and anchored them in a shared purpose and direction, leading to record-high levels of employee engagement.

"When our staff understand why we're here and can see how what we do every day connects to our purpose, they engage and unite with us to improve the quality of life for all veterans and their families," Melanie said. ←

A NEW LEASH ON LIFE

Former Royal Australian Air Force dog handler Adam Mitchell is pursuing a new career in psychology, thanks to an RSL Queensland Scholarship offering more than just financial support.

  Matilda Dray

AFTER serving almost 12 years, Adam retired from the RAAF in September 2019. Luckily, he didn't have to re-enter the civilian world alone – he had his working dog Fod by his side.

He also had RSL Queensland, which awarded Adam an Ex-Defence Scholarship to aid his academic journey.

ONE-ON-ONE CONNECTION

Adam is studying a Bachelor of Psychology Honours at USC on the Sunshine Coast – a career he chose because it would enable him to help people and wasn't physically demanding.

“One of the things that resonates with me about psychology is that real one-on-

one connection with people. So that's one of the biggest reasons I want to transition down that pathway,” Adam says.

MORE THAN JUST FINANCIAL SUPPORT

During his shift away from the Air Force, an RSL Compensation Advocate helped Adam navigate the sometimes overwhelming DVA claims process.

“You've got to have the right guidance when you're discharging. My advocate was incredibly helpful and took care of all my DVA applications,” he says.

The advocate also referred Adam to the RSL Scholarship program, which provided funds to cover his study and encouragement throughout the process.





APPLY FOR AN RSL SCHOLARSHIP

HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPENS THE DOOR TO OPPORTUNITIES AND CAN IMPROVE YOUR EMPLOYABILITY, SENSE OF PURPOSE AND FINANCIAL SECURITY. THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF RSL QUEENSLAND SCHOLARSHIP: EX-DEFENCE / PARTNER / VETERAN DEPENDANT.

LEARN MORE AT RSLQLD.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS



“The financial support is incredible, but also the support of having someone at the end of the line to talk to about where I’m at, where I’m going, do I need any other support as far as other people to talk to, and other services to be linked in with. That’s the kind of support I’m getting,” Adam explains.

KICKSTARTING YOUR DRIVE

Veterans often discover that further study brings back some of the

camaraderie and structure they enjoyed in Defence.

“In the Defence Force, we do have a very clear sense of purpose. We have missions and directives that we must follow. Transitioning into the civilian life, that goes away very quickly, but I’ve found that through the study, I’ve been able to find that purpose again, that drive to better myself,” Adam says.

“The RSL Queensland Scholarship came at a time when I was having a bit of a rough period and it was the boost to my morale that I really needed.”

ABOVE:
When Adam Mitchell retired from the RAAF it was with his working dog Fod by his side.

RIGHT:
Adam says the skills he learned in the military have set him up well for university study.

A HELPING HAND

Adam started working with Fod in 2008 and it’s obvious the two share a special bond. The dog’s unusual name comes from the acronym FOD, which in the Air Force means Foreign Object Debris – a definition that belies the important role his furry friend plays in his life.

“To get her out of the kennels and be able to bring her home and give her a real retirement is just awesome,” Adam says.

And in the same way Adam has welcomed the helping hand of RSL

“IN THE DEFENCE FORCE, WE DO HAVE A VERY CLEAR SENSE OF PURPOSE. WE HAVE MISSIONS AND DIRECTIVES THAT WE MUST FOLLOW. TRANSITIONING INTO THE CIVILIAN LIFE, THAT GOES AWAY VERY QUICKLY, BUT I’VE FOUND THAT THROUGH STUDY, I’VE BEEN ABLE TO FIND THAT PURPOSE AGAIN, THAT DRIVE TO BETTER MYSELF.”

Queensland, Fod has also benefitted from a bit of support in her retirement years. When his beloved companion developed dementia, Adam adopted Lily, a tiny chug (chihuahua/pug cross), who he affectionately refers to as Fod’s assistance dog.

With his two dogs by his side and a scholarship under his belt, Adam is taking on his new university life with enthusiasm.


“I would never have considered myself much of an academic, but a lot of the skills that you learn in Defence – in relation to writing and structuring communication – transition really well to university,” Adam says.

REACH OUT TO THE RSL

Adam urges others who qualify to apply for an RSL Scholarship.

“I think the RSL builds an incredible space for people as they’re moving into civilian life. You’re still able to have that sense of pride with your Defence, you’ve still got that link to it through the RSL.

“I would definitely recommend that other Defence members get in touch with the RSL. There’s so much support available.”

NB: Sadly, a few weeks after we spoke with Adam, Fod’s health suddenly deteriorated and Adam was forced to make the extremely difficult decision to put his best friend to sleep. 

ESO CORNER

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

WARRIOR REVIVAL

Harnessing the healing powers of three-dimensional movement and meditative breathing to balance mind, body and self, Warrior Revival is a unique recovery program designed specifically for veterans of the Australian Defence Force.

Mental health issues have long plagued the veteran community. Generations of soldiers dating back to WWI suffered greatly from their service on battlefields around the globe. Despite this, the jury is still out on the best way to prevent, cure and rehabilitate service personnel within this very complex field.

New strategies and approaches are needed to accommodate for the ever-evolving times and to cater for the contemporary veterans of today's global conflicts. This is why Warrior Revival was founded.

The revolutionary program was brought to the Defence community by two Australian Army veterans, who had both experienced significant change within themselves and improved their quality of life after training under Master Zhen Hua Yang and his system of martial arts and tai chi.

After conducting four successful programs, with participants achieving consistently positive results, the Warrior Revival Team was enthusiastic to establish this system as the "go-to" pathway to assist veterans on their

road to recovery. The aim is to run a monthly 10-day immersion program, conducting training that integrates somatic movements, meditative breathing and other established techniques proven to help reduce and manage mental health symptoms.

The program is evidence-based, with an independent study conducted early in 2019 showing statistically significant results for veterans who participated. The research within the field of mind-body practices is growing and showing many encouraging results. What stands out is that it is a safe and enjoyable way to promote health and wellbeing.

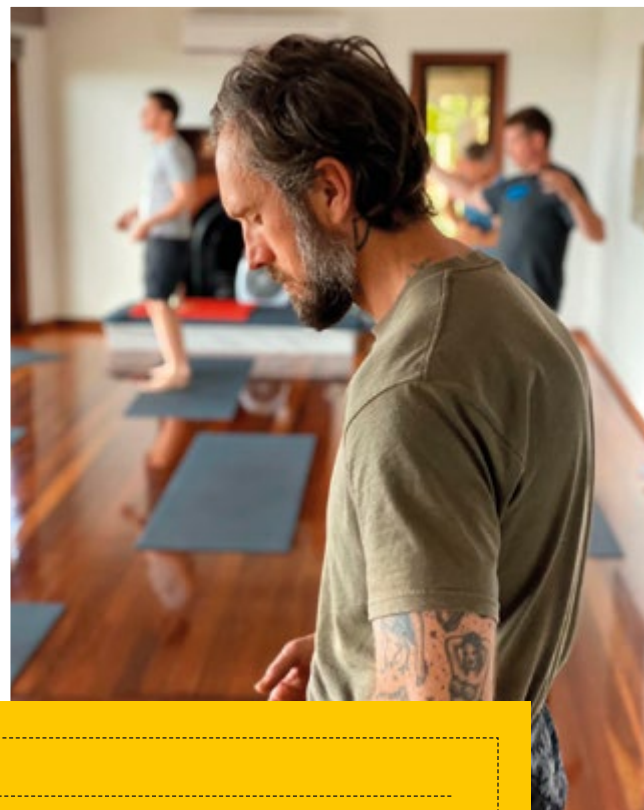
The advantage of the Warrior Revival immersion method is the multi-layered format, which:

- gives the veteran time to become comfortable within the physical environment
- provides essential time to get to know the other program participants and creates community, improving the psychosocial aspect of rehabilitation
- allows several days for the cumulative effect of the training to manifest



**WARRIOR
REVIVAL**





- gives veterans an opportunity to tangibly develop and learn the detailed movements and techniques, so they can create healthy habits and establish an ongoing training routine to build upon once the initial program is completed.

The demographic of participants has been diverse, including tri-service, other ranks, officers, Special Forces, infantry, medics, legal officers and military police. Regardless of a veteran's role in the Australian Defence

Force (ADF), everyone is welcome.

Funding for program fees is available through DVA and ADF for current serving members. This process can take a couple of months and is submitted through rehabilitation managers in conjunction with the individual's existing rehabilitation plan. The Warrior Revival Team is continually seeking to improve these pathways to make it easier and more efficient for veterans to attend..

LEARN MORE

- Visit the website to buy Warrior Revival t-shirts and help fund veterans into the program, watch real and raw testimonials from past participants and find supporting scientific research and studies on both the program and other mind-body practices.
- To participate in the program, complete an online enquiry form for the event you are interested in or visit the contact page to speak directly to a Warrior Revival instructor.
- Warrior Revival is a registered charity and donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

www.warriorrevival.com.au

TOP: Warrior Revival is a unique recovery program designed for ADF veterans. It includes exercises that incorporate an explosive nature at the cellular level; **ABOVE RIGHT:** Learning to communicate at the cellular level is a key ingredient to the training; **CENTRE:** Master Yang teaching how to breathe naturally while laying down.

MEDICATION AND PTSD: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

As a research institute exploring new treatments for serious illnesses, the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF) understands the value of current and emerging medicine.



Dr Andrew Khoo



Dr Rebecca Mellor





Medication can help you manage, treat and even prevent a range of health problems. Given the physical and mental toll military service can take, it's not uncommon for veterans to be on multiple medications for numerous health problems. But at what point could the combination of these treatments be doing you more harm than good?

The regular use of multiple medications is known as polypharmacy. While you might be on these prescriptions for good reason, there are potential issues to be aware of:

- Polypharmacy can lead to a high risk of negative outcomes such as falls, problems concentrating, or even admission to hospital.
- The potential interaction between drugs may cause one or more not to work or even be harmful, particularly in higher doses.
- Medication prescribed to address one health issue could make another health problem worse.

GMRF's Psychiatric Advisor and Director of Medical Services at Toowong Private Hospital, Dr Andrew Khoo, has been treating veterans for over 20 years. He says the risks and impact of polypharmacy can be more harmful than the conditions being treated.

"I've spent a lot of time refining the drug regiment of veterans and pulling them off things that are more harmful than helpful," Dr Khoo says. "They

are being exposed to a large number of drugs and, honestly, there is often not much rhyme or reason to the prescriptions in many cases."

Right now, there isn't a lot of evidence supporting the safety and effectiveness of medications used in combination.

This is particularly the case with psychotropic medication – used to treat mental health conditions.

Finding the right medication can be a challenge for your doctors. Not only is there a lack of approved medications available for the treatment of PTSD, there are often many other health conditions in the mix such as sleep disturbance, chronic pain and other issues often related to the physical and psychological toll of military service.

From our world-first study into the whole-body impact of PTSD, conducted in partnership with RSL Queensland, we know the prevalence of psychotropic polypharmacy is high in Vietnam veterans with PTSD. One in three participants in our study were on two or more of these medications at the same time – twice the rate of their civilian mates. Polypharmacy among Vietnam veterans with PTSD was also connected with high levels of depression, risk of suicide and worsening of PTSD symptoms.

Dr Rebecca Mellor from GMRF's Veteran Research Initiative has experience as a physiotherapist treating patients at hospitals around Australia and overseas. She understands the impact of polypharmacy.

“YOU CAN’T PROPERLY ADDRESS A PROBLEM IF YOU DON’T UNDERSTAND IT. THIS STUDY IS ABOUT INCREASING OUR AWARENESS OF WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING, HOW PREVALENT THE PROBLEM IS, THE POTENTIAL RISKS OF ADVERSE EFFECTS AND THE INTERACTION OF MULTIPLE MEDICATIONS WITH OTHER HEALTH CONDITIONS.”

“The combination of psychotropic drugs and other medication can have adverse effects on you and those around you. It is an issue that impacts on personal, family and broader community and society levels,” Dr Mellor says.

Armed with the PTSD Initiative findings and with funding from the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation, GMRF is further investigating polypharmacy in veterans with PTSD. In this study, Dr Mellor is looking at the prescribing patterns of clinicians involved in treating veterans referred to mental health facilities for the management of PTSD.

“You can’t properly address a problem if you don’t understand it. This study is about increasing our awareness of what has been happening, how prevalent the problem is, the potential risks of adverse effects and the interaction of multiple medications with other health conditions,” Dr Mellor says.

Better understanding can lead to better treatment. The information obtained from this study will contribute to informing clinical guidelines as well as developing awareness programs and educational resources for clinicians. Dr Khoo is advising on the project and understands the impact the findings could have for veterans and clinicians.

“This is the first step in refining the way we prescribe for veterans with PTSD and people with psychiatric problems in Australia. I hope this research is used to inform and improve clinical practice as soon as possible,” Dr Khoo says.

Find out more on how GMRF is working to enhance the health and wellbeing of our veterans and their families at gallipoliresearch.com.au. ←

Take control of your health: understanding your medication prescriptions

Our PTSD Initiative revealed only one third of veterans knew, or chose to say, why they were on the medications prescribed to them. You can request a list of your prescriptions from your GP to take to all medical visits where you may be prescribed new medication. Dr Khoo says you cannot assume doctors are fully across your list of prescriptions and that you shouldn’t be afraid to ask the following questions:

- What is this drug supposed to do?
- How will I know if it is working?
- What are the common side effects?
- What are the potential interactions with my existing medications?
- How will this drug interact with alcohol or other substances?

“You can take control of your prescriptions. Your doctor won’t feel annoyed or challenged if you ask these questions. This is important information they should be telling you,” Dr Khoo says.



POPPY SERVICE FOR WWII VETERAN

Laidley RSL Sub Branch held a poppy service for WWII veteran Edward Whitmore (Rub) Logan OAM, one of the Sub Branch's most dedicated members. Rub was a chubby toddler and the nursery rhyme "Rub a dub dub, three men in a tub" was often quoted to him. This led to a nickname which stuck throughout his life. Rub enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in 1941 with an official age of 21, even though it was eight days before his 18th birthday. He went into action at El Alamein in North Africa as a Bren gunner. In New Guinea, Rub was part of a seaborne landing at Lae, the first by Australian troops since Gallipoli. He also served as a platoon commander in New Guinea and British North Borneo. After discharging from the Army in 1946, Rub purchased property at Forest Hill. He and his wife were active in the community and in 2005, Rub was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his service to the community, especially to the RSL and returned servicemen. Rub is pictured at an ANZAC Day service in Forest Hill.



GRANT FOR KITCHEN IN BANYO

After three years in the Nudgee School of Arts, building renovations are nearly complete. Banyo RSL Sub Branch finally has a working kitchen, thanks to a grant from gaming. Sub Branch Secretary Patricia Carbis, left, is pictured with Catherine Byrnes, Citizens Auxiliary President Fay Coman and Stephanie Ingeri.

BOYNE-TANNUM COMMUNITY HALL UPGRADE

As is the case with many Queensland Sub Branches, COVID-19 restrictions have caused significant disruption to Boyne-Tannum RSL Sub Branch. However, several members have taken advantage of the closure to continue ongoing improvements to the hall. Graham and Michael are pictured painting the office and were congratulated for their efforts. With the easing of restrictions, community groups are hiring the hall once again, which will provide the Sub Branch with much-needed income.





TWO OAMS FOR GEEBUNG

Two Geebung RSL Sub Branch members were recently awarded Medals of the Order of Australia in the General Division. Mervyn Ward was honoured for his service to youth, through the Australian Navy Cadets as Commanding Officer and staff member of the Training Ship Paluma, and through the Sail Training Association of Queensland as sailing master, trainer, mentor and volunteer on the 100-foot gaff-rigged schooner South Passage. Barbara Dawson was recognised for her service to veterans and their families, as President and Senior Office Bearer with the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association Queensland, the Ex-Servicewomen's Association, Kedron Wavell Services Club, and for the Queensland Branch of the Girl in a Million Contest.



BIRTHDAY TO REMEMBER

After a 19-year hiatus, Kawana Waters Sub Branch member Chief Petty Officer Tony Yarnold re-joined the Royal Australian Navy to support Operation COVID-19 Assist – and along the way celebrated his 60th birthday. Previously serving in the Navy for 25 years, Tony recently moved to the Sunshine Coast from Terrigal, New South Wales and found the response to the global pandemic calling him.

"The opportunity to re-join Navy and support the Queensland community was a call to duty. I felt I had to volunteer my service – being embedded with Army out of Gallipoli Barracks has provided a distinctive opportunity to work alongside not only Navy but also Army colleagues," Tony said.

He has been working within the Tactical Operations Centre and Quarantine Control Monitoring. "It has given me a renewed sense of comradeship, teamwork and significance being part of the ADF support to the Queensland Community," Tony said. The work completed by HMAS Moreton Navy Reserve Cell personnel to prepare sailors for various roles as part of Joint Task Group 629.3 was crucial, with all required training completed in three days and members parading by the fourth day of the operation. "I would encourage any ADF Reservists past or present to consider getting on-board to support our ADF colleagues and the greater Australian community, and don't let age be a barrier, I turn 60 on this operation!"

FOUR LIFE MEMBERS AT EMU PARK

Emu Park RSL Sub Branch congratulated four Life Members at its July meeting, from left, former President Barry Vains, former President Brian Abrahamson, current President Darryl Dwyer, and former President Roy Cunneen.



ERNEST HARTLEY TURNS 100

Cardwell RSL Sub Branch honoured member Ernest Hartley, front centre, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Ernest now lives in Regis Aged Care Home in Townsville and was taken out for lunch by former Sub Branch President Walter Raleigh, back right. After lunch Ernest was presented with an RSL Queensland certificate acknowledging his milestone. Ernest is pictured with Townsville RSL Sub Branch President Bill Whitburn OAM, back left, Member for Herbert Phillip Thompson OAM and North Queensland District President Garry Player.

GATTON GETS MOVING AGAIN

Gatton RSL Sub Branch has resumed its Tuesday morning exercise group, with a new instructor who gets the group moving with a variety of music from classical to 60s pop. Social distancing and other hygiene practices are adhered to, with all participants required to sign in on arrival. The Sub Branch also holds a regular drop-in welfare and morning tea event every Wednesday morning.





VETERANS TO THE RESCUE

Our Sub Branch volunteers are always going the extra mile to help veterans in need. In June, members of Ipswich RSL Sub Branch and the Naval Association joined forces to move Vietnam veteran Ian and his wife Eleanor to a new house. The move was coordinated by the Ipswich RSL welfare team and by the afternoon, welfare officer Ross said the house looked like a home.

GARDEN COMPETITION BRINGS MEMBERS TOGETHER

Goondiwindi RSL Sub Branch's garden competition – designed to keep members entertained during COVID restrictions – culminated in a prize-giving party in July. There were several categories and every member won a prize. Goondiwindi gardening experts Gloria Cory and Bernie Paisler judged the competition and were impressed with the way each entrant participated fully and with much 'zest'. Since then, some members participated in a propagation workshop with the judges, so the benefits continuing to be rewarding for everyone. Bernie is pictured awarding a prize to Annette and Russell Billsborough.



GRACEMERE EXCITED TO REOPEN

When COVID-19 restrictions eased, RSL Sub Branches everywhere were excited to reopen and provide opportunities for members to meet again under COVIDSafe conditions. Gracemere and District RSL Sub Branch volunteer Cheryl Smith is pictured handing out meal tickets to community members on re-opening night on 10 July. Other volunteers were involved in serving food or taking temperatures and contact details of patrons as they entered the building. During the pandemic, President Steve Robinson and other members took the opportunity to work on the club house.



STANTHORPE DEMONSTRATES RESILIENCE

Over the past year, Stanthorpe has struggled through bushfires, droughts and of course a global pandemic. But the community is strong and resilient, and when the Queensland Government eased restrictions, Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch was pleased to welcome back members and their partners. It wasn't long before they began gearing up for Veterans Health Week 2020. Planned for 23-25 October, the field activity will be similar to the 2019 event (pictured). Last October, Stanthorpe Sub Branch members participated in a bushwalk, problem solving activities, team tasks and individual skill challenges. It brought veterans together in a safe and comfortable field environment where they could talk, relax, enjoy each other's company and listen to each other's experiences and ideas. Even during COVID closures, the Sub Branch continued to help veterans. Stanthorpe winters can be cold, but as temperatures dropped, members were ready to assist, with a good supply of firewood or blankets on hand. Together with Goodna RSL Sub Branch, a joint donation was also made to assist the local Rural Fire Brigade.



MATTHEW RENNIE SPEAKS AT KOREAN WAR SERVICE

Back in July, Korean War veteran and Ipswich RSL Sub Branch Life Member Matthew Rennie OAM was guest speaker at a service honouring those who fought in the Korean War. RSL Queensland Deputy President John Strachan OAM and Keith Payne VC AM also gathered to pay their respects.



MEDALS FOUND FOR RELIEVED FAMILY

Peter Beauchamp OAM and Christine Cameron are pictured with her father Sgt G Galloway's WWI medals. The lost medals were recovered by Manly Lota Sub Branch, professionally cleaned and remounted before being returned to a very relieved family.



COUPLE RECEIVE LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Mundubbera couple John and Dawn Ogden, who both served in the Navy, were presented with Life Memberships. It was a deserving reward for the Ogdens' years of selfless work in the Mundubbera community.



NEW GENERATION OF VETERANS

At the age of 35, Vice President Western Jonathan Visser, front left, is the youngest ever member of the RSL North Queensland District Board. He and Vice President Central Brad Starr (aged 43), back left, represent a new generation of veterans joining the RSL ranks. Other members of the Board include Deputy President Rod Girvan, President Garry Player, Secretary Shelley Isokangas and Treasurer Anton Prinsloo. They were elected at the AGM on 1 August in Townsville. Sub Branch delegates travelled from as far as Mount Isa, Longreach, Barcaldine, Hughenden, Airlie Beach and Proserpine or joined via technology.



100 YEARS FOR STAN MELLICK

Redlands RSL Sub Branch Deputy President Ian Gray, right, presented WWII veteran Lt Col John "Stan" Mellick OAM ED (Retd) with a certificate after he celebrated his 100th birthday on 22 February. An inspirational RSL Queensland member, you can read more about Stan's life and WWII experiences on page 46.



FREEDOM REGAINED

After learning that local veteran John Bryant had no means of shopping or visiting his doctor without help from a neighbour, Tully RSL Sub Branch stepped in and bought John a mobility scooter. Secretary and Welfare Officer David Ryan is pictured handing John the keys, which will also give him the freedom to return to the community and see his friends. The Sub Branch successfully applied for welfare funding from the Far Northern District to purchase the scooter. Although COVID-19 has slowed everyone down, Tully's welfare work continues unabated and this is just one of many good stories that demonstrate the Sub Branch's commitment to veterans.



WWII MEDALLION FOR GEORGE

Walkerston Pleystowe RSL Sub Branch's only surviving WWII veteran George Mallett was presented with a 75th Anniversary of the End of WWII Medallion by Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson at a ceremony on 6 September. The medallion honoured George's contribution to Australia's war effort.

VETERAN ARTIST PAINTS MURALS IN CLUB

For veteran couple Kev and Tina Neal, it was important that their local club – Warwick RSL Memorial Club – appropriately honoured Australia's Defence community. Club committee member Kev served 25 years in the infantry, while his wife served for 10 years. Tina is a renowned artist in the local community and painted a series of murals on the walls inside the Club depicting the contributions made by men and women in all three services.



C OMMUNITY



BEAUDESERT HONOURS VIETNAM VETERANS

Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch held a service for Vietnam Veterans' Day at Palm Gardens Memorial in Jubilee Park. The Jimboomba Cadets served as the catafalque party.



GRACEMERE STUDENTS CREATE COLLAGE OF LIGHT UP THE DAWN

Waraburra State School Deputy Principal Sue Thaw created a collage of photos taken by students to capture community participation in Light up the Dawn, including the school service held prior to ANZAC Day. School Captains Tobee Jenkyn, right, and Aria Sibley, left, presented the collage to Gracemere and District RSL Sub Branch ceremony coordinator Tony Harris.

DOUBLE CELEBRATIONS FOR BANYO

As well as being the official end of WWII, 15 August 1945 was also the day Banyo RSL Sub Branch received its charter. To mark the occasion, Banyo held a special service conducted by three chaplains and with approximately 50 people in attendance. It was followed by lunch, with limited numbers due to COVID-19.



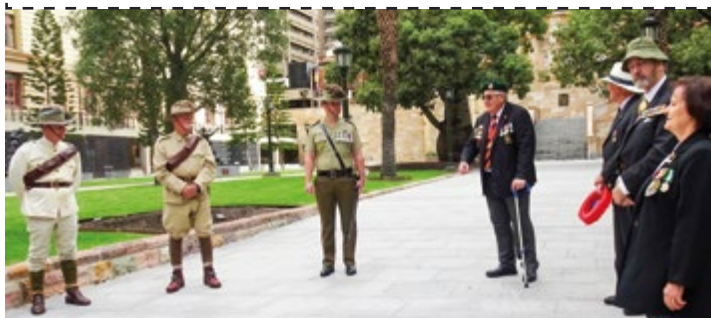
VP DAY IN HERVEY BAY

Hervey Bay put on a glorious day of sunshine for the 75th anniversary of VP Day service at the Freedom Park cenotaph on 15 August. Many local residents and ex-service organisations laid wreaths and Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch President Brian Tidyman reflected on the signing of the peace treaty that ended WWII 75 years ago.



LAST-MINUTE SERVICE TO REMEMBER THE BOER WAR

Although initially cancelled, the last-minute easing of restrictions enabled a Boer War commemorative service to be held on 31 May, with just 10 people attending. This year was the 120th anniversary of the relief of Kimberley, Ladysmith and Mafeking. Unable to attend the ceremony as planned, Governor of Queensland Paul de Jersey AC recorded a video message in which he honoured the legacy of all servicemen and women who had played a part. Boer War Association Queensland patron Major General Professor John Pearn AO RFD delivered an address on the day, saying “I believe it is very important to ensure the legacy of the ‘Fathers of ANZACs’ lives on, after all, the 2nd Anglo-Boer War was the first major conflict Australia was involved in.”



MEDALS RETURNED 36 YEARS LATER

Thirty-six years after they were stolen, Vietnam veteran Athol Millar, left, was astonished to learn that his service medals had been found. Athol was living in Burpengary and serving in the Australian Army when he and his wife returned from an Easter break to discover their house had been broken into and his medals were missing. He didn't expect to see them again and ordered a replacement set. Earlier this year, Athol was contacted and told the happy news – they had been found in a suitcase full of items handed into a thrift store, which then handed them over to the Gympie RSL Sub Branch. After contacting the Department of Veteran Affairs, the medals were traced back to Athol, who is now retired and living in Blackbutt. Blackbutt RSL Sub Branch President Walter Jacobson, right, and members of the Sub Branch presented Athol with his long-lost medals.

COFFEE AND WELLNESS A WINNING COMBINATION

After serving 13 years in the Army, Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch member Elaine Gallagher struggled with her transition out of the Defence Force. She sought support from the Department of Veterans' Affairs but eventually decided that returning to work was the best thing for her wellbeing. After a few hiccups, Elaine found career fulfilment by combining two of her passions – coffee and mental health. She launched her own company, Wellness Ignitor, selling coffee beans roasted by 3Elements and delivering them in Boris the Bean van. Elaine also works in the construction industry as a Health and Wellbeing Officer and brings the van to the job site to give fellow workers a boost. A portion of her profits are donated to Buddy Up Australia, Young Veterans Support Services, Women Veterans Network Australia and to the Australian War Memorial fundraising campaign to create a sculpture honouring the sufferings of war and service. Learn more at wellnessignitor.coffee





WOODGATE PAYS TRIBUTE

Woodgate Beach RSL Sub Branch hosted a commemorative service and lunch on Vietnam Veterans' Day. Guest speaker Lt Col Ian McLean, past Director of Music for the Australian Army, gave a stirring address. Pictured at the event were Sub Branch President Alexander McKay, left, emcee Lt Col Ian McKay (Ret), Lt Col Ian McLean AM CSC (Ret) and Sub Branch Board member James Wieland BEM.



RENAMED TO HONOUR VIETNAM VETERANS

On Vietnam Veterans' Day on 18 August, Roma RSL Sub Branch officially renamed its hall lounge room Úc Đại Lợi, meaning Australia in Vietnamese, in memory of those who served in the Vietnam War. Three of the Sub Branch's Vietnam veterans are pictured, Lester White, left, Robert Menz and Noel Kerr.



IPSWICH HONOURS ITS VIETNAM VETERANS

There was a strong turn out for the Vietnam Veterans' Day service organised by Ipswich RSL Sub Branch.

VIETNAM WAR VETERANS HONOURED

Forest Lake and Districts RSL Sub Branch President Steve Ford is pictured with Teresa Do, President of the Vietnamese Community in Australia – Qld Chapter, at the Vietnam Veterans' Day service on 18 August at the Chapel at the Wacol Military Museum Precinct. Attendees remembered the sacrifices of those who died and thanked the nearly 60,000 Australians who served during Australia's 10 years of involvement in the Vietnam War.





HISTORIC HANDMADE UNION JACK DISPLAYED

The first Union Jack flag raised in Japan after the WWII surrender was on display at Boyne Tannum RSL Sub Branch's VP Day service on 15 August. The unique flag was handmade by CSM Eric Horton in Fukuoka camp 17, Omuta. The blue material was taken from an old hospital shirt, white from an old coal mine worker's shirt and red from the edging around a mosquito net. A webbing belt was shredded to create thread to sew the Union Jack together. The VP Day service included a wreath laying ceremony at Boyne Island Stirling Park Cenotaph, followed by a barbecue at the RSL Community Hall in Tannum Sands. Guests included Member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd MP, Member for Gladstone Glenn Butcher MP, Gladstone Deputy Mayor Cr Kahn Goodluck, RSL members, community groups and representatives from local schools. The Sub Branch is also in the process of interviewing some of Gladstone's older residents to record their memories of what the end of the war meant for them.

FIRST GAME FOR VETERANS RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

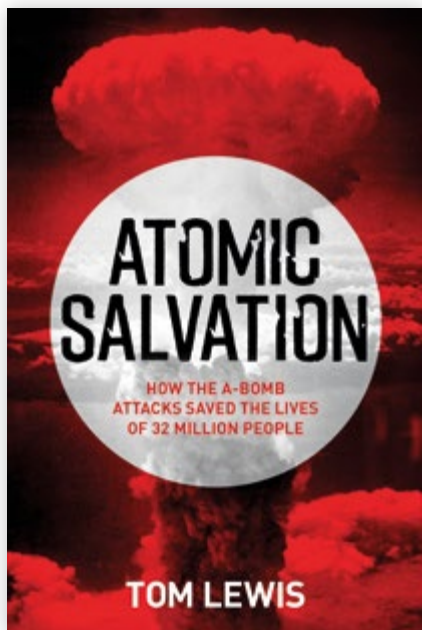
Brisbane Veterans Rugby League Football Club, supported by Pine Rivers RSL Sub Branch, has played its first game of the Brisbane 2020 season against the Pine Rivers Bears. The Veterans performed well, despite missing several players who were deployed to Victoria. Before each game, the team recite The Ode out of respect for their fallen brothers and use the word ANZAC as their war cry to kick off the game. Their supporters use the same iconic name to cheer them on. The Veterans started the game with only one reserve and after 10 minutes, one of the players broke his leg, leaving them with no reserves for the next 60 minutes. The rain fell relentlessly, making the ground slippery, but the boys maintained their composure and supported each other to fight on. It was a historical game for the club and the boys dug deep and channelled the ANZAC spirit. The final score was 20-8 in favour of the Bears, but the Veterans were unbothered by the score, just being proud to join as a club and support the veteran community. Mason Smith was named man of the match.



GROCERY HAMPERS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Esk RSL Sub Branch recently donated 10 grocery hampers valued at \$50 each to Father Ian Bailey of Esk Anglican Church for distribution within the local community. The hampers were made possible thanks to a donation from the Coromal & Windsor Caravan Social Group Queensland and coordination by Esk District Co-Op. Father Ian Bailey, back row centre, is pictured with Esk RSL Sub Branch President Charlie Elwell, back left, Secretary Stephen Bird, back right, and Esk District Co-Op staff Nikki Williams and Vicki Bishop.

WIN



ATOMIC SALVATION

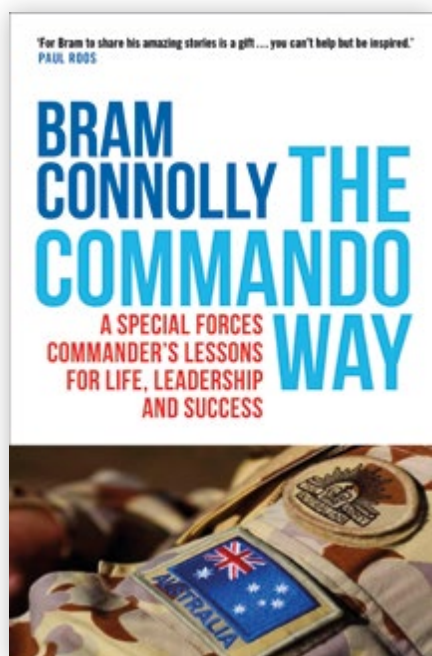
Did atomic weapons bring about a great peace?

Since the initial acknowledgement of the success of the A-bomb attacks in ending World War II, there has been a steady reversal of opinion and sentiment: from a first hearty appreciation to a condemnation by many of the United States for its actions.

Atomic Salvation investigates the full situation of the times to a previously unplumbed depth. It examines documents from both Japanese and Allied sources, but it uses logical, in-depth analysis to extend beyond the mere recounting of statistics. It charts the full extent of the possible casualties on both sides if a conventional assault akin to D-Day had gone ahead. The work is concerned solely with the military necessity to use the bombs, but it also investigates why that necessity has been increasingly challenged over the successive decades.

Atomic Salvation by Dr Tom Lewis is published by Big Sky Publishing (RRP: \$29.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Atomic Salvation*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'Atomic Salvation') or post to 'Atomic Salvation', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 19 October 2020.



THE COMMANDO WAY

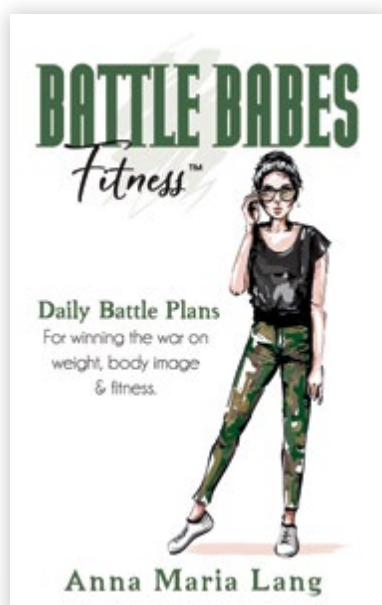
Clear-headed, frank, witty and surprising, a top Australian soldier shares his secrets of success in life and work learnt in combat and adversity. To be a good leader you first must be a good follower, but to be a great leader you must remember that being a good follower wasn't easy.

Imagine having access to the planning, training and motivational secrets of Australia's most elite military operators; then imagine being able to adapt what they know to your own everyday life. This is what Bram Connolly gives us in this smart, surprising, optimistic and autobiographical manual for resilience, personal leadership and success.

In sharing the tedium of training as a raw recruit and taking us into the pitch of battle during some of the toughest fighting in Afghanistan, Bram Connolly reminds us that, among other things, it is okay to be bored, that laziness can quickly become a habit, that there are advantages in being scared and that it's fine to let go. Clear-headed, honest and self-deprecating, *The Commando Way* offers powerful lessons that can be used in all aspects of life, no matter who you are.

The Commando Way is published by Allen & Unwin (RRP: \$32.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *The Commando Way*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'The Commando Way') or post to 'The Commando Way', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 19 October 2020.



BATTLE BABES FITNESS

Army veteran Anna Maria Lang believes women are seeking more inspiration in their everyday lives. They want to find the right battle plans to manage the ongoing war on weight, body image and fitness.

Her book *Battle Babes Fitness* includes strategies, together with motivational quotes, to help them achieve this. It inspires women to take affirmative action and call a ceasefire on the enemy at large.

Battle Babes Fitness is available on Amazon or via battlebabesfitness.com (RRP: \$25).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Battle Babes Fitness*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'Battle Babes Fitness') or post to 'Battle Babes Fitness', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 19 October 2020.



QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS WINNERS *Edition 2, 2020*

ANZAC & AVIATOR

J Thomas, Toowoomba West
L Daly, Calamvale
V Smith, Brassall
T Johnson, Mt Morgan

THE DECEPTIONS

A Loxton, Pimpama
T Scutts, Wondunna
A Kruger, Currimundi
M Hogfalt, Sandgate

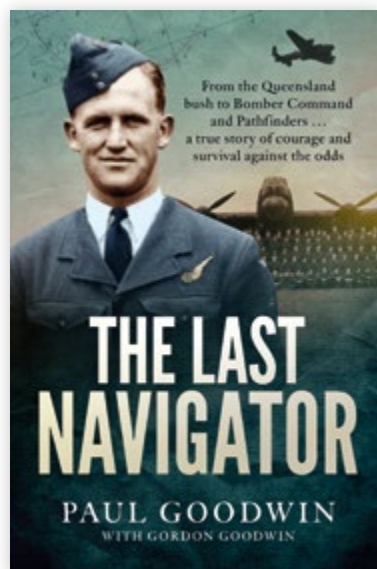
TOBRUK TO LABUAN

G Pike, Paradise Point
K Barber, Loganholme
D Prickett, Mount Duneed
J O'Neill, Macleay Island

WINGS OF GOLD

G Ledlie, Taylors Beach
P Matthews, Paradise Point
S Porter, Labrador
S Minnikin, Belmont

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



THE LAST NAVIGATOR

An extraordinary first-person story of a boy from the Queensland bush who survived the dangers of Bomber Command to become Qantas' last navigator.

The choking, chest-tightening feeling of being trapped in a burning Lancaster, enduring the uncertainty, you count down the requisite 60 seconds for the tanks to blow. Your skip has thrown off the fighters with yet another brilliant corkscrew manoeuvre, but will you get your badly wounded bomber home?

Gordon Goodwin was a decorated airman and an inspired leader. During WWII he served in probably the most dangerous occupation of all, flying with the Pathfinders as they led bombing raids into Germany. He undertook 32 Pathfinder missions, including nine over Berlin, and 65 missions over enemy territory with Bomber Command. But to survive his childhood was perhaps a greater achievement. Raised in harsh and loveless circumstances outside Brisbane during the Depression, his accomplishments were remarkable.

This is the powerful first-hand account of Gordon's dangerous and brave war experiences as recalled for his son Paul.

The Last Navigator is published by Allen & Unwin (RRP: \$32.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *The Last Navigator*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'The Last Navigator') or post to 'The Last Navigator', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 19 October 2020.

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• THE GOLDEN TREASURE. •

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RSL Art Union Draw No. 379 (also known as Draw AU379L) is 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. Prize value: \$4,865,951. The total number of tickets available is 4,694,000 which may include a maximum of 985,740 bonus tickets. Results published in The Courier Mail and The Australian on 09/10/20. RSL Art Union Draw No. 380 (also known as Draw AU380L) is 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. Prize value: \$2,761,344. The total number of tickets available is 3,431,000 which may include a maximum of 985,740 bonus tickets. Results published in The Courier Mail and The Australian on 25/12/20. RSL Art Union Draw No. 381 (also known as Draw AU381L) is 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. Prize value: \$8,500,000. The total number of tickets available is 4,694,000 which may include a maximum of 985,740 bonus tickets. Results published in The Courier Mail and The Australian on 25/12/20. All draws are drawn at ANZAC House, 283 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006. Promoter: John Strachan, Locked Bag 4032, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006. purposes only. Any rental estimates provided are for informational purposes only. Selling costs and market variations apply when selling gold bullion. Travel is in the form of a voucher, is not redeemable for cash and must be referred to www.rslartunion.com.au.

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4006 under QLD licence No.29819, ACT Permit No. R20/00076.1, VIC Permit No. 10187/20, NSW Permit No. GOCAU/2306, SA Permit No. M13864. Close date: 8pm (AEST) 30/09/20. Draw Date: 10am (AEST) Union Draw No. 380 (also known as Draw AU380L) is conducted by Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) under QLD licence No. 29819, ACT Permit No. R20/00092, VIC Permit No. include a maximum of 720,510 bonus tickets. Results published in the Courier Mail and The Australian 06/11/20. RSL Art Union Draw No. 381 (also known as Draw AU381L) is conducted by Returned & Services date: 8pm (AEST) 16/12/20. Draw Date: 10am (AEST) 23/12/20. Prize value \$8,506,933. The total number of tickets available is 3,900,000 which may include a maximum of 819,000 bonus tickets. Results Proceeds for these draws are for the purpose of veteran welfare and support in Australia. Entrants must be 18 years or over. Winners notified by registered mail. Some items shown in pictures are for display booked directly with our selected supplier, subject to their terms and conditions. Information correct at time of printing. Terms & Conditions apply. For up to date details and full terms and conditions please





ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU'VE MADE MY DAY!

STEPHEN Smith's* quiet Wednesday morning in Orange, NSW, got a bit more exciting when he answered a multi-million-dollar call from Deborah Pescott, Head of Lotteries Commercial Operations.

After being told he is now the new owner of not one but three

townhouses in Broadbeach Waters worth \$4.8 million, Stephen could not contain his excitement and gratitude.

"Thank you so much!" he exclaimed. "I never had anything in my mind about winning!"

After learning more about

his new Gold Coast waterfront complex, Stephen explained he'd never purchased a ticket before, but after seeing RSL Art Union on the news he wanted to try his luck, given that recent times have been trying for him. The call got even better for him, as his \$30 ticket book purchase

means he will also receive an extra \$30,000 in gold!

A huge congratulations to Stephen and big thank you to all our supporters. Each ticket sold helps Australia's veterans and their families.

**Name changed for privacy reasons.*

COMMUNITY CONNECT

FREE ACTIVITY PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

A free physical activity support program is now available for Department of Veterans' Affairs clients in the greater Brisbane area who carry white or gold health care cards. Active Choices provides links to physical activities such as walking groups, sports teams or gym classes, and offers behavioural and financial support over 12 weeks. The program is a partnership between the University of Queensland and DVA. Learn more at hamns.uq.edu.au/active-choices-dva.

DO YOU KNOW AN UNDERAGE SOLDIER FROM WWII?

Author Paul Byrnes is looking for underage WWII soldiers for a book he is writing. This is Paul's second book on the subject, with *The Lost Boys*, about underage WWI ANZACs, published last November. His new book will look at soldiers from 1939-45. If you know someone who was under 18 at enlistment, email ptbyrnes@me.com. If in doubt, Paul is happy to investigate.

DO YOU KNOW THESE WAR VETERANS?

Can you help Bolton Clarke find the relatives and descendants of these veterans? In 1947, a live fundraising broadcast took place in a plane circling above Brisbane. Four veterans – then living at Kingshome, Queensland's first War Veterans Home at Taringa – boarded the flight to launch an appeal for the refitting of the Fernhill property, donated by Malcolm Newman. Veterans John Patrick (93), Dan Hogan (89), Captain Charles Moore (93), and Arthur Robert 'Bob' Billaney (85) had collectively fought in the Boer War, WWI, Sudan campaign, Indian frontier, Africa, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Russia and Gallipoli. On 6 June 1947 they took to the skies to raise £30,000 to launch the fundraising campaign. Their plane was piloted by Australian National Airways Senior Route Captain Munro. RSL Chairman Mr AC Dibdin, then RSL State President Bob Huish and eight delegates from the RSL congress in Brisbane also took part. The 'Old and Bold' broadcast aired live on 4BC radio, with the plane circling the city for 50 minutes and commentary provided by local radio presenter Tom McGregor. Sadly, recordings from the historic flight appear to have been lost. Bolton Clarke is hoping to connect with the families of the four veterans and is seeking support from the public to help locate the descendants or relatives of the veterans. Anyone with information is asked to get in touch through social media (@BoltonClarke) or via email to futurefernhill@boltonclarke.com.au.

SGT REG HARRIS FROM THE RAF

Do you know Sgt Reg Harris RAF, in SLU 9 based near Darwin in 1945? Toowoomba resident Jane Thomas (Reynolds) is looking for his relatives. Reg settled in Brisbane after WWII and married a local girl, likely named Nola. He worked with the Royal Automobile Chamber of Commerce in Brisbane. His family was friends with Jane, as her father was also in the RAF in SLU. If you have information, please email jmathomas7@gmail.com.

REUNIONS

HQ1ATF ASSOCIATION REUNION

The HQ1ATF Association Reunion will be held in Canberra from 18 - 22 November 2021 in memory of the losses at Long Khanh on 12 June 1971. The reunion will be held at Capital Country Holiday Park. For bookings, phone 02 6230 3433, email bookings@capitalcountryholidaypark.com.au or visit capitalcountryholidaypark.com.au. For more information, contact John Verhelst via jeverhelst@gmail.com.

3RD BATTALION RAR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The 3rd Battalion RAR 50th Anniversary Reunion will be held in Canberra from 4 - 9 June 2021. The commemoration for the Battle of Long Khanh (Operation Overlord) will be held at the Vietnam Veterans National Memorial, Anzac Parade, Canberra on 7 June 2021. The significance of D&E Platoon (and its human losses) will be recognised and a wreath will be laid by HQ1ATF Association. Should any member wish to attend the event on 7 June 2021, contact 0412 377 884 or tony.cox@3rar.com.au.

NO. 25 RAAF ENGINEERING APPRENTICES REUNION

A reunion will be held to celebrate 50 years since No. 25 RAAF Engineering Apprentice Intake joined the RAAF. The event will be held in Caloundra from 5-7 March 2021. For more information, contact Greg Searle on 0481 336 649 or gpsearle@aapt.net.au.

ALL DARINGS REUNION 2021

The combined Darings and FESR Ships Reunion will be held in September/October 2021 on the North Coast of NSW. To be kept informed of planning details, contact HMAS Duchess Assn. 2A Vince Place, Malua Bay NSW 2536, d154shipsoffice@gmail.com, 02 4471 2936 or 0403 243 795. Register now and full details will be distributed early in 2021 to interested parties. The event is supported by the Vendetta Association, Vampire Association, Voyager Survivors Association, and Duchess Association.

NO. 79 SQUADRON RECOGNISED

Commanding Officer No. 79 Squadron, WGCDR Simon Ashworth, will host a parade to celebrate the consecration of a new Squadron Standard with Battle Honours being presented to No. 79 Squadron recognising 25 years' service and Battle Honours from WWII and Ubon. The parade will take place at RAAF Base Pearce at 9:30am on Wednesday 18 November. The Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) will present the Colour with past and present members of No. 79 Squadron in attendance. The parade will be followed by a lunch at RAAF Pearce Officers' Mess. In addition to distinguished guests, past and present members and their family members are invited. This event is subject to evolving COVID-19 travel restrictions and the maximum allowable numbers on RAAF Pearce. Direct enquiries to kyle.brokenshire@defence.gov.au.

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Cooper	William	215067	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Mawson*	Ronald	14461711	Laidley Sub Branch Inc.
Andersen	Desmond	QX35961	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Dennehy	Reginald	14246	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Alexander	George	Q128338	Innisfail Sub Branch Inc.
Curnow*	Thomas	59	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Mottershead	James	37665	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Dixon	David	3/711348	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Boot	John	53337	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch Inc.
Geraghty	Sylvia	101731	Cooktown Sub Branch Inc.
Evans	Douglas	01709234	Grantham-Ma Ma Creek Sub Branch
Bright	James	2795174	Holland Park Mt Gravatt Sub Branch
Ward	Derek	22729477	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Cherry	Kenneth	122683	Farleigh & Northern Beaches Sub Branch
McDonald	Robert	A111522	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Morris	Alan	QX46678	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Poschalk	Kevin	018352	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Clark	Arthur	A117607	Rosewood Sub Branch Inc.
Purves	Robert	VX148626	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Temple	Clement	SX24259	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Pitts	Donald	125800	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
McNelley	Blanch	-	St George Sub Branch Inc.
Maher	Peter	1/710508	Goodna Sub Branch Inc.
Simpson	Keith	1/729021	National Servicemens Sub Branch Inc.
Rickerby	Dawn	1568	Sandgate Sub Branch Inc.
Spargo	Kevin	173828	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Gunton	Bernice	W2828	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
McNevin	Allan	QX17208	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Hales*	John	166113	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Thompson	Vincent	1/724744	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Benson	Albert	133579	Seaforth Sub Branch Inc.
Ryan	Dallas	1735419	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Corica	Joe	A117315	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Hope	John	23087899	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Rogers	Kenneth	1/706117	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Rogers	Kenneth	A15444	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Page	Albert	QX60028	City of Parramatta Sub Branch
Muller	Keith	-	Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch Inc.
Harding	Kevin	61428	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Cavallaro	Salvatore	155689	Mossman Sub Branch Inc.
Yardley	George	NX153499 (N297347, N76896)	Herbert River Sub Branch Inc.
Heron	Gilbert	B5132	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Cotterill	Albert	Q220326	Gordonvale Sub Branch Inc.
Sanders	Ken	R50662	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Cairns	Eugene	23582324	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Newman	Arthur	242691	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Watt	John	55763/R31876	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Main*	Alexander	2787484	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Vance	William	D115704A	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Willis	John	163363	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Moore	James	1410370	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Taylor	Leslie	QX51453	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Currie	John	1709789	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.
Mitchell	Noel	14128	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch Inc.
Wilkie	James	22938500	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Wright	Donald	3792235	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Semple	Roy	123572	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.
Mackay	Geoff	53886	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Christensen	Kevin	39849	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Proh	Stephen	A17342	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Winchester	Phillip	A219549	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Winchester	James	NX925961	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Johnston	William	A15646	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Richardson	Peter	-	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Percival	Geoffrey	A15966	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Griffith*	Arthur	H56504	Goondiwindi Sub Branch Inc.
Nembach	Darren	0132427	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch Inc.
Evans	Peter	A218899	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Willis	Norman	50016	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Sheargold	John	2754793	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Holme*	Stanley	W3128	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Briskey	John	A112123	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Stoddart	Robert	1200267	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Boughton	John	1201017	Innisfail Sub Branch Inc.
Swingler	Cecil	1/37006	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Leifels	John	A78777	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Dalby*	Ronald	3749474	Goondiwindi Sub Branch Inc.
Broadhurst	April	98106	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Sly	Kenneth	2/715919	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Bell	Brian	1714653	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Heritage	Stanley	1/709686	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch Inc.
Woollett	Cecil	78526	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Marxsen	Neale	A117718	Calliope Sub Branch Inc.
Bryson	Lorraine	F21320	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Brennan	Wayne	1739454	Cooktown Sub Branch Inc.
Stewart	Joan	43122	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Rowe	Kenneth	19029722	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
McCall	James	A325721	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
McCall	James	R123660	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
Campbell	Allan	452463	Wondai Sub Branch Inc.
Chassagne	Patricia	92430	RSL Defence Servicewomen's Sub Branch
Gibbs	Joan	QFX64361 (QX64361)	RSL Defence Servicewomen's Sub Branch
Bailey	Leslie	27014	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Estcourt	Danny	R48476	Mareeba Sub Branch Inc.
Messer	William	158042	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Flower*	William	RNZ5113	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Maiden	Agnes	84591	Macleay Island Sub Branch Inc.
Foley	Peter	0112614	Forest Lake Sub Branch
Cunningham	Neil	708462	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Fitzjohn	Allan	NX142558 (N238826)	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Andersen	Robert	1/702004	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
Condon	Brian	4/708952	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Condon	John	1/2925	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Sills	Ronald	a17833	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Baba	Lewis	R62237	Bell Sub Branch Inc.
Jones	Trevor	A11503	Manly-Lota Sub Branch Inc.
Cordwell	Glenda	F15400	Gladstone Sub Branch Inc.
Barnett	Paul	1/716567	Stephens Sub Branch
Rudken	William	36174	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Clarke	Barry	3/785063	Cooktown Sub Branch Inc.
Campbell	Malcolm	22729912	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.
Wilson	Brian	-	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Bennett	Lindsay	0314246	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Tomlinson	James	NX203445	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Noone	Alan	445195	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Reilly	Douglas	1/719761	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Neil	Douglas	2788834	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Quane	Grace	100682	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
Broad	Timothy	1734233	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Nickols	David	17094	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Perkins*	Arthur	B5760	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Morgan	Cecil	15804	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Thurgood	William	R64249	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch Inc.
Webb	Joan	456907	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Kennedy	Peter	2/721501	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Kearton	Ralph	A13556	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Geldard	Owen	R32077	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Hocking	Robert	SX30461	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Quinn*	William	R51603	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Perry	Sydney	14691	Stephens Sub Branch
Achilles	Ernest	1/713454	Oakey Sub Branch Inc.
Collins	Arthur	1/729059	Sandgate Sub Branch Inc.
Wise*	Arthur	A13414	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Kuhn	Kenneth	76270	Kilcoy Sub Branch Inc.
Miller	Richard	R47310	Southport Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Aarts	Elizabeth	F55020	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Raymond	218043	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Hardiker	John	14561320	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Timperley	Kittie	OX40972 (Q143010)	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch Inc.
Cheney	Edward	021030	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Haysom	Ronald	VX112875	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Miller	Anthony	OX52850	Hellenic Sub Branch
Gilbert	John	2373634	Unattached List
Mckauge	Gordon	-	Nambour Sub Branch Inc.
Summerscales	William	VX138158	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Hodge	Peter	O218231	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Lark	Bruce	442502	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Mullen	Vincent	OX63366	Mareeba Sub Branch Inc.
Turpin*	Jack	150529	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Cornett	Derek	5049729	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Jacobsen	Gregory	1734964	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Doyle*	Richard	NX79241	Goondiwindi Sub Branch Inc.
Ebert	Henry	OX28690	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Lane	James	426126	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Moulds	Roy	212312	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Chapman	Edward	B/V210	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Dyer	Keith	SX23082	Bayside South Sub Branch Inc.
Wallace	Noel	CH/X115206	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Mumford	Derrick	14491887	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Marsden	Glynn	269822	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Dwenger	Ralph	1735326	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Walker	Victor	151219	Toowoomba United Sub Branch Inc.
Troon	Peter	1734627	Warwick Sub Branch Inc.
Middleton*	Nancy	102219	Goondiwindi Sub Branch Inc.
Scott*	Gwen	100844	Goondiwindi Sub Branch Inc.
Stansbie	Bevan	126790	Roma Sub Branch Inc.
Maris	Henry	OX61195	Charleville Sub Branch Inc.
Kings	Jack	1735707	St George Sub Branch Inc.
Durkin*	Thomas	1738156	Goondiwindi Sub Branch Inc.
Harper	Desmond	37805	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Gregory	Hugh	NX113992	Glasshouse Country Sub Branch Inc.
Simpson	Norville	A19519	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Hood	Raymond	150259	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Littmann	Errol	178763	Kilcoy Sub Branch Inc.
Coutts	Arthur	VX43680	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Mackenzie	Alastair	OX39001	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Page	Frank	128881	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Campbell	Ian	OX57435	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Barker	Graham	056146	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Pike	Charles	H1726	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Adornato	Stephen	1/721349	Biloela Sub Branch Inc.
Black	Colin	1/710476	Biloela Sub Branch Inc.
Bell*	Kenneth	B4721	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Gay	Timothy	3797123	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Vanderdrift*	Bert	251216134	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Whibberley	George	52217	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Nolan	Vincent	R49140	Sandgate Sub Branch Inc.
Heers	Raymond	441041	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Helmore*	Herbert	150216	Gin Gin Sub Branch Inc.
Baker	Verdun	4718298	Springsure Sub Branch
Law	David	A124591	Wowan Sub Branch
Edwards	Emma	VF368685	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Hurst	John	OX53716	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Hawken	Edward	13920	Warwick Sub Branch Inc.
Albury	Colin	1/1988	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Bussey*	Robert	2511795	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Rankine	David	13527	Tamborine Mountain Sub Branch Inc.
McNaught	Allan	1732745	Centenary Suburbs Sub Branch Inc.
Coghlan	Noel	176639	Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.
Haynes	Delbar	1/712363	Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.
Court	Ralph	1/22288	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Armitage	John	15938	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Melbourne	Ernest	2273206	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Taylor	Raymond	2/712100	Nambour Sub Branch Inc.
McGrath	John	R592118	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Kinch	Robert	1/725479	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Tessmer	Dudley	1/720231	Laidley Sub Branch Inc.
Simmons	Maxwell	18846	Gemfields Sub Branch Inc.
Pascoe	Perry	1731914	Chinchilla Sub Branch Inc.
Robertson	Alex	NX94891	Goombungee Sub Branch Inc.
Avery	Edmond	1717326	Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.
Rice	Neville	B3429	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Matthews	Daniel	13396	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Hamilton	Arthur	1/2427	Unattached List
Long	Alan	121145	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Sowden	Graham	QX48028	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.
De Loas	Keith	VX141088	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Wright	Owen	1739799	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Townsend	Raymond	A113600	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Heywood	Leslie	VX76150	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Paranthoiene	Christopher	413887	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Proudlove*	John	T23569557	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Norman	16642	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Tattam	Audrey	VF346577	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Young	Herbert	NX117054	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Young	Malcolm	PA2775	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Logan	Edward	QX18282	Laidley Sub Branch Inc.
Meadows	Ernest	1385250	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Hutchinson	John	QX50751 / Q102961	St George Sub Branch Inc.
Brown	Donald	61381	Agnes Water/1770 Sub Branch Inc.
Martin	Douglas	2548129	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Borrowman	Barbara	150703	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Neville	Kenneth	NX205936	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Roland	Russell	47441	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Foster	William	R94798	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Barry	Ronald	NX113647	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Spies	Albert	27117202	Beaudesert Sub Branch Inc.
Warburton	Peter	50715	Cunnamulla Sub Branch
Quinnell	Peter	14163484	Toowoomba United Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Weir	Bruce	214416	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Barnes	John	18275	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Bourne	Raymond	1733972	Blackwater/Bluff Sub Branch Inc.
Ward	Brian	1201028	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Rylatt	Walter	14185891	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Guilfoyle	Errol	15305	Beaudesert Sub Branch Inc.
Childs	Keith	QX47884 (Q126543)	Pittsworth Sub Branch
Mullens	Laurence	1/2982	Toowoomba United Sub Branch Inc.
Rich	Eric	5017946	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Lockey	Isabel	56374	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Piccone	Luigi	1/705593	Edmonton Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Darryl	A113829	Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.
Dempsey	Nathaniel	R50200	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Dore	Lester	2412186	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Keen*	William	NX161939	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Corbett*	William	1/716198	Mareeba Sub Branch Inc.
Towers	William	1/706842	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Fryer	Terence	210342	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Bishop	Lawrence	1201716	Cardwell Sub Branch
Tong	Gordon	172371	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Blandford	Raymond	R45422	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Pitt	Graham	1201178	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
McAuliffe	John	2721301	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Wallis	Noel	1/706745	National Servicemens Sub Branch Inc.
Brangan	John	A116411	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch Inc.
Doherty	Owen	414863	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
Porto	Ronald	2/5495	Moura Sub Branch
Matthews	Bernard	21634	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Thwaite	Noel	7137 (QX64053)	Gordonvale Sub Branch Inc.
Vernon	Dennis	S117805	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Watkinson	Bernard	JX923491	Oakey Sub Branch Inc.
Wilson	Ronald	151081	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Redman	Lawrence	QX24455	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Lyons	Graham	6018	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Lewis	George	R50652	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Hoffmann	Carl	3/746215	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch Inc.
Bull	Colin	1/730522	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.
Blair	Wallace	B4625	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Shields	Colin	2786984	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Livingston	Anita	101959	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Inc.
Ravenscroft	Roger	A228800	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Wallce*	Walter	QX7646	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Dunnett	Alexander	22051750	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Robertson	Alan	A316414	Samford Sub Branch Inc.
Fredin	Brian	18586	Gayndah Sub Branch Inc.
McAuliffe	John	A121058	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Percy	Ross	5411230	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Kerr*	Richard	426976	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Wilken*	Uwe	R53063	Esk Sub Branch Inc.
Berghofer*	Olive	QF272078	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Latimer	Geoffrey	37958	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch Inc.
Spark	Ross	1712725	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Bromiley	Charles	QX41028	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
Dowdell	Aron	39876	Nambour Sub Branch Inc.
Young	Nigel	A110762	Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch Inc.
Luke*	John	161874	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Skott	Nigel	A228598	Forest Lake Sub Branch
Taylor	John	-	Koorabyn Valley Sub Branch
Butterworth	Neville	44974	Edmonton Sub Branch Inc.
Messer	Jason	S148767	Redbank Plains Sub Branch
Payne*	Albert	VX132364	Airlie Beach-Whitsunday Sub Branch Inc.
Birtles*	Lorna	WR1963	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Frattini	Idris	19138151	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Hanson	John	WX12804	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Provians	James	1735754	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service Number	Sub Branch
Windsor	Brian	342638	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Worthing	Allan	2158179	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Wyers*	Garry	411747	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch Inc.
Cooper	Alan	715839	Boonah Sub Branch
Johnson	Maisie	F3/141	Innisfail Sub Branch Inc.
Oakman*	Edward	23154596	Esk Sub Branch Inc.
Majtczak	Josef	145516	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Goodhew	Jack	QX33384	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Anthony	23344472	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Prime	Richard	42834	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Paine	Thomas	2/93172	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Gilbert	Gerard	24195471	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
Lister	Carolyn	8588330	Defence Service Nurses Sub Branch
Bradley	Peter	214932	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Johnson	Clifford	19958	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Rankin	Neil	R63896	Lowood Sub Branch Inc.
Carswell	Athol	1102600	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Colston	Robert	500337	Kawana Waters Sub Branch Inc.
Kenzler	Raymond	79779	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Georgeson	Keith	A110024	Woodford Sub Branch Inc.
Vander Heyden	Mark	R132628	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Chellingworth	Ronald	1/716196 (Q17380)	Malanda Sub Branch
Kirkpatrick	Keith	172825	Stephens Sub Branch
Moore	Peter	A219186	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Spellman	Martin	A318902	Gladstone Sub Branch Inc.
Campbell	Colin	RMB 3727	Cooktown Sub Branch Inc.
Tomes	David	R106706	Edge Hill/Cairns West Sub Branch Inc.
Campbell	Brent	328992	Woodford Sub Branch Inc.
Cadart	Bertrand	148040 2722064	Nambour Sub Branch Inc.
Auciello	Leon	S112380 (8059019)	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Herbert	2/167124	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Cutler	Sylvia	108684	Southport Sub Branch Inc.

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