

QUEENSLAND  
**RSL**  
**NEWS**

Queen  
Elizabeth II

1926 – 2022

**NATIONAL  
RECONCILIATION  
WEEK**  
HONOURED WITH  
INDIGENOUS MEMORIAL

**STUDENT  
LIAISON  
PROGRAM  
LEADERSHIP  
SHINES**  
AT KEDRON WAVELL  
SUB BRANCH

**NATIONAL  
VOLUNTEER  
WEEK**  
CELEBRATING  
THOSE WHO HELP  
US ACHIEVE MORE



**RSL**  
Queensland

2022 // EDITION 03

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

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### Front Cover

Queen Elizabeth II passed away on 8 September 2022. She was Patron of the Returned & Services League for more than 70 years.

# HONOURING AND RECOGNISING THE CONTRIBUTION

## *Of Vietnam Veterans*

**WE** live in a lucky country. But our journey has not always been without difficulty. One of the more painful chapters in our country's history was the Vietnam War, and particularly how we treated our troops who served there on their return.

The date of 18 August marks Vietnam Veterans' Day and the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. It marks a day when our Australian troops fought one of their fiercest battles of the Vietnam War.

They preserved through suffocating heat and humidity, trudging through drenching monsoon rains, facing an enemy that could come out of nowhere and vanish just as quickly.

But their battle did not stop when they came home from the war. They were blamed for an unpopular war, when they should have been supported for serving their country. There were protests where there should have been welcome home parades. It was a national shame, and it never should have happened.

They came home and put their medals away. They hid them in the cupboard or stashed them in the sock drawer. Most did not talk too much of their service and for a long time their stories went untold.

Even though some Australians turned their back on them, they never turned

*“On Thursday 18 August, communities around the country paused to honour the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans. RSL Sub Branches across our state hosted commemorative events in their honour to help tell their story. It is their story that needs to be told. They did their job. They served with honour. They came home and helped build great communities. They deserved to be celebrated by everyone in Australia.”*

their back on us. They started families and pursued careers. Like generations before them, they took off their uniform but did not stop serving. They became teachers and police officers, ran community groups and sports clubs, and were the volunteers we counted on every day. They became leaders and public servants, helping our communities, states, and nation.

Recently I met a veteran who served with the engineers in Vietnam. Back then, he provided engineering support to a force of thousands of troops. Today, he runs a quarter of a million-acre cattle property in North Queensland and is one of the many

Australian farmers helping feed our country.

Some stayed in uniform and rose through the ranks in our Defence Force. They used the lessons they learned in blood from their experience in Vietnam to help train the next generation. My generation benefitted immensely, and the quality of our preparation was down to the drive and passion for excellence they had.

Vietnam veterans looked after one another. They stood together, shoulder to shoulder. They made it their mission to make sure that the next generation of veterans and families received the support and respect that they were all too often denied.

Because of our Vietnam

veterans, Australians now warmly welcome home our forces. Because of our Vietnam veterans, our country now readily distinguishes between the policy to go to war and those that do the fighting.

This is the story of the life and the legacy of our Vietnam veterans. It is one we must acknowledge as we reflect on our past treatment of these veterans and move forward in the future.

On Thursday 18 August, communities around the country paused to honour the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans. RSL Sub Branches across our state hosted commemorative events in their honour to help tell their story. It is their story that needs to be told. They did their job. They served with honour. They came home and helped build great communities. They deserved to be celebrated by everyone in Australia.



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



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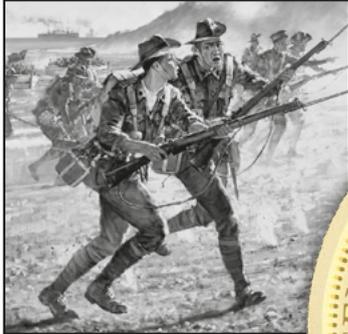
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## End of WWI Centenary Commemoration

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

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

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

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

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

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

The earliest applications will receive the lowest edition numbers. For this reason

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# WORKING BETTER, *Together*

**ALTHOUGH** it seems a while ago now, in June we held our RSL Queensland State Congress, where it was great to catch up with delegates from around Queensland. I have attended many State Congress events over the years, and I would like to thank delegates for representing their member's interests in such a positive and progressive way.

## **OUR SERVICES**

The RSL Queensland Employment Program was recently selected as a finalist for the 2022 Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Awards. We are proud of this, and the many other services we offer the veteran community.

Many members and Sub Branches may not be aware of the range of services they can access to augment the support Sub Branches provide. Our services catalogue is available online and services can be accessed through our website, our client contact centre at 134 RSL or via RSL Queensland staff in your District.

While our services are important to many veterans and their families, camaraderie is also vital to all of us. Based on the focus of the recent State Congress, we have been developing the team to facilitate improvements around how we connect with

*“Working better together is something we can all do as we move forward. Not just for us, but for those veterans that are yet to find community at their local RSL Sub Branch.”*

---

our mates. We look forward to piloting these as we move forward.

## **ON THE ROAD**

Since our State Congress I've been on the road working to engage with the broader RSL community. It's been a fantastic experience, and I'd like to thank Western District, North Queensland District and Sunshine Coast District for your hospitality, and open and frank conversations about the future of RSL Queensland.

My travels have also taken me to Sydney to talk with fellow CEOs of other RSL State Branches. Having time to meet and talk together is invaluable as we move through the Royal Commission, as RSL evolves, and as we look to connect and unite the RSL. The conversations were positive and looked at our shared interests and how we can work together in certain areas.

Working better together is something we can all do as we move forward. Not just for

us, but for those veterans that are yet to find community at their local RSL Sub Branch.

I've also been in Hobart for the Royal Commission hearing block. It was important for us to show our support for improved veteran outcomes and connect with other organisations doing the same.

We have a very close working relationship with RSL Tasmania, and it was an opportunity to make sure we're providing the right support. We are also excited to go on a journey with RSL NSW, as our meetings in early September demonstrated how aligned we are. These relationships will directly impact on the support to veterans and their families.

I was recently invited to a lunch for Life Members on the Sunshine Coast. It was a great opportunity for the District to thank those volunteers who have spent so much time over the years to help their mates. I would like to congratulate their newest Life Member Wayne 'Whisky' Carter, who

has been advocating for veterans since 1995, but has been a member for even longer. Congratulations and thank you Whisky.

Lastly, congratulations to the North Queensland District who recently opened their new District office. I was able to attend with our RSL Queensland State President, and it's great to see the work they've done to improve their capability to engage with veterans and their families in the area. The new office is adjacent to Mates4Mates, so the whole block is dedicated to supporting veterans and their families.

## **WRAP UP**

Until next time, thank you all for your commitment to RSL Queensland. In my recent conversations I've heard proof of how the organisation has evolved in recent years. We have become a place where people come together and work collaboratively to improve the support we offer veterans and their families.



**Robert Skoda**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**RSL Queensland**

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**125**

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**167**

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**\$655k**

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**3,650**

calls handled



**64**

jobs found for veterans and their partners



**1,614**

claims submitted

Between April-June 2022, RSL Queensland provided a broad range of programs and services to support veterans and their families.

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[rsl queensland](#)



**RSL**  
Queensland

# MAILBOX

## VETERANS REUNITED AFTER 35 YEARS, THANKS TO RSL NEWS

**I'M** writing with good news about an injured RAAF member I was looking for in the Community Connect section of *Queensland RSL News* Edition 4 2021.

On 10 August this year I was contacted by an airman from RAAF Base Amberley who saw my request in the magazine to find an injured airman. Someone had placed my message on a notice board at Amberley.

He had recently attended at a reunion for ex-RAAF Mirage aircraft maintenance staff, where he met an ex-serviceman who was injured in an accident in Butterworth and medivacked back to Australia. He thought it was the same serviceman I was after.

I asked if the injury to the serviceman resulted from a motorbike accident. He said yes. He also said he thinks the man now lives in Darwin, and he may be able to get his phone number.

On 13 August I received a text message from a former Leading Aircraftsman (Framie – airframe technician – name withheld). The man stated that he was involved in a motorcycle accident outside the Butterworth Police Station on 7 February 1987.

He was admitted to 4 RAAF Hospital Butterworth for six weeks and then medivacked back to RAAF Base Richmond, where he spent six months going through surgeries and learning to walk again. He was 22 years old at the time, and the first six days after the accident were spent deciding if he would keep his leg. He said that lucky for him he didn't get an infection.

After 35 years he now walks fine, and the man thanked me for my first aid skills and for giving him my blood.

**Keith Skinner**

## ANZAC DAY COMMUNITY COMMEMORATIONS

**READING** *Queensland RSL News* Ed 2 2022, I was touched by the number of photos showing the breadth of ANZAC Day events across our State, it was fantastic to see. The diversity of how Queenslanders commemorated ANZAC Day 2022 is testimony to how significant the day is, not only to the serving and veteran community, but importantly to the wider community as well.

Not usually one for public writing, I wanted to point out that there are services across Queensland that do not have a local Sub Branch. I attended the Mt Garnet service (2.5 hours inland from Cairns) and was really moved by the involvement of the school children, community, emergency services and handful of veterans present. To me, this was an outstanding grassroots service and I thank the community of Mt Garnet for holding the march and service on the Kennedy Highway.

I wonder if there is more that the wider RSL network could be doing to support these small communities that fall outside the Sub Branch or District footprint?

Thank you, Mt Garnet, for commemorating ANZAC Day 2022.

**Ben Hemphill**  
**Cairns RSL Sub Branch**

### Tell us what you really think!

Like something you saw or read in an edition of *Queensland RSL News*? Did something spark a memory, make you think, or get under your skin? Then we would love to hear your thoughts. Send us your musings to [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org). Please keep submissions to less than 250 words. Photos are also encouraged, however, original material should be retained by contributors and only copies sent to *Queensland RSL News*.

*Queensland RSL News* reserves the right to determine which submissions will be published. Submissions may be edited and should include full contact details for that reason.

# Honouring those who were only 19 Veterans Remembered Hoodie



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**Versatile hoodie-style  
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**"Huey" chopper  
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# NEWS

## RSL QUEENSLAND EXTENDS CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE QUEEN

**RSL QUEENSLAND** extends its deepest sympathies and condolences on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September.

RSL Australia President Greg Melick says the passing of The Queen would be felt by all veterans, who particularly valued her association and patronage of the League for more than 70 years.

"Queen Elizabeth II has been an outstanding servant and leader of the Commonwealth for the duration of her reign and the RSL was honoured to have her as our Patron," Greg Melick says.

RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM says the veteran community and its members will be saddened by this news.

"On behalf of the League here in Queensland, I offer our gratitude and everlasting respect to Queen



Elizabeth II.

"The veteran community in Queensland who served under Queen Elizabeth II will reflect on her commitment, encouragement, and support for our service personnel.

"As a mark of respect and mourning, RSL Queensland State Branch and its network of Sub Branches, and in accordance with protocol, flew the Australian National Flag and other flags at half-mast."

## SIGNED MESSAGE OF RESPECT LEFT AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

**MAJGEN DAY** – joined by Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, and her husband, Professor Graeme Nimmo, at Government House – signed a message of condolence for Queen Elizabeth II on the eve of the nation's Day of Mourning for The Queen.



MAJGEN Day visited Government House on Wednesday 21 September 2022 to express his condolences on behalf of RSL Queensland, Sub Branches, and all our members.

"The Queen's passing has left a sense of loss and mourning among our members and within the veteran community and so, on their

behalf, I wanted to come here today and leave a signed message of everlasting respect for her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II," he says.

Since The Queen's passing, more than 5,000 Queenslanders have travelled to Government House to pay their respects and leave messages of sympathy for the Royal Family in a condolence book.

# DELEGATES VOTE IN FAVOUR OF SKILLS-BASED BOARD

**RSL QUEENSLAND** delegates voted in favour of a skills-based Board at the Annual General Meeting, which was part of our State Congress on 25-26 June. This vote paves the way for the introduction of four newly created skills-based board Director roles.

RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM, welcomed the decision.

"These changes have been designed and proposed to help ensure that our Board is equipped with the best people and capability to appropriately govern our organisation and represent the needs of our members and the veteran community," MajGen Day says.

You can read more about this on page 68 of this magazine.

## **BILL WHITBURN OAM RE-ELECTED**

During the meeting, Bill Whitburn OAM was re-elected as State Vice President for another three-year term. He was running against RAAF veteran Doug Egan.

Bill has been instrumental in RSL Queensland's recent work to improve our governance, and he passionately advocates for veterans in his many roles across the League.



**MORE INFORMATION:** To read the minutes of the 2022 AGM or watch a recording visit [rslqld.org/whats-on/2022-state-congress](https://rslqld.org/whats-on/2022-state-congress)

# RSL QUEENSLAND NAMED FINALIST FOR 2022 PRIME MINISTER'S NATIONAL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AWARDS

**RSL QUEENSLAND** has been recognised for excellence in supporting the employment of veterans and their partners, being named a finalist for the 2022 Prime Minister's National Veterans' Employment Awards in August.

The selection recognises the success of the RSL Queensland Employment program, which partners with more than 200 Australian

employers to help veterans and their partners translate their skills to civilian businesses.

The program, funded by RSL Queensland and available to participants across Australia, commenced in 2017 and has since helped more than 800 veterans and Defence partners secure long-term meaningful employment.

Through partnerships with

more than 200 employers, RSL Queensland has been able to support not only veterans seeking employment, but organisations wishing to hire veterans. This includes the creation and delivery of 'Veteran Onboard' training manuals that provide hiring managers with the tools to better understand veterans and how best to use their skills.

In the past year, RSL

Queensland has expanded the eligibility criteria to support current-serving partners as well as veterans and veteran partners.

And the growth in the program is sensational – in the first year of the program, the team secured 88 jobs for veterans – in 2019, that number rose to 133, to 155 in 2020, over 275 in 2021, and this year they've already secured 183 jobs.

# RSL QUEENSLAND PUTS TOWNSVILLE TO THE TEST TO STRENGTHEN VETERAN SUPPORT



**HUNDREDS** of Townsville locals took to the challenge of completing an obstacle course at Lavarack Barracks recently, with RSL Queensland welcoming kids, families, and community members to an interactive display of military training at the Open Day event on Saturday 27 August.

The obstacle course saw more than 600 participants test their fitness on monkey bars, the three-metre rope and cargo net climb, the tyre run and pole traverse, not only giving members of the community an intense workout but also the chance to check out the local Army barracks.

The day was a huge success, with many from the community turning out to see what life is like behind the barracks' gates.

As well as tackling the obstacle course, visitors of all ages were able to meet Army personnel and view demonstrations, such as from the military working dogs, and check out displays, including

artillery, helicopters, and armoured vehicles.

RSL Queensland was proud to demonstrate our ongoing support to Lavarack Barracks and create opportunities for current serving families to understand and engage with RSL Queensland and our services. Funds raised on the day went to Legacy North Queensland.

## RSL QUEENSLAND OPENS NEW DISTRICT OFFICE FOR TOWNSVILLE VETERANS

**TOWNSVILLE** veterans now have greater access to critical services and support, with RSL Queensland opening a new District Office for the North Queensland region.

RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM officially opened the District Office on 6 August, which will provide support to the local ex-service community and the region's 18 RSL Queensland Sub Branches.

"The new RSL Queensland North Queensland District

Office will provide local veterans and their families a central and clear pathway to access the care, compassion, and camaraderie they need," RSL State President Stephen Day says.

"We are proud to mark this momentous occasion for the Townsville ex-service community and recognise how important the new office is for the delivery of critical veteran support services in the region."

The opening of the new office comes as data from the

recent Australian Bureau of Statistics' Census revealed that Townsville is home to the largest population of currently serving and previously served ADF members (15,408).

RSL North Queensland District President Garry Player said the new District Office plays a vital role in the community, not only by providing much-needed services and support, but also reconnecting veterans with their former comrades in arms.

"The Townsville District is always looking for ways

to better support younger members of our Defence community, while continuing to support our older members," Mr Player says.



# MEMBERS NAMED IN *Queen's Birthday Honours*

**SEVERAL** RSL Queensland members were named in the Queen's Birthday Honours List published on 13 June. They included:

#### **KEDRON WAVELL RSL SUB BRANCH MEMBERS:**

- OAM – Mr Patrick John Ringold for service to naval veterans
- OAM – Mr Philip David Hay for service to veterans and their families

#### **TOWNSVILLE RSL SUB BRANCH:**

- OAM – Mr Kevin Winkleman for his outstanding service to veterans in the pension and advocacy space for more than 25 years

#### **MILES RSL SUB BRANCH:**

- OAM – Mr Eric Geldard for his service to Miles and District (Murilla) community

For the full list of the Queen's Birthday Honours across the State, visit [statements.qld.gov.au/statements/95387](https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/95387)



## FREE TAFE FOR QUEENSLAND VETERANS

**FREE** TAFE training and apprenticeships are now available for hundreds of Australian Defence Force veterans moving to civilian careers under the new Defence to Civilian Success Training Program.

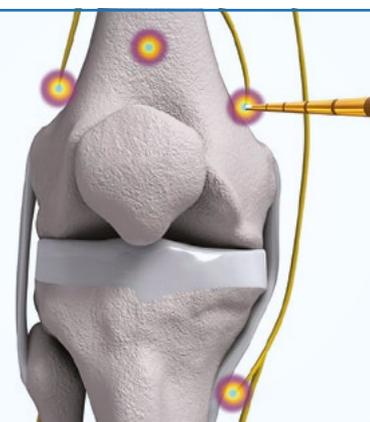
The Queensland government's \$1.1 million in funding will support up to 300 Queensland veterans into different careers as they transition from the ADF.

If you would like to speak to a specialist Defence Solutions Officer directly, please call 07 3244 0155 or email [tafeqld.edu.au](mailto:tafeqld.edu.au).

## Is hip or knee pain holding you back?

### Radiofrequency Ablation may help get you back to doing what you love.

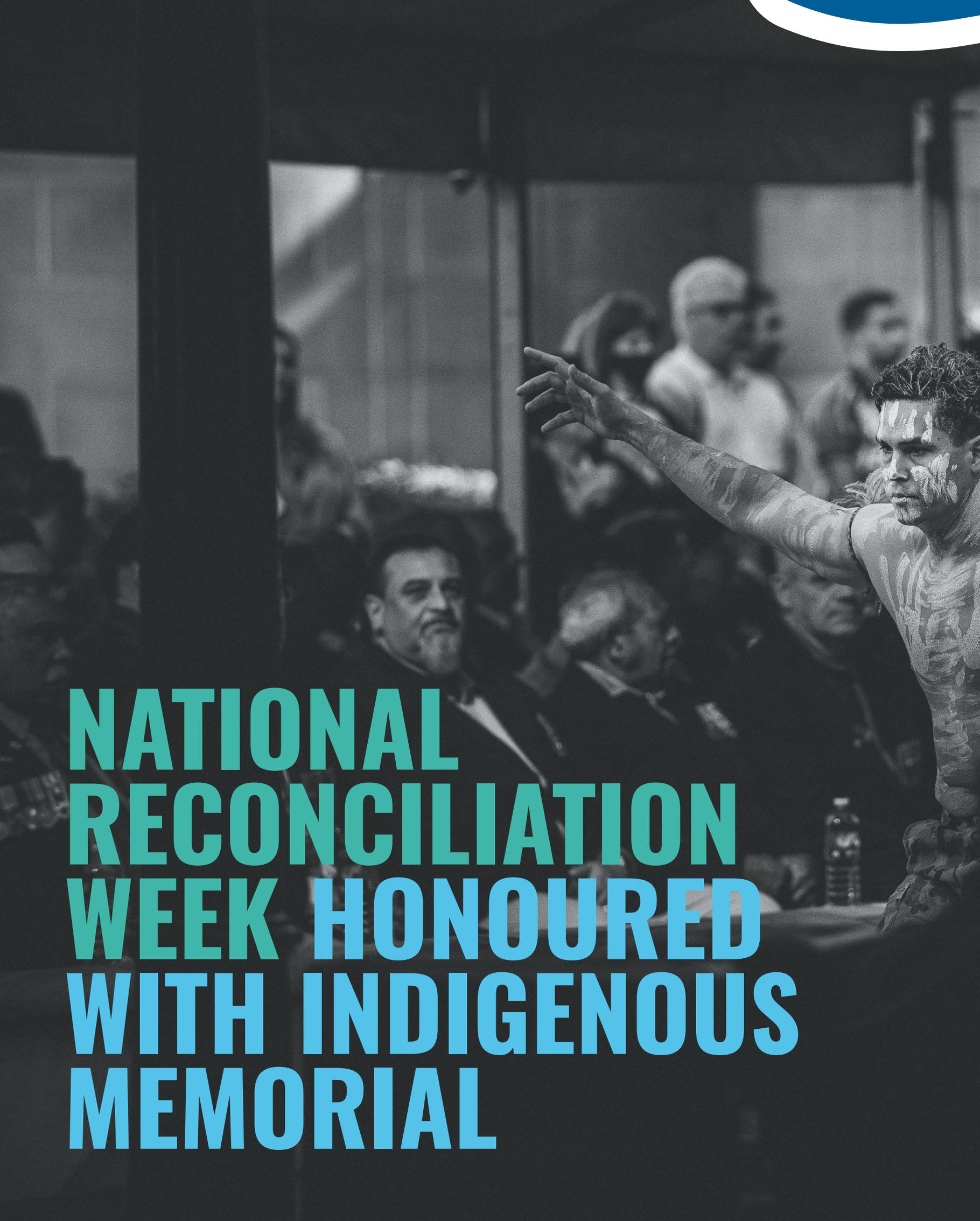
If you're suffering from ongoing hip or knee pain, Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) is a non-surgical, safe and effective procedure with minimal treatment and recovery time. RFA is especially beneficial to those seeking an alternative to surgery. The procedure is completed in approximately 20 minutes and unlike surgery RFA involves no incision. Current studies are demonstrating up to 12 months pain relief and functional improvement specifically for knee pain and osteoarthritis.



Contact us to find out more, or make an appointment.  
**Phone (07) 5493 8038 | [www.scorthogroup.com.au](http://www.scorthogroup.com.au)**  
**Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital, Birtinya QLD.**

**COOLIEF**  
Cooled Radiofrequency Treatment

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ORTHOPAEDIC GROUP



**NATIONAL  
RECONCILIATION  
WEEK HONoured  
WITH INDIGENOUS  
MEMORIAL**



*On 27 May – the first day of National Reconciliation Week 2022 – a memorial almost 10 years in the making was unveiled in ANZAC Square, Brisbane (Meanjin).*

*✍ Indigenous art by  
Kim Brolga Williams*

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that this article may contain images of deceased persons.

# THE

first memorial to be installed at ANZAC Square since the 1990s, the bronzed memorial pays tribute to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans who have served in our Australian

Defence Forces (ADF).

Aunty Lorraine Hatton OAM, President of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dedicated Memorial Queensland Incorporated (ATSIDMQI), and Indigenous Elder of the Australian Army, an adviser to the Australian War Memorial and a veteran who served 20 years in the Royal Australian Signals Corps, says it has been a long journey to get to this point.

"May 27 marked a special day for many in our community," Aunty Lorraine explains.

"When we look at some of the original presidents who have since passed away, we have two elders that started this journey and aren't here to see their dream become a reality. And for me, when we look at our military history, we have so many stories to tell."



Indigenous veterans and distinguished guests are honoured by the Army and Traditional Custodians of Nunukul and Yuggera performers.



**TOP LEFT:** Then Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan AO, centre, stands with the Royal Australian Navy Bungaree Dancers.

**TOP RIGHT:** Aunty Lorraine Hatton OAM speaking during the memorial unveiling.

**PRIDE IN A SHARED MILITARY HISTORY**

In early 2014, it was estimated there were 1,054 Indigenous service personnel (on both permanent and active reserve) in the ADF. Indigenous Australians have served in conflict and peacetime since the Boer War, and the number of Indigenous men and women serving in the ADF has been increasing since the 1990s.

The memorial was designed and sculpted by Liam Hardy of Sculpt Studios and John Smith Gumbula and is intended to be instantly recognisable.

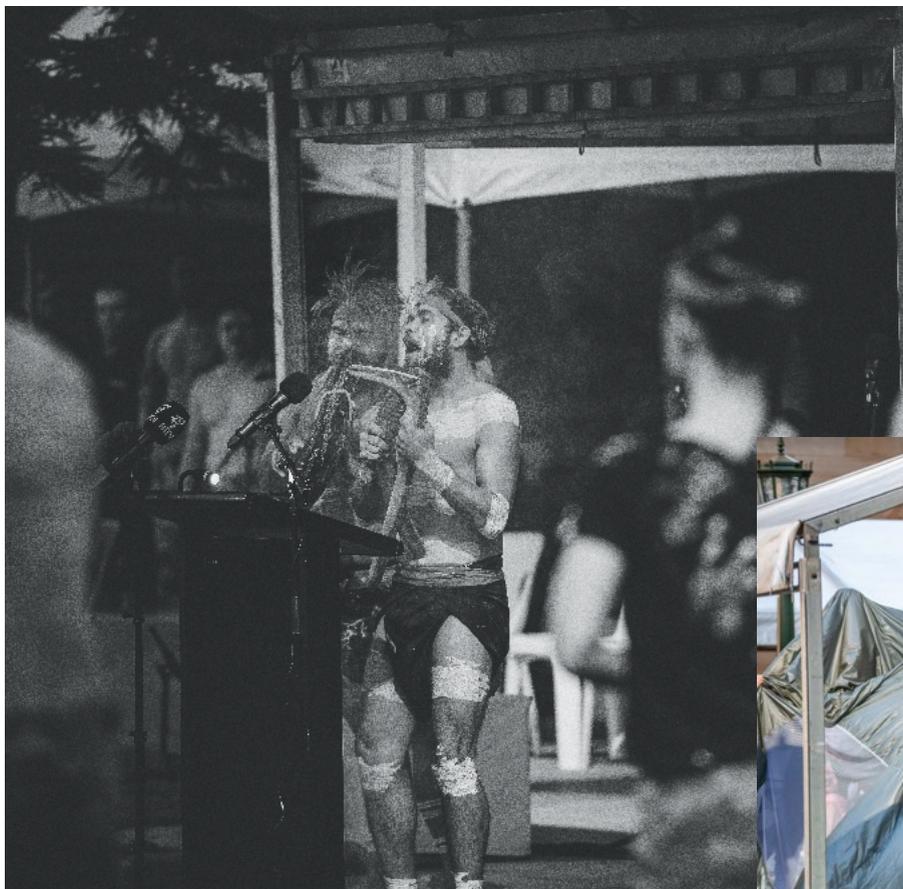
"The sculpture bridges the culture and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their contributions to our shared military history," Aunty Lorraine explains.

"I hope that it stands to educate all people – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – and allows our own people to be proud to know that

**ABOVE:** Performers and guests mingle after the ceremony.

**RIGHT:** Accompanying the Army and Traditional Custodians of Nunukul and Yuggera performers with didgeridoo and song.

**FAR RIGHT:** Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dedicated Memorial is unveiled.



*“The sculpture bridges the culture and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their contributions to our shared military history. I hope that it stands to educate all people – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – and allows our own people to be proud to know that we’ve had people who served in defence of our country.”*



we've had people who served in defence of our country. To know that this is but one story of many within our military history."

The memorial honours and recognises the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women to the defence and protection of Australia.

"It proudly recognises – and is representative of – both past and present Indigenous Queensland ADF members, and we have been wonderfully supported by the three tiers of government, philanthropists and private sector organisations to bring this memorial to completion.

"The memorial is cast in bronze, with life size figures that stand on a 'Journey Stone.' It tells a story of leaving home and embarking on air, land and sea journeys before returning home.



"This isn't about taking away from anyone else's stories, they are all important. I always say that before I can tell my military story, I must tell the stories of those before me. There's that famous saying that we stand on the shoulders of giants who came before us. We must tell the stories of the challenges and journeys they took. This memorial is a part of doing that."

The unveiling was also an important milestone for Uncle Noel Pope, a Wulli Wulli and Gooreng Gooreng man, Vietnam veteran and member of the Theodore Chapter of Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch.

"Being an Indigenous veteran joining the military was life changing," he shares.

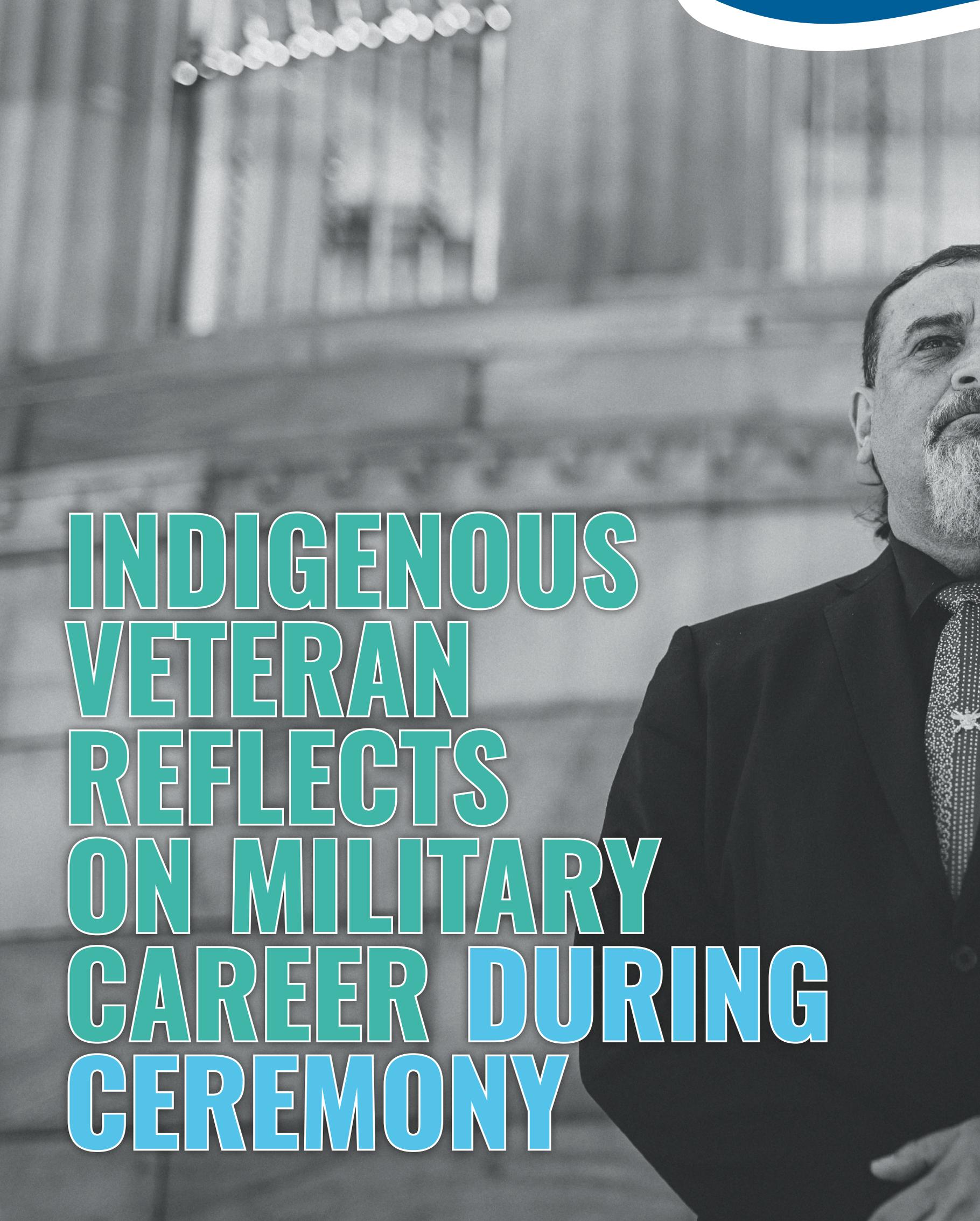
"For the first time in my life it

gave me equal footing in society. Serving my country was in my DNA because of my connection to my traditional boundaries... it has given me an identity that made me who I am today."

The ceremony on 27 May was attended by RSL Queensland State Deputy President Wendy Taylor, Queensland Premier the Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Lord Mayor Adrian Schinner, Chiefs of the Defence Force, Army, Navy and Air Force and other distinguished guests.

Representatives from the Yuggera Nation welcomed First Nation peoples from all over Queensland and non-Indigenous people to the ceremony.

"The Welcome to Country was delivered by Gaja Kerry Charleton and there was also an Army band, traditional dancers and choir," Aunty Lorraine says. ←



**INDIGENOUS  
VETERAN  
REFLECTS  
ON MILITARY  
CAREER DURING  
CEREMONY**



*A commemorative ceremony hosted by RSL Queensland to honour the thousands of Indigenous service people – both past and present – who have served and sacrificed for our nation was held at The Shrine of Remembrance, Brisbane, on Saturday 28 May.*

*Indigenous art by  
Kim Brolga Williams*

Indigenous veteran Ray Rosendale CSM was keynote speaker at the Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony.

# RSL

Queensland's Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony – held in Brisbane every year since 2006 – commemorates and recognises the invaluable contribution of our Indigenous service people, who have served

in every war and conflict since the Boer War, despite being legally excluded from military service until 1949.

During the 2022 ceremony, Keynote Speaker, Indigenous veteran Ray Rosendale CSM, reflected on his life in the Royal Australian Navy and revealed why it's important to honour the thousands of Indigenous service people who have served and sacrificed for our nation.

"The ceremony is not only an opportunity to highlight the service of our First Peoples, but also to reflect and recognise that not all veterans were treated equally both during and after service," Ray says.

Prior to 1949, the Defence Act (1909) prohibited Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people from enlisting. In 1917, the Act was amended so 'half castes' could enlist, with Ray saying it was "during World War II that official government policy remained restrictive and there was a 'colour bar' that effectively prevented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from serving in the military".



Veterans paying their respects during the ceremony.



**TOP LEFT:** Navy veterans Petty Officer Lisa Stevenson and Warrant Officer Jay Stevenson with their baby Matilda.

**TOP RIGHT:** The Governor of Queensland Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM spoke at RSL Queensland's Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony.

"Returned Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans from both wars were not, in most cases, allowed land grants like other veterans and were not allowed into clubs or pubs in most of Australia with their comrades, in some cases right into the 1970s," Ray says.

**DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE**

It's a different story today though, according to Ray, who says the Australian Defence Force is a diverse and inclusive organisation that truly represents our nation.

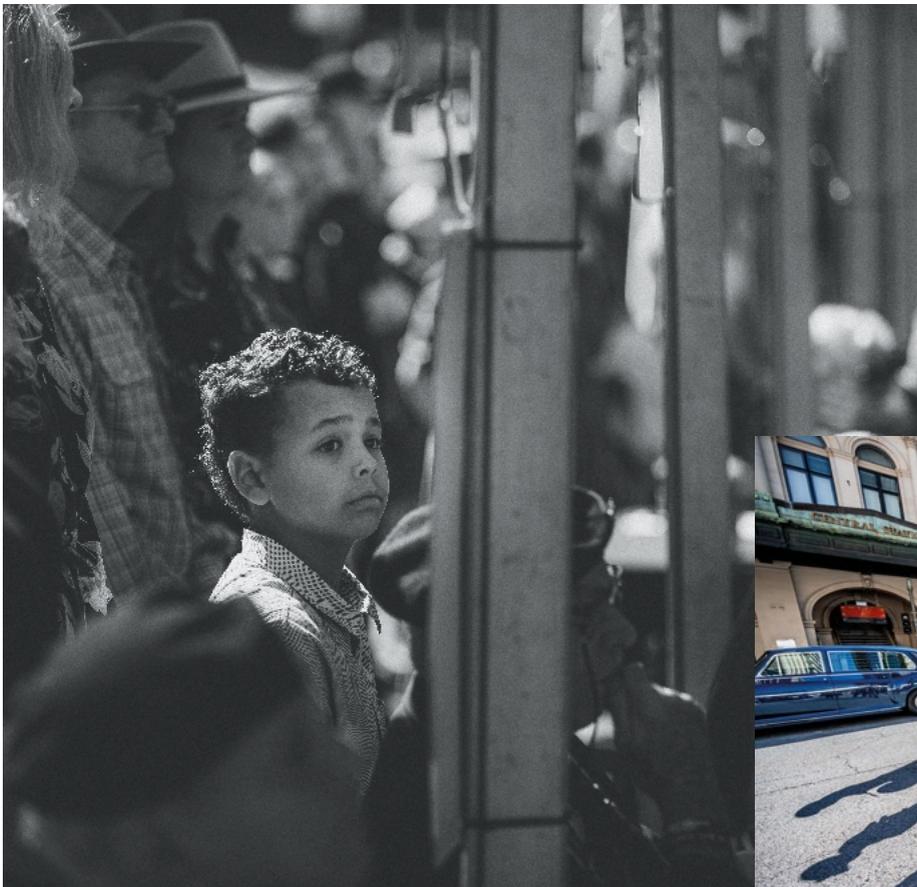
"In my time serving in the Royal Australian Navy, I found, with a few exceptions, that my service was physically and spiritually rewarding.

"I was lucky to have joined during a period in the ADF where the inequities of the past no longer created restrictions and was privileged to serve in various places, doing things that most only read about or see in movies.

**ABOVE:** Distinguished guests, from left, Assistant Minister to the Premier for Veterans' Affairs, Trade and COVID Economic Recovery, Bart Mellish MP, Army Indigenous Elder, Aunty Lorraine Hatton and Wide Bay and Burnett District Treasurer David Watson.

**RIGHT:** Thomas Falcongreen paid his respects during the Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony.

**FAR RIGHT:** The catafalque party approaching the Shrine of Remembrance.



"While some racism remained, it was mostly from an individual's perspective, with most serving members treating you like a brother and caring only that you had their back – both when going into danger or in our life at home. This is by far the most important thing that I took away from my service," Ray says.

#### **BENEFITS OF A LIFE IN DEFENCE**

Ray, who retired from the Navy in 2017 following a lengthy and decorated career, reflects fondly on his life in the military and is today a passionate advocate for encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to consider a life in Defence.

"The opportunity to achieve at the highest levels is available to those who seek it through education and advancement on merit.

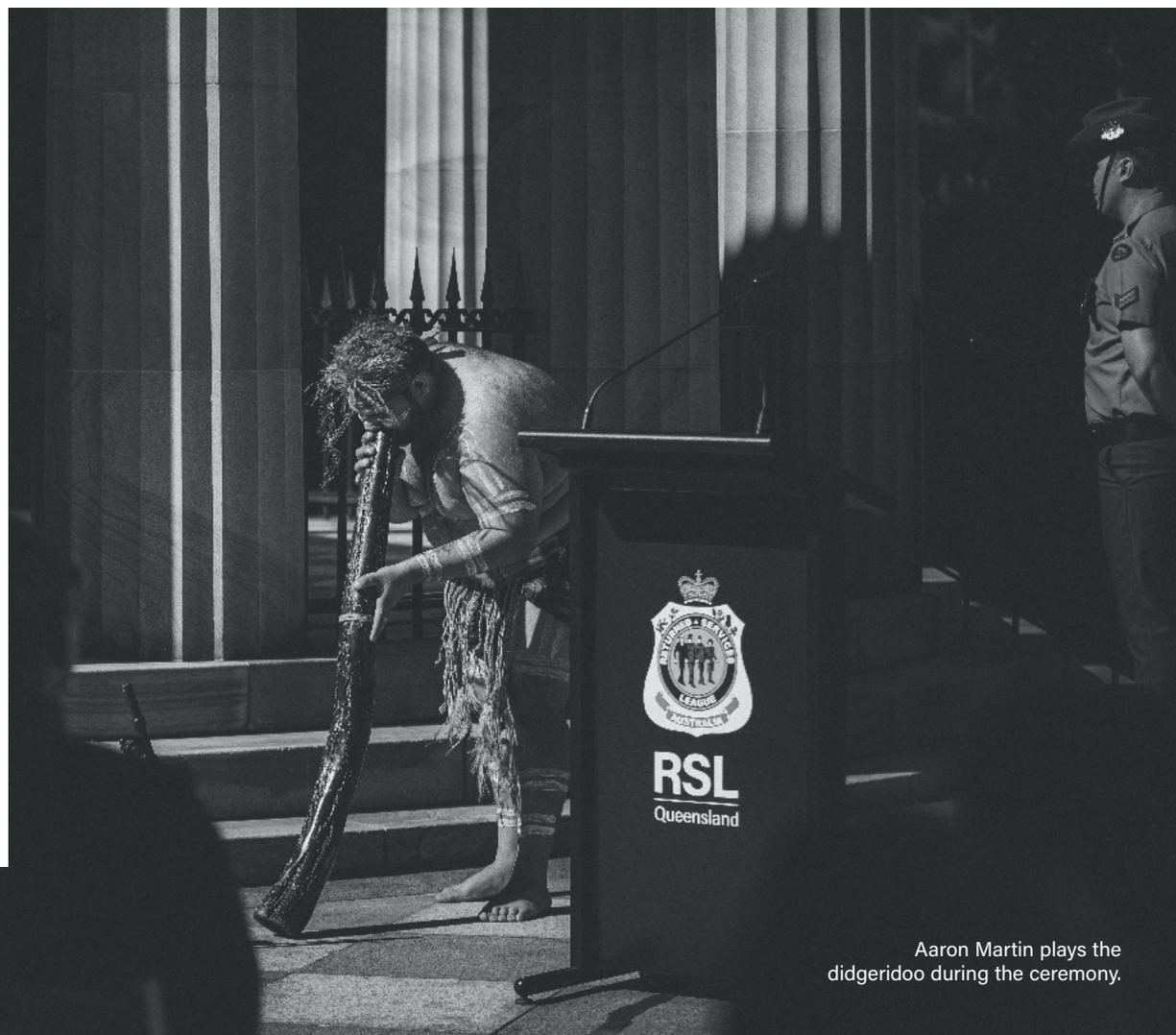
"The inequities and racist policies of the past have been relegated to history and today's service personnel are recognised for their service not on their ethnicity, gender or religion, but on the values and abilities that make our ADF one of the most equitable employers in the nation.

"The friendships and networks built while serving stay with you for life, and the people that you serve with become your allies in working towards a reconciled Australia that will help to build a stronger nation," Ray says.

"Being a veteran, I have seen the worst of our world, but I have also seen the best – people enduring great adversity with strength, honour and compassion regardless of their ability to change their situation."

Ray, a Kuku Yalanji man of the Western Sunset people, whose traditional lands are situated northwest of Cairns in Far North

*"The friendships and networks built while serving stay with you for life, and the people that you serve with become your allies in working towards a reconciled Australia that will help to build a stronger nation."*



Aaron Martin plays the didgeridoo during the ceremony.

Queensland, enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy in 1991. He served in the first Gulf War onboard HMAS *Canberra* before continuing his service on Her Majesties Australian Ships Whyalla, Shepparton, Ipswich, Tarakan, Darwin, Melville and Leeuwin and shore establishments Cerebrus, Kuttabul, Cairns, Stirling, and Watson, and as staff in the Office of the Chief of Navy.

### **STRATEGIC ADVISOR ON INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS**

In January 2013, former Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Griggs, appointed Ray as the Navy Strategic Advisor on Indigenous Culture Affairs. It was the first time an Indigenous serving member held a permanent appointed position focussed on the affairs of



**PICTURED:** Indigenous veteran Ray Rosendale CSM was keynote speaker at the Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony.

the First People under the direct command of a Service Chief.

While in this position, Ray earned a Conspicuous Service Medal for his efforts, until his discharge from the Royal Australian Navy in 2017.

"To be selected as the Navy Strategic Advisor on Indigenous Cultural Affairs to the Chief of Navy was a highpoint of my career.

"I was the first non-commissioned officer to be appointed to a Service Chief and the only appointed Indigenous Advisor in the ADF.

"This allowed me to assist the Navy to become an employer of choice in the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people," Ray says.

### **FURTHER STUDIES PROVIDE A NEW CHALLENGE**

In 2017, Ray decided it was time

for another challenge. After discharging from the Navy, he began full-time studies at Central Queensland University, graduating in 2021 with a Bachelor of Human Services and a Bachelor of Social Work with First Class Honours.

"Coming from a blended Aboriginal and European family, I have always been acutely aware of 'social injustice' in its many forms. This, combined with my experiences in the military, set me on the path to find a way to do something better," Ray says.

Now employed as a Community Services Officer – First Peoples at Cairns Regional Council, Ray strives to offer the same level of genuine support to others and make First Peoples advancement a priority for the region. He works

closely with the community to resolve concerns, issues and problems that First Peoples may be facing in his area.

"I see social workers as 'modern warriors' – fighting for people, not with weapons of destruction and violence, but weapons of justice and resilience," Ray says.

While the service and sacrifice of Indigenous Australians is often overlooked in the telling of Australia's military history, RSL Queensland is acknowledging and honouring the invaluable contribution our Indigenous service people have made – and continue to make – to the defence of our nation.

"I commend RSL Queensland for taking a stand and becoming a leader in telling the whole truth, allowing us as both veterans and the wider community to learn and understand why it is important to know and discuss historical truth," Ray concludes. ←

# SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT COMMEMORATES

# VE DAY



*RSL South Eastern District members and locals gathered at New Farm's Allies Memorial to commemorate the 77th Victory in Europe (VE) Day anniversary on 14 May.*

**SCOTT** Mackie, RSL South Eastern District Executive Officer, ANZAC Day Parade Brisbane, says their service is the only annual VE commemoration in Queensland.

"Many hold services for the big milestone anniversaries like 25th, 50th and so on, but we've held a service for VE Day since 1985. Except for in 2020, when none of us held services."

The commemoration included a wreath being laid by RSL South Eastern District President Kerry

For more information on RSL South Eastern District and volunteer opportunities visit [rslsouthqueensland.org](https://rslsouthqueensland.org)





Gallagher AM, on behalf of the District and all its Sub Branches.

"This year, the District had a service with approximately 30 people and the support of the ADF, which sent personnel to conduct the flag party and catafalque party", Kerry says.

"Due to the weather it was necessary to move the service indoors, constructing a temporary shrine for the laying of wreaths.

"We also had a veteran guest of honour, Patricia Bochenska MBE. She is a Blitz survivor who went on to serve in the Royal Navy, receiving the MBE for exemplary service to the Red Cross for over 50 years."

Victory in Europe – or VE Day – is marked on 8 May and commemorates the day World War II officially ended in Europe.

The New Farm Allies Memorial honours personnel of allied countries including Poland, Greece, France, New Zealand, Great Britain, The Netherlands, and the US.

Scott, who served in the British Army and deployed to Bosnia and Iraq, has been involved with South Eastern District since 2017.

"As a European, VE Day means a lot to me. It was where my ancestors fought, and I served in the British Army," Scott says.

"Being involved with RSL Queensland feels like a home away

from home. We share a similar background, speak the same language, and recognise the same acronyms, so it is very comfortable working with veterans and helping carry on the traditions of that culture," Scott says.

And they're always on the lookout for locals willing to volunteer.

"We ended up having over 100 volunteers for the ANZAC Day parade, and out of that group a dozen or more volunteered again for VE Day. We're always eager for extra hands to help," Scott says.

**For more information, visit [rslsouthqueensland.org](http://rslsouthqueensland.org)** ←

**ABOVE:** The piper, courtesy of 8/9 RAR Pipes and Drums.

**OPPOSITE (TOP TO BOTTOM):** NTS Brisbane Cadets; Australian Defence Force representatives, from left, LT CMDR Jonathon Lyons RAN, LT COL Greg Jenkins RAE, and GP CAPT Michael Mammanna RAAF; RSL Queensland Deputy President Wendy Taylor speaking with guests during the morning tea.

# GIVING CARERS THE CHANCE TO LEARN HOW TO HELP AND BE HELPED

*By providing real time support, education, respite, social inclusion events, reference material, and crisis care to the partners and families of Australian veterans and Emergency Service personnel incapacitated by mental illness, Operation PTSD Support is caring for our carers.*

**THERE'S** no harm in putting your hand up to ask for help. It's an important message, and one that Operation PTSD Support is hoping becomes more commonplace, especially among partners of ex-serving veterans who take on the role of carer for their loved one.

Thankfully, organisations like Operation PTSD Support exist to show partners and family members in these roles that there is a whole crew of people to support and help them navigate the effect post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can have on an individual and/or family unit.

Operation PTSD Support offers partners the chance to take a break from and share experiences with others going through similar situations and learn more about PTSD and mental health first aid.

Likewise, it's an organisation founded by someone with first-hand experience of adapting from the role of wife to carer and learning to find ways to help herself, her husband, and her family.

President and founder of Operation PTSD Support Donna Reggett is the daughter of a Vietnam veteran, the wife of a Somalian veteran, and mother-in-law to a current-serving veteran who has completed four deployments to the Middle East. Suffice to say, she knows first-hand just how unique this life can be.

## **FOUNDED FROM FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE**

"My husband's transition from Defence to civilian life was very difficult. This was in 2003, and



For more information about Operation PTSD Support, visit [opptsd.org.au](https://opptsd.org.au) or search 'Operation PTSD Support' on Facebook.





*“It made me stronger. I can better cope with my husband’s illness and how it impacts me and the family. Life is much better now. It’s friendship and companionship that makes the biggest difference in the world.”*

there was nothing. I’m happy to say things have changed since then,” she shares.

“I had no idea what was coming our way and didn’t know anything about what Veteran Affairs could offer us. It was a very stressful time.”

Donna’s husband was diagnosed with PTSD in 1997, six years before he left Defence in 2003.

“It’s a roller coaster, even now. There will be times when life is going along and feels normal, then you plummet. And you don’t know how long that is going to last for before it comes up again,” she explains.

“I was working as an advocate for a long time, helping veterans put their claims in. I could see what we were experiencing was happening to other families. Back in 2008 and 2009 there wasn’t a lot of support for the partners who were trying to support their loved one through PTSD.”

Donna started Operation PTSD Support in 2013 and it now offers carer’s support through private online forums, reading resources, social events, retreats, and much more as the organisation continues to grow across Australia.

“Our work can help the family stay together. When you live with someone with a mental illness, and you might not understand it, and no one is supporting you, it can

test you. But having support can be the difference between keeping a family together and a partner walking away because it was all too much.”

**A PROBLEM SHARED IS A PROBLEM SOLVED**

Jenny Johnston is the wife and carer of a veteran with PTSD who served in East Timor. When her husband was first diagnosed with the disorder, they didn’t know what PTSD was.

“I knew nothing about it. I thought it might go away, that it might have been just an injury,” she says.

**ABOVE:** Donna Reggett, founder and Director of Operation PTSD Support.

**BELOW:** Jenny Johnston, a long-time participant of Operation PTSD Support.

“Very quickly we saw that it wasn’t ever going to go away, and life changed drastically.”

Jenny and her family found Operation PTSD Support after her husband attempted to take his life and their older daughter decided to complete a mental health first aid course.

“She resonated with a lot of the things Donna was saying and thought it would be something I



**BELOW:** Donna Reggett (left) and Jenny Johnston both care for veterans who have PTSD.

would like, too. So, she introduced Donna and I to each other.”

“The program gives me a sense of worth. I lost my whole personality and didn’t feel like me anymore. My whole life was being a carer. And when you’re in that place, you don’t know where you can get help or that there are other people like you.”

Jenny describes the time before going on the Operation PTSD retreat as the hardest in her life.

“I cried the whole retreat. I was nervous and upset, but in that retreat, I was given one thing. It was a little medal that represented thanks for me caring for a veteran. It meant so much to me and the others getting medals that all represented us going through the same thing.

“I learnt more about PTSD in those two days than I had in the five years prior.

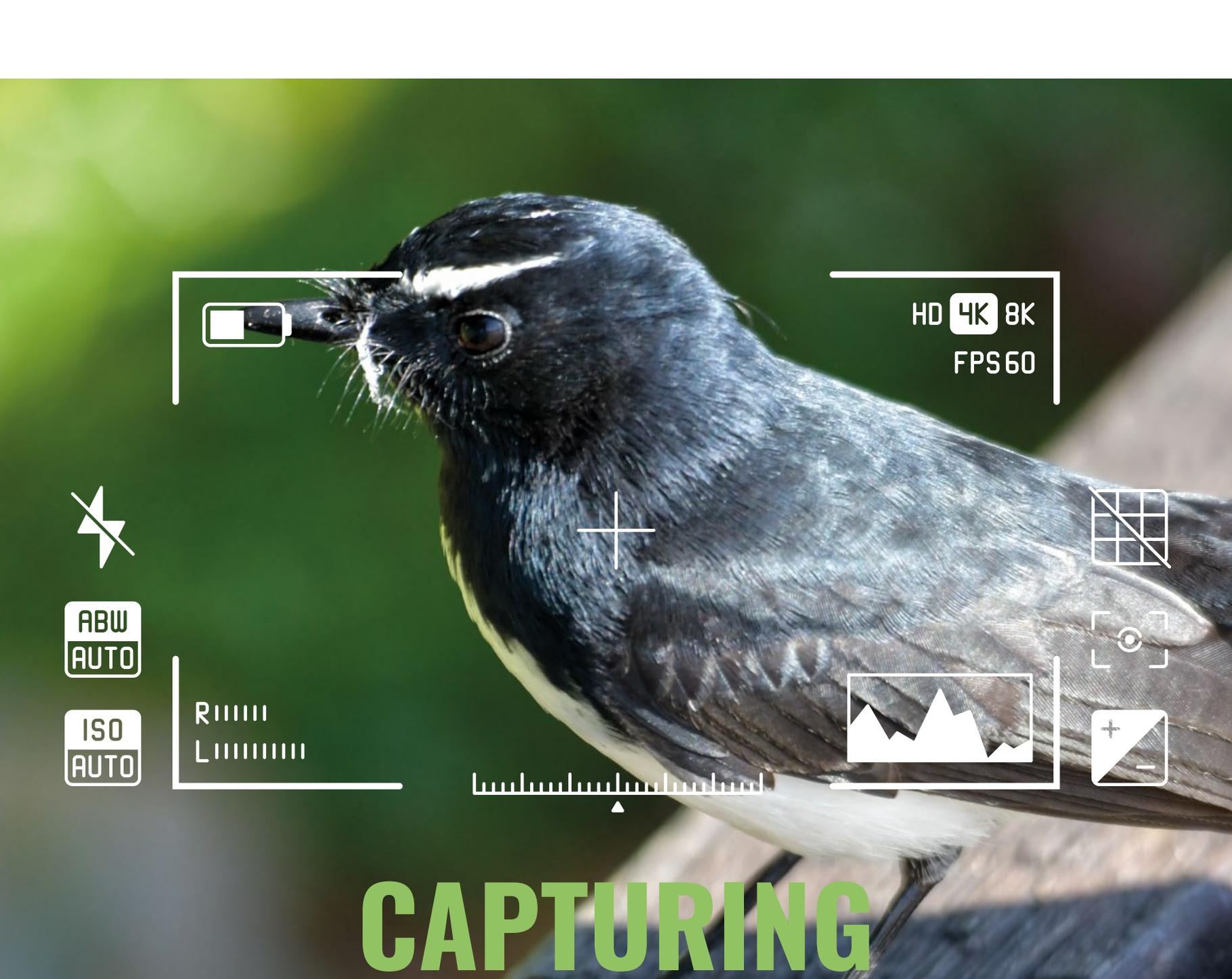
“It made me stronger. I can better cope with my husband’s illness and how it impacts me and the family. Life is much better now. It’s friendship and companionship that makes the biggest difference in the world.”

RSL Queensland supports Operation PTSD Support by funding some of the program’s retreat activities. Donna says this support is paramount.

“The financial support we receive from RSL Queensland helps people attend our retreats who may not otherwise be able to afford it. It lets them experience the opportunity and gain the support they need at the retreat – and after – from the connections they make.” ←

**If you are struggling and need help, please reach out.** If you need urgent assistance after hours, please contact Open Arms on 1800 011 046. Their counsellors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.





# CAPTURING NATURE IN FRAME

## *A Focus On Connecting The Defence Community*

*Ex-serving veteran Courtney Billing has always loved being in the great outdoors and, combined with his hobby of nature photography, a recent RSL Queensland Active Lifestyles event in Cairns was the perfect chance for him to indulge in a one-day photography workshop.*

**RIGHT:**  
Photographer  
and activity  
guide Ian  
Campbell with  
RSL Queensland  
participants.

*“Some people had good gear and some people were shooting on their phones. Everyone was able to get something out of it. We were all there for the same reasons and it was a good way to meet locals who’ve been through similar experiences.”*

**RIGHT:**  
Photography  
workshop  
participants in  
action.



**B**udding nature photographers were recently treated to a day with renowned bird expert Ian Campbell

at the RSL Queensland Active Lifestyles one-day workshop in Cairns.

The workshop provided an opportunity to learn the art of nature photography and connect with fellow members of the Defence community.

One participant was Courtney Billing, who served in both the Army (1997-2001) and Navy (2008-2016).

#### **LEARNING TO BE SNAP HAPPY**

Courtney says he has always enjoyed being out in nature.

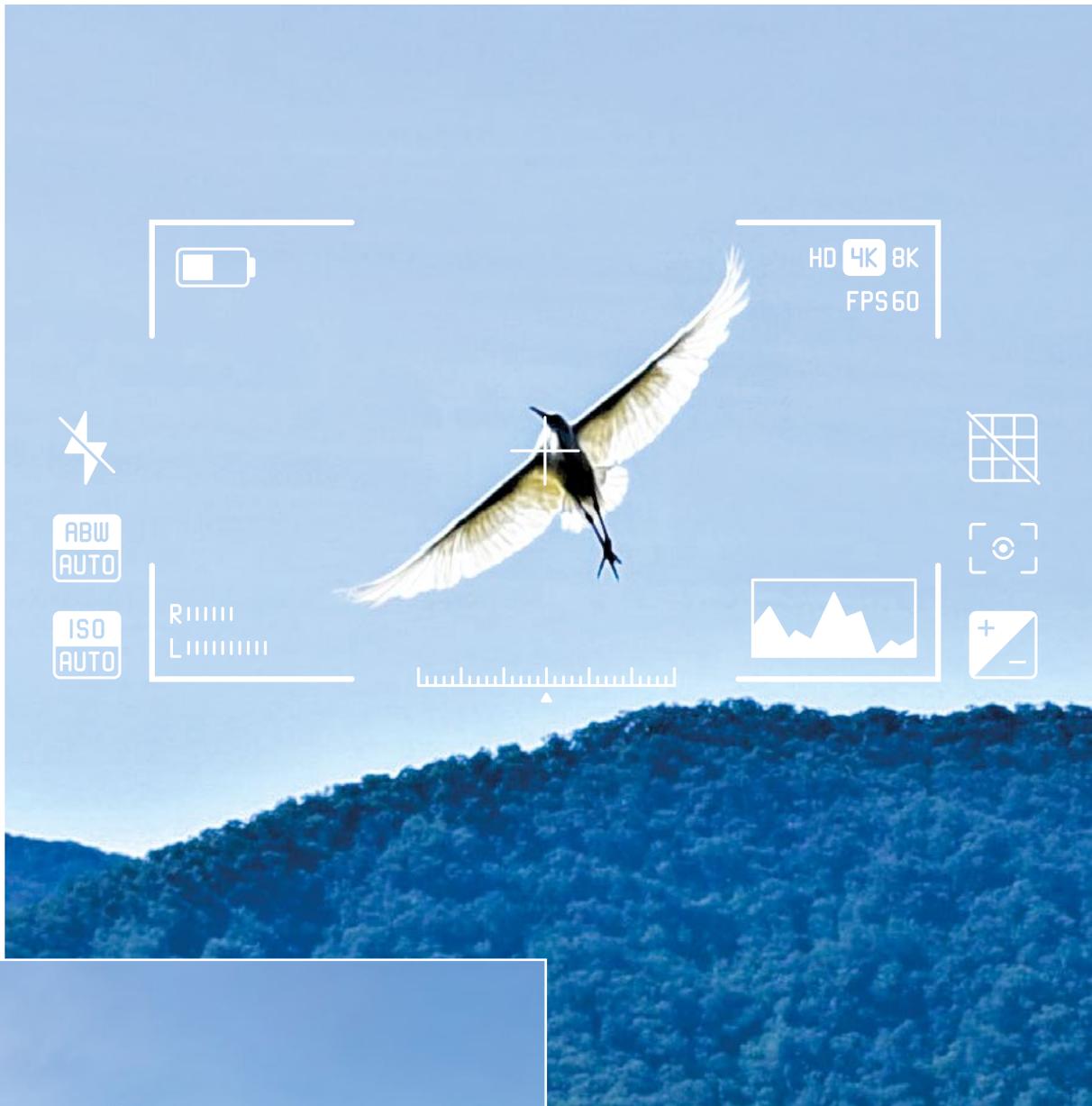
“When I was medically discharged from the Navy, I couldn’t go bushwalking like I once could,” he explains. “So, I took up nature photography as a hobby, which lets me still go out there and enjoy the outdoors.”

The ex-serving veteran is self-taught, having spent time watching YouTube videos to learn skills and tricks for nature photography. He shoots mostly on a Nikon.

“I really enjoyed the event, and the instructor was very professional,” Courtney says.

“Even though I’ve done a fair amount of photography, he taught me a lot of tips and tricks. It was great to just improve my skills.

“Some people had good gear and some people were shooting on their phones. Everyone was able to get something out of it.



The RSL Queensland Active Lifestyles events provide opportunities for you and your family to take part in activities in the great outdoors, while connecting with fellow members of the Defence family.

Discover more at [www.rslqld.org/find-help/active-lifestyles](http://www.rslqld.org/find-help/active-lifestyles)



We were all there for the same reasons and it was a good way to meet locals who've been through similar experiences. We can talk the same language."

It was through a Facebook post that Courtney found out about the event.

"Another of my ex-serving friends sent me the link to the Facebook post and I figured I'd give it a go. I enjoyed the experience and hope to get to others as they are planned."

**MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO GET OUT AND ABOUT**

With the ongoing success of the Active Lifestyles events across the state, there are several more

upcoming opportunities for the Defence community to join, including:

- August – Treetops Challenge, Mt Tamborine
- September – Turtle Discovery, Hervey Bay
- September – Cooking for a Cause, Brisbane
- October – Kayaking and Rock Climbing, Brisbane
- November – Blacksmithing, Ipswich ←

Marian RSL Sub Branch  
Deputy President John  
Edwards volunteers his  
time to help local veterans,  
including mowing their  
lawns in his spare time.

# NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK CELEBRATING THOSE WHO HELP US ACHIEVE MORE

*National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering, providing a chance for all of us to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say thank you.*

**WHILE** we're thankful every day for the role volunteers play in our communities, we shone an extra bright light on their dedication and commitment to making their communities stronger as part of National Volunteer Week (NVW) from 16-22 May.

An annual initiative of Volunteering Queensland, this year's theme 'Better Together' reminds us all that together we can achieve more. Volunteers are the heart and soul of RSL Queensland, and without them we simply could not function. And so, we say thank you to the thousands of people – both RSL Queensland members, non-members and partners – who support veterans and their families in our communities.

The week gave us the perfect reason to highlight volunteer stories and celebrate all that they do. Meet one of our volunteers, Marian Sub Branch President John Edwards.



**WHEN HELPING BECOMES SECOND NATURE**

If there's one thing that guides RSL Queensland's community it's the importance of mateship, and volunteering time to support others is the perfect example of this.

National Volunteer Week shines a light on the many ways volunteering brings people together and builds community. It's an opportunity to recognise the vital work of our volunteers and to say a heartfelt thank you.

RSL Queensland Sub Branches are operated by thousands of volunteers around the state, and without their contributions we wouldn't be able to achieve all that we do.

For Marian Sub Branch President John Edwards, volunteering is simply second nature. John is a

former Army Reservist who joined RSL Queensland in 1995.

"I got involved helping other veterans because I could see they needed help," he shares.

"I thought, 'Well, I'll see what I can do.' And see if I can make a difference to their lives.

"I go and visit our members, take them to appointments, shopping or simply collect their groceries. I'll help around the yard mowing lawns. Sometimes, it might be something as simple as sitting and having a cup of tea with them. Giving them someone to talk to."

John, who also conducts poppy services (part of funeral services for Defence personnel) and represents the Sub Branch at events, has been volunteering in some capacity for almost 25 years.

"Being a volunteer gives me a

great deal of satisfaction. I get my fulfilment from things like when you finish a cup of tea with them, and they put their hand out to shake yours and say, 'Thanks mate for coming around.'"

**BETTER TOGETHER**

Reflecting on the theme of this year's National Volunteer Week, 'Better Together', John says the notion of us being stronger when we're a part of a community is meaningful.

"Our elderly and vulnerable community members are often on their own for a lot of their day. And together we can help make their days better.

"They'll often have some of their medical home visits in the morning, for example, so I try to visit them in the afternoon, so it gives them something positive to have going into the evening. It helps break their day up."

John's volunteering efforts are supported by both his wife and his RSL community.

"I joke that Marie just puts up with me doing it, but in all

**ABOVE:**

105-year-old WWII veteran William Wallace Mervin Bruce (known as Mr Bruce) with Marian RSL Sub Branch Deputy President John Edwards at the Nebo ANZAC Day service. John and Mr Bruce have been friends for more than 15 years, and were reunited when Mr Bruce visited his hometown service.

**RIGHT:**

Marian RSL Sub Branch Deputy President John Edwards speaking with a veteran regarding welfare and what help is available to them from the RSL.

*“Being a volunteer gives me a great deal of satisfaction. I get my fulfilment from things like when you finish a cup of tea with them, and they put their hand out to shake yours and say, ‘Thanks mate for coming around.’”*

seriousness, she can see the ‘why’ behind what I do and understands. Her father served and he was one of the reasons I started volunteering,” John explains.

“Back in the late 90s, we could see that he wasn’t able to get the help he needed and so we stepped in to help him through it. I guess that is what sparked me to keep helping veterans in our community and hopefully I have a few more years left in me to keep doing it!”

**BELOW:**

Marian RSL Sub Branch Deputy President John Edwards.

**WE CAN ALL PLAY A PART**

John can see a respect and reverence growing in younger generations, and this leads them to



give back through volunteering and playing a part in their community.

“I would encourage anyone wanting to find ways to support their community to make themselves known at their local Sub Branch, go to meetings and understand the objects of the RSL.

“Be a part of what I think is a changing generation in our community. There’s a lot we can learn from younger generations, and we need their support too. They’re able to help younger people in ways we might not know how.” ←

Find your local RSL Sub Branch at [rslqld.org.au](http://rslqld.org.au) or learn more about other volunteering options at [volunteeringqld.org.au](http://volunteeringqld.org.au)



A close-up portrait of a man with short dark hair, wearing a camouflage military uniform. He has green and black camouflage paint applied to his face, including his forehead, cheeks, and chin. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is holding a black assault rifle, which is visible in the lower left and bottom center of the frame. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and foliage.

# A POWERFUL URGE TO GIVE BACK

*Fleeing his homeland in search of a secure future for himself and his family, RSL Queensland employee Jonathan Vasquez has embraced Australia as his new home and is actively giving back to the country that has given him so much.*

*Sarah Webb*

**T**he moment Jonathan Vasquez landed on Aussie soil back in 2011, he felt more than just relief for fleeing a homeland torn apart by economic collapse.

He felt a powerful urge to give back.

Born in Venezuela, Jonathan and his wife had watched inflation soar to record heights as opportunities plummeted to new depths, forcing the pair to pool their resources and leave.

Now an Information Security Officer with RSL Queensland, Jonathan says his family's quest for safety, security and sunshine led them straight to Brisbane and soon after, in 2016, to RSL Queensland.

Last year, he joined the Army Reserves and completed five weeks of rigorous training to finally give back to the country he says has given him and his family so much.

"We have a magnificent quality of life here and we have been given the ability and the opportunity to raise our family and set our foundation in this country, and it's been like that since the first day we arrived," Jonathan says.

"And that's why I have always had this powerful urge to give back to Australia – not only for myself but for my wife.

**RIGHT:** Jonathan hiking in his new homeland with his wife Rocio and daughter Nathalia.

**BELOW:** Supported by his family, Jonathan during his Army Reserve enlistment ceremony.



"When we left Venezuela, the Communist Party had been in power for 12 years and the situation in general was worsening every day. There was a mass exodus of professionals fleeing the country for places like the US, Panama, Spain, Chile, Colombia, and Portugal (to name a few).

"Every single professional who had the potential to leave did. So, while my wife and I were working for a good company, with a good position and a good job and salary, we couldn't even afford to buy a house. So, we joined that mass exodus."

Jonathan says Australia presented the best opportunities for migrants who wanted to study and work part time, and Brisbane – above all the cities they researched – offered the best weather and quality of life.

Just a few years after setting foot in the Sunshine State, Jonathan was approached on LinkedIn to apply for a role at RSL Queensland. And in one single career move he realised precisely how to give back to the nation he now calls home.

"I quickly realised that I was working for a company that was about far more than just making money – but taking care of others and particularly those who used the best of their abilities to protect our nation. Somewhere, in my subconscious, I started developing the idea of serving in the Reserves, because I also believed I could use my abilities to serve this country," he says.

"So, in October last year, I joined." Jonathan underwent the "basic military training" required of every Reserves soldier – which meant five gruelling weeks that pushed





*“On top of that, I had to deal with the language barrier and within the booth platoons, I was the only person from South America. In the end, in my platoon, there were just two of us who were non-native English speakers who finished and marched out.”*



his mind and body beyond what he ever thought they were capable of. “It was pretty tough, and it was a very unique experience. But I loved it, and I truly appreciated it. That said, I will never repeat it again,” he laughs.

“You have to pass every test knowing you can’t fail because if you do, you’re sent home. If you want to attempt it again in the future, you have to start the training right from the beginning. “And if you get sick, injured

or miss more than three days of training it’s the same story. This means that with COVID, the situation was even more stressful.”

Then there was the yelling. “You also have to wake up before 6am pretty much every day and you never know what’s going to happen. Some days, we were lucky to finish before 10pm,” Jonathan says.

“On top of that, I had to deal with the language barrier and within the booth platoons, I was the only person from South America. In the end, in my platoon, there were just two of us who were non-native English speakers who finished and marched out.

“It’s incredible how proud I felt in that moment when I draped the Australian flag over my left shoulder and sang that anthem.” ←

**TOP LEFT:** Jonathan and his family exploring the three sisters near Sydney.

**ABOVE:** Jonathan with his mate Alex Yang in their Army uniforms during the marching out day at Kapooka.

**LEFT:** Jonathan and his family at an F.C. Barcelona vs A-League All Start at Accord Stadium in Sydney.



**LEAVING  
DEFENCE?**

**EMPLOYMENT**

*program*

HERE ARE

5

## RESUME AND JOB INTERVIEW TIPS...

*Standing out from the crowd when applying for a job can be hard. It's something RSL Queensland's Employment Program Managers Teegan Crump and Yvette Machulka know all too well. To give ex-serving Defence members and Defence partners the best chance at success as they transition into civilian employment, we asked Teegan and Yvette to share their top tips for writing your resume and nailing job interviews.*

# 01

## QUALITY VS. QUANTITY

The team recommends adjusting your resume to suit the job you're applying for, rather than using the same resume to apply for multiple jobs.

"We always encourage tailoring your resume and application to the specific role they're applying for," Teegan says.

"There's no such thing as an all-encompassing resume that you can use for every job. Hiring managers are looking for keywords, skills and experiences to assess if you are the right fit and suitable to proceed to an interview."

While many veterans are eager to secure civilian employment, taking the time to apply for quality roles that suit your goals and values is a better approach than applying for anything and everything.

"It really is quality over quantity – as hard as it can be when you're in job seeking mode."

# 02

## IT'S WHO YOU KNOW

Teegan says it is all about a hidden job market right now. That is, jobs that aren't advertised or shared online.

"There is a hidden job market outside of the roles we see advertised. There is a lot of value in tapping into your own personal and professional networks. By building on these relationships you can expand your networks and create new opportunities and contacts," she says.

"Consider asking friends or peers who work in industries you want to move into how they got there, what courses they studied, or call recruiters to find out more information about what you might need to be considered for certain jobs. People would never go and work as a GP without having their medical degree, so it is important that as part of this process you research all the elements of your new career path."

# 03

## TRANSLATE AND DEMONSTRATE YOUR DEFENCE SKILLS

Many of the skills you have developed during your Defence career are transferable to a civilian career. Leadership, planning, critical thinking, and communication – some of the core skills of Defence – are all highly sought after in the civilian workforce.

Yvette says they encourage participants of RSL Queensland's Employment Program to spend time, before applying for jobs, to identify the skills they can bring from Defence, what they enjoyed about their current and past jobs, and what their core values are.

"Our team works with the applicant to help them translate their skills from Defence into a civilian capacity," she says.

"Like every industry, Defence has its own unique language that may not be understood by a recruiter or hiring manager who is sorting through the applications.

"Where possible, try to translate your Defence experience to match the language the employer has used in their ad. As the saying goes, 'keep it simple' and use the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result) to expand on your specific experiences."

Ideally, Yvette and Teegan agree, you want your 13-year-old niece or 80-year-old grandparent to be able to read your application and understand what you mean.

"We also encourage our clients to talk about their responsibilities and achievements in measurable ways. For example, highlighting the number of people in the team they managed or led, and how big the operation they led was – whether this be monetary or volume of people.

# 04 05

## KNOW YOUR GOAL

Sometimes knowing what you want to do once you leave Defence can be the hardest thing to unravel. Before writing any applications, Teegan and Yvette suggest spending time considering and writing down what you need from the job you're looking for.

"It's not always going straight into a job that is the best step for an ex-serving veteran," Yvette says.

"Sometimes it might be considering a career change, learning a trade as a mature age apprentice, or going back to do further study. We'll often see people take a sideways step in the short term to get a new skill that offers them greater opportunities in the long term."

Research is key for finding out what you will need to achieve your desired next step – such as specific qualifications, tickets or licences.

"We encourage taking the time to think about what you want and what you really value in your work. For example, flexibility or the opportunity to learn. Even consider the minimum amount of money you need each week to keep the cogs turning at home so that you're applying for roles with the appropriate remuneration."

## PRACTICE MAKES PROGRESS

You've prepared your resume and application, and been called for an interview. Congratulations! It's never too early to start practising for your eventual interview, according to Teegan and Yvette.

"A lot of people go in unprepared and that's where they get stuck," Teegan says.

"If you've been offered an interview, spend time looking back at the job ad and thinking about what questions you're likely to be asked, research the organisation and think about the behavioural questions they'll ask and have examples ready to share. Write down notes and practice in the mirror. It might feel silly, but it will make a big difference when you're sitting in front of the interviewer."

You can also ask a friend or family member to help role play an interview with you in advance to build confidence and get used to talking about your achievements.

"We know for a lot of Defence members talking about themselves can be difficult and not something they're used to doing when it comes to work and their achievements. That's why it's important to practice in advance and get comfortable talking about what you achieved in your role, including the positive outcomes you delivered," Yvette says. "It really is quality over quantity – as hard as it can be when you're in job seeking mode."



**Find the support you need:** The RSL Employment Program provides ex-Defence members and Defence partners with resume assistance, interview coaching, and other practical support to assist in the search for meaningful employment. **To sign up or find out more, visit [rslemployment.com.au](https://rslemployment.com.au)**

# Career Support

## HELPING DEFENCE PARTNERS MOVE FORWARD

*As the partner of someone in Defence, your career might not always be in the front seat. RSL's free Employment Program allows you to get the support you need to find your next career step or new direction.*

**E**stablishing your career as a partner of someone in Defence can often feel like it's in stop-start mode. Yet, the

unique and challenging aspects of the lifestyle – including relocating regularly – can mean you have fostered traits that make an ideal candidate for any employer.

The resilience, strength, and adaptability that partners of Defence members have, combined with their own professional skills, are some of the reasons the RSL Employment Program has been able to help more than 190 Defence partners secure meaningful employment.

The free tailored program helps you on your career journey – whether you're looking to take your career in a new direction, or you need advice on how to apply for a new job.

The RSL Employment Program can help with career counselling, updating resumes and cover letters, interview coaching, writing selection criteria, and making

connections with employers across Australia.

### **SUPPORT TO RE-ESTABLISH YOUR PROFESSIONAL SELF**

For Bethany O'Connor, whose husband recently transitioned out of Defence, it has helped her to re-establish her career after maternity leave and relocating to South Australia.

"Being married to Mark I've always had to pick up and relocate – to try to transfer and adjust my life to him and wherever we've moved. It's not always been easy, but I've been lucky to generally be able to transfer with my work," she explains.

"This time was different because when he transitioned out of Defence I was on maternity leave and didn't have a position to go back to because we had relocated to South Australia."

When Bethany was ready to go back to work, it was suggested she investigate the RSL Employment Program.

"I didn't know I could access the program. It was eye opening

to realise how much support was available through the program as a partner of someone in Defence," she says.

"It was nice to know there was help and support for both Mark and I."

Bethany was able to resume work with her previous employer, NAB, and reach her goal of transferring into an administration role.

"Being a partner of someone in Defence, your career can easily be disturbed. You might just get comfortable and start learning, and then you need to move and start again.

"If you have a career where you want to progress or a great job that you enjoyed, it is hard to keep that momentum because oftentimes you're just starting to establish yourself before you have to start again."

### **SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE TO TAKE A LEAP**

Scrolling through Facebook led Kellie Herbert to discover the services available to her as a partner of a Defence member

**OPPOSITE TOP:** The RSL Employment Program has helped Bethany O'Connor, whose husband recently transitioned out of Defence, re-establish her career after maternity leave and relocating to South Australia.

# EMPLOYMENT *program*



through the program.

"I found everyone I spoke to so helpful and welcoming. They were very empathetic, and I felt like it was no trouble for them to take me through everything. We went through my resume, my LinkedIn, my cover letter, and they helped me zero in on a lot. Things like looking for what I wanted in a job."

Kellie was successful in gaining a role with the NSW Police as a General Administrative Support Officer (ASO).

"They helped me prepare for my interview with practice runs and the whole experience made me feel like it wasn't just me out there in the world trying to find a new job

on my own. I really felt like I had a team."

## **ASKING FOR HELP IS THE FIRST STEP**

"Pick up the phone, you have nothing to lose. I found the whole experience invaluable. Looking for work can be a lonely process and partnering with a program like RSL's Employment Program can give you people to bounce ideas off, get suggestions from and guide you. You just feel like you're walking in there with a team of people behind you," Kellie says.

"I don't think I would have gotten the role that I have now without their help." ←



To learn more about how the RSL Employment Program can support Defence partners in their search for meaningful employment, visit [rslemployment.com.au/defence-partners](https://rslemployment.com.au/defence-partners)

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP SHINES AT KEDRON WAVELL SUB BRANCH

*Kedron Wavell RSL Sub Branch is leading by example when it comes to cultivating community.*

**K**edron Wavell RSL Sub Branch's student liaison program invites students from surrounding local

high schools to volunteer within the Sub Branch, a program that has been running now for almost 15 years.

Students from local high schools in and around the Sub Branch volunteer their time by attending meetings to share what is happening at their school, visiting veterans in the community, working in the Sub Branch office making welfare calls to members and much more.

Kedron Wavell RSL Sub Branch committee member Greg Peake OAM says it started as a way to share more information about how the Sub Branch was supporting the community.

"We were going out to local schools, talking to the principals, but it wasn't resonating. We wanted to find ways to connect our RSL Sub Branch with local school communities. In our area we have five high schools.

"So, we thought, what if we reverse it. We went to the schools and asked them to select two senior students who would like to come to our meetings and share what we were doing in the community.

"They come along and are usually the last to leave because members want to talk to them about what they went through at school 50 or 60 years ago."

## **LEVELLING UP THE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY**

The program expanded in 2014 when the Sub Branch worked with the group and sent the students to Canberra for four days, including ANZAC Day.

"This year we were able to send 10 students, two teachers and two veterans. They go to Parliament House, role play being the Opposition and see the Australian War Memorial," Greg says.

After coming back to Brisbane, students presented to the Sub Branch and their school about their trip.

"We had a principal of one of the schools come to a meeting recently and he was genuinely delighted in seeing exactly what these students are achieving in their roles," Greg said.

"I've been at award ceremonies for our schools and had Year 9 students tell me they are going to be a liaison student when they are in Year 12. The relationship between our RSL Sub Branch and these schools and students is very close. It's a special thing.

"I know two of our former students are at ADFA and another is in the Army at Enoggera."

## **THE FEELING IS MUTUAL**

Dom, a 16-year-old student at Padua College and participant in the program, says it's been an invaluable experience.

"I believe that connection to our local community is very important," Dom says.

"It's important that we, as the next generation, understand what the people who have served have given so that we have the opportunities we do.

"We all get along well with the veterans and spend time getting to know them. They're very generous with their time and I've learnt many skills during the program."

Likewise, Year 11 Mt Alvernia College student Jessie says she was motivated to join the program after seeing family members getting involved with their local RSL Sub Branch.

"I'm also an Australian Air Force Cadet and am passionate about all things service and military aircraft," Jessie shares.

"It's an honour to be involved, represent my school, and learn more about the Defence Force and the veterans in our community.

"I think it teaches us all to have greater respect for each other and for the sacrifice that was made for our freedom. Going to Canberra with the Sub Branch was one of the best experiences. I was inspired, moved, and taught so much about our history." ←



## BE A PART OF THE STUDENT LIAISON PROGRAM

Anyone interested in the Kedron Wavell RSL Sub Branch Student Liaison Program please contact Greg Peake OAM on 07 3359 0460, 0407 743 241 or [gpeake8@bigpond.com](mailto:gpeake8@bigpond.com)



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Kedron Wavell RSL Sub Branch committee member Greg Peake OAM with students; Kedron Wavell RSL Sub Branch meeting, where students presented; Year 11 Mt Alvernia College student Jessie says she was motivated to join the program after seeing family members getting involved with their local RSL Sub Branch; Kedron Wavell RSL Sub Branch committee member Greg Peake OAM, left, and RSL Queensland State President Stephen Day DSC AM, centre, with Sub Branch committee members and students; Dom, a 16-year-old student at Padua College and participant in the program, says it's been an invaluable experience; Kedron Wavell RSL Sub Branch committee member Greg Peake OAM; Students chatting during the meeting.



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# MATES 4 MATES

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE  
FOR OUR DEFENCE COMMUNITY



## Supporting recovery through social connection.

EXPLORING A SNIPPET OF OUR SOCIAL CONNECTION  
ACTIVITIES ACROSS AUSTRALIA AND ONLINE.

+ **MOVING FORWARD WITH SPORT.**  
ADAPTIVE SPORT BRINGS PEOPLE FROM  
ALL WALKS OF LIFE TOGETHER.

## Arts Therapy for children.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILDREN OF VETERANS  
TO CONNECT AND EXPRESS THEMSELVES.

+ **HAVING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS  
AROUND SUICIDE.**

KNOWING HOW TO START THESE  
CONVERSATIONS CAN GO A LONG WAY IN  
OFFERING SUPPORT.

# A message from Emma.

**It is hard to believe that it is already September. We have said farewell to winter and are starting to welcome the warmer months again.**



An important aspect of the work we all do is to actively change the lives of veterans and their families impacted by service. Our liaison officers experience this daily through the engagement of our social connection activities which offer the opportunity for mateship and meaningful connections between other veterans and their families. We explore a variety of social connection activities facilitated by our liaison officers on the next page.

Part of the recovery journey for veterans is supporting their families. Throughout this year, we have facilitated an Arts Therapy Program externally in local schools across Brisbane that have a higher percentage of students whose parents are either current or ex-serving Defence Force members. Arts Therapy provides a wonderful avenue for

young children and teenagers to connect in a safe and fun setting. Read more about the program on page 4.

As we continue to move forward with building our Northern Territory Veteran and Family Hub in Darwin, our Palmerston centre continues to play a vital role to the current and ex-serving community. This includes teaching local Defence Force members the ins and outs of wheelchair rugby. It is adaptive sports such as this that remind us of the need for inclusivity for all veterans with the team sharing their highlights on page 6.

Coming up next month in October we have Veterans' Health Week which is a fantastic opportunity for the team and the wider Defence community to promote the importance of a healthy lifestyle for veterans. I look forward to seeing the range of activities our centres across the country and online will offer Mates and their families.

As we settle into the final months of the year, we hope you can take the time to read our latest Mates4Mates magazine and enjoy the stories that highlight the remarkable year we have already experienced.

*Emma*

**General Manager of Mates4Mates**



## Veterans' Health Week 2022.

Veterans' Health Week is an annual health promotion initiative centred around supporting the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families.

**To support this, Mates4Mates are excited to be offering a range of virtual and in-person events**

**across Australia throughout the entire month of October.**

There will be something for everyone to enjoy and all events will be free for current and ex-serving Defence members and their families registered with Mates4Mates.

For more information, reach out to your local Mates4Mates centre.

**Make the call that makes the difference.**

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

[mates4mates.org](https://mates4mates.org)

1300 4 MATES

**Keep up to date, follow us:**



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

# Supporting recovery through social connection.

At Mates4Mates, our liaison officers create regular opportunities for mateship and peer-support through social, recreational, and family activities.

With a wide variety of social connection activities available for veterans and their family members across all our locations, including online, let's explore a snippet of what's on offer. Contact **1300 4 MATES** or visit **mates4mates.org** to connect with your local Mates4Mates centre.

## Classics by Candlelight in Brisbane

An evening of music and food by candlelight, Mates and family members are invited on the last Friday of every month to sit down and be immersed in a relaxing yet performative atmosphere. The music changes every month and can include many different genres such as Broadway musical, cinema, jazz, blues, and classical.

## Kayaking in Cairns

Paddle or drift down the peaceful Babinda Creek in a kayak or on a paddle board, soaking up all the surrounding nature. With plenty of spots along the way to stop for a snorkel or have a picnic, everyone finishes at the Rotary Park where they're greeted with an ice-cream.

## Ballroom and Latin Dancing in Townsville

This 6-week dance class program is a great introduction to dances such as the waltz, rumba and jive and is a real favourite. While learning a new skill, some new moves and engaging with a local club, everyone has the opportunity to enjoy themselves and have a laugh.

## Mini Mates Family Days in South East Queensland

Once a month in different locations, our team host a family day, filled with fun games and a BBQ to help facilitate connections among military families. The Defence Force impacts family units, and Mini Mates is all about connecting with like-minded families, which is important for adults and children.

## Cooking Classes in Palmerston

Veterans and family members will work together to create a signature dish. Breaking into pairs, everyone will be given a task, such as cutting up ingredients to frying the chosen protein to help bring the dish together. While everyone has something to bring to the class, they'll leave learning something new.



## Imagine This! Online

Each week, online Mates and family members are given a new theme which they can respond to through an expressive medium of their choice. This could be poetry, drawing, storytelling, nail art, painting, make up, cooking, interpretive dance – whatever they like! Each person then has the opportunity to share their submission with the group in a safe environment.

## Toastie Tuesdays in Hobart

A popular activity among the locals, Hobart Mates and families can experience the joy of a delicious toastie, a brew and a catch up each Tuesday morning. Some have even shared that they plan their weeks around coming in and enjoying a "gourmet" toastie with the team.



## Gorge Walk and Brunch in Launceston

Meet at the beautiful Cataract Gorge each month and enjoy a leisurely walk through the numerous trails and tracks. After enjoying the fauna (peacocks, wallabies and other bird life) it's time for brunch, some coffee and company at a local café.



# Bringing Arts Therapy to Brisbane Defence schools.

**As service-related physical injuries or mental health issues can affect the entire family, Arts Therapy may be particularly helpful for children or adolescents who might find it difficult to talk about or understand their feelings due to developmental, cognitive or other barriers.**

**A**rts Therapy is not about being an artist or needing to be creative. It's a process of using verbal and non-verbal cues to build a greater sense of awareness about our emotions, relationships and responses to situations.

In conjunction with Papernook Arts Therapy and Wellness, the Mates4Mates School Arts Therapy Program has been providing meaningful and creative group-based sessions for children aged 6 to 15-years-old of current and ex-serving Defence Force members located within South East Queensland.

As an evidence-based form of therapy, Arts Therapy provides a wonderful avenue for children to connect in a safe and fun setting, using different artistic techniques to express themselves with the support of a trained professional.

Offered each term, the program is delivered directly in local schools with a large Defence community to ensure accessibility for children. Particularly if one parent is away working or has health challenges and the other parent is busy with lots on their plate, getting their child to a therapeutic program after school every week is just too difficult.

Arts Therapy is a soft approach that introduces and positively reinforces the idea of receiving health services and is a great option for any person who has not found talking therapies to work effectively for them in the past.

For children of veterans, Arts Therapy is a whole new opportunity to connect



**"The Arts Therapy Program provided a relaxed and interactive environment that enabled the students to take time to reflect on who they are and feel safe in discussing their feelings. It was wonderful to see how much the students grew in confidence over the course of our 6-week program."**

**— Brianna, Defence School Mentor**

and express how they feel on any given day. It enables children of Defence families to engage with other children who have similar experiences and lifestyles and to connect meaningfully with each other through creative therapy.

To find out more about our Arts Therapy programs, contact **1300 4 MATES** or visit **mates4mates.org**.

**Women's Health Week**  
5 – 11 September 2022



# Women: It's all about you.

During September, Women's Health Week encourages and empowers women and girls to make their health a priority.

**M**ates4Mates is encouraging women – veterans, family members and the wider community – to take some time to focus on their health and wellbeing. Here are some ways that may improve the physical, mental and social health of women in our lives.

- 1. Put your health first.** Regular check-ups with your doctor are important to help be proactive about maintaining good health and may reduce your risk of getting sick.
- 2. Remember to take 'me' time.** Taking time for yourself, doing something you enjoy, and being mindful while doing so can help reduce stress and improve your mood.
- 3. Movement is medicine.** It's never too late to become more physically active. Beginning or resuming exercise at any age will benefit both your physical and mental health.
- 4. Connect with your community.** Whether it's a coffee with a friend or joining a book club, social connections and investing in your interpersonal relationships is one of the most significant influences on health and wellbeing.
- 5. Reach out for support.** If you are aware that you are not functioning as you normally do, or you're experiencing relationship issues or feelings of being alone, this is the time to seek professional help.

**If you need further support, please call 1300 4 MATES to book an appointment with our psychologists, exercise physiologists, counsellors, or social workers.**



## Running to support Mates.

**Mates4Mates were back at the Brisbane Gateway Bridge start line for the iconic charity fun-run, Bridge to Brisbane held on 28 August.**

**W**ith over 400 Mates4Mates supporters running and walking the 4.5km and 10km distances, the day was buzzing with excitement. Along with our incredible supporters, a group of our Mates4Mates veterans and family members put their training into action as they completed the course.

"It was great to have Mates and family members involved again this year in Bridge to Brisbane. For some, this event

was a 'nice to do' while for others it was a challenge due to the issues they may be facing after their service," shares Laura, South East Queensland Regional Manager.

"Our social connection activities are designed to bring like-minded people together and this fun-run has done just that, with everyone supporting each other along the way. We are already looking forward to next year."

Congratulations to all those who laced up their shoes and crossed the line – what an achievement!

We were also proud to be a charity partner of this year's Bridge to Brisbane, with vital funds raised in support of our veterans and their families impacted by service. Thank you to everyone who supported Mates4Mates, your generosity will ensure we can continue supporting current and ex-serving Defence Force personnel to find a way forward from service-related injuries.

# Moving forward with sport.

**Adaptive sports, which are recreational or competitive sports that accommodate people with disabilities, can play an important part in the recovery process for veterans, both physically and mentally.**

**A**daptive sport can have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of those within the veteran community, whether they're undergoing rehabilitation or maintaining their recovery progress, allowing them to utilise skills they may have picked up while serving, such as teamwork, leadership and communication.

The psychological benefits of sport and physical activity include a reduction in anxiety, increased positive mood and enhanced self-confidence. Sport can also be used to help manage and alleviate chronic pain that veterans often experience. Socially, sport offers a sense of belonging and mateship, while also increasing independence and quality of life.

Mates4Mates offers adaptive sports, such as wheelchair rugby league, basketball and handball, as one way to provide an outlet for something fun and enjoyable for mental and physical health benefits, no matter a veteran's physical injuries. Wheelchair rugby league is a popular sport with Mates4Mates veterans and family members, with regular

games run in North Queensland and a program run recently in the Northern Territory.

"Wheelchair rugby league brings people from all walks of life together as it's an activity that a community of like-minded people can enjoy, whether they're injured or not," explains Hannes, Liaison Officer.

A fast-paced sport, wheelchair rugby league requires players to manoeuvre their wheelchair whilst also controlling the ball. For veterans, it can be a great way to return to a team environment while not aggravating any lower limb or lower back injuries.

"Being exposed to a new sport in which knowledge of the game or physical ability cannot stop you from



**"Wheelchair rugby league brings people from all walks of life together."**

**— Hannes, Liaison Officer**

finding the joy in life is one of the reasons that veterans enjoy joining in on wheelchair rugby league," shares Chris, Liaison Officer.

If you have been thinking about taking part in an adaptive sport like wheelchair rugby league, or any other sport, why not give it a go. Mates4Mates exercise physiologists are available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have before you start. You can call **1300 4 MATES** to book an appointment.

# Having difficult conversations around suicide.



✍️ Written by Tamsin Wallace, Mates4Mates Psychologist

**While the topic of suicide can be distressing to talk about, especially for veterans and their family members impacted by service, knowing how to start difficult conversations can go a long way in supporting a person who may be mentally or emotionally unwell.**

Suicide has been a taboo topic for a long time. An old school of thought is that talking about suicide can give depressed individuals ideas of self-harm, but this is untrue. Others might feel they won't know what to do if the person says they do have suicidal feelings or thoughts, so they avoid broaching the topic.

Within the veteran community, research<sup>1</sup> suggests that the age-adjusted rate of suicide is 21% higher in ex-serving males, and 127% higher in ex-serving females, compared to their Australian general population counterparts. The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide is currently investigating the culture and systemic issues faced by Australian Defence Force members and veterans that too often result in loss of life to suicide.

When starting a conversation with someone who you think may be suicidal, it's important to ask the person directly if they are feeling suicidal or have been thinking about suicide. Discussing suicide openly by stating what you've noticed and asking how the person is feeling can give the person the opportunity to take the first steps towards getting the help they need. You don't need to fix the problem, but rather just listen and engage empathically and without judgement.

Conversation starters could simply be: 'I've noticed you haven't been yourself lately, is everything okay?' You can be specific about the changes you've noticed. If you think something is wrong but they insist they're okay, then trust your instincts.

If necessary, ask them directly whether someone in their support network knows about your concerns and the changes you've noticed. You may have to encourage them to talk to someone, either a family member or a health professional, about what they are experiencing.

## What to do if you have observed suicidal behaviours or signs that worry you:

1. Pick a time and place for an in-depth conversation where you can give your full attention to the other person.
2. Engage your full attention while talking to them. Avoid minimising or dismissing their thoughts and feelings and provide reassurance that you are there for them. Show respect and be as understanding as possible about their situation.
3. Ask directly about suicide and talk about the changes in them that you have noticed. If the person reveals they are thinking of suicide and have a plan it is critical you seek professional help as soon as possible. It is okay to call 000 in these moments.
4. Remember you don't have to take it on alone. Tell them you take this seriously and you can't keep this information to yourself. You don't need to deal with this situation alone, so encourage the person to get professional help and support them to do so.

**If you or someone you know is in crisis and need immediate support, contact 000 or attend your nearest hospital. For 24-hour support, phone Open Arms: 1800 011 046 or Lifeline: 13 11 14.**

<sup>1</sup>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2020). National suicide monitoring of serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel: 2020 update.

# MATES4MATES

Here for those impacted by service.

MATES

ured  
Mates.



## Join Mates4Mates

Find a way forward from service-related injuries.

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

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



[Join Mates4Mates](#)

Register today



# TOGETHERNESS IS WELL HONED AT TIMOR AWAKENING

*Gary Stone,  
Michael Stone,  
and the team at  
Veterans Care are  
on a mission to  
bring ex-serving  
veterans together  
through their  
Timor Awakening  
programs.*

**T**he Timor Awakening program is based on an immersive experience in Timor Leste, meaning travel restrictions over the past two years impacted their ability to host the program in its usual overseas location. Excitedly, 2022 has seen Timor Awakening return to Timor Leste, with two programs already undertaken and preparations underway for the third and largest program in August.

"We're about to return to Timor, which is exciting," Gary says.

"We're seeing an increase in interest and it's going to be wonderful to go back to Timor to catch up with our Timorese friends face-to-face. We have adopted a motto of HAMUTUK, which in Tetun means togetherness."

#### **A ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCE**

Timor Awakening focuses on supporting veterans to build healthier lives as well as teaching them how to help other veterans. So far, the program has helped

more than 550 Australian veterans and their partners.

The 11-day veteran-led peer support program was developed in 2016 as a response to the increasing suicide crisis and diminishing mental and physical health among veterans, and when travel restrictions impacted their ability to take the program to Timor, Veterans Care adjusted and provided a Queensland-based offering to keep the momentum going and ensure veterans could still access the holistic health support.

"What we're trying to do is one of the most fundamental things," Gary explains. "Our highest priority is to prevent veterans taking their own lives."

"We can give them hope for the future. Both myself and Michael, our program director, and all of our team have experienced serious health problems. We are proof you can find ways to overcome them and still learn everyday how to better manage your wellbeing."

The immersive program aims to create a positive disruption in the participant's routine and give them the time and space to take pause, learn about themselves, and

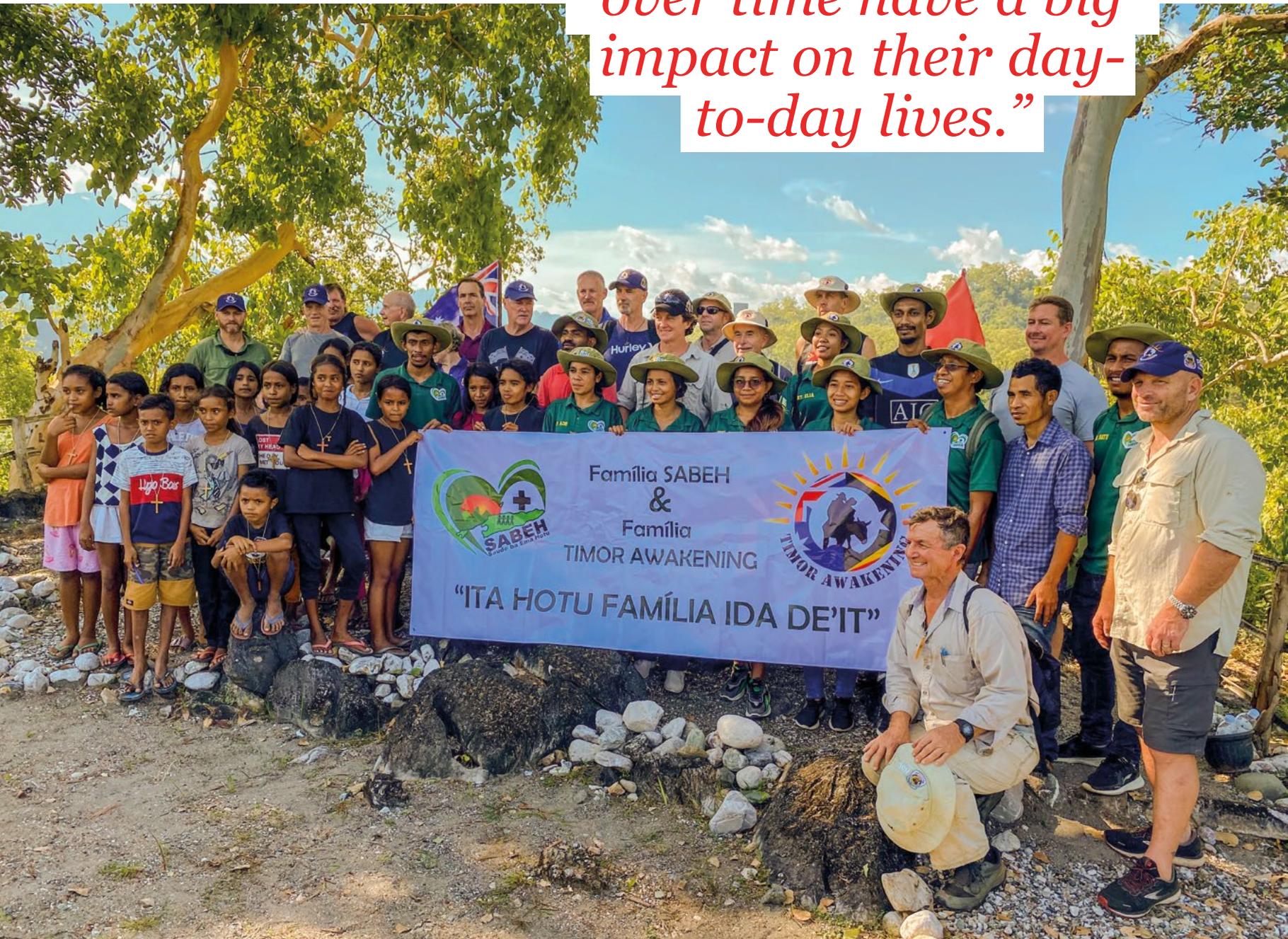
**BELOW:**  
The Timor Awakening crew with their sponsored veterans school in Timor.

discover a positive way forward with the help of veteran peer mentors.

While they give participants a template, Gary says it's up to the veteran to think about how they will do it.

"We are asking them to take responsibility for the life they want. We want them to think about how they'll nurture their body, mind, soul and relationships, and develop a positive life purpose. Making a few healthier choices every day has a cumulative effect."

*"We facilitate an experience where they can learn the lessons and see that they know it. That they can be in control to make positive choices that over time have a big impact on their day-to-day lives."*





**LEFT:**  
Members of  
Hamutuk are  
welcomed in  
Timor this year.

### GUIDED BY FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE

All of Gary's team members are veterans who can share their own lived experiences.

"They leave feeling empowered and a part of something bigger. Much like being part of a community with an RSL Sub Branch or similar.

"Each day we'll start with an inspiration and conversation, then we will go and do an activity like yoga, volleyball, or surfing. During the most recent program we went to an ice bath, and everyone was asked to stay in for five minutes.

"You think it is impossible, but the guide was teaching us mindfulness through the activity. He showed that if you can focus on breathing and stop thinking about how cold it is you can get through it."

It's an activity that Gary believes reinforces the practical reflection and practices they're trying to impart on their veteran participants.

"We facilitate an experience where they can learn the lessons and see that they know it. That they can be in control to make positive choices that over time have a big impact on their day-to-day lives."

Likewise, a key focus of the Timor Awakening program is to give back to other communities.

One of the activities during the Timor program is to take participants to the Veterans Education Training Scheme (VETS) that Gary and his team have been developing for four years.

"On each visit to Timor Leste, our veterans have been involved in practical aspects of building the

facilities that help the Timorese veterans, including residential buildings, lecture facilities and more," Gary says.

"In some cases, they may work on technical aspects, but also assist with, for example, building fences for the agriculture faculty. And we see our Timorese neighbours learn from veterans while they're there, and then carry on the work in between our visits.

"We want to ensure our veteran community can find new hope, and we couldn't run this invaluable service to the community – which is genuinely saving lives – without the support of RSL Queensland.

"This is a program that doesn't just run while the veteran is with us. We're working with them in the three to four months prior and after to see how they're going and keep up to date with their journey." ←

*"Each day we'll start with an inspiration and conversation, then we will go and do an activity like yoga, volleyball, or surfing. During the most recent program we went to an ice bath, and everyone was asked to stay in for five minutes."*



RSL Queensland supports Veterans Care to deliver the Timor Awakening program. For additional information, visit [timorawakening.com](http://timorawakening.com)

A TIMELY REMINDER  
FOR MEN

HEALTH  
MATTERS

Watch Steve's and the Deception Bay RSL Sub Branch's  
videos at [youtube.com/watch?v=fwEEOZ9Fp20](https://youtube.com/watch?v=fwEEOZ9Fp20)  
and [youtube.com/watch?v=7-pwq8fO9KY](https://youtube.com/watch?v=7-pwq8fO9KY)



*Our health and wellbeing matter all year round, but from 13-19 June the spotlight focused on men's health. This week is about breaking down the barriers that prevent men from seeking the information and support they need to live healthy, fulfilled lives.*

**MEN'S** Health Week is something Deception Bay RSL Sub Branch has embraced, filming videos of members sharing their experiences with taking care of their own wellbeing and prioritising their health.

President Steve Hilton said his own experience with health is ongoing.

"Not every day is perfect. I don't like to sit at home, so I make sure I get outside at least once a day, walk our dog and just get some fresh air," he says.

The 56-year-old – who had a 30-year career in Defence – relocated to Brisbane from Canberra in 2019, and now works remotely from home.

"I find going for a walk particularly helpful if I'm not in a good headspace. There's bush turkeys and other things to focus on. It might only shift your focus for five or 10 minutes, but it helps. It reminds me that there are always things happening outside of the four walls of my home.

"There's a lot of blokes out there – and perhaps it is to do with how it was done in the old days – where it just wasn't the done thing to talk about how you were feeling or

any struggles you were having," he explains.

"We have 95 members in our Sub Branch, and as the President I try to organise as many social interactions as I can with our members.

"It's hard. A lot of our younger veterans work full-time and we're always trying to find ways for members to be involved and engaged that suits their lifestyle – whether they are retired or working full-time."

#### **CHANGE IN THE AIR**

Steve says both the mental and physical aspects of health and wellbeing are being spoken of more regularly and it's a good thing.

"You can only try and educate. There's a wealth of organisations willing to help, and get information out there," he says.

"Being able to ring our members, for example, and have a chat is so important, to see if they need support or a lift to an appointment. It doesn't have to be a big gesture. The little things help the most sometimes."

#### **THREE TIPS TO START**

In the videos Steve and his Sub Branch filmed for Men's Health Week, he shared his top tips for caring for your mental health that are easy to weave into your day:

- Seek counselling via services like Open Arms ([www.openarms.gov.au](http://www.openarms.gov.au)) or other support groups.
- Make movement a priority. Whether going to the gym, riding an electric scooter (as Steve does!), walking the dog or other exercise – it's key for maintaining wellbeing.
- Get outside. As tempting as it



can be to stay inside, getting outside for fresh air can be a welcome change. "It doesn't have to be much. Watch a car drive past from your driveway or sit in the park and watch the birds. You need to get out of the house. Sitting at home is not healthy," Steve says.

- He also encourages veterans to seek out the company of others. "You are never alone out there. There's always someone to talk to, someone to walk with. You just need to reach out."

#### **SHOULDER TO SHOULDER**

There is a myriad of services, programs and support available to help you stay healthy and keep moving:

- Get help at [www.rslqld.org/find-help](http://www.rslqld.org/find-help)
- Find ways to get involved with you local Sub Branch at [www.rslqld.org/get-involved](http://www.rslqld.org/get-involved)
- Check out events happening near you at [www.rslqld.org/whats-on](http://www.rslqld.org/whats-on) ←

**ABOVE:**  
Deception Bay RSL Sub Branch members socialising at Maleny.



To find out more about Men's Health Week visit [healthymale.org.au](http://healthymale.org.au)



# MATTERS OF THE MIND DRIVE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

*An RSL Queensland Veteran  
Dependent Scholarship  
is supporting Griffith  
University student Seraphina  
Smith in her aspirations to  
work in international law.*



**T**

he opportunity to study is more than textbooks, lectures, or hands-on apprenticeships.

The opportunity to study symbolises the opening of a door to greater opportunities, increased employability, and a greater sense of purpose and financial security.

For Seraphina Smith, who was awarded an RSL Queensland Veteran Dependent Scholarship, it's an opportunity to dive deeper into her desire to understand how our brains work.

Seraphina is studying law with honours and psychology at Griffith University and was able to apply for the scholarship thanks to her stepfather Mark McKean, a retired Army major who served in Malaysia, United Kingdom, and Somalia.

"I have always been interested in why we do what we do and how our brains work. As for law, it can turn on very fine details and that can be the difference between the law being on your side or not," she explains.

"So, I decided I may as well study both at university and look into why I am who I am, and why you are who you are."

### **STUDY DEEPENS THE DISCOVERY**

Since starting her study, Seraphina has come to see that both disciplines have a complimentary crossover.

"It's become obvious that psychology and law complement each other as they're both dealing with people, and it is about



communication. A lot of the time, people who are dealing with legal problems are also dealing with mental health issues. So, they go hand in hand."

After graduating, Seraphina says she hopes to work in international law, perhaps with the United Nations or Australian Government.

"That's quite aspirational but it's something I'd love to work towards. I'm also interested in litigation, workplace law and immigration."

### **MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT**

Having the support of the RSL Scholarship has been, according to Seraphina, "absolutely instrumental" in her studies.

"At the very least, knowing that no matter what happens you have support there, is motivating," she says.

"But then throughout my studies it has also meant I have the ability to take time off work when I have exams and still be able to, for example, afford to purchase textbooks.

"It's been a massive, massive help. And it has played a huge part in being able to really focus on my studies. I've been able to take

time off work and volunteer with the local community legal centres, working hands-on providing legal services to impoverished people."

She advocates anyone – partner, veteran or dependent – to consider applying for this year's scholarships.

"You never know if you might be successful. You're not going to

lose by giving it a shot. If you don't apply you don't get it.

"Higher education is a brilliant investment. It opens doors that you may not have known existed until you start. There's a lot of resources at university, and they provide opportunities for you to find jobs that you didn't know were out there." ←

**ABOVE:** An RSL Queensland Veteran Dependent Scholarship is supporting Griffith University student Seraphina Smith in her aspirations to work in international law.



**IS IT YOUR TURN?** Is it your turn to take that step to put your career on a new path or upskill? Scholarship applications open on 18 August each year and provide funding from January the following year.

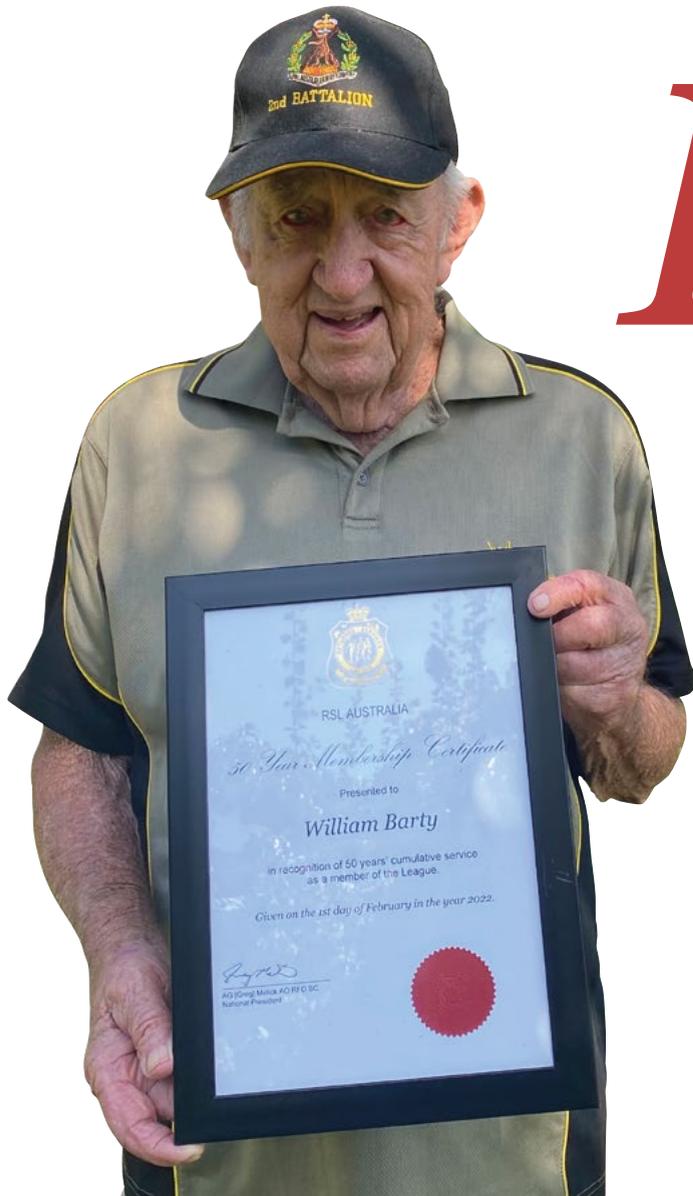
Veteran Dependent applications close on 31 October. Ex-Defence and Partner applications remain open until all available scholarships for the relevant year are awarded or until 30 April.

Learn more about the three types of RSL Queensland Scholarships at [rslqld.org/find-help/scholarships](https://rslqld.org/find-help/scholarships)

# 'Good Bloke'

## BILL BARTY HONoured FOR 50 YEARS' MEMBERSHIP

*Bowen RSL Sub Branch has presented member William 'Bill' Barty a 50-year Membership Certificate honouring the veteran's cumulative service as a member of RSL Queensland.*



**B**ill joined RSL Queensland around 15 years after returning from serving in Korea. "Being a member of RSL Queensland means mateship to me," he says. "I don't go down to the RSL very often now, but it has always been a place to catch up and see familiar faces."

After serving in the National Service, Bill enlisted with the Army in 1952 and served for six years, including going to Korea on the boat New Australia in 1953.

"When I came home from Korea, I went back to Canungra to help set up the jungle training camp there," the 89-year-old explains. "And that's where I met my now wife Carol."

After marrying, Bill and Carol relocated to his hometown, Bowen, where they still live today.

"After moving to Bowen, I worked in a nursing home for returned servicemen for nearly 30 years. We would go into town to buy them supplies, be a friendly face to talk to, or help them shave. It was a very different role to carers today," he says.

"I think back to some of the stories they used to tell. I should have written them all down!"

Bill's connection to Defence goes back to his father, who served in Gallipoli and returned home to Australia.

And it's a legacy that continues through to Bill's grandchildren, who often march alongside him carrying 'Grandad Robert Barty's' photo and medals.

Bill's daughter-in-law Fiona says he continued being of service in his community long after he served in Defence.

*“It’s a legacy that continues through to Bill’s grandchildren, who often march alongside him carrying ‘Grandad Robert Barty’s’ photo and medals.”*



“He drops newspapers to older neighbours and does a lot of little things to help others,” Fiona says.

“He’s been awarded Citizen of the Year and Senior Citizen of the Year in Bowen for his community service.”

“Bill is held in very high regard in our town. Not only because he is a good bloke, but because he’s played a big part in our RSL community and he has a lot of respect.” ←

# RSL QUEENSLAND TO INTRODUCE NEW BOARD STRUCTURE

**AT** the 2022 State Congress held on 25 June, members voted for a change of structure to the RSL Queensland Board of Directors, marking a major milestone in our commitment to introducing a skills-based Board. The change was overwhelmingly endorsed, with 86 per cent of delegates voting in favour.

This change will equip the Board with the essential skills and experience required to lead and direct the organisation moving forward.

RSL Queensland State President Stephen Day welcomed the decision, by stating "These changes have been designed and proposed to help ensure that our Board is equipped with the best people and capability to appropriately govern our organisation and represent the needs of our members and the veteran community."

All not-for-profit organisations like RSL Queensland are regulated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) to ensure they are upholding governance standards.

Good governance is more than just complying with standards, it also needs to support transparent, sound decision-making and ensure each elected representative role has a clear position description and priorities, free from conflicts.

Directors elected to the Board must be service members with an understanding of what it means to be part of the veteran and RSL Queensland community. As such, the Board structure adopted includes:

- Three executives: State President, Deputy President, and Vice President (unchanged)
- Four skills-based Directors: veterans elected by the membership
- District President representative from the State Council of District Presidents.

As a large and complex organisation, this change to the Board's structure will greatly benefit RSL Queensland.

Having Directors who possess a combination of professional skills and an understanding of veteran needs and aspirations will create a Board that not only meets our

regulator's standards, but also continues to represent the voice of our members.

The new structure will allow District Presidents to continue to excel at serving their Districts, while creating new opportunities for suitably qualified veterans from the RSL Queensland membership to add their skills and experience to the governance of our organisation.

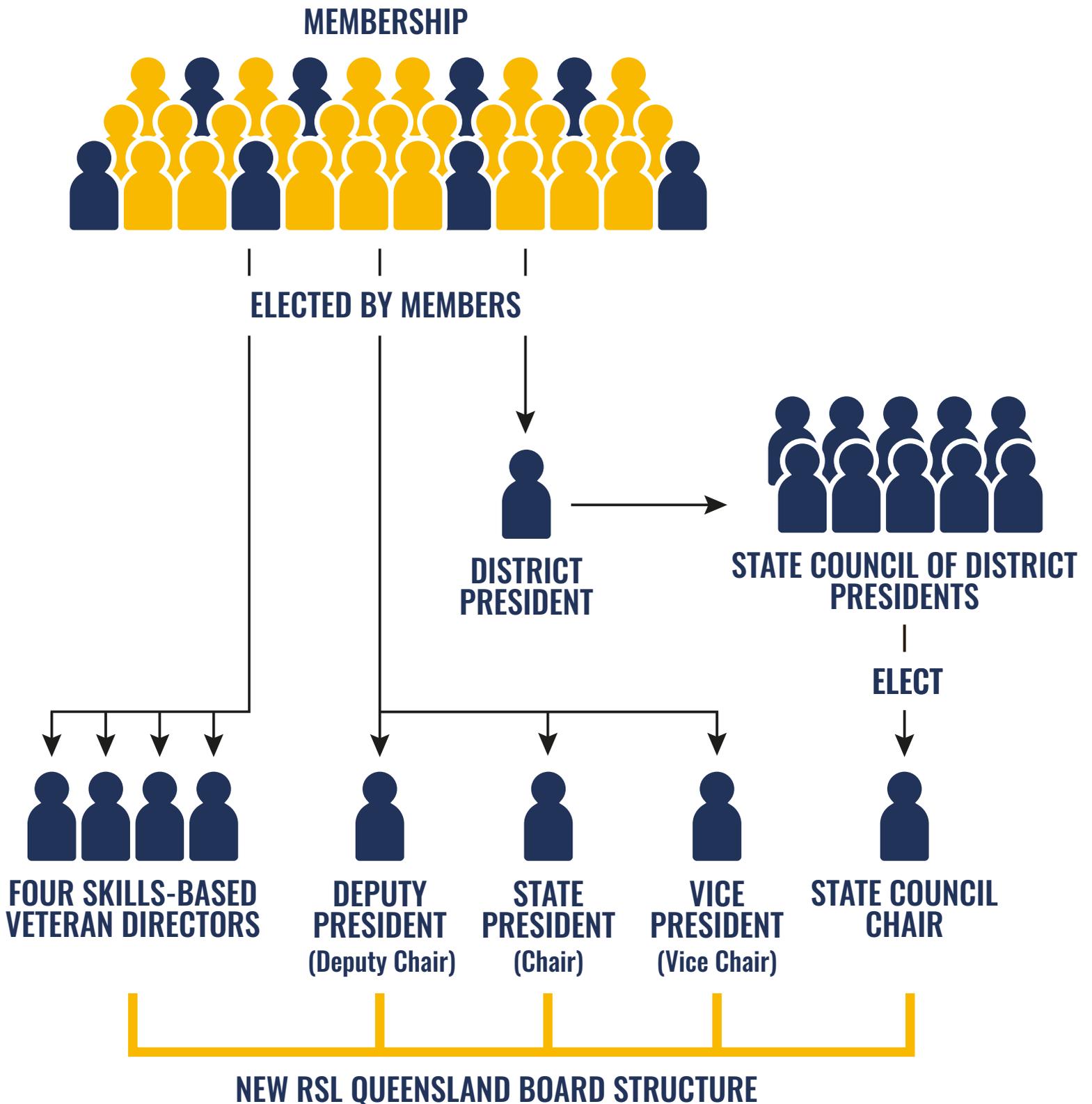
## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

RSL Queensland and your Sub Branches are together working through the time line as follows:

- Nominations (July 1 - August 25)
- Review of Candidates (August 26 - September 15)
- Electronic voting (September 16 - October 27)
- Appointment of elected Directors (October 28).

As soon as the voting stage is complete, the new Board will be published on our website ([rslqld.org](http://rslqld.org)). We are excited about this next chapter for RSL Queensland and looking forward to sharing our new Board with you. Watch this space! ←

# New RSL Queensland Board Structure



# NEW CENSUS DATA HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF RSL QUEENSLAND SERVICES

*RSL Queensland has welcomed new insights into the nation's veteran population, with 2021 Census data revealing around 28 per cent of Australian veterans call Queensland home.*

**FOR** the first time in recent history of the Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) recorded data on Australian Defence Force service. The highly sought-after insights provide a clearer picture of how many veterans there are in Australia and where key communities are located, which will help enable and shape effective delivery of support services.

The ABS' Census showed that 163,112 current serving and ex-serving ADF members lived in Queensland in 2021 and identified Townsville (15,408), Gold Coast (14,608) and Ipswich (14,326) as the regions with the highest population of total (current and ex-serving) veterans.

RSL Queensland Chief Executive Officer Robert Skoda says veteran

data collected by the Census will better inform and guide the delivery of the organisation's support services to veterans and families across Queensland.

"Queensland has always been home to a significant proportion of Australia's veteran community, something that this data confirms. With the 2021 Census insights, we can much more clearly understand where exactly these veterans are located, which will allow us to deliver the right services in the right areas," Mr Skoda says.

Historically, up to 2016, data on veterans' locations was only recorded at a national level if ADF personnel registered a claim with the Department of Veteran Affairs. Veterans were then required to update their

address if they relocated, which made it challenging for ex-service organisations to maintain up-to-date records.

"The new insights will help us continually refine our service delivery model to better meet veteran needs, particularly in regional areas and those areas that are heavily populated by veterans. It will also enable us to deploy adequate resources to assist our 230 RSL Sub Branches in local areas," Mr Skoda says.

"With our unique combination of clarity on where veterans live and what they need, RSL Queensland can continue to provide wellbeing and critical support to returned service men and women and their families."

RSL Queensland has spent more than 100 years working to build and foster a community where veterans can find connection, support and understanding. RSL Queensland's mission is to provide veteran support, while evolving to meet the needs of our ever-changing community. ←

# Key Insights



**581,139**

More than half a million Australians (581,139) have served, or are currently serving, in the ADF



**26.1%**

Veterans 65-74 years of age account for the more than a quarter (26.1 per cent) of former serving members



**1 in 20**

One in 20 (5.3 per cent) Australian households report at least one person who has served or is serving in the ADF



**44,342**

Townsville (15,408), Gold Coast (14,608) and Ipswich (14,326) are the regions with the highest population of total (currently serving and ex-serving) ADF personnel



**38,374**

Gold Coast (13,577), Sunshine Coast (12,485) and Wide Bay (12,312) have the highest population of ex-serving ADF personnel

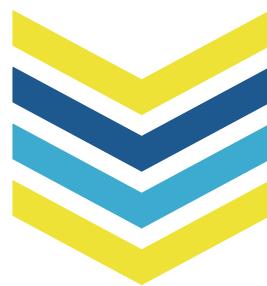
The Census data is being released in a staged approach, with the second round coming in October and a third round covering more complex topics in 2023.



**GALLIPOLI**  
MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

*Veterans with PTSD are  
prescribed multiple  
medications*

# **BUT AT WHAT RISK?**



*New research undertaken by  
Gallipoli Medical Research  
Foundation (GMRF) raises  
awareness of the potential for  
drug-related health effects  
among veterans, and what  
veterans can do to support  
their health outcomes.*

*“Lead researcher on the study, GMRF’s Senior Research Fellow Dr Rebecca Mellor, investigated the prevalence of psychotropic polypharmacy in veterans with PTSD.”*

**THE** research highlighted just how common it is for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to be prescribed multiple medications at once to help treat several health concerns. However, this practice – known as polypharmacy – also puts veterans at significant risk of adverse health events.

#### **THE RESEARCH**

Lead researcher on the study, GMRF’s Senior Research Fellow Dr Rebecca Mellor, investigated the prevalence of psychotropic polypharmacy in veterans with PTSD who were admitted to a mental health facility to identify and highlight the potential risks associated with the use of multiple medications to treat veterans with PTSD and other diagnoses.

Psychotropic polypharmacy is the simultaneous use of two or more psychotropic medicines, which are defined as any drug capable of affecting the mind, emotions and behaviour.

The team of researchers reviewed the medical records of 219 veterans with PTSD who were admitted to a mental health facility over a one-year period, with the findings providing evidence of the extent of the issue of psychotropic polypharmacy in the veteran population with psychological and physical co-diagnoses.

The study found that, in addition to PTSD, 90 per cent of patients had a diagnosis of at least one other psychiatric condition, and 97 per cent had at least one non-psychiatric medical condition. There was a high prevalence of

psychotropic polypharmacy (80%), as well as polypharmacy in general (77%) and sedative polypharmacy (75%).

#### **THE RISK TO VETERANS**

Dr Mellor says that while psychotropic medications are commonly prescribed for the treatment of PTSD symptoms, inappropriate use and some drug combinations can lead to adverse health events, such as drowsiness and confusion, respiratory depression, and postural instability, which can lead to falls, fractures, hospital admission, illness, and even death.

“Through this research, we’ve illustrated how psychotropic polypharmacy increases the risk of adverse drug events and drug-drug interactions, which can contribute to





falls, hospital admissions, morbidity, and mortality," says Dr Mellor.

"This highlights the importance of increasing awareness of polypharmacy – especially psychotropic polypharmacy – and potentially inappropriate drug combinations, and the need for improved medication review by prescribers."

#### WHAT VETERANS CAN DO

GMRF's Psychiatric Advisor and Director of Medical Services at Toowong Private Hospital, Dr Andrew Khoo, provided expert guidance on the research. Dr Khoo agrees that polypharmacy is an amendable issue and that optimising prescribing practices would lead to rapid and significant improvements in the morbidity and mortality rates of

Australian veterans.

"After 20 years of treating veterans with PTSD, I am aware of how veterans, with their chronic conditions and complex psychiatric and medical comorbidity, typically accrue medications from multiple prescribers over time," says Dr Khoo.

#### TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS

Dr Khoo recommends requesting a list of your medications from your GP and asking these questions any time you are given a new prescription:

1. What is this drug supposed to do?
2. How will I know if it is working?
3. What are the common side effects?
4. What are the potential

- interactions with my existing medications?
5. How will this drug interact with alcohol or other substances?

#### WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The aim of this research is to contribute to greater education around improving the treatment of PTSD through medication.

"This research confirms this impression with real data on Australian veterans treated in a typical setting exhibiting alarming rates of general, psychotropic, and sedative polypharmacy. Given the findings, it is critical that we promulgate this information to both veterans and prescribers," says Dr Khoo.

The study forms the basis for a longer-term research plan at GMRF, with prescribing guidelines, awareness programs, and educational resources to be developed to support prescribers through the pharmacological management of PTSD and co-morbidities, particularly in veterans. Dr Khoo is also advising on this project.

"This research is an early step in the process of improving pharmacotherapeutic treatment of PTSD and reducing unnecessary overprescribing; we're hoping to address and change a factor that contributes to morbidity and mortality in PTSD sufferers," says Dr Mellor.

This study was funded by the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation. ←

**TOP:** Lead researcher on the study, GMRF's Senior Research Fellow Dr Rebecca Mellor

**ABOVE:** GMRF's Psychiatric Advisor and Director of Medical Services at Toowong Private Hospital, Dr Andrew Khoo



The article 'Polypharmacy in Australian veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder upon admission to a mental health facility – a retrospective chart review' was published in the international journal *Drugs – Real World Outcomes*, on 18 May 2022.

# MATESHIP



## COMMUNITY REMEMBERS WELCOMED BACK

Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch and its members have welcomed back their commemoration of several conflicts and wars at their annual Our Community Remembers event. Community representatives placed wreaths at a memorial especially created for the occasion and were supported by the Band of the 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery who performed a concert after the service.



## BRAY PARK STRATHPINE LONG SERVICE

Bray Park-Strathpine RSL Sub Branch Deputy President Linda Lahey presented Past President Brian Kay with his 30-year Long Service Certificate. Brian served 34 years with the British and Australian Armies.



**40th ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL SERVICE**

More than 100 people gathered in ANZAC Square, Brisbane to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the liberation of The Falkland Islands in June. Wreaths were laid on behalf of The Parachute Regiment, South Atlantic Medal Association, British Ex-Services Association and the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Office. Falklands veterans from Gympie RSL Sub Branch also attended the service, including Mick Pound Ex 262 Royal Signal Sqn, Gary Widdop Ex Royal Navy Clearance Diver, and Peter Maddocks Ex 2 Para British Army.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HERBERT!**

Bribie Island RSL Sub Branch member and WWII veteran Herbert Boland recently celebrated his 100th birthday and was presented a certificate at Morayfield Grove by Merv Brown OAM and RSL Sub Branch President George Franklin.





### BEAUDESERT WELCOMES NEW WELLBEING HUB

Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch is welcoming news they've received a Major Capital Works Grant which will allow them to build a new Sub Branch and Wellbeing / Welfare Hub. Expected to be completed by April 2024, the new project will help support veterans and their families in the region.

### COLLECTING AND CURATING HISTORY IN CAIRNS

After discharging from Defence, Navy veteran Mark Richardson suffered a foot infection which eventually required amputation. No longer as physically active after this terrible loss, Mark decided to enrol in a Bachelor of Arts at James Cook University to keep his mind active and aid his mental health. He is now the Secretary of Edge Hill / Cairns West RSL Sub Branch and is putting his degree to great use collecting and curating military history materials, including those from World War II, sharing his findings in presentations and guest talks at the Sub Branch's monthly coffee connections catch ups. Mark is pictured with two WWII journals from soldiers, sailors, and airmen alongside President Kristen Rice.



### 30 YEARS' SERVICE RECOGNISED

Berwah & District RSL Sub Branch President John Nisbett and Leigh Christie recently presented member John Rouhan OAM with his 30-year Long Service Certificate. Congratulations, John!





**VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY IN GOONDIWINDI**

Pictured at the Goondiwindi Vietnam Veterans' Day service were Tony Rose, Debbie Rogers, Graeme Pfitzner, Phoebe Trigger, Terry Farrell, Paul Andrianatos, Bill Brasington, Russell Billsborough, Greg Rixon, John Toohey, Clinton Billsborough and The Honourable Bruce Scott AM.



**LIFE MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATED IN HERVEY BAY**

Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch President Brian Tidyman was delighted to present Esme Fay with the Women's Auxiliary Life Membership Certificate in June.

**VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY HONOURED**

Vietnam Veterans' Day was honoured in Emerald with a twilight service, which also included a dedication of the ANZAC themed mural on the wall of Emerald Town Hall.





### 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO VETERAN COMMUNITY

South Eastern District RSL celebrated 100 years of service to the veteran community with a dinner on 27 August. Around 400 people attended, including representatives from the 34 Sub Branches within the District. District Senior Vice President Doug Egan, left, State President Stephen Day DSC AM, centre, and District President Kerry Gallagher AM had the honour of cutting the birthday cake.



### VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

Chris Brooker, pictured, who carried out national service during the Vietnam War, spoke to Maleny RSL Sub Branch members following their commemoration service on Vietnam Veterans' Day at the RSL Maleny Cenotaph. He shared his experience of joining the Army and returning home from Vietnam.



**22ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED**

Springwood RSL Sub Branch recently celebrated its 22nd anniversary with a lunch at Springwood Hotel and attended by local Council and State representatives.



**VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY**

Rosewood RSL Sub Branch members gathered at Calvert for Vietnam Veterans' Day to remember, honour, and commemorate the service and sacrifice of those who served in the Vietnam War. Pictured is Treasurer Ian Luetchford, Vietnam veteran Doug Brown and President Bernie Mason at the site of the service.



**THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch celebrated the invaluable support and service of their network of volunteers – the "backbone of the Sub Branch" – during this year's National Volunteer Week.

**VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY HONOURED**

Redcliffe RSL Sub Branch members commemorated Vietnam Veterans' Day on 18 August with a catafalque party provided by 20 EOD Squadron (pictured).



### VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY IN CURRUMBIN

Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch held its annual Vietnam Veterans' Day service at its cenotaph on 18 August. There was a fly-past along Currumbin Creek and a lunch following the service. Pictured at the service are Vietnam veterans Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch Secretary Roger Collins, left, and member Ray Piper.



### QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS REACHES MILES

The last remaining WWII veteran in the Miles District, Eric Geldard, pictured, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List. Eric served in the RAAF and trained as a wireless air gunner before being sent to Wewak in Papua New Guinea with the 6th Division Cavalry Commando Regiment and joined the 2/9th Commando Squadron. He was shot in both legs just before his 20th birthday and carried to safety by eight Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels. After returning to Miles, he helped establish a war museum in the town.

**100 YEARS YOUNG**

On 6 July, WWII fighter pilot Dennis Jackson (FLGOFF RAF RTD) celebrated his centenary. Dennis was presented with certificates from RSL Queensland and Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch. These items took pride of place on the birthday table alongside a card from the Queen and the Governor-General.



**SPECIAL CENTENARY VISIT**

In early June, Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch Secretary Paul Petter visited member Charles Roger Wilson, who celebrated his 100th birthday on 6 June. Complying with COVID protocols at the time, Paul was asked to wear a face shield, mask and a PPE suit. Roger was a former resident of Texas and in 2019 sold his property and moved to St Marks Aged Care facility in Chermside with his wife Melva. Aside from his hearing, Roger was in great spirits when Paul visited.

**A TRIBUTE TO WOMEN IN DEFENCE**

Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch administrator Dianne Mulder is pictured with a quilt she handmade and donated to the Sub Branch in tribute to women in Defence. It was displayed at a lunch on 30 July for members and a Defence Force special guest.



**VALE, REX**

Goondiwindi RSL Sub Branch members recently formed a guard of honour to pay their final tribute to Korean War veteran and fellow member Rex Hoole at his funeral in May. Rex joined the RAAF in 1948 shortly after turning 18 and served with the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan. While there he was one of the first to put his hand up and volunteer to fight in the Korean War in 1951. His military service was finally recognised by the Korean Government in 2017 and he was presented with the Republic of Korea War Service Medal (pictured).



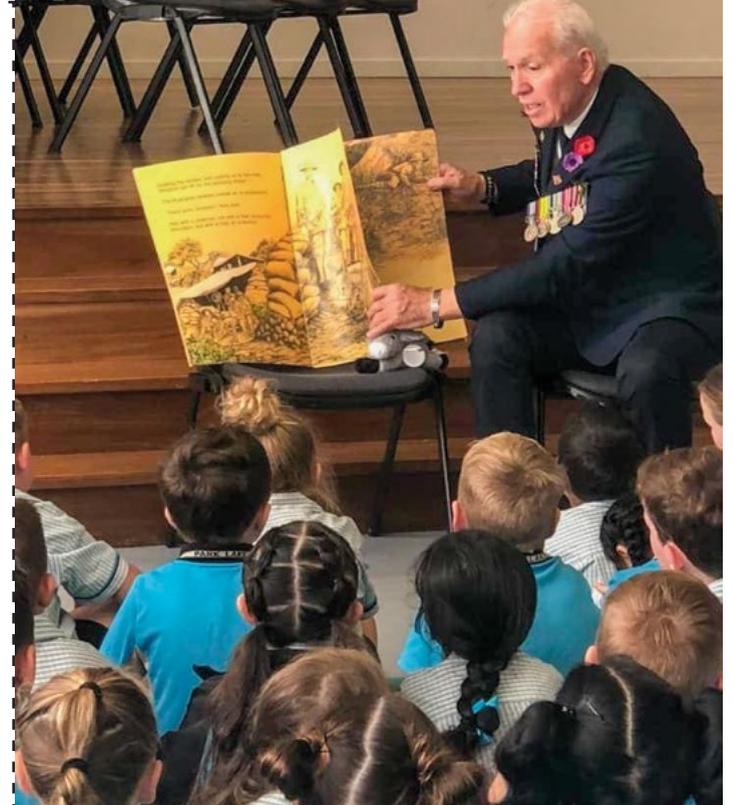


### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR IN REDLANDS

Redlands RSL Sub Branch has celebrated the more than 20-year volunteer dedication of member Linda Harcourt. Linda was awarded this year's Volunteer of the Year Award. She has been the Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary since 2002, and still works over 1,000 volunteer hours a year, as well as being a hardworking partner of the Sub Branch President. In her 15-year role as wellbeing/volunteer coordinator at the Sub-Branch, she works with a team of welfare workers who are continually interviewing and assisting veterans with their needs.

### SHARING STORIES WITH FUTURE GENERATIONS

North Gold Coast RSL Sub Branch members including Paul Schipansk (pictured reading to prep students at Park Lake State School) attended the school's ANZAC Day ceremony this year. Paul stayed on after the service to read 'Simpson and his Donkey' to prep students, sharing the important messages behind ANZAC Day to younger generations.



### HONOURING THE LIFE OF VETERAN JOE COTTRELL

WWII veteran and Sandgate RSL Sub Branch member Joe Cottrell sadly passed away just weeks after celebrating his 100th birthday on 30 July. He is pictured, front centre, with, from left, Sandgate RSL Sub Branch Acting President Don Baker, LTCOL John Anderson, Joe's son Rick Cottrell, and daughter Susan Bathson, Sub Branch secretary Andrew Law and Sub Branch Wellbeing Officer Terry Slader. Joe served in the British Army from 1939 until 1943 when he was injured, and he moved to Australia in the 1950s as a "10-pound Pom". Sandgate RSL Sub Branch Acting President Don Baker says Joe's story illustrates the rich tapestry of experiences within our veteran community and the shared military history between Britain and Australia, "Joe was a gentleman and an absolute character of our Sub Branch. He will be sorely missed."

## UKRAINIAN ANIMALS RECOGNISED

In a ceremony at the Ukrainian Embassy in Canberra, Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) President Nigel Allsopp presented Ambassador Myroshnychenko Vasyl with a bronze plaque and medallion honouring the animal heroes of the current conflict in their region.



## QUILTS OF VALOUR BRING JOY

Royal Australian Air Force veteran Athol Jory (pictured) was presented a Quilt of Valour by Barbara Kenny at the Banyo RSL Sub Branch RSL President's Lunch. The veteran was overcome with joy at the gesture.



## QR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Gayndah RSL Sub Branch has made the most of the newfound popularity of QR codes by placing one on their cenotaph. The QR code takes visitors to stories of local soldiers gathered from their records and family members. The project was the brainchild of Sub Branch member and war historian Keith Wrench, who hopes it will help visitors look beyond the name to discover the stories of the veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice. The project was financed by the Sub Branch, with assistance from RSL Queensland's Charitable Objects Fund. It will be a living project, with information updated as it becomes available. You can access the stories by visiting the cenotaph and using the QR code or via [gayndahrsl.com.au](http://gayndahrsl.com.au). Keith and website developer Amanda Wenck are keen to replicate this for other Sub Branches, and if you're interested you can contact Keith via 0427 598 259 or [k.wrench@bigpond.com](mailto:k.wrench@bigpond.com).

### PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

Members and partners attended the Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch President's Lunch. This year's theme honoured women, wives and widows in Defence and the lunch was attended by 85 members and guests including members Sam and Tracy (pictured).



### LAUREL CLUB WELCOMES SPECIAL GUESTS

The recent meeting for the Laurel Club (for war widows) at Bowen RSL Sub Branch was joined by special guests, including serving Australian soldiers from Engineers Corp in Townsville. They had travelled to Bowen for Legacy Week. Pictured with the soldiers are (standing) Joy Hose, Alisa Hansen and patron (sitting) Terry Hansen, President of Nashos.

### NEW MEMORIAL UNVEILED AT VIETNAM VETERAN'S PARK

A new memorial honouring partners and families of veterans has been unveiled at Vietnam Veteran's Park in Bongaree. Designed by the Partners of Veterans Association (PVA) of Australia Queensland Branch, the memorial is mounted on stone with a plaque bearing the inscription "For Those Who Stand Beside Them" and a sprig of wattle – the emblem of PVA. The ceremony was attended by Moreton Bay Regional Councillor Brooke Saviage, Bribie Island Vietnam Veterans Secretary Ernie Hall, PVA Queensland State President Margaret Thomas and PVA Bribie Island Convenor Vicki Taylor-Crook.





**IT TAKES A VILLAGE!**

With the support of Triple M Gold Coast and Channel 7 Gold Coast, Burleigh RSL Sub Branch have been raising money for the renovation and upgrade of their historical Sub Branch, Burleigh Hall. They recently held a 'sports lunch for the ages' with special guests Sally Pearson, Greg 'Fat Cat' Rithie, and Adam Brand. The lunch raised more than \$20,000, which will go towards making the renovations a reality. Pictured at the lunch is Channel 7 Gold Coast's Paul Burt, RSL Sub Branch President George Karsai and Triple M Gold Coast's Spida Everitt.

**THANKS FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE**

The National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (NMBVA) has announced they are disbanding after many years of dedication, commendable effort, and achievement. Since 2009, the group has promoted local and international commemoration events and fostered camaraderie among veterans.



**80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA COMMEMORATED**

Gracemere and District RSL Sub Branch members held their third annual Combined Services Dinner (with Naval Association of Australia Capricornia Sub Branch) to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea in May. Almost 20 ex-service and support organisations were represented on the night and the dinner gave opportunity for all to enjoy a social gathering, with camaraderie and mateship top of mind.





**RIMAU/KRAIT COMMEMORATION**

Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch commemorated Rimau/KRAIT at Dayman Park, with President Brian Tidyman thanking the large crowd for joining in the acknowledgement of cades from TS KRAIT, 181 ACU, Air League and the Air Force Cadets.



**CADETS CONNECTED TO NEW TECHNOLOGY**

The local 17 ACU Warwick cadet unit has been presented two laptop computers thanks to the Warwick RSL Sub Branch and RSL Western Districts. The laptops mean cadets can have lesson plans screened overhead and allow for better record-keeping.



**VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY**

Peter Thomas (pictured) ex RN, RAN and RAAF laid a wreath on behalf of the Ipswich Naval Association at a Vietnam Veterans' Day service.

**ART ON DISPLAY**

Mudgeeraba RSL Sub Branch member Katura Halleday has taken home first place in this year's prestigious Doyles Art Awards. D'Arcy Doyle is known for his timeless and quintessential Australian Art. The Mudgeeraba veteran's legacy is honoured in the Doyles Art Award, which fosters a new generation of artists with a prize pool of more than \$20,000.



**BARBECUE DONATED**

Mount Isa RSL Sub Branch has donated a barbecue to local cadets. The barbecue is sure to be put to good use cooking up a feast at community events and social gatherings.



**BRINGING A BLITZ BACK TO LIFE**

A restored World War II-era Blitz truck has been given to the RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre. The truck (pictured), with the serial number 19012 was restored by the History and Heritage – Air Force's Restoration Support Section (RSS).



### NATIONAL DAY FOR WAR ANIMALS

Members of Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch and Women's Auxiliary (pictured) commemorated the sacrifices of animals in war in the newly completed memorial garden which includes a plaque that reads, "Honours those who have served or are still serving; those that supported them and those who waited for them".



### WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATED

Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch was involved in the 11th anniversary re-dedication of the War Memorial in a service led by Lewis Lee OAM, Chair of the Australians of Chinese Heritage War Memorial Committee. The service was followed by a fundraising dinner at a local restaurant (pictured), with monies raised supporting six secondary school bursaries, the maintenance of the memorial garden and the Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch.



### SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL ANIMALS

Redlands RSL Sub Branch members have been working closely with the Australian War Animals Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) to raise funds for the Australian Animal Aid Ukraine Initiative to help get vital food, medication and boots on the ground to help the animals of Ukraine.

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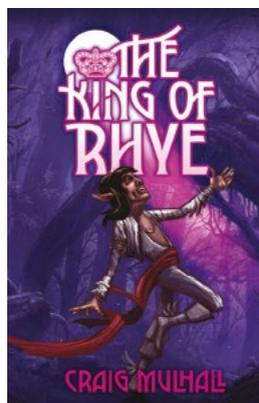
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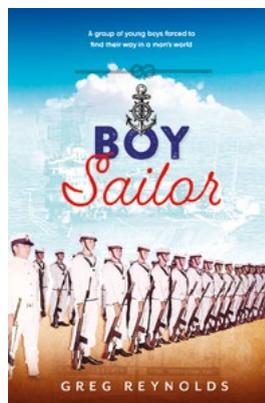
ISBN: 978-1-925707-73-1

Forsake the real life. Embrace the fantasy.

The Song of the Prophet has long foretold that an apocalypse of storms, pestilence and war would tear the land of Rhye asunder. The path to salvation is obscure — hope seems to lie in a mysterious saviour, somewhere beyond the Seventh Sea.

For friends Mustapha, Harold, Meadow and Dique, a moment of mischief leads to the greatest adventure of their lives. A simple heist turned sour hurls them into a monumental journey, culminating at the heart of Rhye's crisis.

*The King of Rhye* is part fairy tale, part dark fantasy, part whimsy and all heart, as the glorious legacy of rock band Queen is realised in a full-blown literary adventure for the ages.

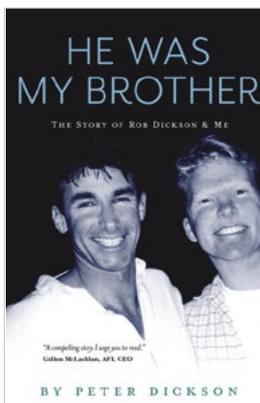


ISBN: 978-1-925707-89-2

This is my story, about a group of young boys forced to find their way in a man's world. The story starts with a throwaway statement 'let's join sea cadets'. This led to us enlist as junior recruits at HMAS Leeuwin in Western Australia a couple of years later.

Entering the gates of Leeuwin changed us. We were a dynamic group of free-spirited fifteen-year-old boys that became a guarded group attempting to meld into the rigor and discipline of the training regime.

Starting as 'New Grubs', we progressed through each status of 'Grubs', 'Shits', and finally 'Top Shits'. These progressions of status in many ways modelled us into becoming a cohesive group of disciplined young men who would easily assimilate into the Navy.



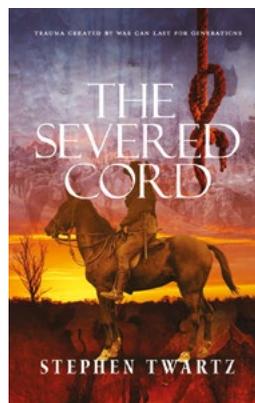
ISBN: 978-1-925707-88-5

The death of Australian football identity, reality TV star and documentary maker Rob Dickson stunned his hundreds of associates and friends across Melbourne's corporate, sporting and social world.

But none felt it more than his hero-worshipping younger brother, Peter. The bond between them was unbreakable. From an early age they were far more than brothers. They were mates, buddies, best pals and eventually business partners.

Rob's death hit Peter harder than he or anyone could have imagined. The aftershock has lasted for years.

In this uplifting memoir of survival and recovery he tells with brutal honesty of his fight back from intense despair, with Rob as his ever-present inspiration and guide.



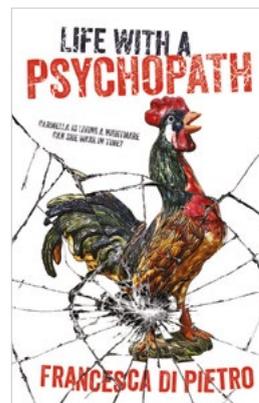
ISBN: 978-1-925707-79-3

*The Severed Cord* is a story about love, loss and redemption.

As the world turns to war in 1914, three brothers and an aboriginal stockman have a decision to make — join the conflict or remain within their rural idyll.

When the eldest enlists, the remaining brothers are bound to follow and Jimmy, the aboriginal stockman is coerced into joining them in Palestine, where they battle to survive, eventually returning to Australia, their lives forever changed.

In Palestine, Jimmy assumes the role of protector and is forced to negotiate a world where prejudice is suspended only to be replaced by the horrors of war, a conflict that leads to the most profound betrayal and loss.

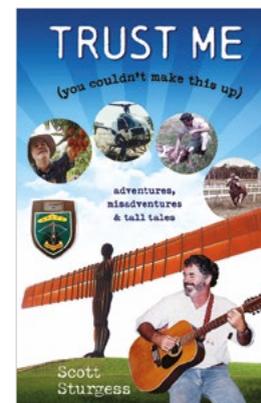


ISBN: 978-1-925707-71-7

Carmella is an intelligent and confident woman. She's overcome bullying and racism in her childhood and built a successful life for herself.

When Carmella meets the charming Shaun, she thinks she's hit the jackpot. Recovering from a rocky first date, the relationship develops into a promising connection, but then degenerates, in stages, into an abusive disaster. The previously strong Carmella finds herself adhering to insane rules set by Shaun.

Just as Carmella thinks her life has hit rock bottom, she obtains the assistance of gifted psychologist who offers her a fresh perspective. Is this crucial support enough for Carmella to find the strength to leave Shaun or will she be stuck in this terrifying nightmare forever?



ISBN: 978-1-925707-67-0

The author's wide experience working in four Australian states, the United Kingdom, Vietnam and Central America has seen him encounter a variety of unusual events and accumulate a trove of funny stories, most of which are true. Or so he says.

*Wistful tales, amusing anecdotes and sombre moments reminisced along the way. A nostalgic trip through an adventurous past.*

— Vivian Waring, author of *When Tears Ran Dry*

*Trust Me was a great read. The style was simple and readable. Well placed reminiscences of the wit of people the author has met and at times I found his naivety and self-deprecation very amusing.*  
— Graham Buchan, Vietnam Veteran..

# WIN

## THE WAR GAME

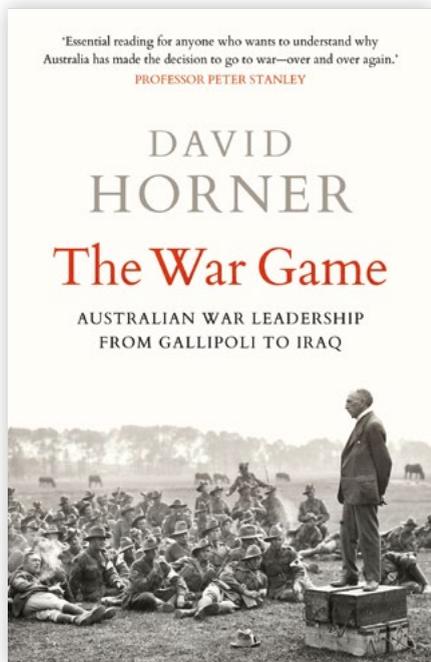
Committing the nation to war is the gravest decision its leaders can make. *The War Game* examines why and how Australia went to war, and how it managed the nation's nine conflicts between WWI and the Iraq War.

It explores the relationships between some of the most dominant political leaders in Australian history – Billy Hughes, Robert Menzies, John Curtin, Harold Holt, John Gorton, Bob Hawke and John Howard – and their top military commanders, including William Birdwood, John Monash, Brudenell White, Thomas Blamey, Vernon Sturdee, Douglas MacArthur, Sydney Rowell, Frederick Scherger, John Wilton, Peter Gration and Peter Cosgrove.

*The War Game* raises important questions about the process of war leadership. Should political leaders leave the conduct of the war to their top military commanders or should they interfere? Have Australia's war leaders always made wise decisions? Given that Australia has always fought as a junior partner in a coalition, either within the British Empire or as part of the US alliance, how should Australia's leaders manage these alliance arrangements? And how should Australia's future war leaders prepare for the tasks ahead?

Ultimately, it is the soldiers, their families, and the people of Australia who bear the burden imposed by the decisions of the war leaders. Based on exhaustive research, *The War Game* is about the greatest challenges likely to face Australia's leaders.

*The War Game* by David Horner is published by Allen & Unwin (RRP: \$45).



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *The War Game*, email your name, address and contact number to [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org) (with the subject 'The War Game') or post to 'The War Game', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 7 November 2022.

## SECOND SON OF A SOLDIER SETTLER - THE LONG ROAD AHEAD

A sporting youngster who saw success in cricket and Aussie Rules, Douglas Cope joined the Royal Australian Navy at an early age, serving on several vessels as U.W. (Underwater Warfare).

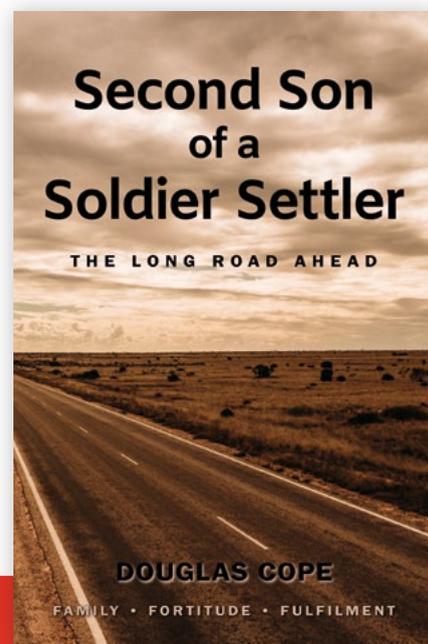
*Second Son of a Soldier Settler* Volume 1 recounts Doug's Naval career and his childhood, mostly devoid of love, spent pulling weeds among the grapevines in the dusty, infertile Mallee scrub.

In this second volume, Douglas has left the Navy, and we follow his foray into marriage, family and work. Fond of the bottle, Douglas faces the demons of his mind and his past.

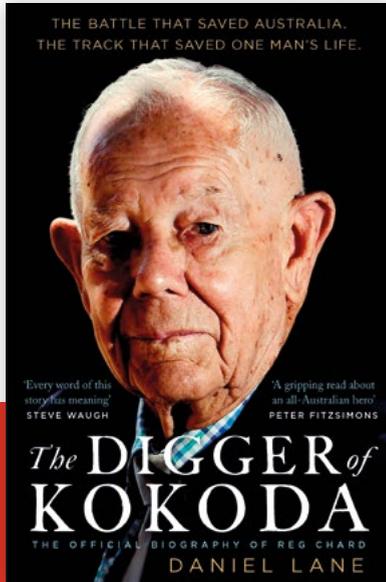
At the crossroads of his life, lost in transition, his way forward is marked by wrong turns, and not too many rights. More by luck than good management, Douglas forges a career in golf course construction and management, before running a country pub and a corner store.

Travelling north and south along Australia's east coast, we meet hippies in the Top End, tough prawn trawler men in North Queensland, outback farmers and pub larrikins. Doug and his family endure caravan living, mice plagues, cyclones, and insect swarms on a search for fortitude and fulfilment down the long road towards the next horizon.

*Second Son of a Soldier Settler* by Douglas Cope is published by In House Publishing (RRP: \$30).



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Second Son of a Soldier Settler*, email your name, address and contact number to [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org) (with the subject 'Second Son of a Soldier Settler') or post to 'Second Son of a Soldier Settler', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 7 November 2022.



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *The Digger of Kokoda*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'The Digger of Kokoda') or post to 'The Digger of Kokoda', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 7 November 2022.

## THE SCRAP IRON FLOTILLA

The British Admiralty's telegram arrived at the Navy Office in Melbourne, the order to go to all-out war. It was coldly succinct: TOTAL GERMANY ... The war at sea had begun.

When WWII broke out in September 1939, the British asked Australia for help. With some misgivings, the Australian government sent five destroyers to beef up the British Royal Navy in the Mediterranean.

HMAS *Vendetta*, *Vampire*, *Voyager*, *Stuart*, and *Waterhen* were old ships, small with worn-out engines. Their crews used to joke they were held together by string and chewing gum; when the Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels heard of them, he sneered that they were a load of scrap iron.

Yet by the middle of 1940, these destroyers were valiantly escorting troop and supply convoys, successfully hunting for submarines and indefatigably bombarding enemy coasts.

In late 1941 the ships were finally sent home, staggering back to Australia, proudly calling themselves the Scrap Iron Flotilla in defiance of the Goebbels' sneer. That flotilla is now an immortal part of Australian naval legend, and this is its story.

*The Scrap Iron Flotilla* by Mike Carlton is published by Penguin Random House (RRP: \$34.99).

## THE DIGGER OF KOKODA

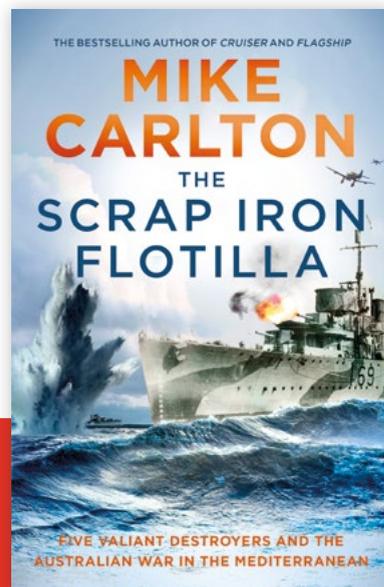
Reg Chard endured hell as an 18-year-old Australian soldier who fought in 1942 on the infamous Kokoda Trail. Ironically, Kokoda rescued Reg decades later when he decided to take his own life.

After losing Betty, his wife of 66 years, the grief-stricken great-grandfather lost the will to live. But he found new purpose through educating young people, giving guided tours of Sydney's Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway.

On these tours, Reg relives Kokoda every day. He sees an image on the wall of a soldier – a comrade – who died of a jungle disease weeks after the photograph was taken. He feels his heart beating as his patrol chases down Japanese troops who had mutilated women in a jungle clearing. He hears the war cry of a samurai sword-wielding officer charging towards him.

And he tells these stories on the walkway tours, preserving the memory of those who never came home. As one of the last surviving diggers of Kokoda, Reg Chard has become a custodian of its legacy.

*The Digger of Kokoda* by Daniel Lane is published by Pan Macmillan Australia (RRP: \$36.99).



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *The Scrap Iron Flotilla*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'The Scrap Iron Flotilla') or post to 'The Scrap Iron Flotilla', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 7 November 2022.

## QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS WINNERS EDITION 2, 2022



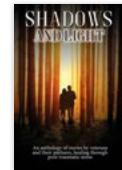
### BLOOD, SWEAT & STEEL

J Mudge, Malanda  
W Habel, Minden  
J Roser, Urraween  
R Palmer, Redcliffe



### HAVOC-06

C Gunner, Boonah  
B Coleman, Alexandra Hills  
C White, Morayfield  
P Newland, Maroochydore



### SHADOWS AND LIGHT

B Audley, Scarborough  
R McManus, Bulimba  
R Brewster-Webb,  
Kearney's Spring  
K Glover, Mt Coolum



### THE BATTLE FOR ISURAVA

P Bray, Torquay  
D Kuhn, Brassall  
O Pope, Caloundra  
J Anderson, Nerang

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

RSL ART UNION – AUSTRALIA'S RICHEST PROPERTY PRIZE POOL

DRAW 399

WIN THE ULTIMATE  
**\$10.6 MILLION**  
*Gold Coast*  
BEACH HOUSE

**CLOSING  
SOON!**

Draw 399 is your chance to win the ultimate **\$10.6 million** Gold Coast beach house – our biggest prize ever!

For just a **\$5 ticket**, this exclusive slice of paradise right on the beach could be yours forever!



**GET IN QUICK!**  
Scan the QR code.

**BUY YOUR \$5 TICKETS TODAY!**

Draw closes 8pm (AEST) 28 September 2022

Drawn 10am (AEST) 5 October 2022

[rslartunion.com.au](http://rslartunion.com.au)

1300 775 888

**VIP CLUB MORE MILLIONS FOR MEMBERS**



RSL Art Union Draw AU399L conducted by Returned & Services League of Australia (QLD Branch) ABN 79 902 601 713 of ANZAC House, 283 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006, under licence numbers: QLD: 29819, ACT: R22/00082, VIC: 10224/22, NSW: GOCAU/2332, SA: M14230. Prize value \$10,640,214. The total number of tickets available for AU399L is 7,464,000 which may include a maximum of 1,943,028 bonus tickets. Cheque, money order and credit card payments must be received by 28/09/22 to be entered into Draw AU399L. If an order is received after this date or if the draw is sold out, the order will be automatically entered into the next draw, Draw AU400L. RSL Art Union Draw AU400L under licence numbers: QLD: 29819, ACT: R22/00092, VIC: 10270/22, NSW: GOCAU/2332, SA: M14244. AU400L consists of 400 individual prizes that total to a combined prize value of \$4,044,125. Prizes are drawn in order of value. 1st Prize: Property and Gold Bullion package \$3,745,211; 2nd Prize: \$100,000 Gold Bullion; 3rd Prize: Vehicle \$59,990; 4th Prize: Holiday Voucher \$15,500; 5th Prize: Entertainment Package \$8,924; 6th -10th Prize: Retailer Voucher \$5,000 each; 11th - 20th Prize: Travel Voucher \$2,000 each; 21st - 35th Prize: Fuel Voucher \$1,000 each; 36th - 60th Prize: Retailer Voucher \$500 each; 61st - 110th Prize: Retailer Voucher \$350 each; 111th - 160th Prize: Retailer Voucher \$200 each; 161st - 210th Prize: Grocery Voucher \$100 each; 211th - 400th Prize: Movie Voucher \$50 each. The total number of tickets available for AU400L is 4,928,000 which may include a maximum of 1,247,572 bonus tickets. Cheque, money order and credit card payments must be received by 19/10/22 to be entered into Draw AU400L. If an order is received after this date or if the

DRAW 400

BUY RSL ART UNION TICKETS ONLINE OR CALL 1300 775 888

**NOW  
OPEN!**

Draw 400 is your chance to win a **\$3.7 million** first prize package including a luxury oceanfront penthouse and **\$350,000 in gold!**

But that's not all!

To celebrate our 400th draw, we're offering **400 prizes** totalling **\$4 million** – and you could be one of **400 lucky winners!**



**LEARN MORE?**

Scan the QR code.

**BUY YOUR \$5 TICKETS TODAY!**

Draw closes 8pm (AEST) 19 October 2022

Drawn 10am (AEST) 26 October 2022

[rslartunion.com.au](http://rslartunion.com.au)

1300 775 888

HOORAY! 400<sup>TH</sup> DRAW CELEBRATION

**\$3.7 MILLION**

**APARTMENT + GOLD**

**400 PRIZES | 400 WINNERS**



**\$4M**  
TOTAL PRIZE POOL

**It's a PARTY of prizes with 400 reasons to celebrate!**

**Join the VIP Club and never miss your chance to win!**

[RSLARTUNION.COM.AU/VIP](http://RSLARTUNION.COM.AU/VIP)

draw is sold out, the order will be automatically entered into the next draw, Draw AU401L. Both draws are drawn at ANZAC House. Proceeds are for the purpose of veteran welfare and support in Australia. Entrants must be 18 years or over. Results published at [www.rslartunion.com.au/winners](http://www.rslartunion.com.au/winners) on Drawn date. Winners notified by registered mail. Some items shown in pictures are for display purposes only. Vehicle is a brand new Jeep Cherokee S-Limited, Registered in QLD, on-road costs, GST and dealer delivery costs included (excl. Sunshine Coast QLD). Vehicle also excludes comprehensive motor vehicle insurance. Vehicle is subject to the relevant auto dealers standard terms and conditions of sale and availability. Vehicle images shown are for illustrative purposes only. All prize vouchers are subject to the issuers terms and conditions. Some vouchers may only be redeemed at participating stores. Selling costs and market variations apply when selling gold bullion. Travel is in the form of a voucher, is not redeemable for cash and must be booked directly with our selected supplier, subject to their terms and conditions. Information correct at time of printing. Terms and conditions apply, refer to [www.rslartunion.com.au](http://www.rslartunion.com.au).

**RSL**  
Art Union

*Nothing  
like it.*

# “I’M IN ABSOLUTE BLOODY SHOCK!”



**NAOMI\*** from Sydney was hurrying to a work meeting when she got an unexpected call.

The caller – Deborah Pescott, our General Manager of Lotteries – assured her it was worth the delay. Because Naomi had just won RSL Art Union Draw 397: the \$5.6 million Waterfront Villas!

“Are you serious?!” Naomi exclaimed, clearly shocked.

As the news sank in, so did the emotion.

“My mum was the only reason I signed up to this,” Naomi said. “She was always buying tickets in lotteries, because she always said her ship would come in.

“I can’t help but think maybe she’s looking out for me.”

## **A \$5.6 MILLION CHANGE OF FORTUNE**

Thanks to ticket #03738450, VIP member Naomi now owns two luxury, four-bedroom villas on the shores of beautiful Broadbeach Waters.

Close to popular Gold Coast beaches, restaurants and attractions, both villas have sparkling water and city views, a private plunge pool, and a combined \$285,873 worth of professionally styled furniture and appliances.

Naomi will have the freedom to choose her neighbour, or rent out both villas and live off the income, or sell both villas and live like a millionaire!

And, on top of \$300,000 in gold included in the prize, Naomi will get a bonus \$30,000 in gold

for buying a \$30 ticket book!

“I’m in absolute bloody shock,” Naomi said. “Thank you so much!”

Thank you!

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

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

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

# REUNIONS

## HMAS LEEUWIN REUNION

A reunion for those members who joined the Navy at HMAS *Leeuwin*, Rhoades Division 33rd Intake in October 1970. Venue: Club Tweed, Tweed Heads. Dates: Meet and Greet 6pm Friday 14 October 2022. Formal reunion dinner 6.30pm for 7.00pm start on Saturday 15 October 2022. For full details/enquiries contact Allan Harrison on 0497358960 or via [allan.harrison@caboolture.rslqld.net.au](mailto:allan.harrison@caboolture.rslqld.net.au)

## 2 RAR AFGHANISTAN REUNION

The 2 RAR Afghanistan Reunion will be held from 14-16 October 2022. Please email [2RAR.Reunions@gmail.com](mailto:2RAR.Reunions@gmail.com) for an information pack and registration form. 2 RAR started deploying troops in 2007 (15 years ago) and organisers are hoping reunions will be held every five years. The event will include a Back to the Battalion Day, Back to The Battalion Day Bus and a reunion dinner.

# COMMUNITY CONNECT

## 11 FIELD AMBULANCE REFORMS

The 11 Field Ambulance Association has reformed to foster comradeship between members and former members of 11 Field Ambulance and is standing up members into Support Officer roles across Australia. The Support Officers help members getting to and from appointments, running errands or simply stopping to enjoy a cup of coffee together. For more information visit [raamc.org.au](http://raamc.org.au)



## SEARCHING FOR WRENS

WRNS Burghfield-Dauntless Divisional Photos Project 46-81 are looking for ladies who joined the Women's Royal Naval Service between February 1946 and July 1981 and did their basic training at Burghfield near Reading. It was known at the time as Training Depot Burghfield. Get in touch at [ddpwrens@gmail.com](mailto:ddpwrens@gmail.com) if you have any information to share.



## DO YOU KNOW JACK CRANE WILKINS?

Two medals belonging to Jack Crane Wilkins have been handed into the Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch. The Sub Branch would like to return the medals to the closest living relative and know that Jack was a Craftsman serving from 1940-1946. Anyone with any information can contact Simon Morely at the Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch via [subbranch@herveybayrsl.com.au](mailto:subbranch@herveybayrsl.com.au) or 07 4197 7477.

## DID YOU KNOW THIS US ARMY SERGEANT?

Did you know this man? Vince Thomas Pakusich was a Master Sergeant in the US Army during WWII and was operations manager of Base no.3 American Military Post Office after fighting for nearly a year on the front lines in New Guinea. Vince passed away in 2003, aged 88, and his eldest son Tom wants to connect with anyone who remembers his father. Tom says his father always spoke fondly of Brisbane and its people. If you knew Vince, please get in touch with Tom on [4thomaspack@gmail.com](mailto:4thomaspack@gmail.com).



## YOU'RE INVITED!

The inaugural Australian Military History Spectacular will be held at the Caloundra RSL Sub Branch on 14-16 October 2022. The three-day event will share untold stories of our military activities since the Vietnam War, while honouring and commemorating veterans past and still-serving. Tickets are available at [militaryspectacular.events](http://militaryspectacular.events)

# LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Abraham*	Albert	LF931626	Proserpine Sub Branch
Andresen	Harald	A47049	Beachmere Sub Branch Inc
Andrews	Graeme	313605	Cooktown Sub Branch
Archer* (nee Poole)	Mildred	100951	Wynnum Sub Branch
Bailey	Robert	R93160	Nerang Sub Branch
Baird*	Alex	FX504097	Mackay Sub Branch
Baker	Enoch	170777	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Ballingall	David	PM5765	Macleay Island Sub Branch
Barlow	Sidney	QX501473	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch
Barnes	Joyce	101898	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Barron	Rodney	1/711345	Atherton Sub Branch
Barry	Graham	1734482	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Beach	Leon	44490	Caloundra Sub Branch
Beck	Alan	A21389	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Beere	Peter	3797026	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Benn	Owen	Qx10392	Toowoomba Sub Branch
Bingarape	Mial	15634	Cairns Sub Branch
Bird	Harry	0117091	Highfields Sub Branch
Black	William	QX61588	Redlands Sub Branch
Bond	George	139217	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Bourke	Thomas	4159/04	Djuan & District Sub Branch
Bourke	Thomas	3748204	Djuan & District Sub Branch
Bowes	Garth	A19455	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Bowman	Rex	1/707771	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Boye	Carl	A216925	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch
Bradford	Ronald	78243	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Brady	Keith	423226	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Bramble	Ken	A114742	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Briais	Ronald	1202552	Maleny Sub Branch
Brown	William	424621	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Brown* (nee Armstrong)	Eleanor	W/340474	Redlands Sub Branch
Brownlie	Leslie	2/753090	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Bryant*	Kennedy	151277	Caloundra Sub Branch
Buddle	Marlene	W116922	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Bull	Raymond	A14250	Townsville Sub Branch
Bull	Maurice	22761445	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Bullock	Peter	2754158	Redlands Sub Branch
Burchard	Henry	15673	Beaudesert Sub Branch
Burford	Brian	22866594	Mudgeeraba-Robina Sub Branch
Butler	Patrick	Q222125	Herbert River Sub Branch
Cachia	Pamela	F25375	Townsville Sub Branch
Caldwell	Robert	2795488	Maryborough Sub Branch
Camm	Leo	1/720612	Harlaxton Sub Branch
Cardwell	Sarah	2099461	Townsville Sub Branch
Carlsh	Melba	QF268772	Sandgate Sub Branch
Carpenter	Raymond	A113069	Townsville Sub Branch
Carrick*	Jean	93535	Redlands Sub Branch
Carter	Eric	N/A	Redlands Sub Branch
Carter	Joseph	1/724185	Townsville Sub Branch
Cayless	John	118557	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Chadwick	Neville	76241	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Chalmers*	Gordon	36308	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Channing	Thomas	203797	Deception Bay Sub Branch
Clarke	Frederick	A100209	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Clarke	Paul	342961	Redlands Sub Branch
Clifforth*	Frank	L/FX757508	Caloundra Sub Branch
Coates	John	VX71730	Chinchilla Sub Branch
Cochrane	David	1732298	Redlands Sub Branch
Cochrane	Colin	37603	Sandgate Sub Branch
Cook	Robert	111221	Caloundra Sub Branch
Cooper	Graham	NZ13408	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Corby* (nee Reynolds)	Hazel	3495	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch
Court	William	48002	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch

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LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Coutts* (nee Flowers)	Shirley	101404	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Cramp	Harry	1736102	Banyo Sub Branch
Crouch*	Edward	QX56545	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Cunningham	Hazel	NF409900	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Dalglish	Donald	A36927	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Dalton	Geoffrey	QX87185	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Davis	Frank	A17199	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Davis*	Michael	R/62185	Caloundra Sub Branch
Davis*	Harold	55645	Caloundra Sub Branch
Dawber	Dennis	14874936	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
de Vere	Gary	147345	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
De Visser	Robert	45469	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch
Dellitt*	K	R45347	Toowoomba Sub Branch
Deprada	Alan	VX128018	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Desmarchelier	Marc	2/732456	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch
Digweed	John	16265	Stanthorpe Sub Branch
Dinnison	Michael	4722388	Townsville Sub Branch
Doessel	Bruce	A15655	Ipswich Sub Branch
Donaldson	Olive	W12749	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch
Dorman	Robert	2734398	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch
Dunn	John	A32934	Caloundra Sub Branch
Eardley-Harris	Peter	CX788069	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Eden	Michael	2713443	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Edmunds*	Hilton	31418	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Edwards	Ralph	QX43719	Ipswich Sub Branch
Eldridge	Roland	2411083	Caloundra Sub Branch
Eldridge	Theo	1714616	Bribie Island Sub Branch
English	Barry	1732076	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Ericksen	Gordon	135418	Sarina Sub Branch
Evans	James	QX52155	Stanthorpe Sub Branch
Evans	Barry	48537	Gaythorne Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Farmer	Peter	6/14973	Nerang Sub Branch
Farquharson*	Sadie	WF53216	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch
Farquharson*	Paul	3115258	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch
Fawns	Rodger	1200733	Maryborough Sub Branch
Featherstone	Brian	54330	Redlands Sub Branch
Felton	Peter	A217245	Ipswich Sub Branch
Fenton-Williams*	Gary	515253	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Filmer	Marie	Q\1001281	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Fletcher	Kevin	703267	Stanthorpe Sub Branch
Francis	William	1706095	Banyo Sub Branch
Franklin	Edmund	FX512589	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Fraser	Mark	243235	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Frost	Norman	22919437	Gympie Sub Branch
Gale (nee Kelly)	Alice	100355	Oakey Sub Branch
Gallagher	Lee	2164968	Sarina Sub Branch
Gallaher*	Kim	A59720	Redlands Sub Branch
Gardiner	James	10355	Innisfail Sub Branch
Garlin	Lois	994	Salisbury Sub Branch
Garson	Colin	1/10614/1/700894	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Gaylard	Harry	450274	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch
George	Evan		Caloundra Sub Branch
Gidlow	Kenneth	111271	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Girle*	Kevin	151659	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Glennon*	Thomas	1/715152	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Goldfinch	Sydney	WX41111	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Gomersall	Douglas	QX63560	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Gordon	Clive	NS4483	Cairns Sub Branch
Grant	Paul	R54105	Cairns Sub Branch
Green	Darrell	1/735845	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Gribble	Brian	R47628	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Grimshaw	Phillip	538802	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch

# LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Grosse	Elsie	F1/6	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch
Gunner	Walter	A11202	Ipswich Sub Branch
Gunning	Kevin	2/742750	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch
Hall	Stewart	26855	Caloundra Sub Branch
Hammond	John	A34214	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Hampson	Victor	18229	Gayndah Sub Branch
Hanssens	Luc	1738618	Goodna Sub Branch
Harding	Leslie	1/714228	Boonah Sub Branch
Harrison	Gregory	2/718225	Caloundra Sub Branch
Hart	Neville	R59121	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Hayes	Kevin	151534	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Hennigan	Brian	4493NS	National Servicemens Sub Branch
Henningsen	Peter	0135493	Kawana Waters Sub Branch
Henry	Thomas	R37385	Sunnybank Sub Branch
Hensler	John	1/25019	Redlands Sub Branch
Hilleard	William	Q100870/ QX55313	Caloundra Sub Branch
Hillier*	Victor	3/756701	RSL QLD State Branch
Himsley	Henry	2/777271	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Holack	Peter	QX31351	Mackay Sub Branch
Holland	Charles	NX207517	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch
Holmes	Max	H1158	Townsville Sub Branch
Hopgood*	George	SX23192 (S42311)	Townsville Sub Branch
Hopkins	William	1736850	Toowoomba Sub Branch
Hopkinson	Wayne	2244333	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Horne*	Elaine	111077	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Host	James	243046	Runaway Bay Sub Branch
Howard	Neville	A11924	Runaway Bay Sub Branch
Hughes*	Jack	75854	Townsville Sub Branch
Hungerford*	Rodney	QX36293	Ashgrove-Bardon Sub Branch
Hurren	Desmond	113705	Gaythorne Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Hussey	Norman	1/8618	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch
Irwin	Neville	22319497	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Irwin	Neville	448054	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Jack	Leonard	A112329	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch
Janssen	Franciscus	4410009	Redlands Sub Branch
Jefford	Walter	1151351	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Jeffreys	John	446899	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch
Jelly	Robert	L/FX623839	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Jobling	Thomas	CJ968629	Biloela Sub Branch
Johnson	Alan	A13387	Townsville Sub Branch
Johnston*	Bruce	R50526	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Jones	Joan	NFX205882	Caloundra Sub Branch
Joseph	Donald	1/400280	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Kelly	Bruce	1/718077	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Kennedy	Owen	33726	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Kenny	David	R107577	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Kent	Robert	A111976	Mt Larcom Sub Branch
Kinnest	Anthony	1204674	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch
Kinsey	George	22084611	Proserpine Sub Branch
Kirk	Brian	2/706588	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Klein	John	A11980	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch
Kootoofa	George	1/701636	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch
Laggan	Ivor	DM934683	Laidley Sub Branch
Lange	Ronald	12453	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Lawlor*	Edward	QX23416	RSL QLD State Branch
Lawson (nee Milford)	Unice	SF113340	Cairns Sub Branch
Lawson*	Melville	A113092	Townsville Sub Branch
Leeming*	B	L/F9272974	Mackay Sub Branch
Lennon	Mervyn	17741	Southport Sub Branch
Lidster	Paul	216376	Oakey Sub Branch

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LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Lindsey	Raymond	2525466	Gympie Sub Branch
Lingwoodock	Bevan	16056	Thuringowa Sub Branch
Linwood	Timothy	116473	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Lomax	Raymond	1710282	Beaudesert Sub Branch
Love	Eric	1/705240	Southport Sub Branch
Lovell	William	QX43651 (Q123919)	Wynnum Sub Branch
Lowien	Roland	S6842	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Lynch*	Claude	V12562	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch
MacDonald	John	134532	Sarina Sub Branch
Macdonald	Alan	34494	Monto Sub Branch
Mackie	Russell	1735737	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Maher	Kevin	B6026	Centenary Suburbs Sub Branch
Maloney*	Jack	NX165289	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Manners	Neville	R54142	Townsville Sub Branch
Mantell	Edward	3/741032	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Marlay	Owen	B4728	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Martin	Barry	218526	Nerang Sub Branch
Martin	Donald	1729002	Gracemere & District Sub Branch
Mason	Dudley	QX64316	Maryborough Sub Branch
May*	Anthony	NSS2788521	Tamborine Mountain Sub Branch
Mayfield	Kevin	A316859	North Gold Coast Sub Branch
Maykin	Philip	B4419	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Mayo	Eric	22593155	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
McAdam*	Donald	A115025	Nerang Sub Branch
McArdle	Patrick	R45693	Maroochydore Sub Branch
McCredde	David	A111559	Oakey Sub Branch
McDonald*	Raymond	16613	Townsville Sub Branch
McFarlane	Barry	A222140	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch
McGrane	Mervyn	435173	Bundaberg Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
McIntosh	John	1/702614	Marian Sub Branch
Mclean	Gavin	R58910	Esk Sub Branch
McLean	Ron	177750	Stanthorpe Sub Branch
McMahon	Gregory	A117658	Ipswich Sub Branch
Meiklejohn	Daniel	R110143	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Melksham*	James	16140	Ipswich Sub Branch
Merritt (nee Caruana)	Margaret	K144193	Airlie Beach-Whitsunday Sub Branch
Michaux*	Daniel	A124302	Redlands Sub Branch
Millar	Ian	440946	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch
Mitchell	Ronald	NX501330	Bayside South Sub Branch
Moffitt	Frank	QX54243	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch
Mooney*	Noel	151367	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Moore	Ian	A119178	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Moss	Leonard	1/2923	Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch
Mulhern	Douglas	B3541	Southport Sub Branch
Murphy	Phyllis	QF273171	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch
Murphy	Craig	2243813	Caloundra Sub Branch
Murray	John	B5239	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Murray	John	Q273842	Gympie Sub Branch
Nelson*	Raymond	2/748950	Redlands Sub Branch
Newman	Alfred	D/JX813373	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch
Newman	Donald	2137664	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Newman	David	NZ14578	Caloundra Sub Branch
Offer*	Colin	1/703717	Maryborough Sub Branch
Oldfield	Heather	NF436577	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Olson	Andrew	A16821	Malanda Sub Branch
O'Rourke	George	2721141	Caloundra Sub Branch
O'Shea	Patrick	QX8709	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Otto*	Theodore	440256	Townsville Sub Branch
Page	William	128599	Wynnum Sub Branch
Parkin*	Colin	511221	Maroochydore Sub Branch

# LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Parr	Richard	36684	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch
Payne	Percy	404114	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Pearcey*	Mavis	187	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Pearson	William	A32778	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Peggram	Leslie	7065	Tamborine Mountain Sub Branch
Penberthy	Barry	15002341	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Pendenza	Antonio	13067	Mareeba Sub Branch
Pennell	Arthur	QX60063	Ipswich Sub Branch
Pepperell	Ronald	914692	Holland Park Mt Gravatt Sub Branch
Philip	Elizabeth	W/171868	Caloundra Sub Branch
Pickering	Douglas	A113264	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch
Piggott	Raymond	A32815	Ipswich Sub Branch
Pitt	Jack	VX113935	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch
Pooley	Henry	1/400239	Greenbank Sub Branch
Price	Frederick	140596	Malanda Sub Branch
Provan	Rupert	165072	Nanango Sub Branch
Pullen	Clive	A113478	Caloundra Sub Branch
Rackley	Stanley	1731651	Manly-Lota Sub Branch
Ravell	Kevin	2/757544	Miles Sub Branch
Ray	Donald	22450981	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Rendell	Alan	B3856	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Rice*	Owen	NS2073	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch
Rieck	Ian	1735412	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Rigby*	Elwyne	150170	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Rigg	Leonard	1/718507	Stanthorpe Sub Branch
Roach	Marie	109309	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Robinson	Laurence	23661499	Gladstone Sub Branch
Rooney	John	NX504069	Caloundra Sub Branch
Rosser	Michael	58759	Bayside South Sub Branch
Royal	Gerald	4/706693	North Gold Coast Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Rub	Kenneth	426162	Toowoomba Sub Branch
Ryan	Alan	A16938	Charters Towers Sub Branch
Sams	William	A1562	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch
Sanderson	Thomas	QX60418	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch
Sangster	Frank	A11545	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch
Sargeson	Charles	2/5461	Nerang Sub Branch
Schade	Stuart	A132829	Greenbank Sub Branch
Scotney	Harold	P50414	Southport Sub Branch
Scott	Allan	2365245	Innisfail Sub Branch
Shaw	Barry	218717	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Shelley	Ken	8244696	Townsville Sub Branch
Sherington	John	145982	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Shields	John	2793232	Townsville Sub Branch
Short	Mervyn	1/28500	Townsville Sub Branch
Simeon	William	23096971	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Skeen	William	215292	Airlie Beach-Whitsunday Sub Branch
Skinner	Ian	3786887	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Sleep	Harold	QX33215	Maryborough Sub Branch
Smalley	Richard	QX500498	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Smedley	Shirley	F1/55	RSL Defence Servicewomen's Sub Branch
Smith	Marlunn	1/728935	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch
Smith	Edward	1/1647	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch
Smith	William	NX500748	Caloundra Sub Branch
Smith	Anthony	1200868	Townsville Sub Branch
Sneddon*	Henry	44467	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Solway	Ernest	R31696	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Sorensen	Mervyn	a120959/ 14391	Tramways Sub Branch

Queensland RSL News has published this list at the request of RSL members. Queensland RSL News takes no responsibility for inaccuracies outside the control of RSL Queensland. This list was correct as at 10 August 2022. Surnames flagged with an asterisk (\*) have an unconfirmed 'date of death'.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Spear	William	NX88336/ 1445651	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Spencer	Ronald	3/5670	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Spencer	Edward	1/712824	Boonah Sub Branch
Sperling*	John	2400717	Farleigh & Northern Beaches Sub Branch
Spurway*	Desmond	132255	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Stafford	Douglas	1734350	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Stanton	Richard	1/726684- 1/19953	Centenary Suburbs Sub Branch
Still	Ronald	28471	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Stoddart	Lorna	QFX64886 (QF272039)	Warwick Sub Branch
Stuart-Sutherland	Allasdair	A18769	Bundaberg Sub Branch
Sullivan	Douglas	219336	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch
Sullivan	Ralph	1707571	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Sullivan	Leonard	1735085	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Sutcliffe*	Graham	A222357	Greenbank Sub Branch
Sutherland	Harold	1235599	Townsville Sub Branch
Swan	G	R106669	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Swanson	Mabel	P440	Sunnybank Sub Branch
Swanson*	Harold	QX55769 (Q267768)	Townsville Sub Branch
Sweeney	George	QX63673	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Symes	Kenneth	1200757	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch
Tappenden*	Eric	79815	Mackay Sub Branch
Taylor	Trevor	1731860	Townsville Sub Branch
Taylor	Robert	1/723248	Redcliffe Sub Branch
Taylor*	Ross	N/A	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Tekawa	Netana	553234	Mount Isa Sub Branch
Thomson	Ian	R50050	Townsville Sub Branch
Timms	Norman	126893	Nambour Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Tobin	Martin	16087	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch
Todd	John	O/N37208	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Torkington	Phyllis	W/438570	Esk Sub Branch
Trease	Peter	3796546	Magnetic Island Sub Branch
Tuesley	Michael	S12212	Isis Sub Branch
Turnbull	David	1201055	Townsville Sub Branch
Turner	Terry	A17296	Redlands Sub Branch
Vaivarins*	George	1202923	Toowong Sub Branch
Van Lysdonk	Antonius	4722729	Kilkivan Chapter of the Gympie Sub Branch Inc
Waite	Gordon	A319860	Caloundra Sub Branch
Waite	Gordon	R65968	Caloundra Sub Branch
Wallace	Keith	QX45390	Cairns Sub Branch
Walters	John	23614703	Caloundra Sub Branch
Walton*	Herbert	A4649	Bribie Island Sub Branch
Ward	Ian	8225768	Wynnum Sub Branch
Ward*	Russell	184368	Jimboomba Sub Branch
Waterman	Stafford	133914	Maroochydore Sub Branch
Watkinson	Vilma	W/32819	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch
Weller*	Flavell	151619	Goodna Sub Branch
Wheeler	David	4140252	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
White	Alfred	W3047	Kilcoy Sub Branch
Whitehorn*	Clarence	42013	Gaythorne Sub Branch
Whitfield	Edward	14037593	Ipswich Sub Branch
Wilds*	Colin	2/4766	Highfields Sub Branch
Wilson	Paul	1735307	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch
Wilson	Kevin	R65827	Sandgate Sub Branch
Wilson	Terrence	223076	Hervey Bay Sub Branch
Wilson*	Leslie	124406	Clifton Sub Branch
Wittervan*	Betty	WR1626	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch
Woelke	Hans	R42811	Southport Sub Branch
Wyllie*	Marshall	140112	Maroochydore Sub Branch

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