

QUEENSLAND

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RSL NEWS

**ANZAC
SQUARE**
FINAL STAGE OF
RESTORATION
KICKS OFF

75 YEARS ON
REMEMBERING THE
BATTLE OF THE
BISMARCK SEA

**FINDING
THEIR
CIVILIAN
FEET**
YOUNG VETERANS
IN FOCUS AT
CURRUMBIN

LIFE SWELL FOR VETERAN SURFERS

**BUILDING A HEALTHY, ACTIVE VETERAN COMMUNITY
THROUGH SURF, SUN AND MATESHIP**



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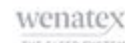
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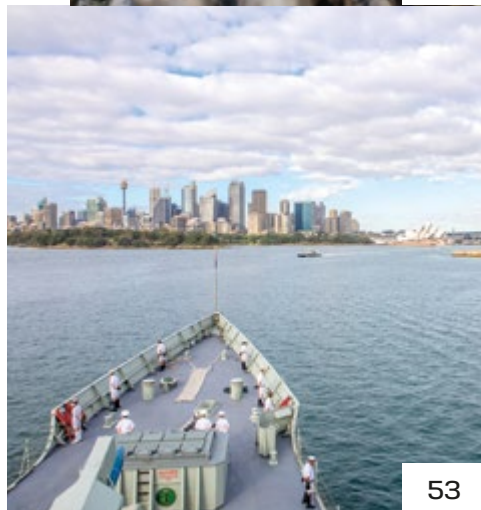
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16



53



28

FEATURES

16 ANZAC Square: Final Stage of Restoration

2018 sees the final stage of the restoration and enhancement of Queensland's beloved state war memorial.

28 Surf, Sun And Sea Wash Worries Away

The Association of Veteran Surfers is working to build a strong, healthy, active veteran community through surf, sun and mateship.

40 Honour. Integrity. Courage.

Luke Halabi's core values have served him in both his Defence career and life after service as he battles the crippling effects of PTSD.

56 75th Anniversary of a Decisive Sea Battle

Described by General Douglas MacArthur as "one of the most complete and annihilating combats of all time", The Battle of the Bismarck stunned the Japanese military and changed the course of the Pacific War.

REGULAR

- 10 Editor's Mailbox
- 12 News Bulletin
- 45 Mates4Mates
- 62 This Month in History
- 74 RSL Community
- 78 RSL Mateship
- 92 Last Post

Front Cover



COVER IMAGE:
President Matt Hoare co-founded the Association of Veteran Surfers to help veterans deal with the stress of military life or transitioning out of the military.
PHOTO: Tony Phillips



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LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR NEW CONSTITUTION

Ladies and gentlemen,

We began the year with some very sad news – the passing of Tom McLucas OAM BEM, an Honorary Life Vice President of RSL Queensland, Wide Bay & Burnett District and Bundaberg RSL.

Tom passed away after a short illness early in the New Year. He was a stalwart of the RSL and will be sadly missed. On behalf of the Board, we extend our deepest condolences to Tom's family. You can read a tribute to Tom on page 68 of this edition.

STATE CONSTITUTION AND BOARD STRUCTURE

By the time you read this edition, 2018 will be well and truly underway. In February, Roy Cunneen and I began visiting the Districts to talk about the new State Constitution and suggested new Board structure.

As you would all be aware, last year we engaged Deloitte to review the existing State Board structure and make recommendations about how we could improve our corporate governance.

You can find out more and read the final report at www.rslqld.org/OrgReview. I encourage you to read the document and provide feedback to your Sub Branch delegate.

One of the issues the Board was keen to resolve was the inherent conflict of interest with the District Presidents being members of the State Board. At the Board level, all 10 District

“ONE OF THE ISSUES THE BOARD WAS KEEN TO RESOLVE WAS THE INHERENT CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS BEING MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD. THE INTERESTS OF THE TOTAL ORGANISATION.”

Presidents cannot represent their District interests, but must represent the interests of the total organisation.

This has always been an issue, however, there is now far more scrutiny on the actions of Directors and we are obliged to correct this issue. We must also address another problem – although we are a member-based organisation, the membership has little ability to influence the composition of the RSL Queensland Board.

At each Annual General Meeting (AGM), members elect one Director on a three-year rotational basis. For example, this year you will elect the State President. The membership has little authority over the election of the other Directors, as they are elected by their respective Districts as the District President.

One suggestion has been to give the membership the power and authority to directly elect every Director of RSL

Queensland at the AGM. Such elections would continue to be on a rotational basis, however, the membership would decide the whole Board.

The election of individuals to the Board would be limited to RSL members who adhere to criteria developed in consultation with members.

PROGRAMS DEVELOPING

Turning to other matters, 2018 will be a busy year. Several programs continue to grow, including our support to homeless veterans, employment program and engagement with the Australian Defence Force in Queensland.

ANNIVERSARY OF ARMISTICE DAY

This year marks the anniversary of several momentous events from both the First and Second World Wars, with the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day on November 11 likely the most important. We

expect this commemoration to be a major event in Brisbane and other communities across this great nation.

DISTRICT AGMS

In February, we began the District AGMs, with six of the current 10 District Presidents up for election. While there has been much focus on the Board and Directors of RSL Queensland, the reality is the men and women who serve on the Board are first to be elected as either State President, Deputy President, Vice President or District President, and each has important responsibilities in that capacity outside the boardroom.

This sets us apart from most other corporate structures; we play a very active role in supporting the membership and I sometimes wonder if everyone understands this distinction.

In closing, on behalf of the Board, welcome to 2018 and thank you in advance for the work you will undertake in supporting our veterans and families in need throughout the year.



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

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A YEAR FOR FINISHING WHAT WE'VE STARTED

Welcome to 2018 and to the start of another year of diligently supporting our Defence family.

We can never overstate the value our hardworking volunteers bring to RSL Queensland. Without your passion and consistent efforts year after year, we wouldn't be able to achieve what we have for the veteran community. So, thank you.

As an organisation, it is important we have a clear strategy to guide and direct our resources for the year ahead. At our meeting on January 24, the Board approved RSL Queensland's business plan for 2018.

While there are many important goals on the agenda, the plan sets out our four main areas of focus.

SECURE OUR CHARITABLE STATUS

Retaining our charitable status is critical – both to our reputation and financial sustainability. Without it, we can't provide quality and valued services to the Defence family, nor operate the RSL Art Union, which raises 97 per cent of our income.

The increased scrutiny by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission of RSL Queensland's Board and governance has highlighted the need to evolve and modernise our governance approach. In November 2017, we approved a Governance Plan to tackle this and 2018 will see us continue this essential piece of work.

"AS YOU ARE LIKELY AWARE, RSL QUEENSLAND HAS BEEN UNDERGOING A HUGE TRANSFORMATION OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS TO ENSURE WE ARE USING THE TOOLS AND SYSTEMS REQUIRED BY A MODERN, EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE CHARITY."

FINALISE OUR TRANSFORMATION

As you are likely aware, RSL Queensland has been undergoing a huge transformation over the past couple of years to ensure we are using the tools and systems required by a modern, efficient and effective charity. While it has taken us a little longer than expected, I'm excited to finalise this evolutionary project in 2018.

This will have far-reaching benefits across all areas of State Branch, but, most importantly, in the creation of new ways to serve the Defence community.

STRENGTHEN OUR CHARITABLE SERVICES

As a public charity, we must focus on growing our charitable services and ensuring our stakeholders, members and clients are aware of our role in the community. This year we will develop robust strategies outlining the many services

we plan to deliver and how to promote ourselves as the leading ex-service organisation in Australia.

We will focus on existing partnerships and programs, such as support for Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation, the RSL Homelessness Program, scholarship and employment programs, Mates4Mates, as well as our own service delivery. This year we will also hire an additional 15 Veteran Services Officers to further bolster our ability to assist the Defence family.

In March, we will know the outcome of the Defence Family Research Project, an extensive and unprecedented program of market research undertaken by Colmar Brunton. This will provide a basis for analysing our services and programs and, as a result, we might start to see new services piloted in quarter three and rolled out in quarter four.

I look forward to sharing those results with you over the coming months.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Over the past few years we have drastically increased the number of services we provide to veterans. For this trend to continue, we must adhere to the RSL 2020 strategy and become financially sustainable.

We are exceedingly proud of our Art Union team, but the fact we rely on them for more than 97 per cent of RSL Queensland's revenue is a risk. Once our Board policies are approved, we will make investments both to protect our current assets and optimise returns from our existing investments and properties.

I hope you're all as excited as me about the year ahead. I invite all our members to form up alongside our hardworking ANZAC House staff, roll up your sleeves and continue working hard to secure the future of our remarkable organisation.



Luke Traini
Chief Executive Officer
RSL (Queensland Branch)

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RSL OPERATIONS: PART THREE

As discussed in previous editions of *Queensland RSL News*, we will review the main capability areas of our Operations group over five consecutive issues of the magazine to illustrate some of the work RSL Queensland does on behalf of its members.

In the last edition, Veteran Services Support Manager Margaret Jenyns introduced her team, which helps train, guide and mentor our Veteran Services Officers and improve the quality of services we provide to the Defence community.

In this edition, Marketing Manager Alison Hunt introduces you to the third capability area

within the area of Operations – Marketing. This team is the voice of our organisation – they act as a conduit between our membership and staff to help the public understand what RSL Queensland does.



Scott Denner
State Secretary
RSL (Queensland Branch)

OUR MARKETING TEAM

The marketing team promotes RSL Queensland's vision to the wider Australian public – namely our role as a peer-to-peer organisation that promotes mateship and is founded by veterans to support veterans.

For RSL to have a strong future, we must retain our traditional motivations, but also explore new channels to adapt to the changing needs of our Defence family.

EVENTS ORGANISATION

Throughout the year, our team organises Remembrance Day and Indigenous Veterans Day at ANZAC Square, the ANZAC Appeal, the State Congress, and community events such as the 2017 Beersheba Family Fun Day.

In 2018, the most important event on our calendar will be the centenary of the armistice of WWI. Our marketing team is developing a range of activities that will be offered around the state for either Districts or Sub Branches to pick up and hold in their local areas.

This means that no matter where someone lives in Queensland, they will have an opportunity to commemorate this historic day. Some activities will be low to no-cost and involve participation between Sub Branches and the local community to build awareness around the significance of the date and the role of the RSL in their area.

This year we will also help promote reunions or important Sub Branch events on

This is the third article in a five-part series on RSL Queensland's Operations group. In the April edition of *Queensland RSL News*, read about the work of our District Support Services team.

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our new webpage at www.rslqld.org/events. Please email us at events@rslqld.org with the details and a photo (if possible) so we can help you promote your event.

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

We have two main ways of communicating with you, our membership: this magazine, *Queensland RSL News*, and our monthly e-newsletter *RSL Runner*. In both channels, we strive to share the fantastic work of the organisation and its members.

You may not be aware that we also provide an audio version of *RSL News* – you can listen on our website at www.rslqld.org/rsl-news. This is part of our efforts to ensure all members can keep up-to-date with us, no matter their geographical or physical limitations.

Alternatively, if you like to watch videos or interact with us via social media, you can find us on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram.

We always want to hear from our members and you are welcome to make submissions or provide feedback at any time via editor@rslqld.org. The 'Mateship' and 'Community' pages of *Queensland RSL News* (see pages 74-80 of this edition) are a good place to share stories about everything happening out there in the RSL community.

If you are not on *The Runner* email list and would like to receive it, please email memberships@rslqld.org to have your email address added to your profile.

MEDIA RELATIONS

The way RSL Queensland is perceived in the media reflects on the organisation as a whole and influences our role in the community. We must, therefore, manage the conversation to be positive and highlight the hard work of RSL and our Sub Branches.

We are always seeking interesting stories to share with the public, so if you have something valuable you would like us to know about, please email profficer@rslqld.org. We may be able to help with media release templates, pitching stories or forging relationships with local media.

MARKETING AND BRANDING

Did you see our latest brand campaign about the support we provide to our Defence family? We used a range of channels, including TV, radio, billboards and Facebook to promote RSL Queensland and create awareness around the services we provide.

The RSL Queensland brand is one of the most important assets we own, so ensuring it evolves effectively as our organisation itself also undergoes a transformation is vital.

The Brand and Campaign Officer also supports both our events and health and wellbeing programs by developing print and digital material to promote to members of our Defence family and the larger community, increasing the level of support we can provide.

If you wish to use our logo or have questions about branding, please contact us at marketing@rslqld.org. It is important to ensure consistency of our brand and provide the correct logo file – particularly when it comes to print, banners, marquees, clothing, memorial plaques and cenotaphs.

DIGITAL

Digital communication is an important part of RSL Queensland's move into the 21st century. Much of our future service delivery depends on digital platforms as we support the activities of Veteran Services Officers and volunteers.

Digital media enables us to build a greater community and a stronger voice for veterans. It also allows us to increase the number of ways people can stay in contact with our organisation – whether they prefer the more traditional methods of print or telephone, or digital communications such as website and social media.

We have continued to build the online presence of RSL Queensland over the past year, with an increase of 45 per cent in website traffic and 25 per cent in Facebook engagement.

Perhaps the most important aspect of digital communication is that it allows us to reach younger members of the Defence family or people in remote areas with reduced access to services.



RSL Queensland's marketing team: Jonathon Cole, left, Matilda Dray, Lee Paton, Alison Hunt, Anita Jaensch and Jess Stone.

MEET THE TEAM BEHIND THE PROGRAM

Alison Hunt

Marketing Manager

Responsible for overseeing the team and the marketing communications strategy for RSL Queensland.

Jonathon Cole

Events Management Officer

Organises all events, including Remembrance Day, the Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony, State Congress and the Armistice Centenary commemorations.

Matilda Dray

Communications Officer

Editor of *Queensland RSL News*, *RSL Runner* and oversees social media.

Anita Jaensch

Public Relations Specialist

Manages the PR strategy and shares stories about the work of RSL with the public.

Lee Paton

Digital Officer

Oversees the website and other digital communications.

Jess Stone

Brand and Campaign Officer

Manages the brand, logos and develops campaigns to promote the RSL.

CONTACT RSL QUEENSLAND

134 RSL

www.rslqld.org/contactus

TELLING TYPO

Having flown in the Liberator as a wireless operator-air-gunner during the Battle of the Atlantic, I was interested in your article 'WW2 Bomber, fighting fit at 92' (*Queensland RSL News*, Edition 6 2017). We had the British .303 Browning Turrets with four guns at the rear and two guns in the front, as well as the latest radar in the blip under the belly.

Now at 98, I do not remember having any *waste* guns on board, but I do remember having two *waist* mounted .5 guns. These waist mounted guns were American made and were known to overheat with use, so that a round left in the barrel would cook and fire randomly, often leaving a hole in the tail.

John Chambers

*Former Warrant Officer (RAF Voluntary Reserve)
751137*

SURVIVAL KIT STILL DOING ITS JOB

From a fellow Kedron-Wavell RSL member, well done Bob ('WW2 Bomber, fighting fit at 92' *Queensland RSL News*, Edition 6 2017). The survival kit is obviously still doing its job. What more would you expect from an ex-gunner?

John Horton

BEST WISHES FOR AN OLD COMRADE

I noted a photo (page 73, *Queensland RSL News*, Edition 6 2017) from Mt Isa and saw Les Bunn's name. I'm hoping it's the same Wg Cdr Les Bunn from 3SQN Butterworth circa 1971-73.

I was a photographer with 'The Mighty Tigre' and Les was our Senior Engo, along with Mirage pilot Mike Cavenagh, our COs Pete Scully and Dick Bromball. They were the finest officers I had the pleasure of serving with.

3SQN won the Gloucester Cup during this period and the credit given to SGT Vince Brennan (dec'd) and myself for our efforts has stayed as my proudest RAAF achievement. If it is Les in the photo, I would like to wish him the very best.

Brian Lourigan

A117086 1967-1976

COMMEMORATING THOSE AT REST

What a great article by (Rev) Ian Taylor, BA, BD (page 11, *Queensland RSL News*, Edition 6 2017), although I think Redcliffe is not alone in making this special tribute.

For more than 50 years, each ANZAC Day between 7:00 and 7:30am, Nanango RSL Sub Branch honours those 'at rest' in Nanango Cemetery. The Sub Branch organises a small ceremony attended by local politicians, the mayor, councillors, local cadets, families and the public.

In the lead up, South Burnett Regional Council staff compile a list of veterans who lie in the cemetery and painstaking mark each known site with a small national flag. They also place four small white crosses at the four corners of the flagpole in memory of four local lads who drowned as prisoners of war during WWII.

On ANZAC morning, the Sub Branch organises buses to transport people to the cemetery and provides poppies to place on the grave sites.

In their own way, every community or RSL Sub Branch has its way of showing respect to those who have served. Yes, it is great to hold a special tribute, but attending an ANZAC Day service achieves the same goal and all Queenslanders/Australians should be encouraged to attend at least one service each ANZAC Day.

Allan Whelan

Life Subscriber, Unattached List Sub Branch

NSW BOER WAR MEMORIAL

I refer to the unveiling of the Boer War Memorial in Canberra (*Queensland RSL News*, Edition 2 2017). My apologies for the late reply.

There is a great memorial to the Australian Lighthorse and those who served in the Boer War in Harden-Murrumburrah, NSW. The memorial depicts the famous ride of the horse known as 'Bill the Bastard', whose rider, the unit commander, saved about six of his men under heavy enemy fire.

They hung onto stirrups, neck, saddle and each other and he got the lot of them out. A good diorama of the action is displayed on the main route through town.

The efforts of any serviceman or woman should never be forgotten, irrespective of their theatre of action or its timing, and it is a great display of respect by the community.

Peter Campbell

PEOPLE OF PASSION AND COMPASSION

I am writing about two articles in *Queensland RSL News* (Edition 6, 2017). The article 'Young Veterans: Bridging the generation gap' was brilliant. These people are doing wonderful things to help others with compassion and passion. I have met some personally and cannot say enough about what they do for the veteran community and their families. They will be around for a long time as they have a huge following.

The article on page 57 'The Home They Deserve' about VSO Jason Ryan helping a Defence family is a terrific representation of what Jason and his offsider Michael do for the whole Defence family. They are compassionate, understanding, caring and have an ability to speak with honesty and professionalism.

This article showed the many hoops they would jump through to help those in need. They do not judge, but utilise their resources in the best way possible. These two need another medal for their support to the veteran community and possibly a pay rise! Thank you for allowing me to extol the good virtues of all these people.

Ray Krzyzanski

Mudjimba RSL Sub Branch member

Veterans Exercise Programs



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Entitled Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) clients may be referred for clinically necessary Exercise Physiology treatment by their General Practitioner on a valid D904 referral form.

Gold Card Holders are entitled to clinically necessary treatment covered by DVA's health care arrangements for all health conditions.

White Card Holders are entitled to clinically necessary treatment for an accepted disability ie: an injury or disease accepted by DVA as service related.

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REGISTRATIONS FOR STATE CONGRESS NOW OPEN

This year's State Congress will be held from June 22-24 in beautiful Cairns. Registrations opened on February 23, and the RSL Queensland website will be updated with details about the event as the date gets closer.

The registration process has changed this year, with registrations being made through the District Secretaries. If you have any questions about the upcoming State Congress, please contact your District Secretary.

A representative from each Sub Branch was invited to contact their District Secretary prior to February 28 to provide topic suggestions for the breakout sessions. The facilitated workshops are a great way for members to discuss important issues and plan for the future of the RSL.



RSL RUNNER

Do you currently receive our monthly member e-newsletter, the *RSL Runner*? It's another great way to keep up-to-date with the work of RSL Queensland. If you are not on the *Runner* email list and would like to receive it, please email memberships@rslqld.org to have your email address added to your profile.





DIGGER COMMEMORATIVE PACK

Congratulations to
D Cummings of Murrumba
Downs, who was the
lucky winner of the Digger
commemorative pack from
Edition 6, 2017.

LAST CHANCE FOR WARHAVEN

Are you a member of our Defence community seeking independent living accommodation in Cairns? Places are filling fast within Warhaven, our revamped, resort-style housing complex.

Warhaven is designed for current and ex-serving members of both the Australian Defence Force and Allied Forces, together with their immediate family, including spouses and children. The medium to long-term accommodation currently houses residents of all ages, ranging from late 30s to over 90 years old.

To find out more information or submit an expression of interest, visit www.rslqld.org/warhaven, phone 0427 630 956 or email accommodation@rslqld.org.



CONSULTATION BEGINS ON DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Following the results of the Deloitte review, the Board began work on the draft Constitution. To ensure members are fully aware of the details of the new draft Constitution and have the opportunity to provide feedback, RSL Queensland has begun a comprehensive communication and consultation process.

During the early months of 2018, State President Stewart Cameron and Director Roy Cunneen will visit each District AGM to communicate the proposed changes and answer any questions from members.

Visit www.rslqld.org/OrgReview to view the final Deloitte report.





VETERAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Sometimes our Defence family needs a bit of a helping hand with housing and RSL Queensland offers several options, either on a temporary or a long-term basis.

- **TEMPORARY** accommodation in Toowong and the Gold Coast is available for those living in regional areas who need to travel for medical treatment. These are close to hospitals and have private rooms and communal kitchen and dining areas.
- **LONG-TERM** accommodation is available for those who need quality, affordable housing. We operate more than 80 one and two-bedroom self-contained housing units across Queensland in Ayr, Cairns, Mareeba, Yeppoon, Emu Park, Mt Perry and Gayndah and Proserpine.

Visit www.rslqld.org for more information.



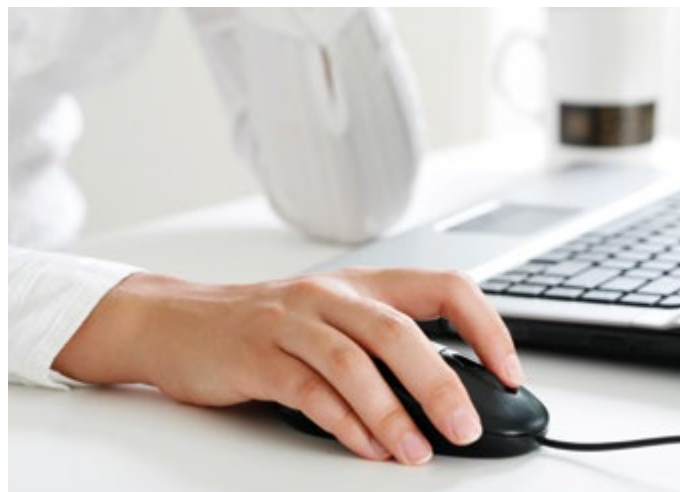
RAYMOND KINGSTON HONOURED WITH OAM

Congratulations to Raymond James Kingston (Jim) OAM of Murgon RSL Sub Branch, who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours list on January 26. Jim is pictured, left, with Federal Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien at the Australia Day awards ceremony at Murgon Town Hall.

He was given the OAM for his service to veterans and their families, and to the community of Murgon. Jim was also recognised for his Outstanding Contribution to Murgon by a Citizen or Group in the Murgon Business & Development Association Inc. Awards.

Jim has been a member of Murgon Sub Branch since 1996, Past President for two years, Past Vice-President for six years and Chairman of the Homes Committee from 1999–2016. He is a Life Member of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia (Queensland) and a member of the South Burnett Barbershop Quartet, which voluntarily provides entertainment to residents of five aged care facilities in the Murgon District.

Jim is also Past President of the Apex Club of Murgon and a Life Member since 1975 and was named 2003 Citizen of the Year of Murgon Shire Council (now South Burnett Regional Council).



CONTACT CENTRE BENEFITS FROM COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Last October, RSL Queensland launched a new way of interacting with veterans and their families when they contact us – the Client Contact Centre.

Expert staff at our Contact Centre can, in many cases, resolve clients' calls on the spot. Those who need more personalised assistance or would like to sit down with someone and go through a claim are referred to either our Veterans Services Officers or highly trained volunteer advocates in the Sub Branches.

This collaborative approach has been working extremely well, with clients receiving professional support from both VSOs and volunteers. Thanks go to the District Secretaries, Sub Branches and volunteer advocates, who have been instrumental in supporting this valuable initiative.



Defence Community Organisation Military Support Officer Major Mark Strickland, left, presents RSL Queensland Veteran Services Manager Rob Skoda with a certificate to acknowledge the collaborative efforts of the two organisations.

PARTNERSHIP WITH DEFENCE COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

As part of our support for the Defence family, RSL Queensland has forged a strong relationship with the Defence Community Organisation (DCO), which provides assistance to ADF members and their families. We have worked closely with DCO over the past year to help families and have jumped in to enhance the organisation's existing capabilities wherever possible.

RSL Queensland has funded accommodation and travel for families in crisis and provided in-home support to augment DCO's abilities. DCO recently presented us with a certificate recognising our joint efforts, together with a donation, which we placed back into a welfare fund for Brisbane's 7th Brigade.

This is just one of many organisations the Veterans Services team at RSL Queensland works closely with to support the current serving Defence community.



CHEAPER PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR QUEENSLAND VETERANS

The introduction of a white card concession scheme means about 19,000 Queensland veterans can now access cheaper public transport in Queensland.

From February 9, 2018 onwards, Department of Veteran Affairs white card holders will receive a 50 per cent discount on public transport fares across the state, bringing them into line with concessions for current gold card holders.

White card concessions will apply on TransLink bus, rail, tram and ferry services, regional Qconnect bus services and approved regional ferry services. Visit the Translink website (www.translink.com.au) for more information.

(Image courtesy of TransLink, Department of Transport and Main Roads)

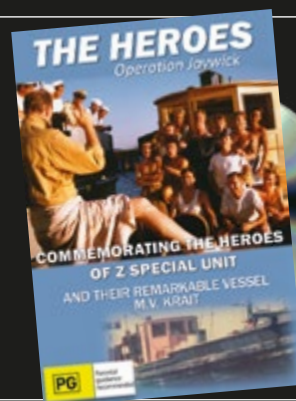


THE HEROES OPERATION JAYWICK

The iconic Australian Mini Series commemorating a true story of courage and endurance by the men of Z Special unit sailing their vessel "KRAIT" to launch a daring raid on enemy shipping in Singapore harbour in WWII. One of the most extraordinary, heroic and successful exploits of the entire War.

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An aerial architectural rendering of Anzac Square. The image shows a wide, multi-lane road with several cars and a tram. To the left of the road is a green lawn area with palm trees and a small building. To the right of the road is a row of buildings, some of which are highlighted in a light brown color. The overall style is a mix of realistic rendering and architectural line work.

ANZAC SQUARE

Final stage of Restoration

This year will realise the final stage of the restoration and enhancement of Queensland's beloved state war memorial, ANZAC Square.



THE fourth and final stage of the ANZAC Square restoration project follows extensive works that began in 2013, which will not only mend the ravages of time, but also restore, protect and respectfully enhance ANZAC Square to ensure its continued use and relevance for current and future generations.

The majority of external works will be completed during 2018 between the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day 2018 commemorations. They will result in a restored, enhanced and accessible parkland befitting the significance of the memorial.

The refreshed space will also host a variety of enhancements, including a new entry, improved prominence of memorial elements, improvements to the lawns and gardens, high-quality materials for the hard landscape, and upgraded access – including a new lift and better event spaces.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said these works will form part of

the Queensland Government's \$49.3 million commitment to Queensland's ANZAC Centenary and recognise ANZAC Square's national significance.

"As we enter the last year of the 2014-2018 ANZAC Centenary, it is fitting that we undertake the final phase of the restoration and enhancement of our pre-eminent memorial to our servicemen and women," the Premier said. "We want our state's living memorial, ANZAC Square, with the Shrine of Remembrance at its heart, to stand proud for another 100 years."

As part of the Queensland Government ANZAC Centenary program, a total of \$21.98 million will be invested in the project by the Queensland Government, Commonwealth Government and Brisbane City Council.

Chaired by Captain Andrew Craig RAN (Retired), the Queensland Advisory Committee for the Commemoration of the ANZAC

ABOVE:
The ANZAC Square War Memorial is uniquely and ideally set in peaceful surrounds amid the hustle and bustle of city life.

OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT:
Unveiled in 1992, the WWII memorial depicts an Army nurse tending a wounded soldier. Around the base are insignia of many women's services, as well as a replica Victoria Cross, citation and photograph of VC winner, Corporal Jack French of Crows Nest, and other memorabilia.

Centenary has overseen the state-wide commemorative program, which includes the ANZAC Square project, the State Library of Queensland's Q ANZAC 100 project, the new ANZAC Legacy Gallery at the Queensland Museum, community grants and commemorative events.

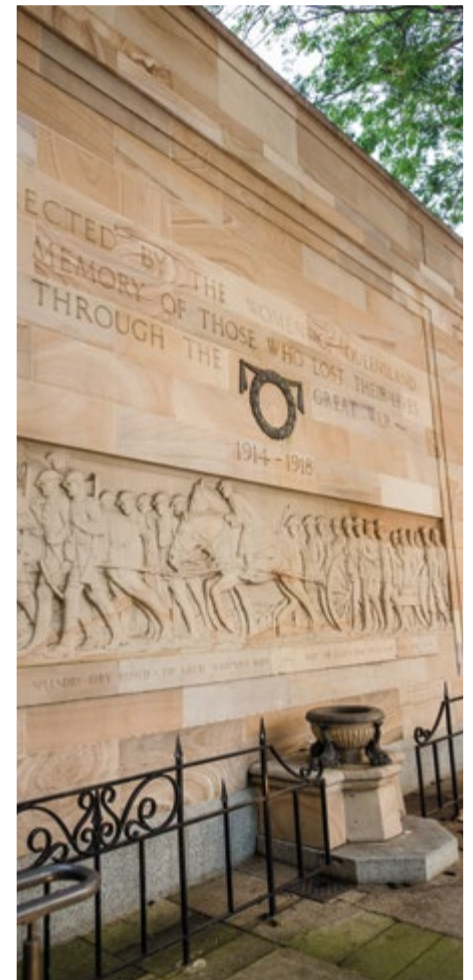
"ANZAC Square provides permanent recognition for those who fought and died in the service of our country and an opportunity to enshrine their legacy by educating future generations. On its completion, the Square will be restored to the dignified and solemn place of remembrance and reflection that its original 'founding fathers' intended," Captain Craig said.

In 2013, the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council established a joint project in recognition of the need to address structural, water ingress and other issues. The ANZAC Square project steering committee, chaired by Nigel Chamier AM, manages this complex

DID YOU KNOW!

ANZAC SQUARE IS RICH IN SYMBOLISM, IF YOU KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- The number of columns in the Shrine of Remembrance (18) and the number of steps in its flanking staircases (19 to the first landing, 18 to the second) both reference 1918, the year WWI ended.
- The shallow reflecting pools on each side of the staircase are symbols of tranquillity and renewed life.
- Three paths converge at the base of the staircase, representing the three services: Navy, Army and Air Force.
- Six bottle trees (*Brachychiton rupestris*) commemorate the six Queensland Light Horse Regiments that fought in the Boer War. It is believed Sir Donald Charles Cameron, a former Light Horseman himself, donated the original trees.
- Date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) commemorate those who served in the Middle East during both World Wars.



RIGHT: Carved by renowned local sculptor Daphne Mayo, the Memorial Frieze on the western wall, erected by the Women of Queensland in memory of those who lost their lives in the Great War and unveiled on March 24, 1932, is a sculptured panel of infantry and horse-drawn guns. Daphne's only brother, who died from gas poisoning, is depicted as the first figure pulling the gun carriage. In front is a sandstone drinking fountain supported by four bronze fish, a symbolic horse drinking trough remembering the invaluable work of horses during WWI.

suite of capital works to rectify the effects of weather and time on the buildings and parkland, and enhance this important public space.

The previous three stages of the project focused on repairing structural defects and damage from water infiltration, repairs to heritage elements including stonework and tiling, improvements to the reliability of the Eternal Flame and upgrading interior spaces to enable greater public engagement with the story of Queenslanders in our armed forces through the Memorial Galleries.

The quality and significance of the respectful conservation works to date were recognised by the National Trust in its 2015 Heritage Awards, winning the Gold Award in the Conservation Works category, and by the Queensland

Heritage Council awarding the project the Premier's Sustainable Heritage Award in 2016.

"Through our investment to date we have preserved this important space; restoring, protecting and respectfully enhancing the site to ensure its continued use and relevance for current and future generations, and this next stage will further conserve, de-clutter and enhance the Square, helping to create a calm environment and sense of repose and reflection," Ms Palaszczyk said.

The bulk of stage four works will be completed by Remembrance Day on November 11, 2018, in time for commemorations marking the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that led to the end of WWI.

"For the thousands who pass

through ANZAC Square every day, once complete, stage four works will help them recognise the parkland as a memorial site and something much more than a leafy thoroughfare as part of their daily commute," Captain Craig said.

To view the Queensland Government's full information paper, visit www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au.

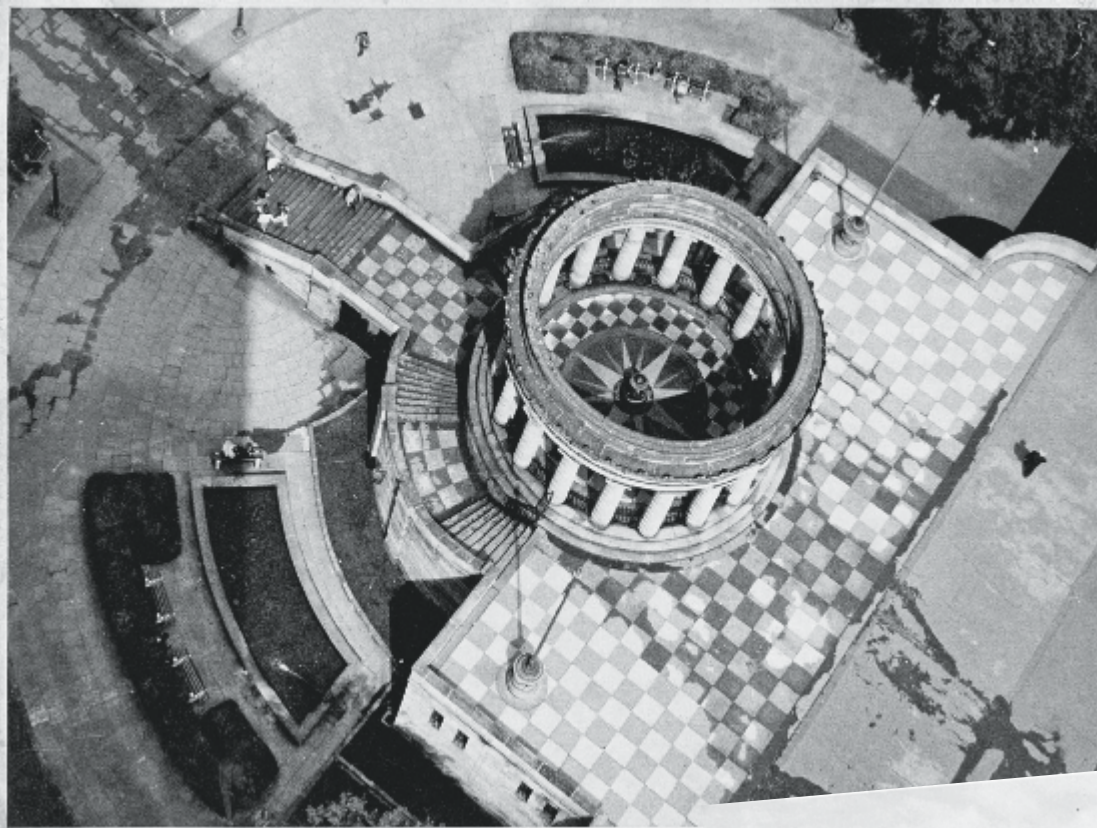




ENHANCEMENT WORKS

- Aged and unhealthy trees will be replaced with new trees repositioned away from buildings to ensure their health and longevity, while improving shade.
- Levelled or raised lawns, with sandstone borders for increased casual seating.
- Increased grass and garden cover, with a decrease in paving and bare ground.
- Leopard trees will be removed, mature pines planted, and new planters with palm trees to mark the Adelaide Street entrance.
- Some existing memorials will be repositioned along the three paths to depict "movement through time".
- An improved entrance to the WWI Memorial Gallery in the south-west corner, with an open foyer and brass doors, previously partially concealed by a leopard tree.
- Interactive exhibitions will be developed to enhance education opportunities.
- Commemorative semi-transparent screens will be added on two sides of the Square to frame the space.
- A lift will be added to provide equitable access to the parkland from Ann Street, stairs in the park replaced with a gradual sloping pathway at its Adelaide Street entrance, and existing paths widened to improve access for all.
- Safety will also be improved, including refurbished smoother paving and the elimination of dark corners at night.

ANZAC Square's Past



The distinctive design of Sydney architects Buchanan and Cowper was chosen. It featured three paths, representing the three branches of the Australian Defence Force – Navy, Army and Air Force – starting at Adelaide Street and converging on the Shrine of Remembrance at Ann Street.

Construction took two years and on Armistice Day – or Remembrance Day as it is better known today – November 11, 1930, the Governor Sir John Goodwin dedicated both the Shrine of Remembrance and ANZAC Square.

In 1932, the Queensland Women's War Memorial,

For more than 87 years, ANZAC Square has stood as a significant public and historical site in the heart of the state capital. It was 1916, as the country was grieving those lost in the Great War, when the idea of a large memorial park and monument in the centre of the city commemorating those who had served was first raised.

For 15 years the community worked to secure this memorial, raising the funds needed by individual donations from ordinary people during some of our country's most difficult times.

The site was secured after protracted negotiations with federal, state and local governments. In 1928, state and federal governments agreed to grant lands for the Square and to erect their own buildings on its borders.

ABOVE:
The Shrine of Remembrance in ANZAC Square c. 1958-1989. (Queensland State Archives)

RIGHT:
Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visited the Shrine of Remembrance on March 9, 1954, during their Royal tour to Brisbane. (Queensland State Archives)



designed and executed by Daphne Mayo, was unveiled. This memorial was an initiative of the Brisbane Women's Club and was also funded by public subscription.

A memorial commissioned by the 9th Battalion (Australian Imperial Force) Association was mounted in the crypt and unveiled by the Governor-General Lord Gowrie on August 17, 1937.

In 1939, a memorial designed by James Watts commemorating Queenslanders who served in the South Africa conflict of 1899-1902 was relocated to the Square. "The Scout", featuring a fully equipped mounted trooper, originally stood near the intersection of Turbot and Edward Streets.

Structural elements remained unchanged until the 1980s, when works were undertaken to alter the Square perimeter in response to neighbouring developments. By 1984, the border of ANZAC Square had a new entrance to the Post Office Square carpark, elevated pedestrian bridges across Adelaide Street to Post Office Square, the crypt under the Shrine had been enlarged and the Adelaide Street entrance had been realigned.

Memorials recognising later conflicts were installed in various locations between 1988 and 2001. These include the memorial to the war in South-West Pacific, the WWII Memorial, the Korea, Malaya and Borneo Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial and the Peacekeepers Memorial.



LEFT: Central Railway Station and ANZAC Square, as captured by Australian photographer Capt Frank Hurley. (National Library of Australia)

RIGHT: An artist's impression of how civic authorities, The Queensland National ANZAC Memorial Committee, the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (Queensland Branch) and the Queensland ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee envisaged Brisbane's future "National ANZAC War Memorial" was likely to look. This drawing appeared in Brisbane's *The Telegraph* of May 31, 1927. Three years later, Queensland Governor, Sir Thomas Herbert John Chapman, officially unveiled the memorial tablet centrepiece on Saturday, May 24, 1930, and the entire precinct was scheduled to be completed by Christmas that year.



Central Railway Station and ANZAC Square, as captured by Frank Hurley, and published by John Sands as part of a fold-out presentation pack of 10cm X 15cm photographs.



PARADE REVIEW ENSURES **VETERANS ARE HONoured**

Brisbane's 102-year-old ANZAC Day parade has undergone a major review, with the aim of ensuring it continues to honour all who have served both Australia and Allied forces.

 Allen Callaghan



“THE 2018 PARADE WILL MARK THE CENTENARY OF THE ARMISTICE THAT ENDED WWI ON NOVEMBER 11, 1918.”

THE results of the review will go to the Brisbane ANZAC Day Combined Parade Committee, comprising representatives of 150 serving and ex-service organisations and associations, for approval for the 2018 parade, followed by further changes in 2019.

The parade’s new Chief Marshal, Earle Jennings AM RFD ED, a retired Major from the Intelligence Corps, has examined all aspects of the parade, including the formation, placing of units, timing, spacing of bands and transport. He also reviewed the route, which is being affected by major inner-city building developments.

Mr Jennings also reviewed security arrangements with the Queensland Police Service and intelligence organisations to ensure maximum safety for both marchers and spectators.

The 2018 parade will mark the centenary of the armistice that ended WWI on November 11, 1918. The “war to end all wars” ended empires, but ushered in subsequent conflicts against Nazism and Communism, as well as religious wars.

WWI also began the era of mechanised vehicles, replacing horses that had been relied on for some 4000 years. This year’s parade will feature a cavalcade of transport, from horse-drawn vehicles and artillery, to mechanised trucks and ambulances, Scout cars, guns and tanks.

The committee hopes to include Mephisto, the German tank captured by a Queensland unit in France in WWI and currently housed in the Queensland Museum. After six months of exhibition at the Australian War

Memorial in Canberra, Mephisto is currently undergoing conservation work at the Ipswich Railway Workshops before it is installed in its permanent home at the museum.

Mr Jennings said the parade does not glorify war, but emphasises the sacrifice of those who have served and remembers those who have died.

“The vehicles and weapons were their means of defending our nation, not the reason for the parade as we see in some totalitarian countries today, with goose-stepping troops and displays of missiles and other weapons of mass destruction,” Mr Jennings said.

He recalls the words of JRR Tolkien, “Those without swords can still die on them,” and finds value in the quote: “War is a dirty word; prepared isn’t.”

The 2018 parade will also mark the transition from the large units of veterans from the World Wars, Korean and Vietnam Wars, to smaller contingents, which include many serving veterans from the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Mr Jennings said only a handful of WWII veterans – now in their 90s or centenarians – can still participate in the parade.

“We are seeing an increasing number of young veterans who have done one or more tours of duty in current conflicts. The review aims to ensure that ANZAC Day remains a day of remembrance and the honouring of sacrifice.

“The dawn services at ANZAC Square, around our state and the rest of Australia, are the solemn remembrances of those who served and those who died. The parades



honour those still living, who have or are serving our nation. It is the public’s means of saying ‘thank you.’”

Mr Jennings is pleased attendances at dawn services and parades are increasing.

“Young people in particular recognise the part ANZAC Day plays in the history and culture of Australia.”

He is pleased to report that the Manly State School Fifes and Drums, from Brisbane’s bayside, will be the first primary school band to march in the parade. The band, now 83 years old, has played at the Manly ANZAC Day parade since its formation.

“It’s good to see young people wanting to be part of this important national observance.”

The Chief Marshal pointed out that one potential problem with a larger parade is getting more marshals to manage it; more buggy drivers to transport the infirm and elderly participants; and more volunteers in general. In fact, he challenged Brisbane’s golfers to try out their buggy driving skills in the parade.

Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact the Brisbane ANZAC Day Parade Committee office on 07 3358 3361 or via email at events@rslsouthqueensland.org. ←

OPENING IMAGE: Standing out of the crowd, two-year-old Lily Galbraith waves the Australian National Flag through the fence in support of the troops marching through the streets of Brisbane during the 2013 ANZAC Day march. (Photo: LAC Dan Pinhorn, Department of Defence)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The first ANZAC Day parade in Brisbane in 1916; The Royal Australian Air Force contingent are applauded by big crowds during the 2017 Brisbane City ANZAC Day parade; Brisbane ANZAC Day Combined Parade Committee Chief Marshal, Earle Jennings AM RFD ED, right, with Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), left, and former Governor-General Dame Quentin Alice Louise Bryce AD CVO at the dedication of the National Service Memorial at the Australian War Memorial on September 8, 2010; The Manly State School Fifes and Drums will be the first primary school band to march in the Brisbane ANZAC Day parade; The 41st Battalion at Petrie Bight in the first ANZAC Day parade in Brisbane (and Australia) on April 25, 1916.



Army veteran Mick Brauns participating in the RSL Queensland Initiative family fun day delivered by the Association of Veteran Surfers at Dicky Beach on January 14.



SURF, SUN AND SEA WASH WORRIES AWAY

The Association of Veteran Surfers is working to build a strong, healthy, active veteran community through surf, sun and mateship.

IMAGINE looking out across the vast blue ocean, feeling the sun shining warmly on your back and the splash of cool, salty water on your skin as you concentrate on manoeuvring your surfboard across the face of a wave. The scenario is in stark contrast to the dark, lonely, anxious headspace veterans sometimes find themselves in during times of struggle.

This is the crux of why the RSL Queensland Surfing Initiative, delivered by the Association of Veteran Surfers (AVS) on the Gold Coast, has been such a success and impacted so many lives.

AVS was established by two veterans in March 2017 – President Matt Hoare and Vice-President Kieran Scotchford. The pair wanted to offer fellow veterans an escape from the stress of either military life or transitioning out of the military.

“For someone struggling constantly with internal thoughts, they can focus solely on the water and the waves. There is no time to think about what is happening back on land or what might be troubling you,” Matt said.

By the end of February 2018, RSL Queensland had supported AVS with 11 family surf days. The majority were held at Kropp Park, Tugun, but AVS recently began expanding to the Sunshine Coast, following a successful day supported by the Sunshine Coast Young Veterans at Dicky Beach on January 14.

RSL Queensland and AVS are now striving to hold two events each month across both regions.

A NEW SENSE OF PURPOSE

Matt joined the Army aged 19 and served as a rifleman with 8/9RAR for just under five years. He was deployed to East Timor in 2010 and Afghanistan in 2012.

“It was probably one of the best things I’ve done. Joining the military at such a young age makes you mature faster,” Matt said.

Upon discharging, Matt enrolled in university. Although the transition was difficult, and he felt disconnected from his fellow classmates due to life experience, he fared better than many thanks to his support network.

“The transition process wasn’t terrible for me,

but I can see how a lot of people struggle. Going from being a soldier, seaman or aircraft person with an identity to just an everyday person can be a bit of a shock,” Matt said.

“Our goal was to get a group of like-minded individuals from the Defence family together in one location – enjoying the beach and having a good time. It eases the transition process to chat to people who have been through the same experience.”

The first AVS surf day attracted a dozen participants, while the average is now 25-35. Matt and Kieran are elated at how much the organisation has helped veterans connect, change their attitudes and improve the quality of their lives.

“For some, AVS gave them an opportunity to reignite their passion for surfing. For others, they were in a pretty dark place after leaving military and our surf days gave them a new sense of purpose. The surf community is like a brotherhood, much like the Defence Force,” Matt said.

SURF THERAPY

The group held a three-day surf camp in Casuarina, Northern NSW, in 2017 that highlighted the transformative power of surf therapy.

“We saw a significant change in the attitude and wellbeing of the nine participants. On the first day, everyone was sheepish and a bit negative. On the last day, everyone was laughing, high fiving and joking around with each other,” Matt said.

As well as helping others, Matt has noticed a difference in his own life.

“I’ve always had a passion for surfing and since I left the Army I have always wanted to help veterans in some way. It’s given me a purpose outside of work and Uni to strive for.”

Funding from RSL Queensland is integral to AVS, with equipment and resourcing provided to operate the regular family surf days.

“We wouldn’t be where we are now without the support of RSL Queensland,” Matt said.

Follow AVS on Facebook to keep up-to-date with their activities or check www.rslqld.org/events



01



02



03



04



01 Surfing gives veterans an opportunity to try something new or reignite their passion for the sport.

02 Sunshine Coast Young Veterans Welfare Officer Daniel Ansett and his son Henry enjoy the surf day.

03 Focusing just on the water and the waves helps veterans forget what might be troubling them back on land.

04 Jane McFadden, Co-President of the Sunshine Coast Young Veterans Group, which supported the AVS surf day, was one of many veterans who took part on the day.

05



SURF, SUN AND SEA

06



07



08



05 President Matt Hoare co-founded AVS in 2017.

06 The day is designed to get all members of the Defence family outside to enjoy a day of surf and sunshine.

07 AVS Secretary Ken Campbell cooking a barbecue breakfast to feed the hungry surfers.

08 Henry Ansett learning how to surf.



YOUNG VETERANS IN FOCUS AT CURRUMBIN

Currumbin RSL Sub Branch's Young Veterans Support Services program is helping young veterans find their feet in the civilian job market.

TOM Watkins didn't realise how difficult it would be to find a job when he decided to discharge from the Army. Having joined at 17, he was used to the structure and routine of Army life, but was frustrated by a civilian job market that did not recognise his skills.

"When I returned home and was trying to settle back into civilian life, I applied for a lot of jobs. It would have been more than 50 jobs in a space of three or four months," Tom said. "Not one employer got back to me and I found it really hard to get feedback. It was a frustrating time."

After attending a Reboot Combat Recovery course at Currumbin RSL, Tom heard about the Sub Branch's Young Veterans Support Services (YVSS). YVSS gives younger veterans access to a range of services and activities to help them transition to civilian life, including finding suitable employment opportunities.

It was established last year with funding from Currumbin Palm Beach RSL and a special round of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Supporting Younger Veterans grant facilitated by Federal Member of Parliament Karen Andrews.

As an Artillery Command Systems Operator, Tom had gained many

valuable skills, but did not know how to translate them for the civilian job market. Working closely with YVSS coordinator Naomi Wyatt, Tom updated his resume to reflect his skill set in a more marketable way.

"When I first accessed the service, Naomi talked to me about what my career goals were, and we looked at the skills I have from my military experience," Tom said.

"THE MOST BENEFICIAL PART OF THE SERVICE WAS UNDERSTANDING WHAT MY TRANSFERABLE SKILLS FROM THE MILITARY WERE AND HOW TO ARTICULATE THAT NOT ONLY ON A CV, BUT IN A JOB INTERVIEW AS WELL."

"I knew I had skills, but I did not know how to state that on a resume for a civilian job. The most beneficial part of the service was understanding what my transferable skills from the military were and how to articulate that not only on a CV, but in a job interview as well."

Almost \$70,000 in DVA grants will allow Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch to extend the valuable work

it has been doing to support younger veterans on the Gold Coast.

Currumbin RSL President Ron Workman OAM said the Sub Branch had a long track record of supporting local veterans.

"Our younger veterans deserve all the support we can provide to help them adjust to civilian life," Mr Workman said.

"This funding will help extend the Young Veterans Support Services and will include developing new initiatives focused on aligning veterans' military transferable skills and assistance finding civilian careers, as well as providing counselling and further education and training opportunities."

Thanks to the YVSS program, Tom has recently been employed as an Operational Services Officer (Wardsperson) at Robina Hospital. He recommends YVSS to other young veterans struggling to gain fulfilling employment.

"I am thrilled that I have been able to obtain a job at the Robina Hospital. I am keen to work as much as I can and learn as much as I can. A long-term goal of mine is to study paramedicine. Being in a medical environment and understanding patient care will facilitate that for me." ←

OPPOSITE: Army veteran Tom Watkins, left, recently got a job as an Operational Services Officer (Wardsperson) at Robina Hospital, thanks in part to the assistance of Currumbin RSL Sub Branch's Young Veterans Support Services and Coordinator Naomi Wyatt.

SUB BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS ROLE IN COOKTOWN COMMUNITY

More than 20 per cent of the Cooktown community attended a free community day at ANZAC Memorial Park, organised by Cooktown RSL Sub Branch.

COOKTOWN RSL Sub Branch received an ANZAC Centenary Grant to host the free community day on November 25, which offered a chance to give back to the local community and highlight the RSL's work.

"The Sub Branch is all about community; not just veterans, but their families, friends, neighbours and colleagues too. It's not all beer and pokies. I have to thank the community for supporting us," Sub Branch welfare and pensions officer and event coordinator Jody Andrews said.

"We had a few people talking to us about veteran issues and aspects of the League. Information packs were on hand to give out, as was current ADF recruiting information."

Entertainment included a magic show, face painting, mechanical bull, bouncing castle and snake handling demonstrations. In keeping with the military theme, men from the 51st FNQ Reserve regiment attended, together with residents Darren and Trevor Maudsley with a WWII display.

Incredibly, 90 per cent of attendees had their faces painted by "Fairy and Hairy", who recruited a veritable army of wildly coloured faces.

Jody said it was great to hear children laughing and large groups of families, including grandparents, sitting under big mango trees while their kids ran free in a safe environment. She thanked volunteers from the Council Parks and Gardens, the Yuku Baja Muliku Junior Rangers and members of the public.

The Sub Branch hopes many of the 500 attendees will return for the annual Remembrance Walk from the Lion's Den to Cooktown on Sunday, April 22. The walk pays tribute to men and women from the Cook Shire region who enlisted in WWI.

In 2015, many people from Mareeba and Cairns participated, together with Cooktown's MP and Mayor. Phone the Sub Branch on 07 4069 6353 to pre-register for the event. ←



“THE SUB
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MEET A MEMBER

Secretary of the Ex-Servicewomen's RSL Sub Branch, Company/ Board Secretary of RSL South Eastern District Ltd and the first woman to be appointed to the State Tribunal, Judith Munday OAM has a long and varied service history.



What is your service history?

I joined the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) in the Citizen Military Forces aged 18 and later transferred into the Regular Army, serving 16 years total. I served in many staff officer's postings in Queensland, Canberra and at my Corps School at Georges Heights in Sydney.

I was fortunate to be selected as the first woman on a two-year exchange program with the British Army, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I was also lucky to be the escort officer for the Duchess of Kent, who was the Colonel-in-Chief of the Women's Royal Army Corps when she made an official visit to the RAOC Depot near Oxford.

Unfortunately, it was the height of the confrontation between the United Kingdom and Ireland and, being a royal, she was a person of interest to the IRA. It was a stressful time, particularly for an Australian.

On my return to Australia, I was posted back to WRAAC School and then to HQ 1st Military District at Victoria Barracks in Brisbane as the Senior WRAAC Officer in Queensland. Following my marriage, I was discharged, because at the time women could not serve in Defence and have children.

When and why did you join your local RSL Sub Branch?

Women were not able to join the RSL unless they

**“THE PUBLIC SHOULD
BE EDUCATED ABOUT
RSL QUEENSLAND —
THAT WE ARE THE
LEADING EX-SERVICE
ORGANISATION AND
WORK HARD TO SUPPORT
VETERANS AND THEIR
FAMILIES... WE NEED TO
TELL THE WORLD HOW
GOOD WE ARE.”**

had seen operational service until about 1984. I joined the RSL in 1998. I was contacted by the Treasurer of the Ex-Servicewomen's Sub Branch, whose numbers had dwindled so low the Sub Branch faced closure.

I was President of the Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Associations Queensland at the time and was asked if I could assemble a group of younger women to form the Sub Branch executive and keep it going. Several colleagues transferred into the Sub Branch and took on leading roles. The Sub Branch now has approximately 60 members.

How have you been involved with your Sub Branch over the years?

I have been Sub Branch Secretary and a delegate to the South Eastern District and the RSL Queensland State Congress. I have also been Secretary of the Victory in Europe Committee since 2002. I was awarded an OAM in 2008 and RSL Life Membership in 2013.

What Sub Branch activities are you passionate about?

Our membership base is geographically diverse (from the Sunshine Coast to the Gold Coast), so we meet monthly at the SED headquarters at New Farm to enjoy the company of wonderful and interesting women, who love and care for our membership. Twice a year I organise a bus trip to visit another Sub Branch, usually within our District.

What role does your Sub Branch play in the lives of veterans?

We provide three delegates to the Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Associations Queensland, which takes care of female veterans in need and organises commemorative events to recognise the contribution of women – both those who serve in Defence and those who keep the home fires burning.

What role does your Sub Branch play in the local community?

We make annual donations to two retirement homes in which several of

our elderly members reside. We also sell ANZAC Day badges and poppies for Remembrance Day.

What should RSL's top priorities be over the next five to 10 years?

I would like to see the State Branch rules and by-laws completed and reflect the wishes of the membership. I am also hopeful the review of the State Branch Board is finished and that it continues to cooperate with Districts and Sub Branches. The Board must maintain a direct link with the membership, and younger veterans, particularly women, should be encouraged to take over our ageing management.

What do you hear as the top three issues on RSL members' minds?

1. Younger members need to take office within Sub Branches.
2. RSL leaders must be honest, transparent and have the right attitude, skills and ethics to run the organisation.
3. The public should be educated about RSL Queensland – that we are the leading ex-service organisation and work hard to support veterans and their families (as separate from the bars and poker machines at the RSL clubs). We need to tell the world how good we are.

What is your greatest achievement?

Raising two wonderful sons, who have given me four lovely grandchildren, and never cease to amaze me by how they live their lives and their professional success.

Which talent would you most like to have?

To listen and think more before I speak, as well as manage my time more effectively to fit everything in.

What is your most treasured possession?

My family and friends. Life without them would not be worth thinking about. ←

Judith Munday OAM

Secretary of the Ex-Servicewomen's RSL Sub Branch



Judith, left, with the Duchess of Kent on November 7, 1972.

**IF YOU KNOW AN
RSL MEMBER of
any age who we
should FEATURE IN
OUR NEW 'MEET A
MEMBER' SECTION,
please email
editor@rslqld.org.**



MATES 4 MATES



HONOUR. INTEGRITY. COURAGE.

IN SERVICE AND RECOVERY

Luke Halabi enlisted in the Australian Army to build a legacy for his family. But after discharging from the Army in 2014, he found that legacy slipping when he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

 Christina Underwood |  Dave Dwyer

WHEN asked what values Luke Halabi lives by, it's clear Defence has been and always will be a major part of his life. His response: "Honour, integrity and courage. They are things that still resonate with me, even since leaving Defence."

The day he enlisted is a vivid memory – April 26, 2005. Not only was it the day after ANZAC Day, but also the day he started his own legacy.

"My family came from a place that was quite dangerous, so it was an opportunity for me to start a legacy for my family and give back to Australia because of the generosity it has provided my family," Luke says.

TIME IN SERVICE: 8 YEARS, 9 MONTHS AND 8 DAYS

Luke enlisted at the age of 18 and completed his basic training in Kapooka, New South Wales. Following this, he went to Puckapunyal, Victoria, and became a driver in the Royal Australian Corps of Transport.

In November 2007, Luke deployed to Iraq for nearly 10 months with the Australian Army Training Team Iraq 9 (AATTI9) as a Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) Driver, and undertook mentoring and training. While in Iraq, Luke was also part of combative operations, working with the Overwatch Battle Group (West) 4 (OBGW4).

Being fluent in Arabic led to Luke working with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as an interpreter, being involved with the operations of bringing local civilians who had been granted visas to Australia, such as helping with medical examinations and security screenings.

In the five-and-a-half years following his deployment, Luke was employed in several postings, before being medically discharged in February 2014 after being diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Looking back, Luke reveals that the signs of stress started to show within two to three months of returning from deployment, but he didn't come to

terms with them until four to five years later. It was only during his discharge that his mental health issues well and truly took hold, and he recognised he needed help.

Life for Luke changed significantly when it was time to medically discharge.

"When you leave an organisation that you're so committed to, you do find yourself lost," he explains.

The discharge process took a year-and-a-half, and it was during this time that Luke was diagnosed with several mental health issues, including PTSD.

Reflecting on this transition period, Luke says, "The biggest issue for me was that feeling of being displaced. When you spend all your adult life in the military, it can be quite daunting; it's like leaving behind your friends and family. That was the most challenging part of my military career."

WHILE PTSD DOES NOT DEFINE YOU, IT DOES INFLUENCE WHO YOU ARE

For years Luke suffered the crippling effects of PTSD in silence; feeling angry for days over a small incident, taking unnecessary risks to feel a boost of life again, and having a low self-care factor.

Luke also suffers from insomnia, getting only three to four hours' sleep a night while on medication; without his medication, he can go without a sustained period of sleep for days, with only a 20-30 minute nap to get through the day.

"It's difficult getting to the point where I feel relaxed enough to rest. I constantly worry, 'Is there going to be a noise that will startle me? Am I going to have a nightmare?'" Luke says.

Sadly, these issues led to Luke experiencing social isolation and alcohol abuse.

"For close to a year before I met Jess, on the way home from work I would buy a lot of alcohol, get home and not even take off my uniform; I'd sit in front of the TV and consume it without feeding myself or having any care of anything around me."





“MY FAMILY CAME FROM A PLACE THAT WAS QUITE DANGEROUS, SO IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO START A LEGACY FOR MY FAMILY AND GIVE BACK TO AUSTRALIA BECAUSE OF THE GENEROSITY IT HAS PROVIDED MY FAMILY.”

“WHEN YOU SPEND ALL YOUR ADULT LIFE IN THE MILITARY, IT CAN BE QUITE DAUNTING; IT’S LIKE LEAVING BEHIND YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. THAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF MY MILITARY CAREER.”



MATES4MATES HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN LUKE’S RECOVERY

It was when his fiancée Jess, who he met in 2012, started to notice things weren’t quite right that he decided to take a leap of faith and get some professional help. Jess, together with Luke’s personal and military family, have all played a major part in Luke’s journey to recovery.

Luke reconnected with a fellow veteran and discovered he was a Liaison Officer at the Mates4Mates Brisbane Recovery Centre (an RSL-funded initiative), so he decided to give it a go.

“It’s one of those journeys where you go in for the first time and feel welcome and that you belong there,” Luke says. “You build relationships not just with ex-serving people, but also the people who are there to help you.”

Mates4Mates has played a major part in Luke’s mental and physical health recovery, through psychological and physical rehabilitation, as well as providing a place of mateship and trust.

Today, Luke lives in Brisbane with Jess, their cat and dog Yuki. Although his journey with PTSD is ongoing and there is no quick fix, Luke is on the road to recovery – he has a positive outlook on the future and keeps himself busy.

He recently spent three months in the US studying computer software and data management. Luke and Jess also have their wedding in April to look forward to with close family and friends.

“Things are always getting better and, for me, it’s just a case of dealing with the cards you’ve been dealt.” ←

LUKE’S SERVICE HISTORY

April 26, 2005
ENLISTED

- Basic training, Kapooka, NSW
- Driver training, Royal Australian Corps of Transport, Puckapunyal, Vic
- Driver, 1st Combat Signal Regiment (ICSR), Darwin, NT

November 2007
DEPLOYED TO IRAQ

- Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) Driver and Operator, Australian Army Training Team Iraq 9 (AATTI9)
- Overwatch Battle Group (West) 4 (OBGW4)
- Interpreter, Australian Defence Force (ADF) supplementary team with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

January 2009
SECTION COMMANDER, 9th Force Support Battalion (9FSB), RAAF Base Amberley, QLD

January 2011
MILITARY AND DRIVING INSTRUCTOR, 2nd Division, University of NSW Regiment

January 2012
TRAINING CELL COORDINATOR, 5th Combat Service Support Battalion (5CSSB), Port Botany, NSW

February 3, 2014
MEDICALLY DISCHARGED

MATES **4** MATES

Issue 01. 2018

Magazine.



Celebrating
5 Years
supporting Defence
Force Mates and
their families.

*Curtis
McGrath OAM*

What can't this
guy do?

**Meet Our
New CEO**

**Shoulder
Pain
Program**

Helping Mates manage
their physical injuries.



Rick Ralph Chairman's Message

We are well and truly into 2018 and it's quickly becoming a busy year for our teams across the country. The Centres are buzzing, all of our programs have restarted, and it's great to hear everyone is getting involved.

Planning for the Kokoda Trek supported by Australian Defence Apparel (ADA) is almost finalised. We've selected a team of 19, including six participants from ADA, to head off to Papua New Guinea in April to tackle the 96km trek alongside Victoria Cross recipient and Mates4Mates Ambassador Dan Keighran VC. You can keep up-to-date with the team on our Facebook page and hear about their experience in the June Mates4Mates magazine.

This year the key priority for the Board is our strategic planning and the development and further expansion of our services. It's imperative to the future success of

Mates4Mates that our strategic direction allows us to meet our commitment to the veteran community and grow as an organisation.

An essential step in this growth is the commencement of our new Chief Executive Officer Troy Watson, who joins the team in early March. We had extensive interest in the role, which speaks volumes to the public's high opinion of Mates4Mates, but Troy was a standout candidate and we're very excited to have him on board.

I look forward to updating you on the Board's progress throughout the year.

Meet Our New

CEO



Q: In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges facing veterans today?

A: I think it's hard to pinpoint one particular issue because there are so many varied experiences for veterans. From the conversations I've had, I think a general lack of understanding within the wider society of the breadth of skills a veteran can bring to the civilian world is a major challenge.

Q: Who are three people you'd invite to play table tennis at the FRC?

A: I guess I could invite some celebrities and sport stars, but I think I'd invite three of my division mates I met when joining the military who, through varied careers, family commitments and life in general, I don't see nearly as often as I would like to anymore.

Q: What was your first job?

A: I was put to work very early and started delivering pamphlets (junk mail) on my bike and working as a kitchenhand at Red Rooster when I was a teenager.

Q: Where is your favourite holiday destination?

A: I've been fortunate to spend time in many lovely (and some not so lovely!), places around the world. I still find it hard to go past a relaxing beach trip to Yamba in Northern NSW, or camping with my family on North Stradbroke Island.

He's taking up the reins of Mates4Mates in March, and with his background in the Royal Australian Navy and extensive knowledge of international and Australian business management, we're excited to have him join the team. We sat down to ask him a few questions, so you can get to know our new CEO, Troy Watson.

Q: What are you looking forward to in joining Mates4Mates?

A: I am very keen to learn about the Family Recovery Centres, the services and our corporate partners, but most of all I'm looking forward to meeting as many Mates as I can. I believe there is huge scope for Mates4Mates to grow and improve our services, and that's something I'm really excited about.

Q: Why Mates4Mates?

A: I was aware of Mates4Mates for a while through former colleagues who have spoken to me about the services they offer. I was fortunate to transition from Defence straight into a role in international sport, but I know many people aren't so lucky and that's why it's imperative organisations like Mates4Mates continue to grow and I'd like to help make that happen.



Nutritional Psychology

By Sophie Tscheppera and Nolan Woo

Getting settled into the new year after such a busy holiday period can be tricky. One thing that we can all be guilty of is over eating, or not eating the correct foods. Simple lifestyle changes can help you to achieve not just physical but mental health outcomes as well.

Research demonstrates that changing some of our eating habits to more nutritionally balanced choices can have a huge impact on our health, with a better self-perceived mental and physical quality of life. Putting value on high quality food and good food choices has been shown to improve life expectancy, healthier weight ranges and lower incidents of chronic health diseases.

This makes sense when you consider that the food you eat forms a part of your body's building blocks, so if you are putting high quality materials in then you can expect a better product which will be stronger and longer lasting. Think of a strong house which can withstand more extreme conditions than one built with cheap materials which requires constant repair. Or similarly think about the quality of the fuel you put in your car. The fuel quality will affect energy, efficiency and general wear and tear of the mechanical parts.

Below is the Healthy Eating Wheel which shows the daily proportion of various food groups which is a good starting point in making healthy food choices.

For those thinking 'what's one thing I can do today?'

A quick and easy change you can make today to lower your overall energy intake is choosing water and decreasing alcohol and sugary drinks. This simple switch to water can easily reduce your calorie intake.

Other examples you might want to try are more:

- Vegetables and fruit
- Grain (cereal) foods, which are high in fibre
- Lean meats and poultry, fish, eggs, nuts and seeds and legumes
- Decreasing your total red meat intake (males)

If you're ready to make changes and would like more support or advice around your health needs make an appointment to see a psychologist or exercise physiologist at your local FRC today!



Image: eatforhealth.gov.au



Left: Curtis and Rachel celebrating their engagement in Canada

Above: Victorious at the Rio Paralympics in 2016

Catch
up
with

Curtis McGrath

By Jen Cochrane

He's a decorated Australian hero, who has represented his country on the battlefield and tragically lost both legs after standing on an improvised explosive device (IED) in Afghanistan. Despite all the setbacks, he went on to dominate on the sporting field and is one of the fastest sprint canoeists in the world. We caught up with Mates4Mates Ambassador Curtis McGrath OAM to hear about his achievements in 2017 and what's in store for 2018.

Last year was certainly one to remember for Curtis, he won gold medals, broke world records, competed in the Invictus Games in Toronto and got engaged to his long-term partner Rachel.

"Rachel and I got engaged in October in Banff, Canada. It was probably the highlight of my 2017 and I am glad I have got Rachel in my life to share my journey," Curtis said.

"Rachel and I were together before I got injured so we have been through a lot and the support she has given me has helped me achieve my goals," he added.

It was also a year of reflection for the double amputee who marked five years since the then-24-year-old Combat Engineer, who was two months into his deployment, stepped on a homemade bomb.



You can keep up-to-date with all of Curtis' events and successes throughout the year by following his journey on Instagram (@curtismcgrath) or Facebook (Curtis McGrath – Athlete).



Clockwise from top:

1. Curtis promo shot. 2. Curtis on deployment.
3. Defending his Paracanoe World Championship 2017.
4. 2017 Invictus Games farewell with Ian Thorpe, multiple Olympic gold medal winner.

“Five years seems like a long time but honestly it has flown by, [and] I think the biggest learning point for me is to make the most of every moment and opportunity,” Curtis said.

It was his injury that steered Curtis back to sport, and he quickly became arguably one of the most successful Australian athletes. Curtis holds every national title he's entered since 2014, and every world title in the V1 canoe since 2015. He's won gold in every KL2 class event (including Paralympic Gold), since 2016 and been named Paracanoeist of the Year for four consecutive years.

“Sport has given me goals, purpose and a reason to get out of the house and live a healthy and active lifestyle. Each day is a little bit harder than it was before my incident but because of sport there is a reason to push through the tough spots and focus on my goals,” Curtis said.

And this belief is echoed by Mates4Mates Physical Rehabilitation Manager Brett Taylor, who regularly tells Mates about the importance of setting goals.

“Goals give Mates something to work towards, which helps create stability in their life. Having that sense of purpose every day hands them back the control of their physical rehabilitation they might feel they've lost,” he said.

“The accomplishment of reaching that goal makes the world of difference when you're struggling, and we aim to be here to help veterans on that journey,” he added.

Last year certainly was one to remember for Curtis, but already 2018 is shaping up to be even bigger. He's currently training nine times a week on water and three days a week at the gym for events in preparation for the year ahead. He will travel to Szeged, Hungary, in May to defend his title at the Paracanoe World Cup and then to Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal, to compete in the Paracanoe World Championships. Curtis is also the Ambassador for the Sydney Invictus Games in October so will be out in force mentoring the team in the leadup to the Games.

Curtis, who turns 30 in March, will start his training for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics this year. He and the high-performance team at Australian Canoeing already have a plan to make sure he defends his gold in the K1 event and gain another in the V1 (outrigger canoe) race.

We can't wait to see what's in store for Curtis this year!

Image source:
facebook.com/curtismcgrathofficial



March 2013
Mates4Mates officially
opens in Albion



May 2014
Townsville FRC opens



April 2015
Hobart FRC opens



2016
Outreach expands to key
hubs in Queensland.



2017 saw us reach over
2500 registered Mates
and family members.

5 years of Mates4Mates

In March, Mates4Mates is turning five!

We're incredibly proud of what we've achieved in the last five years, and we're excited about our plans for the next five!

Thanks to the support of donors, corporate partners, the media, the general public and,

of course, our Mates, we've seen increased growth year on year in the number of Mates being inducted, as well as becoming a household name as an organisation dedicated to supporting veterans.

Shoulder Pain Program

Unlock your movement!

By Nolan Woo

“Understand your injury, your current limitations and undertake assessments. Work towards restoring range of movement, quality of movement, reducing symptoms and restoring normal function in terms of your activities of daily living.”

There’s nothing worse than not knowing how to manage pain, particularly from injuries that hinder your everyday life. That’s why we’ve set up four national pain management programs to help our Mates increase function and stability to the injury. It’s also in recognition that our Mates often share similar injuries, and this program presents another way of encouraging social connection. Our first pain program in 2018 will focus on managing shoulder pain which runs throughout February and March.

The shoulder is designed to be highly mobile, and used regularly throughout the day, so it is very common at some point an injury will occur. Once an injury occurs, it is important we manage the injury as soon as possible, because early and intensive management is key to returning the affected shoulder to full function. Our shoulder workshop has been designed to assess and treat the shoulder as a system and not just a single structure.

For those who suffer a more chronic injury or condition, the body will continue to adapt to the injury by modifying movement behaviours to overcome physical barriers the injury is presenting in your day-to-day life.

We’ve designed the program with Mates who suffer with ongoing niggles from a previous or existing shoulder injury at the forefront of our minds. Those who have had impingement or bursitis, frozen shoulder, a history of dislocation without rupture and low-grade tears will gain the most benefit from taking part in the six-week program. Those who have had bony changes or full thickness tears will still gain benefit from the workshop however their outcomes will be limited.

We want to restore as much high-quality movement as possible for participants by encouraging mobility, stability and strength during the six sessions. Each session involves a combination of theory and practical exercises, as well as take-home information to help the shoulder movement increase faster.

As your shoulder learns to move, there tends to be a reduction of symptoms (namely pain). Ideally by the end you will be able to perform more work with less pain. It is also a win if you perform the same work with less pain. This program teaches participants how to improve your movement so daily activities like putting on your shoes, getting dressed, to engaging in recreational sports or activities becomes easier and hopefully with reduced pain!

The shoulder pain program will be the first national pain program for Mates4Mates. If you want to regain some of your shoulder function and reduce your pain then get in and see the physical rehabilitation team today!

Our next pain programs are:

Neck and Back Program

May 2018

Knee Program

June 2018

Pain Management

October 2018



Mates4Mates supports current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members, and their families, who are wounded, injured or ill as a result of their service.

We are an initiative of RSL Queensland.

If you would like to contribute to our magazine please contact the Mates4Mates Marketing and Fundraising team via marketing@mates4mates.org or call 1300 462 837.



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2018 ST. GEORGE QUEENSLAND REDS HOME GAMES



**ROUND 3
MAR 2**



**ROUND 4
MAR 10**



**ROUND 10
APR 21**



**ROUND 11
APR 28**



**ROUND 15
MAY 26**



**ROUND 16
JUN 2**



**ROUND 18
JUL 6**



**ROUND 19
JUL 13**



WE ARE QUEENSLAND. WE ARE RUGBY. WE ARE FAMILY.





The Australian Navy's most senior commissioned ship sailed her final voyage in November last year.




ED Siwicki was one of nine Navy veterans who served on HMAS *Darwin* when she was first commissioned in 1984 and reunited in Cairns on November 10, 2017 to form part of the crew for her final return from deployment.

“It was a sad day, knowing this was one of the last voyages for this wonderful ship,” Ed said. “I know all that served on her are proud to say so, and there will be many a yarn spun about the wonderful memories she holds for so many.”

After more than 33 years of service with the Royal Australian Navy and having sailed over a million nautical miles around the globe, *Darwin* carried her crew from Cairns to Sydney to be decommissioned at Garden Island on December 9, 2017.

Darwin was originally commissioned on July 21, 1984, at the Todd Shipyards in Seattle, US, and in January 2017 was recognised as the Navy’s most senior commissioned ship and presented with a newly created perpetual trophy, the First Lady of the Fleet.

A long-range escort frigate, the vessel undertook roles including area air defence, anti-submarine warfare, surveillance, reconnaissance and interdiction. She was capable of countering simultaneous threats from the air, surface and sub-surface.

During her service, *Darwin* was deployed to the Middle East region seven times, to East Timor (Timor-Leste) in 1999, and involved in operations in the Solomon Islands in 2001. 

DAY 01




HMAS *Darwin* in Cairns on November 10, 2017 – the day she departed on her final voyage.

DAY 02



The original commissioning crew members aboard HMAS *Darwin* on day two of her final voyage (which fell on Remembrance Day): Les Hunt, left, Brian Charles, Michael Wurth, Peter Davies, Ed Siwicki, Manuel Escobar, Dave Norley, Rod Lambert and Jamie Manning.



“I KNOW ALL THAT SERVED ON HER
ARE PROUD TO SAY SO, AND THERE
WILL BE MANY A YARN SPUN ABOUT
THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES SHE
HOLDS FOR SO MANY.”

DAY 03



On day three at sea, several of the original commissioning crew took a refresher course in firefighting and damage control in company with HMAS *Adelaide*.

DAY 04



Day four saw some more damage control training and small arms familiarisation.

DAY 05



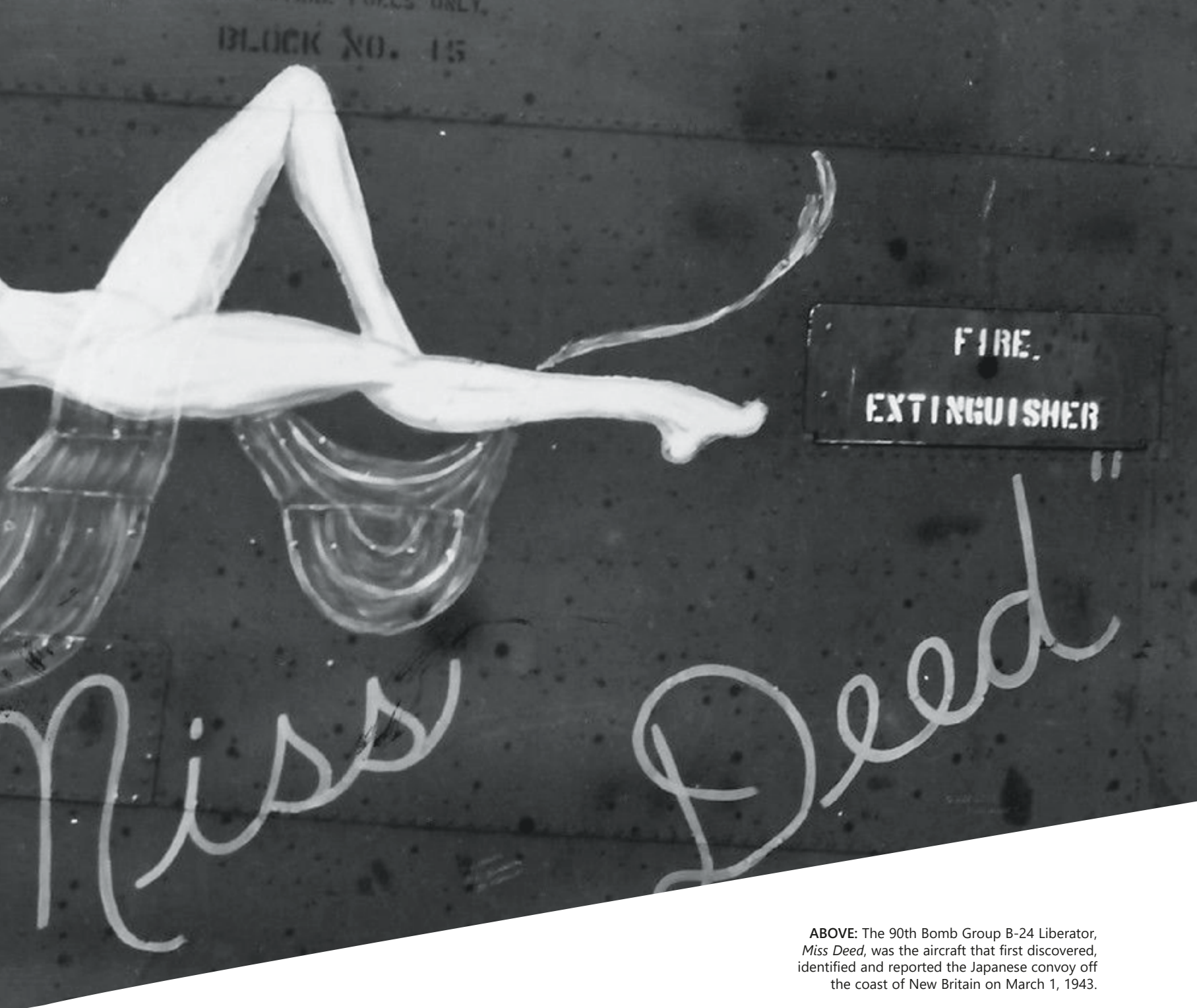
HMAS *Darwin* sailing into Sydney Harbour on the fifth and last day of her final voyage, in company with HMAS *Adelaide* and *Canberra*. It was a sad day for many, knowing it was one of the last voyages of a beloved ship.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF A DECISIVE SEA BATTLE

On March 2, 1943, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and the US Fifth Air Force attacked a Japanese convoy carrying troops to Lae, New Guinea. The Battle of the Bismarck Sea was disastrous for the Japanese, who suffered heavy losses during the three-day battle.

 Robert Livingstone





ABOVE: The 90th Bomb Group B-24 Liberator, *Miss Deed*, was the aircraft that first discovered, identified and reported the Japanese convoy off the coast of New Britain on March 1, 1943.

JAPAN'S original war objective was to quickly gain ownership of territories that met its strategic needs and establish a defensible perimeter around them. At the southern edge of this territory were Java, New Guinea and New Britain.

Rabaul, on the northern tip of New Britain, was a strategic port and airfield complex from which the Japanese could launch aerial and naval forces against New Guinea.

In May 1942, however, the Battle of the Coral Sea turned back the Port Moresby invasion force and, by November, the Japanese

attempt to take Moresby by land from the north had been stymied by Australian and US forces.

In February 1943, orders were issued for a Japanese naval force to set out from Rabaul to reinforce New Guinea through Lae. Radio intercepts made General MacArthur aware of the assembling convoy, and General George Kenney's Fifth Air Force and the RAAF prepared for battle.

The fleet, comprising eight transports carrying 6004 men, protected by eight destroyers, set sail at midnight on February 28, 1943. Air cover was provided by Rabaul-

based fighters. Diversionary air attacks were to be made against Port Moresby and Milne Bay, and the Army would attack Wau and Buna.

Allied reconnaissance aircraft had been patrolling for some days beforehand, but poor weather had prevented a sighting until 4pm on March 1, when a B-24 Liberator of the 90th Bomb Group, diverted by the weather, spotted the ships.

Their sighting report was intercepted by the convoy, so they knew they had lost the element of surprise, but remained confident that the weather would keep them safe.



ABOVE:
One of the 43BG aircraft that no doubt took part in the attack. The B-17 was soon to be replaced by the B-24 in the 43rd. (AWM: P00174.007)

RIGHT:
An aerial photograph of Japanese shipping on fire after attack by Beaufighter aircraft of No. 30 Squadron RAAF. (AWM: P01275.009)

OPPOSITE:
Captain BR "Blackjack" Walker DSO, who led a Beaufighter Squadron in the battle, standing beside a Spitfire aircraft. (AWM: NWA0869)

The Fifth Air Force went into action immediately, but attacks were foiled by the weather and darkness until B-17s of the 43rd Bomb Group attacked in the morning of March 2, sinking one transport by bombing from 6500ft and causing some damage to other ships.

Despite reporting hits, another attack by B-17s in the afternoon was less successful. A B-17 shadowed the convoy for the next six hours and, as the Allies prepared for an all-out attack the next day, the convoy commander unwittingly played into their hands.

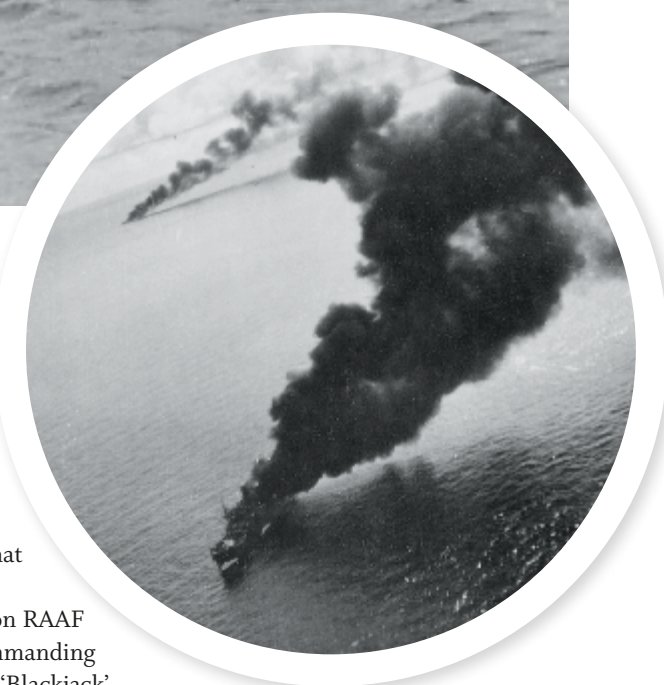
Admiral Kimura decided to circle for a time and pass through the Vitiaz Strait between New Britain and New Guinea to arrive at Lae the next morning, expecting the convoy to be anchored and unloading by midday. An 11 Squadron Catalina that flew out of Milne Bay at 10pm located the convoy initially by radar then monitored it visually until dawn as it steamed south through the Strait.

The first to attack on the morning

of March 3 were two RAAF Beaufort torpedo bombers, but one notoriously unreliable Allied torpedo failed to detonate and the other simply would not release. At least now it was known from the convoy's course that its destination was Lae.

Next were 12 30 Squadron RAAF Beaufighters, with the Commanding Officer, Wing Commander 'Blackjack' Walker, flying his aeroplane as an air controller. They were to rendezvous at Cape Ward Hunt with the US force of B-17s, B-25s and A-20s, and their P-38 escort fighters. Walker instructed his pilots to aim for the ships' bridges to create maximum confusion, providing some protection for the B-25 and A-20 strafers.

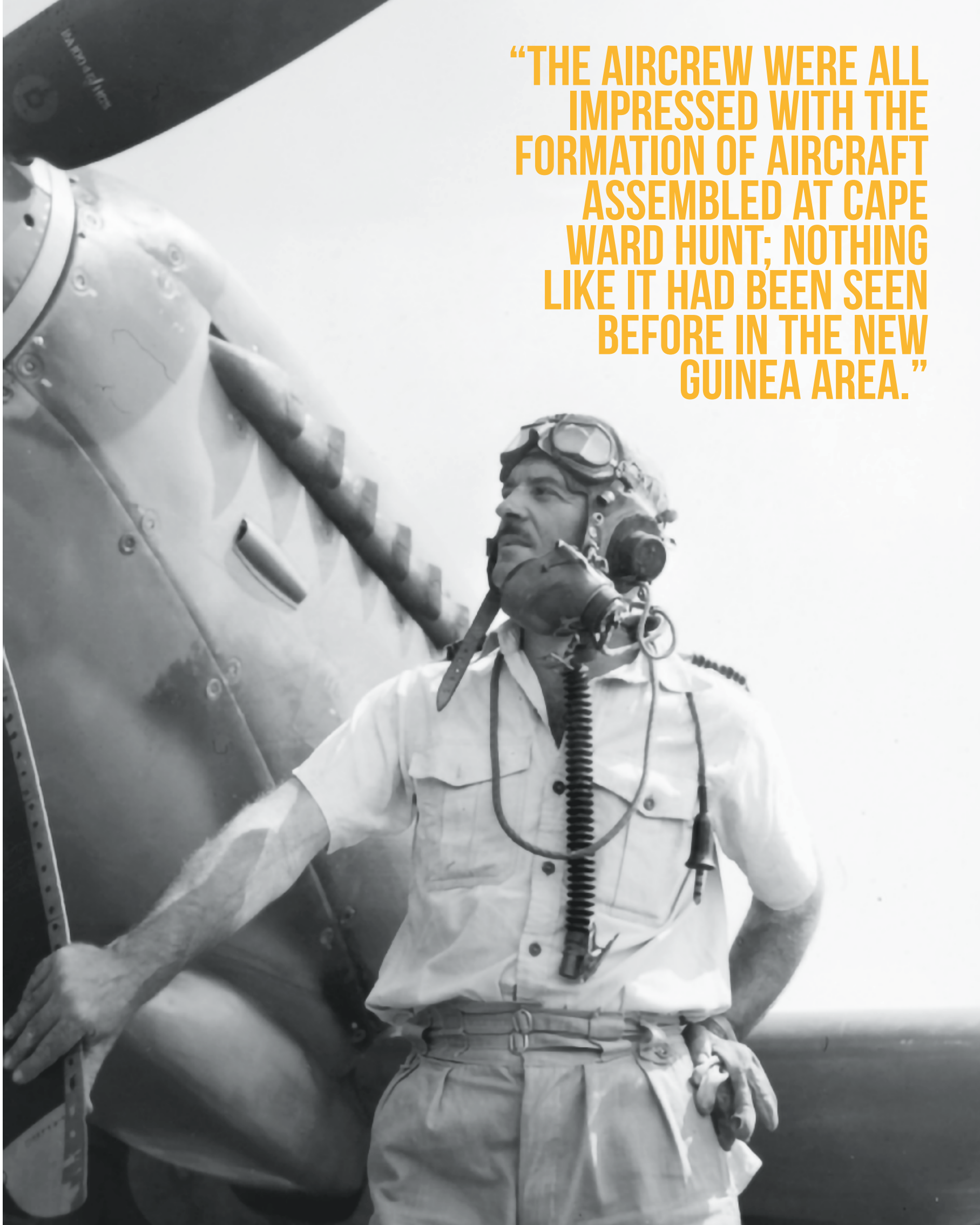
The aircrew were all impressed with the formation of aircraft assembled at Cape Ward Hunt; nothing like it had been seen before in the New Guinea

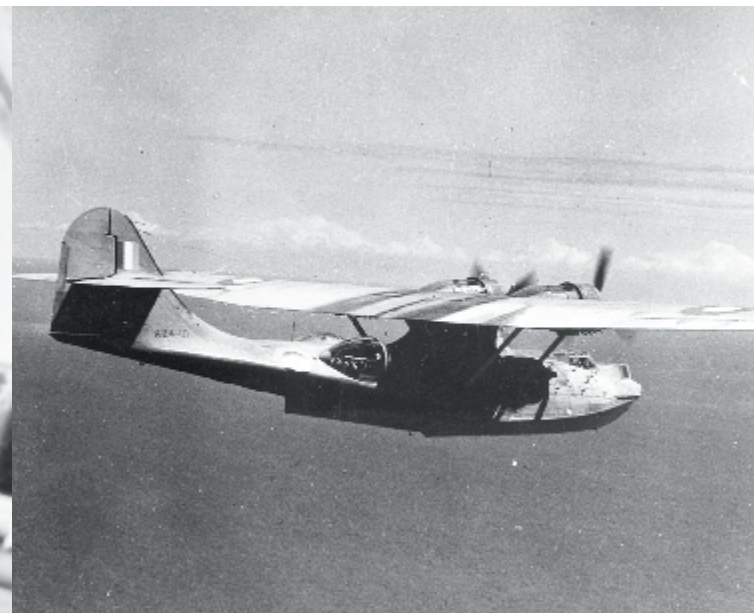
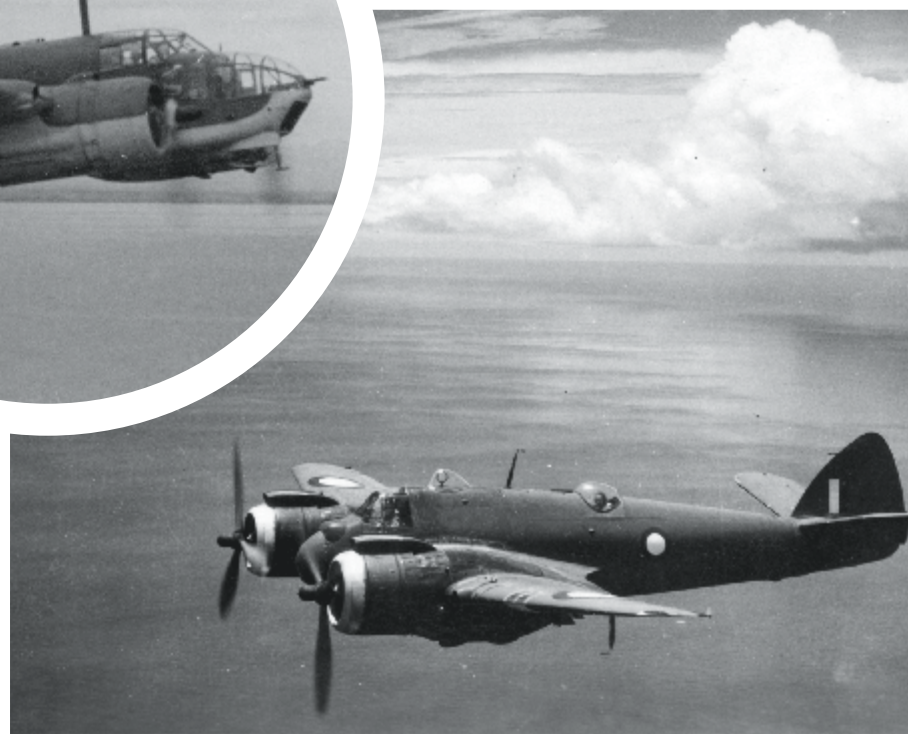
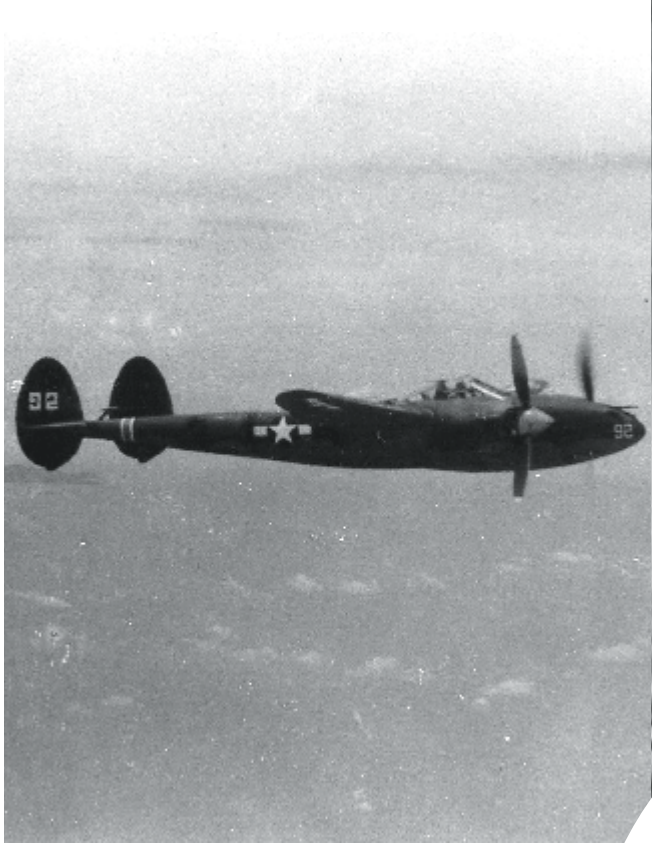


area. P-38s were top cover, with flights of B-17s underneath them, then the B-25s with Beaufighters and A-20s below them. The power displayed by more than 50 combat aircraft gave the crews confidence as they set course for the convoy.

The various aircraft positioned themselves for their varied styles of attack, presenting the Japanese gunners with a wide range of speeds, heights and altitudes to fuse and

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

LEFT: USAAF twin-engine long-range fighter, which became the mainstay of the 5th AF fighter command; Lieutenant Edward Soloman, a pilot of a Mitchell bomber aircraft, whose bombs scored hits on two ships in the Japanese convoy, with RAAF wireless air gunner Sergeant KA Richards, who flew in the same squadron (AWM: 014420); A RAAF Beaufighter of the type that led the attack on March 3; A RAAF flying boat that shadowed the convoy on the night of March 2-3; Flight Lieutenant RF "Torchy" Uren, No. 30 Squadron RAAF, in the cockpit of his Beaufighter aircraft leaving the target area during the battle (AWM: 127968); A RAAF Beaufort torpedo bomber of the type whose attack failed in the early hours of March 3.

fire at simultaneously. About 30 Japanese fighters appeared and were immediately attacked by the P-38s.

Mistaking the low-level Beaufighters for torpedo bombers, the Japanese destroyers turned towards them to "comb" the torpedos, leaving the freighters unprotected. The Beaufighters' 20mm cannon and .303 machine guns smashed into the freighters' bridges and swept their decks, igniting the ammunition and fuel stored there for quick unloading.

While one flight of B-25s bombed, the others were down in the waves, barely behind the Beaufighters; their lethal fire from up to 10 .50-calibre machine guns firing forward – real ship-killers. Major Ed Larner, Commanding Officer of the 90th Squadron, "walked" his fire from stem to stern of his selected destroyer and dropped two bombs as he pulled up to avoid the masts, rolling the ship on its side.

Aircraft were crisscrossing the convoy, firing at ships, bombs falling around them, anti-aircraft fire everywhere. Ships were zigzagging, colliding with each other, exploding and burning; even 500lb bombs flying in formation with aircraft as they skipped off the surface and plunged into the sides of ships. It was chaos.

Within 15 minutes, all seven transports and three destroyers were badly damaged or sinking and the attack was almost over. A second afternoon mission was badly broken up by a change in the weather, but RAAF Bostons, B-25 strafers and B-17s attacked. Over the next few days, missions were flown to put the seal on the end of the convoy.

At the final count, all eight transports and four of the destroyers had been sunk; many survivors were subsequently killed or taken prisoner in skirmishes on land. Allied losses were one B-17, one B-25, one Beaufighter and three P-38s, with a further 31 aircraft damaged.

In one year, almost to the day, since the first fighter aircraft had arrived in New Guinea and the first US bombing mission had been flown, the Allied Air Forces had grown in sufficient strength, morale, experience and aircraft types to be able to deliver, in a single day, the almost complete destruction of a large and well-defended shipping convoy.

It was another step in what would result in the ultimate defeat of the Japanese, begun by Australians the previous year on the Kokoda Track and at Milne Bay.

*(The author wishes to acknowledge Lex McAulay's *Battle of the Bismarck Sea* (St Martin's Press, 1991) as the major source of this story.)* ←

"THE ALLIED AIR FORCES HAD GROWN IN SUFFICIENT STRENGTH, MORALE, EXPERIENCE AND AIRCRAFT TYPES TO BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE ALMOST COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF A LARGE AND WELL-DEFENDED SHIPPING CONVOY."

FEB.

THIS MONTH IN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY HISTORY

01.02
1943

Last Australian forces sail for home from the Middle East

Japan's entry into the war forced the Australian Government to decline British requests to concentrate on the war in North Africa and Europe and instead concentrate the bulk of our forces against the Japanese.

02.02
1942

First Japanese air attack on Port Moresby

The Japanese had hoped to occupy Port Moresby, however their defeat in the Battle of the Coral Sea thwarted the planned naval attack and invasion.

03.02
1915

Turkish forces attack the Suez Canal

Turkish attempts to capture the Suez Canal were repulsed largely by Indian troops. Australians of the 7th and 8th Infantry Battalions temporarily garrisoned the trenches after the fight.



03.02
1943

◀ Australians counter-attack at Wau, New Guinea

Having failed to take Wau, the Japanese were forced into retreat. At the end of the fighting some 1200 Japanese had been killed, as had some 300 Australians.



04.02
1945

◀ Yalta Conference

Conference between President Roosevelt, Marshal Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill to determine the shape of post-war Europe.

06.02
1941

6th Division enter Benghazi, Libya

Benghazi changed hands five times as fighting – first against the Italians and later the German Afrika Korps – ebbed and flowed across Libya's Mediterranean coast.

08.02
1942

Japanese invade Singapore

Singapore was believed to be an impregnable fortress, but the Japanese advance from the Malayan Peninsula proved the falsity of this belief.

09.02
1943

Japanese defeat on Guadalcanal

After the ill-fated Philippines campaign, Guadalcanal was the first test of land strength between Japan and the US in WWII.

10.02
1954

▼ Queen Elizabeth in Sydney

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip each plant a plane tree at Macquarie Place to mark the beginning of the Remembrance Driveway between Canberra and Sydney.

11.02
1951

Chinese offensive, Korea

Chinese launch their fourth-phase offensive in Korea.

12.02
1900

Pink Hill, Cape Colony, South Africa

Pink Hill, held by Victorian, South Australian and British troops, was attacked by a superior Boer force, resulting in the deaths of seven Australians.

13.02
1946

Main Australian contingent of BCOF sail for Japan

Australian personnel played a prominent role in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan at the conclusion of WWII. They were allotted the devastated Hiroshima Prefecture.



<p>14.02 1942</p> <p>SS <i>Vyner Brooke</i> sunk The <i>Vyner Brooke</i>, carrying 65 Australian nurses and other refugees from Singapore, was sunk by Japanese aircraft. The survivors made their way to Banka Island where most were massacred. Only Sister Vivian Bullwinkel survived.</p>	<p>15.02 1942</p> <p>► Fall of Singapore Over 15,000 Australians were taken prisoner by the Japanese on Singapore. For both Britain and Australia, this was a terrible military defeat.</p>		
<p>17.02 1900</p> <p>Paardeburg, Orange Free State, South Africa A major action of the Boer War, in which men of the NSW Mounted Rifles were involved, that resulted in the surrender of 4000 Boers under General Piet Cronje.</p>	<p>19.02 1915</p> <p>Allied warships shell Dardanelles This was the first attempt to force a passage through the Dardanelles and attack the heart of the Ottoman Empire. Its failure ultimately led to the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign.</p>	<p>19.02 1942</p> <p>First Japanese air raid on Darwin The city was bombed 64 times between February 1942 and November 1943.</p>	<p>19.02 1943</p> <p>Defence Bill approved Parliament approves Defence (Citizen Military Forces) Bill, introducing conscription for service in the South-West Pacific war zone.</p>
<p>21.02 1916</p> <p>► Verdun, Western Front A bitter battle between the French and the Germans, lasting nine months and costing over a million men killed and wounded.</p>			<p>22.02 1942</p> <p>General Douglas MacArthur ordered to leave the Philippines MacArthur made his way to Australia, from where he directed much of the war against Japan.</p>
<p>23.02 1956</p> <p>1 Squadron RAAF bomb Communist camps near Kuala Lumpur 1 Squadron flew Lincoln bombers during the Malayan Emergency.</p>	<p>25.02 1951</p> <p>Hill 614, Korea 12 Platoon, D Company, 3rd battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, captured this important piece of high ground at the second attempt, enabling UN forces' northward advance to continue.</p>	<p>27.02 1942</p> <p>▼ Battle of Java Sea Two separate actions off the coast of Surabaya involving heavy losses in Allied shipping. HMAS <i>Perth</i> was involved in the battle and was one of the few Allied ships to survive.</p>	<p>28.02 1942</p> <p>Japanese invade Java The invasion of Java signalled the defeat of the Netherlands East Indies and was another in the series of victories won by the Japanese in the opening six months of the Pacific war.</p>
<p>28.02 1991</p> <p>Gulf War ends With Iraqi forces having been driven from Kuwait and defeated in the field, the coalition forces called a halt to the fighting.</p>	<p>29.02 1972</p> <p>HMAS <i>Sydney</i> arrives at Vung Tau On this voyage, Sydney embarked 457 soldiers. HMAS <i>Sydney</i> made 21 voyages to Vietnam during the war.</p>		

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

**DO YOU HAVE
INFORMATION ABOUT
THE KYOOMBA MILITARY HOSPITAL?**



Do you have information, stories, memorabilia or photographs about the Kyoomba Military Hospital, its patients or its staff? Or do you know anyone connected to the hospital?

IF so, the Kyoomba Research Project needs your help. Coinciding with the ANZAC Centenary of 2014- 2018, the project is an initiative of Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch.

It aims to locate and collate information about servicemen, military staff and hospital staff stationed at Kyoomba. If enough details are uncovered, the research team will use the information to tell the story of the hospital and its connection with Stanthorpe's history.

Kyoomba is located three kilometres outside Stanthorpe in the Southern Downs region of South-East Queensland. Over the years, the hospital was known by various names, including Kyoomba Sanatorium, Kyoomba Military Hospital, Repatriation Hospital or the Stanthorpe Military Hospital.

It was an important medical facility for the military during and after WWI, particularly for treating returned soldiers suffering from tuberculosis.

During its 19-year history, the hospital had such a good reputation that soldiers from every state in Australia requested to be sent there. Hundreds of soldiers, doctors, nurses and staff passed through its doors.

KYOOMBA SANATORIUM

Kyoomba Research Project Officer and author Deborah Wheeler has already

"DURING ITS 19-YEAR HISTORY, THE HOSPITAL HAD SUCH A GOOD REPUTATION THAT SOLDIERS FROM EVERY STATE IN AUSTRALIA REQUESTED TO BE SENT THERE."



written one book on the hospital, *Kyoomba Sanatorium 1916-1935, Volume 1*. Volume 1 deals with people who had a major impact on the sanatorium and those who strove for the best care and treatment of returned soldiers.

It also identifies the first 150 soldiers whose connection to the sanatorium has been confirmed. See the full list of Diggers' names at www.kyoombarslproject.com/locate-a-kyoomba-digger.

Deborah spent hundreds of hours conducting research for the book – poring over Trove articles, state and federal electoral rolls, Freemasonry records and visiting the National Archives, National Library of Australia and Australian War Memorial, as well as talking with family members of those featured in the book.

"It was an arduous, but very fulfilling task," Deborah said.

The Queensland ANZAC Centenary Community Grants program provided funds to enable the book to be written. ←

OPPOSITE: Over the years, this hospital outside Stanthorpe was known by various names, including Kyoomba Sanatorium, Kyoomba Military Hospital, Repatriation Hospital or the Stanthorpe Military Hospital.

ABOVE: Nurses and returned soldiers in front of the Kyoomba Sanatorium, undated.

Volume 1 will be published on April 24, 2018, prior to ANZAC Day. To pre-order a copy, contact rsلكyoomba@halenet.com.au or phone 0414 852 492.

WHO TO CONTACT

If you have information about Kyoomba Military Hospital, please contact Kyoomba Research Project Officer Deborah Wheeler on rsلكyoomba@halenet.com.au or 0414 852 492.



Royal Australian Armoured Corps officer Lieutenant Colonel Michael Scott says reunions offer an opportunity for veterans, both current and ex-serving, to reconnect and move forward together.

IN the lead-up to Christmas 2016, the B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment veteran community was rocked by the untimely death of a popular 'Stinger' and veteran of multiple operational deployments.

Word of his passing spread quickly across social media and his Defence family grieved and mourned his loss. This led to a reunion in December 2017 and the chance for veterans of his deployment to reconnect more closely and keep their remaining mates safe.

WHAT THE RSL CAN OFFER

I wanted to share the experiences of everyone who benefitted from attending this reunion, together with my dealings with the Returned and Services League. While the RSL provides a range of useful support services for contemporary veterans, they are largely unknown and certainly under-utilised.

Like many of Australia's modern

veterans, my personal knowledge, understanding and engagement with the RSL was minimal – until recently. I had attended RSL clubs a handful of times in the past, usually on ANZAC Day, and was aware of the erroneous perception among many young veterans that the RSL was about pokies and old people, with little relevance to the younger generation.

This changed in 2016, when my job at the Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Academy increased my engagement with representatives of RSL Queensland. I subsequently became a member.

As a serving officer, my membership was without financial cost to me. On reflection, I believe my delay in establishing a relationship with the RSL actually cost me, as I wasn't taking advantage of the many services it could provide.

When engaging with appointment holders from the RSL, I found good

"IT IS MORE THAN JUST BRICKS AND MORTAR OR A BAR WITH POKIES, IT IS AN INSTITUTION THAT CAN CATER FOR GATHERINGS OF FORMER SERVICE PERSONNEL AND CONNECT YOU TO A VARIETY OF SUPPORT SERVICES."

people who were eager to connect with our young veterans. Indeed, they wanted young people to have a greater say in the services RSL financially supports.

Opportunity exists for motivated young veterans to nominate for official appointments within RSL Sub Branches. This would enable them to establish a business case to seek funding for initiatives that would benefit the veteran community in a particular geographic catchment.

In my dealings with the RSL, I found an organisation open to funding good ideas, providing efficient and effective use of money is established and receipts provided.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIPS

RSL Queensland provides a host of services, from mental health support to emergency financial assistance and short-term crisis accommodation



REUNIONS AND THE RSL

to subsidised long-term housing. In addition to these services, I received traction and financial support from the RSL to offset some of the financial costs associated with conducting the reunion in December 2017.

Surfers Paradise RSL waived the fee for venue hire and Gold Coast District helped cover food expenses. The RSL also helped pay for the security guard required for a gathering of that size.

Most significantly, RSL funding enabled us to reduce the travel and accommodation costs for several attendees from interstate, including family members of the deceased and others in financial hardship. Without the benevolent support of the RSL, the reunion would not have been such a success.

A PROBLEM SHARED IS A PROBLEM HALVED

Guest speakers talked about the challenges faced by veterans and the support available, including Tony Dell from Stand Tall for PTS and a representative from the Association of Veteran Surfers (an RSL Queensland initiative).

This tremendous surfing initiative allows veterans to talk about issues that may be on their mind in between

catching waves. Discussing life's challenges is an important step in the right direction. After all, a problem shared is a problem halved.

Another reason I like the initiative is that it seeks to separate blokes talking about their issues from late-night drinking sessions at the pub – the traditional precondition for Australian males to loosen their tongues, before waking up with a sore head the next day, having forgotten they talked about their issues the night before.

I believe changing this behaviour is important and that modern veterans are better at discussing their issues than previous generations.

War exposes one to traumatic events, which may start as a dormant firecracker in the mind. If managed, the fire cracker may be diffused. But, if neglected or buried, it can grow in intensity and derail a person at an inopportune time, often when work or life pressures begin to compound.

Enter what I believe is an important indirect role of the local RSL. It is more than just bricks and mortar or a bar with pokies, it is an institution that can cater for gatherings of former service personnel and connect you to a variety of support services.

LOOKING FORWARD

Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the start of our operations in East Timor and I believe veterans, both current and ex-serving, should reinvestigate links with former colleagues. Our veteran reunion was about connecting on the same level and moving forward together. It was a truly cathartic and important experience.

A version of this article first appeared on the blog Grounded Curiosity at www.groundedcuriosity.com/reunions-and-the-returned-services-league-of-australia ¹⁴

ABOVE:

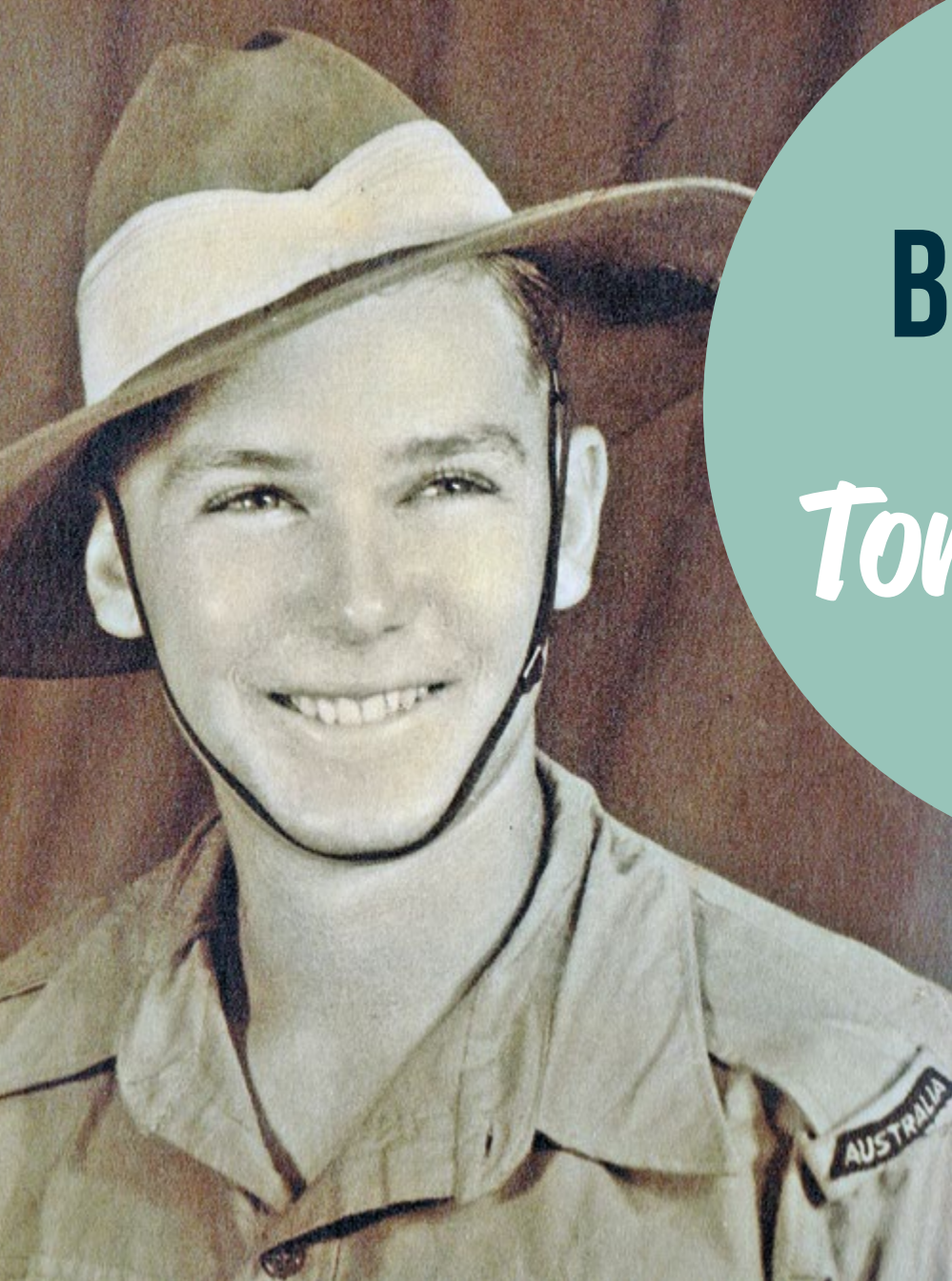
A reunion of B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment in December 2017 highlighted the importance of reconnecting with ADF mates and the value of the RSL.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Scott is a Royal Australian Armoured Corps officer and wrote a version of this article for the blog Grounded Curiosity. Over the period 2010-11, Michael commanded B 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment and deployed to Afghanistan as a Combat Team Commander with Mentoring Task Force Three.

In 2016-17, he served as Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor of the Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Academy. In 2018, he will take up an appointment within Modernisation Branch, Army Headquarters.





BUNDABERG HONOURS

Tom McLucas

Ray Phillips pays tribute to a distinguished WWII veteran and Honorary Life Vice President of RSL Queensland, Wide Bay & Burnett District and Bundaberg RSL.

“WE are not placed on this earth for our own selfish ideals. Our greatest reward in life comes from helping others.” These are the words of Thomas Walker McLucas OAM BEM, who passed away early in 2018 after a short illness and was honoured by his local community.

Tom was a WWII veteran and an Honorary Life Vice President of RSL Queensland, Wide Bay & Burnett District and Bundaberg RSL. He served with distinction in the South West Pacific Islands and the major battles of Borneo, Tarakan and Labuan.

Aged 30, Tom began what would become an epic 55 years of continuous voluntary management of military-related activities on behalf

of many Bundaberg organisations, including the RSL, Legacy and the City Council.

Tom served at an executive level for both RSL and Legacy and represented Bundaberg at District, Queensland and national levels. He was president of the Wide Bay and Burnett RSL Sub Branch for 25 years.

Until 2011, he managed every ANZAC Day dawn and citizens’ service, organising parade marshals, bands and marching groups, and assisting mayors and invited dignitaries during the service. He also organised every Remembrance Day ceremony, displaying his excellent knowledge of local military history and oration skills.

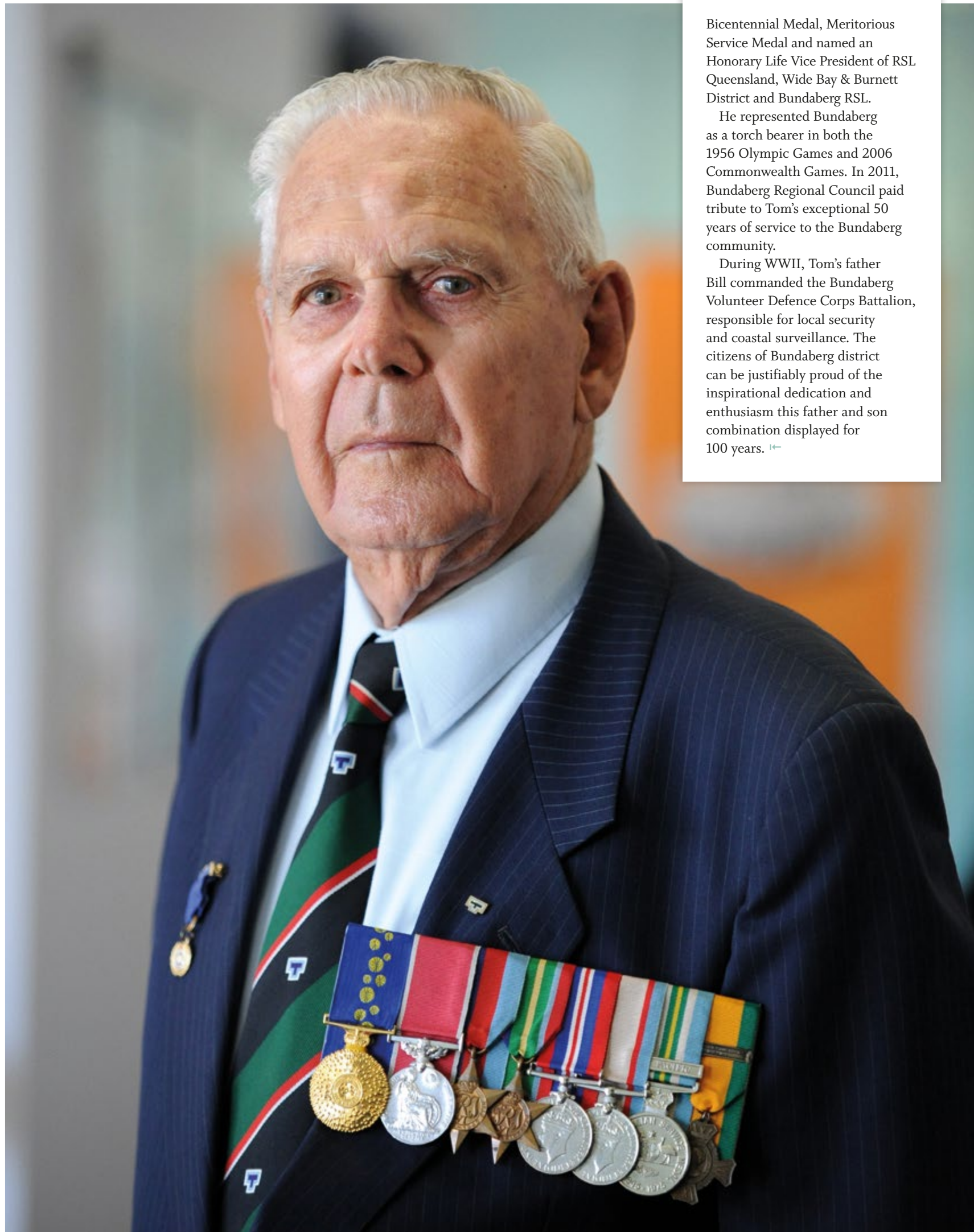
Each year, Tom spoke proudly to school students about the ANZAC

“AGED 30, TOM BEGAN WHAT WOULD BECOME AN EPIC 55 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT OF MILITARY-RELATED ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF MANY BUNDABERG ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING THE RSL, LEGACY AND THE CITY COUNCIL.”

tradition and the great achievements of Bundaberg District servicemen and women. He was guest speaker at the Moore Park ANZAC Day service for 30 years, since its inception in 1981.

He created his own ANZAC Day tradition – a dawn breakfast at his Tantitha chook farm that was held for 35 years. It was hosted by the Sub Branch, RSL club staff, Kilties and barbecue volunteers. Beer, burgers, two-up and mateship were a good start before the main march. Tom also conducted a moving pre-dawn commemorative service in the RSL section of Bundaberg Cemetery.

In recognition of his extraordinary dedication, achievements and community service, Tom was awarded the British Empire Medal, Order of Australia Medal, Australian



Bicentennial Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and named an Honorary Life Vice President of RSL Queensland, Wide Bay & Burnett District and Bundaberg RSL.

He represented Bundaberg as a torch bearer in both the 1956 Olympic Games and 2006 Commonwealth Games. In 2011, Bundaberg Regional Council paid tribute to Tom's exceptional 50 years of service to the Bundaberg community.

During WWII, Tom's father Bill commanded the Bundaberg Volunteer Defence Corps Battalion, responsible for local security and coastal surveillance. The citizens of Bundaberg district can be justifiably proud of the inspirational dedication and enthusiasm this father and son combination displayed for 100 years. [←](#)

MEDAL PRESENTATION TO *Paten Family*

More than 100 years after he was killed in action on July 15, 1917, the medals of the late LCPL Edward Hunt Paten were presented to his descendants, Dick and Dell Paten.

THE two medals – a Victory Medal and British War Medal 1914-15 – had been split up years earlier and the family was only in possession of one.

The service was conducted by The Gap RSL Sub Branch and Vice President David Esler, an Afghanistan veteran, read the citation. Local Member Stephen Toomey pinned the medals on Dick Paten, who received the medals on behalf of LCPL Paten.

LCPL Paten was one of two residents from The Gap killed during WWI and his name is recorded on the Menin

Gate in Ypres, alongside nearly 55,000 Allied soldiers who died along the Ypres Salient during the war and have no known grave.

Edward, or Ted to his family and friends, was the youngest of Jesse and Eliza Paten's eight children. He was born on May 8, 1896, in Walton, no more than 100 metres from where the medal presentation took place.

In December 1915, Ted and his older brother Jesse, who was engaged to be married, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Enoggera. Before they could depart, Jesse was operated



ABOVE:
A family shot of Dell and Dick Paten, with Rod Adamson, The Gap RSL Sub Branch Vice-President David Esler and David's son Cameron Esler.

LEFT:
The Gap RSL Sub Branch member Ron Ward, left, who has served in the official honour guard of the National Servicemen's Association for 25 years, wearing his summer kit, with Dell and Dick Paten.

on for appendicitis and discharged as medically unfit, leaving the younger brother to go to war alone.

On May 4, 1916, four days before his 20th birthday, the slightly-built country boy sailed from Brisbane on the SS *Seang Choon* as part of the 13th Reinforcements, 25th Battalion, disembarking at Suez on June 15.

On the last day of 1916, in the depths of a bitter winter, Ted went to war and his brief manhood was honed in the carnage of the Western Front. His first so-called 'stunt', through which he emerged unscathed, came in early April, when he spent six days in the trenches at Langnicourt as part of the action against the outpost villages to the Hindenburg Line, following the taking of Bapaume by the Australians the previous month.





LCPL Edward Hunt Paten.

BELOW: Cameron Esler with the late LCPL Edward Hunt Paten's medals. Cameron was involved in the RSL Community Link scheme and marched for LCPL Paten.




Ted wrote: "Spent most of our time advancing and digging new positions, it was very hard especially as we were not getting too much tucker... snowed several days and we only had our sheep skin coats to keep us warm... The nearest shave I had was a piece of shrapnel hit my mess tin... strapped to my haversack."

It was somewhere in this area on May 8 that Ted celebrated a wet and chilly 21st birthday and

his official entry to manhood. He took part in the hugely successful Battle of Messines in early June, which reshaped the front line in the southern Ypres Salient. He escaped unscathed again.

Ted's luck ran out on July 15, when his battalion was engaged in holding the new front line near the River Lys, close to the village of Ploegsteert, south of Messines. He was struck in the back by a shell fragment and died almost instantly. His body was buried on a small rise behind the front line and a wooden cross placed over his grave. In the German advance of 1918 the ground was fought over and the grave lost.

His death left a lasting shadow on his family and a large framed uniformed photo of him hung in the dining room at Walton until the house was demolished in 1964. His grieving parents donated one of the 12 stained glass windows in the Brisbane Grammar School War Memorial Library, opened on Armistice Day 1924, dedicated to his memory. A mango tree, A 667, was planted in his name along the ANZAC Memorial Avenue to Redcliffe, sponsored by the RACQ in the 1930s.

Ted's pony Toddles, left behind at Walton when he departed in 1916, remained a family pet, allowed to graze out its life in the Walton paddock. 

BELOW: Local member for Ashgrove Steve Toomey pins LCPL Edward Hunt Paten's medals on Dick Paten – the first time they have ever been worn.



VOLUNTEERING BRINGS SMILES AND HAPPINESS

Volunteering not only benefits the community, it brings happiness to volunteers, says Mudgeeraba Robina RSL Sub Branch member Allan Howard, who was awarded the City of Gold Coast Meritorious Award for 2017.

ALLAN was presented with the award for his outstanding commitment and dedication to the Neighbourhood Watch program.

According to the City of Gold Coast, Allan was integral in promoting important safety messages through several initiatives, including Fraud and Cyber Crime Forums and a Disaster Survival Forum. He also participates in the City of Gold Coast's Volunteer Graffiti Removal Program.

Allan believes volunteering helps create opportunities for the community – whether it be expanding the services not-for-profits can provide or helping hold community events.

But his main reason for volunteering is, “The feeling I get from helping others to achieve a good life – as good as mine has been – and

to smile and bring happiness.” He recommends volunteering to anyone who has a few hours to spare – not only to help their community, but also to keep them smiling.

Allan has been married for 58 years and says he couldn't have done his volunteer work over the years without the support of his wife Joyce.

Mudgeeraba Robina RSL Sub Branch is fortunate to have many hardworking volunteers willing to go the extra mile, and Allan Howard is undoubtedly one of them.

In 1953, Allan became a National Serviceman, or ‘Nasho’, serving in the 15th Battalion in Puckapunyal, Victoria, and later becoming a Sergeant in 2 Advanced Medical Equipment Depot, serving 10 years in the Citizen Military Force (CMF).

Allan moved from Ballina Sub

Branch in New South Wales (where he was vice-president) to the Gold Coast in 2001. He wasted no time getting involved, helping organise the ANZAC Day march in Robina. A year later he joined Mudgeeraba Robina Sub Branch and is now a board member.

A compulsive helper, Allan is also volunteering at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and recently joined Men of Business, a not-for-profit organisation assisting younger community members.

His efforts for Neighbourhood Watch Queensland saw him increase membership from 700 homes to an unprecedented 2000, helping him earn the Neighbourhood Watch District Award for the Gold Coast and, later, the City of Gold Coast Meritorious Award. ←



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Mudgeeraba Robina RSL Sub Branch member Allan Howard and Hermann Vorster; Allan competing in the Gold Coast Airport Marathon in 2008; Allan, centre, who received the Gold Coast City Meritorious Award for 2017, with acting Superintendent David Cuskelly, left, and Mayor Tom Tate; Allan recently joined Men of Business, a not-for-profit organisation assisting teenage boys on the Gold Coast who fall through the cracks; Allan carrying the RSL flag on ANZAC Day in Ballina; Allan also participates in the City of Gold Coast's Volunteer Graffiti Removal Program.



C OMMUNITY



YOUNG MEMBERS WRAP FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

Younger members of Banyo RSL Citizens Auxiliary once again wrapped gifts at Taigum Square during the 14 days prior to Christmas. The members look forward to the annual activity, which raises funds for the welfare of veterans and widows. They are supervised by members of the Auxiliary with blue cards.

SWEET CHRISTMAS TREAT

Every year, Agnes Water/1770 RSL Sub Branch hangs Christmas lights over flag poles at the local cenotaph to thank the local community for supporting them throughout the year. For 10 years, the group has also organised a Santa lolly run, during which Santa (alias "Jimbo") gives around 40kg of lollies to local children from John Robinson's vintage motorbike and sidecar. (Photo courtesy of *The Coastal Rag*)



FIRST WAR DOG MEMORIAL IN AUSTRALIA

Forest Lake RSL Sub Branch recently unveiled the War Dog Memorial – the first of its kind in Australia – at the Dogs Queensland Showgrounds in Durack on February 4. Close to 500 people attended the service, including RSL ANZAC of the Year Nigel Allsop, Dawn Fraser AO OBE, decorated SAS soldier Horst Reiter (pictured), Federal, State and local members of Parliament, dog breeding clubs from around Australia, Forest Lake Sub Branch members and the community.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Calliope RSL Sub Branch President Robyn Marshall, right, presented the Calliope State School Leadership Award to student Yasmin Southwick. The Sub Branch gives the annual award to a graduating Year 6 student and the encouragement award helps foster a relationship between the school and Sub Branch. School students actively participate in Calliope ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services each year.



BOOK BASED ON GALLIPOLI HERO'S DIARIES

Bev Walker recently finished *I Have Done My Duty*, a 142-page book about her grandmother's brother, Sydney Penhaligon. The youngest son of a large pioneering family, Sydney was born and raised on the 48-acre dairy farm 'Rosedale', where Kenmore Tavern now stands. His father, William Penhaligon, broke in horses for the horse-drawn trams with his brother John, who owned a property where Kenmore Anglican church is located. When WWI broke out, 20-year-old Sydney was one of the first volunteers to enlist on August 18, 1914. He was assigned to the newly formed 3rd Field Ambulance as a horse-drawn ambulance driver and stretcher bearer with enlistment No. 77. Sydney wrote a graphic account of the Gallipoli landing and was a member of 'C' Company, along with John Simpson and his donkey. "We are very thankful that our Sydney was an avid diary writer. This book would not be possible without the pocket diary and the main diary, which he started on January 1, 1915," Bev said. "Wherever possible, we have researched names and places mentioned and, along with original photos sent home to his family, it all comes together as a moving story of a brave young man's last big 'adventure'." To order a copy, email Bev@IHaveDoneMyDuty.com.au.

CAMPING OFFERS PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY

From April to November 2017, 800 veterans and their families enjoyed the peace and tranquillity of camping on the pristine Normanby River at Pandanus Park Veterans Retreat in Cape York. The retreat aims to support and care for younger veterans, helping them leave refreshed and in a better state of mind. The park's 20-year-old memorial also had a makeover. For more information, visit www.pandanuspark.com.au.





DESCENDANTS PRESENTED WITH WWII MEDALS

Stephen Carrington from Mount Isa RSL Sub Branch attended the presentation of WWII medals in Doomadgee to the descendants of two indigenous brothers, Maurice and Charlie Aplin, who joined the local VDC unit to serve with his grandfather.



SPRINGSURE SECURES CENOTAPH FUNDING

After more than two years of seeking funding through donations and grant submissions, Springsure RSL Sub Branch completed its cenotaph replacement project. The cenotaph – which was replaced due to safety concerns – was officially dedicated on Remembrance Day by Central Highlands Regional Council Mayor Kerry Hayes. WWII veteran Mure Farquhar is pictured in front of the new cenotaph.



NORTH QLD SUPPORTS CADET ON VOYAGE

Cadet Petty Officer Mathew Gatehouse made a presentation to the North Queensland District, which provided funding to help him train as a cadet at TS Coral Sea in Townsville. Mathew was on board The Young Endeavour Training Ship, which is manned by 8-10 Royal Australian Navy personnel. Aimed at young people aged 17 to 23, the scheme offers a unique, challenging and inspirational experience at sea. The 10-day trip visited places including Keswick Island, Percy Island, Lady Musgrave Island and Noosa.



HERVEY BAY GOES PINK FOR McGRATH FOUNDATION

Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch member Tracy Gillespie, left, and John Kelsey, from the services memorial club dressed up in pink to raise \$540 for breast cancer support and education charity The McGrath Foundation. Sub Branch President Brian Tidyman and Club President Ray Eustace will match the amount raised, making a total of \$1620.



76th ANNIVERSARY OF TOL MASSACRE

On February 4, a small group of Rabaul residents and Historical Society members gathered at Rabaul Memorial Park to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Tol and Waitavolo massacre. The *Story of Tol* by Max Uechtritz was read by Mathew Cohen. "Historians rank the carnage at Tol and Waitavolo – the adjoining plantation – on February 4, 1942, with the most callous of atrocities of the Pacific war. One hundred and sixty souls were bayoneted and shot, or both, after being taken prisoner by Japanese while retreating from Rabaul," Uechtritz wrote. Rabaul Historical Society believes events such as these must not be forgotten and thanked the people of Tol for their efforts to commemorate those who lost their lives in defence of their nation by way of naming their school 2nd/22nd Lark Force Primary School.



HERVEY BAY THANKS VOLUNTEERS

Paul and Helen Bloomfield enjoyed the thank you luncheon Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch held for its volunteers, which included welfare bus drivers, pension officers, welfare support officers and the Sub Branch committee.



LARGE CROWD CELEBRATES WARWICK CENTENARY

Helping Warwick RSL Sub Branch celebrate its centenary were Sub Branch President John Skinner, left, his wife Marion, Southern Downs Regional Council Mayor Tracy Dobie and her husband Colin (both retired Lieutenant Colonels) and special guest Major General Iain Spence. A capacity crowd of almost 200 veterans, community leaders, serving and ex-serving Defence Force members, clergy and politicians joined the Sub Branch, which turned 100 on August 4, 2017. Published historian Major Spence was so taken by the Sub Branch's hospitality and sense of history that he asked to return on ANZAC Day as the Reviewing Officer. Sub Branch members were given a USB flash drive containing the history of the Warwick Sub Branch taken from 100 years of minutes held in its archives. (Photo courtesy of Gerard Walsh, *Warwick Daily News*).



LAUREL CLUB LADIES

The ladies of the Laurel Club in Charters Towers enjoyed refreshments prior to viewing the Christmas lights in the local park.



PALMWOODS REUNION DINNER

Palmwoods RSL Sub Branch President Peter Murray proudly displayed his models of a Fokker Dr1 (the Red Baron's plane) and a Sopwith Pup at the Palmwoods Reunion dinner on October 14, 2017, at Palmwoods Community Hall. The hall was decorated by volunteers from the Sub Branch, Palmwoods Theatrical Singers and the Palmwoods Hall Committee.

BRAY PARK-STRATHPINE REOPENS

Bray Park-Strathpine RSL Sub Branch reopened its office in Ellis Place, Lawnton in February 2018. It serves as a location for administration, welfare and client drop-in. Officials included Cathy Tonks, representing the Hon Peter Dutton, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection and Federal Member for Dickson, Cr Mick Gillam, Cr Mike Charlton, Dave Antney, RSL Queensland District North President Vic Reading and Sub Branch President John Burgess. Members, neighbours and the grandchildren of Norman L Ellis, the owner of the farmland before the subdivision where Ellis Place now sits, also attend the reopening.



ROD GIRVAN AWARDED LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Rod Girvan, right, was presented with a Life Membership Award by Rollingstone RSL Sub Branch at the end of year District function. Rod was recognised for his hard work and dedication to the RSL and the wider community, including his role as a Rural Fire Brigade volunteer. He is congratulated by RSL Queensland State President Stewart Cameron CSC.

JACK THOMSON TURNS 100

Caloundra RSL Sub Branch hosted a morning tea on December 28 for John Thomas (Jack) Thomson, the first active member of the Sub Branch to turn 100. Jack was a WWII veteran, who enlisted in Tocumwal, Victoria, when Japan entered the war. He served as a Bren gunner with 2nd/14th Bn, 7 Infantry Div in New Guinea and Borneo. Jack joined Caloundra Sub Branch in 1985 and served as a committee member and director of the services club for several years.



LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR MAGNETIC ISLAND PRESIDENT

Magnetic Island Sub Branch President Geoff Barlow, left, accepted his Life Membership certificate from fellow Life Member Jim Davis on December 2. Geoff has worked tirelessly for the Sub Branch since being elected to the Board in 1997. He supported veterans and their families in his position of Welfare Officer, was President for seven years and Vice-President for one. Life Membership criteria includes 15 years of continuous membership and 10 years of outstanding service. The Sub Branch expressed its appreciation to Geoff for his leadership, efforts and dedication to improving conditions for veterans.



NEW WAR WIDOWS/WIDOWERS GROUP AT THE GAP

The Gap RSL Auxiliary recently formed The Gap War Widows Group. The group has held three successful meetings, led by Citizens Auxiliary President Barbara Clendinen. "This has been an exciting few months and these are an incredible group of women. I love getting together with them," Barbara said. She is supported by Lachlan, Douglas and Steve. The group wrapped 25 packages to send to service personnel deployed overseas. This was done with the assistance of this active group of women, who are in their 90s. The group meets on the first Monday of each month from 10am to 12pm at the Soccer Club, Glen Affric Street, and plans to have a guest speaker at each meeting. If you wish to join the group, please contact Barbara Clendinen on 0428 222 038.

NEW HOME FOR TOOWONG

Decades after its old headquarters were destroyed in the 1974 floods, Toowong RSL Sub Branch will finally have a permanent home at the Wests Bulldogs Rugby Union headquarters on Sylvan Road. The Sub Branch has also asked the public to donate memorabilia to decorate its new home after all of its treasures were lost in the floods.





ARE YOU BEING FAIR DINKUM?

It's not surprising that there was a sense of anticipation in the air as the team prepared to draw the winning ticket number for our \$4.1 million Golden Treasure; after all, it is the biggest and most popular game of the year!

With the lucky winner's details in hand, the anticipation grew as RSL Art Union General Manager, Tracey Bishop, prepared to make the call that would change this lucky supporter's life forever. At this point, it was unclear who would be more excited, the winner on the other end of the line or the whole RSL team jam-packed into Tracey's office to listen in.

“KEN AND MARGARET ARE NOW THE OWNERS OF NOT ONE, BUT FIVE APARTMENTS, INCLUDING A STUNNING TWO-STOREY PENTHOUSE WITH PANORAMIC OCEAN VIEWS.”

After only a few rings, Mr Ken Wright* answered, completely unaware of the news he was about to hear. However, once Tracey announced she was calling from the Art Union the tone quickly changed and Ken responded with, “I’ve been

waiting for this call for six weeks!”

Well-aware that the draw was taking place that morning, it was soon revealed that Ken had bought tickets with his wife, Margaret, as a Christmas present and had been joking about receiving the winning call for the past few days.

Finally, Tracey was able to reveal that Ken and Margaret were, in fact, the winners of the \$4.1 million Golden Treasure, to which they were both astounded. Ken quickly asked, “Are you being fair dinkum?” When asked what they would do with the prize Ken

replied, “In the new year we’ll sell our home and move to the coast!”

Ken and Margaret are now the owners of not one, but five apartments, including a stunning two-storey penthouse with panoramic ocean views. Plus, as a \$50 book buyer, they will also receive \$80,000 in gold bullion – a nice bonus to share with their family!

Thank you to all our supporters who made Draw 351 such a success and we look forward to a brilliant 2018.

**Name changed for privacy reasons.*

Win three *luxury villas*

LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE GOLD COAST



\$3.3 MILLION
FIRST PRIZE

TICKETS
ONLY
\$5

DRAW 354 Draw closes 8pm AEST 19th April 2018
Drawn 10am AEST 26th April 2018

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY

RSL Art Union No. 354 Licence No. 29819 (by permission of the Queensland Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation). ACT Permit No. R17/00215. VIC Permit No 10007/18. NSW a contribution for rates, water and body corporate fees for the first 12 months & selling costs and market variations do apply when selling gold bullion. Close: 8pm AEST 19/4/2018. Bag 4032, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006. Conducted by Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch). Winners notified by Registered Mail. Results published in public



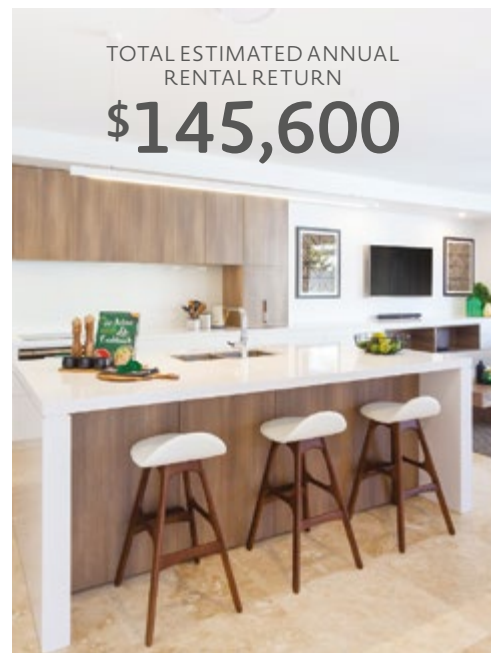
These three luxury villas are the perfect base to experience everything the Gold Coast has to offer, nestled in a quiet suburb but only a 10-minute drive to beaches, shops and restaurants.



The modern design, with eye-catching black and gold accents, will transport you to the glamour of the 1920s, while the open-plan living areas, light filled bedrooms and spacious alfresco areas will mean you'll never want to leave the house. Plus, with a private pool in every villa you'll feel like you're on holiday all year round.

VISIT US!
147 Racecourse Drive,
Bundall QLD 4217

Display open 7th March – 19th April
from 10am – 6pm (AEST), seven
days a week. Closed Good Friday,
30th March.



TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL
RENTAL RETURN

\$145,600



RSLartunion.com.au or 1300775888



Permit No. GOCAU/1979. TAS Permit No. 75607. SA Permit No. M13438. WA residents not eligible to enter. First Prize Value \$3,314,097. Prize value includes \$15,000 gold bullion as Draw: Public draw 10am AEST 26/4/2018 at ANZAC HOUSE, 283 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006. Prizes drawn in order (e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd). Promoter: Vic Reading. Locked notices of 'The Courier Mail' 30/4/2018.





THE GP AND ME

How to build a relationship that could save your life.



“IF it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” may hold true for some aspects of your life, but it can be a dangerous approach to take for your health. Many of us reserve the rare visit to the local GP for when the alarm bells are well and truly ringing. But why wait to involve a GP, one of the greatest assets in maintaining good health, until the damage is already done?

When you consider the most important relationships in your life, chances are your GP isn’t ranking high on that list. But as life goes on, compounded by the impact of years of military service, the relationship you have with your GP could be critical to your health and wellbeing.

Transitioning from service can be an overwhelming process, and this is particularly true for navigating the healthcare system. This can be compounded by the first port of call – a visit to your general practitioner – being a vastly different, and often uncomfortable, experience from what you’ve grown accustomed to during service.

For Vietnam veteran Richard McLaren, his GP just didn’t understand what he’d been through. After serving in the Vietnam War, Richard returned home changed forever. Diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in 1995, Richard has suffered from severe depression, attempted suicide, and endured anxiety attacks, social dysfunction and phobias. From the outset, he struggled to trust or build rapport with his doctor.

“It can be terribly frustrating when you are dealing with people who were born after the Vietnam War and don’t know anything about the situation you were involved in,” Richard says.

PTSD can affect quality of life and have a negative impact on relationships, friendships, social and vocational function, as well as physical health. Many veterans suffer the symptoms of PTSD and are not aware that help is available.

These symptoms include irritability, anger, depressed mood, anxiety, social

isolation and poor sleep. Patients are also at increased risk of developing other physical conditions, including heart disease, gastric complaints and sleep disorders.

For veterans like Richard who suffer from PTSD, it can be difficult to trust the advice of someone with no first-hand experience of the ordeals experienced, or the resulting impact on mind and body.

With over 27 years with the Australian Defence Force, GMRF Ambassador of the GP education program, Dr Phil Parker, is one healthcare professional who does understand this toll.

“It can be difficult to recall and discuss some events from the past,” Dr Parker says. “The trauma may still be extremely raw, even years on from service. In a safe environment and with the right carer, it is possible to have discussions that can lead to significant benefits in quality of life.”

Dr Parker wants to assure veterans that there are general practitioners out there who are available and committed to the care of veterans.

“Engagement with the right health providers can make or break the treatment journey. It is important for the veteran to connect with a GP who is willing to invest in their long-term care.”

FINDING THE RIGHT GP FOR YOU

A solid rapport with your GP is critical to good treatment. While your current GP may be qualified to provide medical treatment, if you don’t feel comfortable providing them with personal information, it may be time to look for an alternative.

You don’t need a GP who has years of military experience, but you do need one who can appreciate how military service can have a tremendous impact on your mind, your body, and the way you interact with civilian medical professionals.

Ask yourself:

- Do I trust that my GP has my best interests in mind?
- Does my GP foster a safe and open environment?
- Does my GP know about the entitlements I am able to claim as a veteran?
- Does my GP understand the impact military service can have on mind and body?
- Does my GP refer me to specialists for both my physical and psychological health?
- Does my GP utilise the information from my specialists to support my overall care?

It is important to remember that however much it may not feel like it, help is available. When and how you receive support is now up to you.



Richard McLaren, alongside his wife Karen, shares his journey with PTSD at the launch of the PTSD Initiative findings in 2017.

HOW TO START THE PROCESS

STEP 1 Join a conversation. Ask your mates what is available locally in terms of medical facilities and healthcare professionals. A wide range of resources and helpful links to support organisations are available on the GMRF website (www.gallipoliresearch.com.au).

STEP 2 Go to the GP with your partner or someone from your support network. Having a support network that understands what you are going through can make a HUGE difference to your recovery. Take someone you can trust and rely on.

STEP 3 Request a longer consultation. A standard appointment is around 10 minutes long, which is unlikely to be enough time for the GP to gain a full picture of both your medical and military history, both of which are important to developing treatment plans.

STEP 4 Start small. If you don't want to talk to your doctor about the big things, perhaps start with things that are troubling you now:

1. Your medication;
2. Trouble controlling your anger;
3. If you're not having good sleep;
4. If you're experiencing aches and pains.

At your following appointments you can talk about other, bigger things that are bothering you. Always try and be honest with the GP right from the start; this helps build trust and rapport.

STEP 5 Know your entitlements. As a veteran, you are entitled to claim for a range of health services. For example, veterans are entitled to government-funded mental healthcare. Veterans should lodge form D9213 to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), which is available on their website (www.dva.gov.au). The Veteran Services team at RSL Queensland can also help you submit this claim (phone 134 RSL). Once processed, all mental healthcare will be supported by DVA. This entitlement extends to all mental health conditions, regardless of whether it is related to service or not.

“AS LIFE GOES ON, COMPOUNDED BY THE IMPACT OF YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE, THE RELATIONSHIP YOU HAVE WITH YOUR GP COULD BE CRITICAL TO YOUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING.”



“UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONDITION OF PTSD AMONG MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS HAS COME A LONG WAY IN RECENT YEARS, AND THE GALLIPOLI MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING IT GOES EVEN FURTHER BY EQUIPPING THEM WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THEY NEED TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE HOLISTIC CARE TO THEIR PATIENTS.”

With the help of the right health team, it is possible for veterans with PTSD to live high-functioning lives. With the right support, effective treatment can be provided to help all veterans.

Understanding of the condition of PTSD among medical professionals has come a long way in recent years, and the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation is committed to ensuring it goes even further by equipping them with the knowledge they need to provide the best possible holistic care to their patients.

New knowledge comes through innovative medical research, and in 2013 GMRF and RSL Queensland commenced a research project to help veterans and their families. The PTSD Initiative was a world-first study, investigating the physical and psychological toll of PTSD in Vietnam veterans.

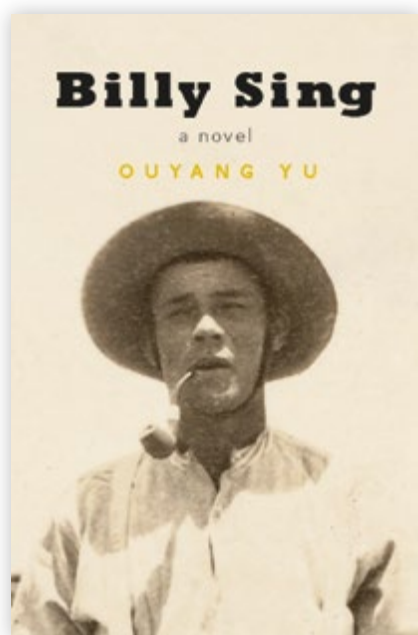
With the study now published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, this research has been translated into clinical practice, with an education program to help GPs and other healthcare professionals better identify the signs and symptoms of PTSD. To date, almost 650 health professionals have completed the GMRF online education module. Of those, over 95 per cent stated they would be confident managing a patient with PTSD, having completed the education.

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

To find out more about the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation, visit www.gallipoliresearch.com.au. ←



- Since March 2017, almost 650 healthcare professionals have enrolled to learn more about PTSD and earn CPD points at www.thinkgp.com.au/gmrf.
- Dr Phil Parker, GP and veteran, has presented the same material to audiences at GP conferences around the country.
- Of the healthcare professionals who completed the program, over 95 per cent said they would be confident managing a patient with PTSD.
- An extensive range of resources is available from the GMRF website – www.gallipoliresearch.com.au.
- Testimonial from a GP who has completed the program: “An excellent presentation on a very pertinent subject – we have all managed Vietnam vets and supported families over the years, but this certainly brings all the information together.”



BILLY SING

William 'Billy' Sing was born in 1886 to an English mother and Chinese father. He and his two sisters were brought up in Clermont and Proserpine, in rural Queensland. He was one of the first to enlist in 1914 and at Gallipoli became famous for his shooting prowess.

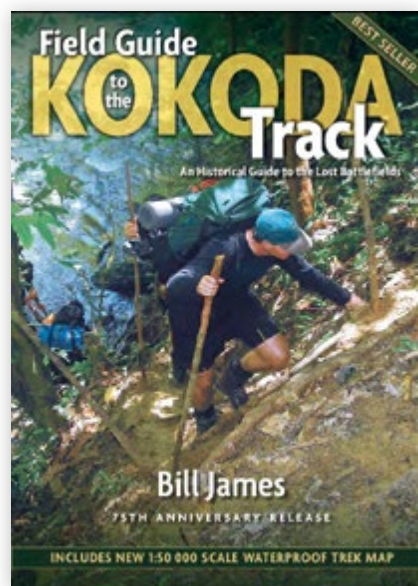
In his new novel, *Billy Sing*, Ouyang Yu embodies Sing's voice in a magically descriptive prose that captures both the Australian landscape and vernacular. In writing about Sing's triumphant yet conflicted life, and the horrors of war, Yu captures with imaginative power what it might mean to be both an outsider and a hero in one's own country. The telling is poetic and realist; the author's understanding of being a Chinese-Australian sensitively informs the narrative.

The result is a short novel of great beauty that impacts way beyond its size. A novel that is searing yet fresh, delicate yet brutal, a masterful habitation of another life. *Billy Sing* is arguably one of Ouyang's finest works to date.

"Australian son of both 'Mother England' and 'Father Cathay'", Billy Sing is a Gallipoli hero and a modern killer, beloved and abandoned, admirable and deluded, lost and found.

Billy Sing by Ouyang Yu is published by Transit Lounge (RRP: \$27.95).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Billy Sing*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'Billy Sing') or post to 'Billy Sing', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Competition closes March 22, 2018.



FIELD GUIDE TO THE KOKODA TRACK

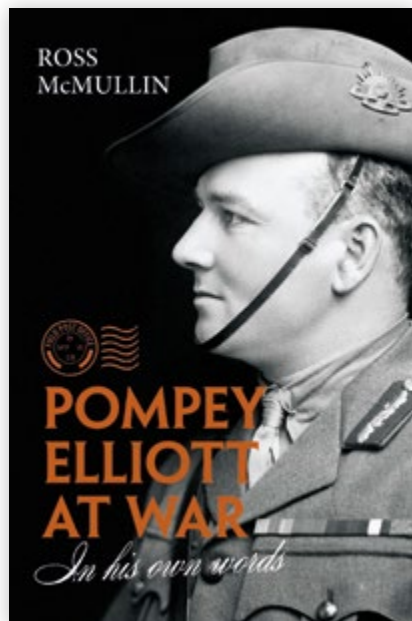
The Kokoda Track occupies a special place in the hearts of Australians. As one of the most significant WWII battles in which we fought the enemy without the support of Allied forces, it's the gripping true story of a group of under-resourced, outgunned young men, who displayed immense bravery, endurance, sacrifice and mateship to beat the odds – and defeat a truly terrifying enemy.

Around 3000 trekkers visit the Kokoda Track each year, ploughing more than \$2m into the local economy and allowing a new generation of Australians to pay their respects to the 2000 soldiers who died there. *Field Guide to the Kokoda Track* (3rd edition) is the most comprehensive, up-to-date guide to the track available.

Author Bill James's passion for military history was ignited in the early years of the legendary double-decker bus tour operator, Top Deck, which he co-founded. While walking the track in the late 1990s, Bill realised that so many parts of the Kokoda puzzle were still missing. Around the campfire one night, and with the encouragement of the retired Major leading the tour, Bill decided to write the definitive guide to Kokoda himself.

Field Guide to the Kokoda Track (3rd ed.) by Bill James is published by Kokoda Press (RRP: \$34.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Field Guide to the Kokoda Track*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'Field Guide to the Kokoda Track') or post to 'Field Guide to the Kokoda Track', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Competition closes March 22, 2018.



POMPEY ELLIOTT AT WAR

Hundreds of Australian first-person narratives of WWI have been published, but none more riveting than this one.

The wartime letters and diaries of Pompey Elliott, Australia's most famous fighting general, are exceptionally forthright. They are also remarkably illuminating about his volatile emotions. Pompey not only wrote frankly about what happened to him and the men he was commanding, he was also frank about what he felt about both. Having arranged a no-secrets pact with his wife for their correspondence before he left Australia in 1914, he adhered to that agreement throughout the conflict.

Ross McMullin, the author of the award-winning and best-selling biography *Pompey Elliott*, has collected Pompey's words from a variety of sources and shaped them into a compelling narrative. This book will transform our awareness of Pompey's importance in the dramatic final year of WWI.

Pompey Elliott at War by Ross McMullin is published by Scribe Publications (RRP: \$59.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of two copies of *Pompey Elliott at War*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'Pompey Elliott at War') or post to 'Pompey Elliott at War', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Competition closes March 22, 2018.



QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS WINNERS

Edition 6, 2017

NO FRONT LINE

P Gallagher, Clontarf
D Hanlen, Newstead
W Hurrey, Mount Gravatt

SECRET ARMY

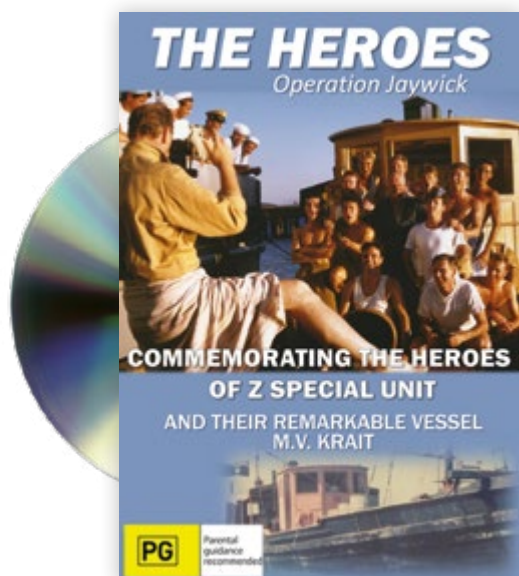
L Welch, Camp Hill
M Holst, Mirriwinni
R Kessell, Urangan
S Bird, Esk

WE THAT ARE LEFT

J Hunt, Elanora
J Dundas, Petrie
M Thorpe, Bellara
M Alderton, Highfields

THE GLASS SOLDIER

R Minkowski, Oxley
L Bahnisch, Guluguba
W Brampton, Cawarral
R Clarke, Noosa Heads



THE HEROES – OPERATION JAYWICK

At dawn on September 26, 1943, a series of explosions in Singapore Harbour sink or damage seven Japanese merchant ships. At the same time, six British and Australian commandos paddle their canoes frantically back to an island base across Singapore Strait before daylight reveals them.

This raid was Operation Jaywick, an audacious plan to penetrate Singapore's harbour defences and damage Japanese shipping and prestige in South-East Asia. The plan was devised by Englishman Major Ivan Lyon the previous year, when he came across a former Japanese fishing boat, the *Fukoku Maru*, during the evacuation of Singapore. Lyon realised the fishing boat could be used to enter Japanese waters, where a raiding party would paddle canoes into the harbour and mine Japanese merchant ships.

The Heroes – Operation Jaywick is produced by Anthony Buckley Films (RRP: \$25.00).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of five copies of the DVD *The Heroes – Operation Jaywick*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject 'The Heroes – Operation Jaywick') or post to 'The Heroes – Operation Jaywick', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Competition closes March 22, 2018.

COMMUNITY CONNECT

ARMISTICE DAY FUN RUN ON WOODGATE BEACH

Would you like to run 20km along Woodgate Beach in Childers on November 10 for an Armistice Day Fun Run? Your fellow runners will include 20 people travelling from Vignacourt, France. Contact Robert Maisey on robert.maisey@bigpond.com or 0409 625 873.



CONTACT WITH VIETNAM VETERAN

Musical writer Bob Bishop would like to renew contact with a drummer/Vietnam veteran who was living around Gracemere at the end of 2014. Bob is hoping to collaborate on musical arrangements about Australia's involvement in WWII in about 1945. It could be described as 'The Sullivans set to music'. If you have any information, please email funchickfried@hotmail.com.

BOER WAR VETERANS ON MOUNT TAMBORINE

Tamborine Mountain RSL Sub Branch historian Joe Mulders is seeking advice about whether he should research as far back as the Boer War, which ended in 1902. The Sub Branch has a document displayed in its meeting room in which 18 Boer War veterans thanked the local Red Cross on the mountain for their hospitality. However, the Australian Red Cross was officially founded at the start of WWI in 1914. Red Cross headquarters have no file on the subject, but Joe said the mountain's local Red Cross may have been a branch of the British Red Cross at the time. If you have any records about this interesting period or suggestions about the area's Boer War veterans, please contact Joe on jkmulders@live.com.au.

DOG TAG FOUND

A dog tag belonging to Victor James Kay (service number 32982) has been found under a house. Victor was born in 1919 and enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force in Sydney. If you have information about Victor's descendants, please contact Mrs Van Kerkwijk via hkerkwijk@ozemail.com.au.

JIM BOURKE MEMORIAL DEDICATION

On April 7, 2018, a memorial to Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Dr James Bourke, Member of the Order of Australia, Medal for Gallantry, Doctor of Philosophy (Victoria University), will be unveiled in a ceremony at ANZAC Park in Ayr. Jim Bourke was born in Ayr in 1943 and founded Operation Aussies Home. He was instrumental in locating six Australian bodies left behind when Australian Forces were withdrawn in 1972. The Unveiling Officer will be Major General Mark Kelly (Ret'd) AO. Other scheduled speakers include Brigadier George Mansford AM AATTv, Peter Aylett AATTv (Operation Aussies Home), Bob Kennedy IRAR Vietnam First Tour and a Bourke family representative.

VOLUNTEER COMPANION OFFERED

Are you an elderly woman in Brisbane with a spare room you would like to let out during the week in exchange for some companionship and assistance? Joy Fowler, a 63-year-old female teacher, is seeking four nights' accommodation per week in southwest Brisbane. For the past five years, Joy has boarded with a 91-year-old lady who received Blue Care Home assistance. This included heating up her evening meal, checking that she took her medications and keeping an eye on her health and wellbeing. Contact joyfowler828@gmail.com.

KYOOMBA SANATORIUM BOOK LAUNCH

The launch of Deborah Wheeler's historical book *Kyoomba Sanatorium 1916-1935, Volume 1* will be held from 10-11am on Tuesday, April 24 at Stanthorpe RSL Services Club at 46 Marsh Street, Stanthorpe. Please RSVP by April 16 via rslkyoomba@halenet.com.au or 0419 810 575. Morning tea will be provided after the formalities.

FIVE WWI DOG TAGS FOUND

Mareeba RSL Sub Branch has been given five lost dog tags from WWI - Green H S Q35559, Foote R C SX 2226, Cumberland A H QX 43769, Mackinnon A E QX 25928 and Legg P QX 43550. Contact Paul McGregor-Jones via subbranch@mareebarslclub.com.au.

ROAD RENAMING HONOURS SEAN MCCARTHY

In 2017, Highfields RSL Sub Branch was granted permission by Toowoomba Regional Council to rename the road leading to the community memorial at Highfields in memory of a fallen soldier. A renaming ceremony will take place at 10am on March 17 at Highfields Cultural Centre to honour signaller Sean Patrick McCarthy, who was killed in action in 2008. The renaming will be officiated by The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD, CVO the 25th Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and the 24th Governor of Queensland. For more information, visit www.highfieldsrsl.org/events.html.

DO YOU KNOW WILLIAM DEAN?

Leslie Martin is looking for an old friend named William Dean, who was a 2nd Lt in the UK Army and ceased service during the late 1950s. William then travelled to Australia and worked around the Mt Isa area. He returned to visit his family and, on his way back to Australia, stopped in Hong Kong, where he joined the Hong Kong Police and served for several years. William returned to Australia and joined the Australian Defence Force in the mid-1960s, where he was given his original UK rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He was last heard of in Mt Hagen, New Guinea, with the rank of Captain, at which time he was attached to the Intelligence Corps. If you have any information, please contact harvey.mickvr@hotmail.com.

MISSING MEDALS

Do you have any information about several medals that have gone missing? They include a four-year service medal ADM, ASM with Bougainville clasp, AASM with Iraq 2003 clasp, Afghanistan clasp, Iraq campaign medal, Afghanistan campaign medal with clasp 2 and Non-Article 5 NATO for service in Afghanistan from May 2, 2012 - October 20, 2012. Please email the Veteran Services team on vs@rslqld.org.

27 INTAKE RAAF APPRENTICES

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

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY REUNION BATTLES OF CORAL AND BALMORAL

The next 'Red Rat' reunion of the 1st Australian Task Force South Vietnam 1966-72 will be held on Phillip Island from November 15-19, 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battles of Coral/Balmoral. It will take place at the BIG 4 Phillip Island Caravan Park at 24 Old Bridge Drive, Newhaven, Victoria. For more information on the reunion, phone John Verhelst on 0437 212 121 or Bob Sutton on 0400 825 386. For caravan park bookings, phone 03 5956 7227, email info@phillipislandcpk.com.au or visit www.phillipislandcpk.com.au.

RETURN TO CORAL AND BALMORAL

50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

The year 2018 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Coral/Balmoral, a heroic Australian battle and operation. At the request of several veterans, Walter Pearson of JCP Tours will organise a 12-day tour from August 9-20, 2018, to commemorate this historic event. For more information, phone 0424 177 590 or visit www.jcptours.com.au.

HMAS SWAN REUNION

Shakey Lake recently retired as Secretary/Treasurer of Mudgeeraba Robina RSL Sub Branch, after many years of dedicated service. Once a POSTD, Shakey served aboard HMAS Swan in 1980, when rescuing Vietnamese refugees while transiting Singapore to Hong Kong. She assisted the medical team to survey refugees, who were eventually escorted to Hong Kong under "Rules of the Sea" in place at that time. Shakey always wondered what happened to those refugees. Thanks to Facebook, she recently discovered they settled in Melbourne and Shakey met with BAC, the father, and his now grown up daughters Lana and Vanessa, who had been children at the time of the rescue. The girls are arranging a reunion around June 17, 2018, for all who served on HMAS Swan for the 40th anniversary of the event. It should be emotional for all. Shakey retired from the RAN as a Warrant Officer Steward and acts each year as parade marshal for Mudgeeraba's unique ANZAC Day street march and sunset service, which has grown considerably, now encompassing thousands of locals, VIPs and hundreds of loyal students from the 15 local schools. Shakey can be contacted on 0411 742 539 or shakey49@optusnet.com.au.

RAN PATROL BOAT GATHERING IN GLADSTONE

An "all classes" RAN Patrol Boat gathering has been confirmed for ANZAC Day 2018 in Gladstone (be it Attack, Fremantle or Armidale). The news comes after Gladstone Council advised that the Navy will arrange for HMAS Wollongong to visit. Organisers are hoping to get a strong turnout to march as a Patrol Boat Group. This could become an annual pilgrimage and having the preserved FCPB Gladstone as a backdrop will enhance the occasion. For more information, contact Lindsay Wassell of Gladstone Maritime Museum via hots02@bigpond.com or 0419 722 495.



BATTLE TOURS IN VIETNAM

Battle Tours will operate a 10 or 19-day tour in May 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral. It will be led by Garry Adams, the guide for the 30th and 40th anniversary tours. For more information phone 1300 768 478.

NEED HELP?

Are you looking for someone, something or seeking information? Are you in need of help from your local RSL community? Would you like to make contact with an RSL contributor? Email your request to editor@rslqld.org

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Armstrong	Alison	WR/505	Ex-Servicewomens Sub Branch
Ashford	Colin	A46227	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Avdich	Safet	0000000	Sunnybank Sub Branch Inc.
Baker	Kenneth	R59361	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Barker	Kenneth	64266	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Bates	Ivan	27328	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Bennell	Bob	145623	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Bennett	William	1200304/ 31709	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Bennett	Edward	A112902	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Benson	William	25921	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Bertles	John	2710911	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Bertwistle	Allan	4455	Orchid Beach/Fraser Island Sub Branch Inc
Bethune	Joseph	R47753	Atherton Sub Branch Inc.
Bingham	Claude	2/726819	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Bishop	Jean	102665	Glasshouse Country Sub Branch Inc.
Bonato	Gelindo	1/706886	Ayr Sub Branch
Bottomley	John	VX118995	Forest Lake Sub Branch
Boucher	John	160208	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Boytell	Graham	426026	Manly-Lota Sub Branch Inc.
Bredhauer	Neil	1732352	Nambour Sub Branch Inc.
Brennan	Frank	NX130409 (N270544)	Nerang Sub Branch
Briggs	Kenneth	S5286	Springwood Tri-Service Sub Branch Inc.
Bright	Raymond	27296	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Bromhead*	John	169232	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Brooks	Charles	B3530	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Busby	Francis	16756	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Bushell	Roy	25172	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Campbell	James	QX8851	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Carruthers	John	A224506	Bray Park-Strathpine Sub Branch Inc.
Cheney	Peter	VX501745	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Christie	Agnes	93043	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Clark	Cyril	18316	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Clark	Raymond	150437	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Clarke	Edna	W292742	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Clarke	Ruth	W114451	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Clarke	Rex	2711435	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
Connor	Joseph	13942/ 16495	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Coombs	Colin	B5098	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Cooper	Leon	35713	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Cox	William	Q112764	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Cox	Norman	Q24678/ QX47122	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Craig	Arthur	242805	Goodna Sub Branch Inc.
Crain*	Arthur	A1529	Yeronga-Dutton Park Sub Branch Inc.
Crassweller	Charles	213665	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Creagh	Victor	13401	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Cross	Margaret	QF265320	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Dale	John	A2313967	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Davern	Edmund	R50325	Mapleton Sub Branch Inc.
Dawson	Maxwell	42873	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Day	Clement	150544	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Denver	Ian	422844	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Drescher	Edwin	QX27685	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Ducat	Aubrey	NX117155	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Duffy	George	425624	Beerwah and District Sub Branch
Dunst	Donald	-	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Eite	Vivian	QX53101	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
English	Norman	NX137269 (N351802)	Caboolture-Morayfield & Dist Sub Branch Inc.
Evans	Peter	6/1013/ 611013	Tasman Sub Branch
Evans	Kenneth	D/MX887222	Caboolture-Morayfield & Dist Sub Branch Inc.
Fairchild	Donald	P/390876	Nerang Sub Branch
Farmer	Noel	675259	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.
Farrow	Leslie	1256007	Nerang Sub Branch

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Faulkner	Joseph	QX50857	Rosewood Sub Branch Inc.
Firth	Ronald	R/42608	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Fisher	Richard	018628	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Foley*	Raymond	1410714	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Fowler	Grahame	A229032	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Franklin	Frederick	44671	Tamborine Mountain Sub Branch Inc.
Frost	Geoffrey	3115NS	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Funk	Henry	A112331	Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.
Gall	Victor	1/702397	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Garwood*	James	14655762	Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.
Gill	Henry	QX58037	Bayside South Sub Branch Inc.
Gillan	John	29971	Toowoomba United Sub Branch Inc.
Gillespie	Robert	22643889	Nerang Sub Branch
Gillis	William	A112108	Herbert River Sub Branch Inc.
Gilmore	Violet	VF514595	Deception Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Gilvear	Betty	W225896	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Gode	Thomas	14952	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Graham	Bernard	1732003	Burrum District Sub Branch Inc.
Gray	Cecil	4218	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Greber	Albert	QX27912	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Green	Bruce	1/2400	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Green	Derek	QX22407	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Greentree	Bernard	R93505	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Hales*	Peter	0223269	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Hall*	Warren	A16971	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Hands	Ian	33461	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Hanrahan	Francis	R49990	Gatton Sub Branch Inc.
Hansen	Edwin	QX55504 (Q104993)	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Harm	Bertie	QX55405	Laidley Sub Branch Inc.
Harradine	David	185409	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Harris	Raymond	151457	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Harrison	Peter	QX55608	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Hayes	Arthur	1726434 / 15642	Deception Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Hayes*	Jeremiah	150733	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Haywood	Ronald	T/2242368	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Head	Nancy	176351	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Hebron*	Michael	351935	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Hedges	Darrell	A1922	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Hefford	William	SSX790095	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Heggie	Colin	34446	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Hemensley	Norma	-	Nambour Sub Branch Inc.
Henderson	John	42400	Nambour Sub Branch Inc.
Herse	Veronica	100568	Palmwoods & District Sub Branch
Heyer	Marinus	250328133	Nanango Sub Branch Inc.
Hill	Terence	H2683	Nerang Sub Branch
Hindmarch	Darryl	1202129	Charleville Sub Branch Inc.
Hockings	Ian	426996	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Hoey	John	124854	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Hoge	John	B4974	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Holden	Arthur	79387	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Holloway*	John	22435072	Tully Sub Branch
Horne	Geoffrey	QX53386/ 1963	Unattached List Sub Branch
Howell	Robert	6/705259	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Jackson	Paul	3790425	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Jacobs	Stanley	1718288	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Jeffcoat	John	173152	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Jenkins	Joan	883670	Centenary Suburbs Sub Branch Inc.
Johnston	William	59187	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Jones	Kevin	3103758	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Jones	Douglas	10514	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Jones	Trevor	1/729838	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Kay	Robert	1/717659	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Kearney	Joseph	1/704528	Salisbury Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Kemp	David	2/718405	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Kemp*	Melva	96087	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Kibble	Nancy	F1/1358	Sunnybank Sub Branch Inc.
Kinder	J	212944	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
King	Ronald	217081	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Inc
Kirby	John	14369002	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Kluver	Peter	111522	Glasshouse Country Sub Branch Inc.
Kollen	Jan	14813	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Kronk	Harry	438862	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Lamberton	Paul	QX63793	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Lane	James	14951	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Laurie	James	434140	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Lawler	Brian	-	Helidon Sub Branch Inc.
Lea*	Leonard	-	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Leadley	Edmund	NZ433704	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Leo	James	1702152	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Lock	Wallis	A116032	National Servicemens Sub Branch Inc.
Longden	Neal	A1851	Goodna Sub Branch Inc.
Lynch	Leonard	B/4272	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Lynch	Dennis	42404	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Mackay	Linley	R50357	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Macpherson	Ross	SX11193	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Madden	Keith	216669	Bray Park-Strathpine Sub Branch Inc.
Magner	Michael	A219864	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Mahoney*	Glen	112192	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Manning	Frederick	2432766	Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.
Martin	Stanley	QX57162	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Martin	Colin	123630	Djuan & District Sub Branch Inc.
Marychurch	Allen	11219	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Mason	James	22870373	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Masters	Albert	A111809	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Maxwell	Rodney	314179	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
McCarron	Anthony	A223536	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
McGeechan	Thomas	24353	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
McGrath	B	151197	Stephens Sub Branch
McKerihan	Kenneth	161518	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
McLucas	Tom	QX56122	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
McVicker*	Hugh	NX102122 (N5551)	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Meager	Richard	39678	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
Menzies	Robert	316917/8257089	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Metcalf	Allan	QX42086	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Miller	Brian	W3155642	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Monin	Anthony	38923	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Moore*	Owen	Q271260	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Mortensen	Eric	Q1148	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Moseley	Robin	243147	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Muldowney	Darcy	11538	Herbert River Sub Branch Inc.
Munro	Rex	NX180829	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Nash	Colin	1205465	Toowoomba United Sub Branch Inc.
Newton	Richard	176415	Djuan & District Sub Branch Inc.
Norton	Keith	124448	Rollingstone Sub Branch Inc.
Nunn	Norman	A13665	Oakey Sub Branch Inc.
O'Brien	Ronald	NX501828	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
O'Connor	Michael	3/756861/V61492	Home Hill Sub Branch Inc.
O'Shea*	Denis	QX60631 (Q128667)	Toowoomba United Sub Branch Inc.
Paul	Bernard	-	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Pedersen	Raymond	149314	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Pollock	Leslie	QX60726 (Q137147)	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Porter	Allan	3411822	Gayndah Sub Branch Inc.
Pourre	Edmond	-	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Prasolik	Tad	R93562	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Price	Ian	171046	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Rammerath*	Arie	R58513	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Reid	Herbert	NX170119 (N2967)	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Richardson	David	1203349	Laidley Sub Branch Inc.
Roberson	Alfred	QX21670	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Robertson	Peter	1/730692	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Rodgers	Ronald	432573	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Rose	Darrel	1/711333	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Ross	Edward	1720593	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Rowley	Colin	38137	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Saxby	Kenneth	424824	Nerang Sub Branch
Scheikowski	Jack	Q209107/ Q273191	Miles Sub Branch
Scheuber	Kenneth	-	Eidsvold Sub Branch Inc.
Schonberger	John	-	Nanango Sub Branch Inc.
Sehmish	Joan	916	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Seymour	Eric	2659072	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Shuttleton	George	QX62968 (Q144436)	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Inc.
Silcox	Gwendoline	W232040	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Simmons	John	042462	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
Simons	Benjamin	R29897	Biloela Sub Branch Inc.
Simpson	James	A116632	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Simpson	Neville	16491	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Sims	Terence	2701668	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Skaar	Sverre	R95348	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Skelton	John	441060	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Skerratt	John	64031870	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Walter	78641	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	John	VX57001	Nanango Sub Branch Inc.
Soden	Bruce	A114270	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Solin	Donald	O51723	Nerang Sub Branch
Solomon	Jeffery	18349	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.

Last Name	First Name	Service No.	Sub Branch
Spencer	William	1708052	Eidsvold Sub Branch Inc.
Stanbridge	Peter	2183769	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Steel	Thomas	435517	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Stevens	Norman	3/723233	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Stuart	Raymond	-	Nambour Sub Branch Inc.
Styles	Frank	P/ SKX832698	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Thomson	Donald	R56886	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Thorp	Lynette	F15262	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Tough	Robert	14644	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Tranter	Eric	75481	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Tyrrell	Terence	R278776	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Uildriks	Oomke	22061	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Ulrich	Peter	340106/ WX700236	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch
Vardy	Roy	-	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Waterton	Mary	91128	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Webb	Marjorie	QF142411	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Weir	Alfred	PA5674	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Welsh	Richard	QX52664 (Q138013)	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.
Wenn	Ross	3793092	Agnes Water/1770 Sub Branch Inc.
Wesener	Keith	QX501528	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
West	Ronald	A19961/ R107567	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Wickson	Merle	VF515008	Coolum-Peregian Sub Branch Inc.
Williams	Harry	150297	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Wilson	Harold	23323	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Winch	Gordon	VX147318	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Witte	Thomas	1/410022	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Woods	Donald	12968	Salisbury Sub Branch Inc.
Woods	Keith	50366	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Wynne	William	B5655	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Young	Henry	B3498	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.

IN 2017, WE SUPPORTED OUR DEFENCE FAMILY WITH:



\$5 million
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\$244,000
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120 CADET UNITS

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3,400
DVA claims



1,000+ 
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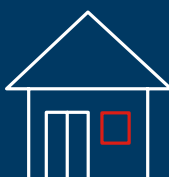
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for Queensland veterans at
240 Sub Branches across
10 DISTRICTS



4,000+
CALLS HANDLED



QUEENSLAND'S LARGEST EVER
research project into the
DEFENCE COMMUNITY



140
PERMANENT & TEMPORARY
accommodation rentals

DID YOU KNOW?

OUR SUB BRANCH VOLUNTEERS

organise **ANZAC Day** and **Remembrance Day** ceremonies throughout Queensland

RSL Queensland's oldest member is
104 YEARS OLD

OUR SERVICES

ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL
former and current service people,
not just members of RSL Queensland

VETERANS CAN BE AS YOUNG AS 18 YEARS OLD



RETURNED & SERVICES
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND BRANCH