

QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS

A SPACE FOR SUPPORT & CONNECTION

BRISBANE WELCOMES NEW
RSL QUEENSLAND VETERAN &
FAMILY WELLBEING CENTRE

MORE THAN A SPARK

LOCAL CANDLEMAKER
SHINES BRIGHT FOR
VETERANS THIS
CHRISTMAS

WWI GRAVES HONOURED

OFFICIAL UNVEILING
CEREMONY HONOURS 301
LOCAL WWI VETERANS

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023

HONOURING THOSE WHO LOST
THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE

PIPING FOR PURPOSE

PIPE MAJOR JOHN
FERGUSON RETRACES
HIS MUSIC AND
MILITARY CAREER



RSL
Queensland

2023 // EDITION 04

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

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

As an RSL Queensland member, you're part of a network of volunteers who share the bonds of service and are committed to giving back to the veteran community. Renew your membership today.



To renew, contact your local Sub Branch or call the RSL Queensland Memberships team on 133 995. For other inquiries, please email memberships@rslqld.org



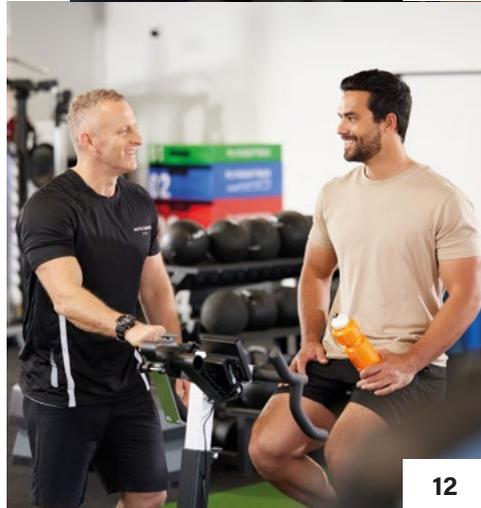
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RSL Queensland

current membership: 34,070

Queensland RSL News average

distribution: 33,000

Submissions: Editorial and photographic contributions are welcome. Please contact the Editor for guidelines. Preference will be given to electronic submissions that adhere to word limits and are accompanied by high resolution photos. Originals of all material should be retained by contributors and only copies sent to *Queensland RSL News*.

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Front Cover

For the veteran and Defence community, Brisbane's new RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre makes support and connection easier to access than ever.



A message from the *State President*

THE uncertain economic conditions have made life difficult for many veterans. As the year draws to a close, I'd like to take the opportunity to reflect on some of the ways our League has tried to help veterans in need.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT BE STRUGGLING

For me, one of the highlights of this time of year is our Christmas hamper project. An initiative started in 2020, it is intended to offer a little bit of comfort to those who might be struggling or for whom Christmas might be a lonely or isolating experience.

In November, hundreds of staff members and volunteers packed around 500 hampers with gifts and food, and delivered them to veterans and their families across Queensland, as well as the Northern Territory and Tasmania.

Last year, I received a handwritten note from a war widow who had been given a Christmas hamper. She wrote that it had been many years since she had a reason to be happy during Christmas but receiving her hamper had brought her some rare joy.

I could tell how much the gesture meant to her as some of the words at the end of her note were difficult to read. It looked like she had shed some tears onto the paper while she was writing the letter. It brought home to me

“*The strength of our League is founded on individual members who, when combined, build a collective that has the critical mass to create a positive impact on the lives of veterans and their families across Queensland.*”

the significant impact that the Christmas hamper initiative can have on our people and the importance of continuing it.

I know the initiative is also very meaningful to our staff and the many businesses that contribute items to the hampers. Please read more about the project on page 18.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support. The strength of our League is founded on individual members who, when combined, build a collective that has the critical mass to create a positive impact on the lives of veterans and their families across Queensland.

As an RSL Queensland member, you are part of a network of volunteers bound together by mateship and

shared military service – committed to offering care, commemoration and camaraderie to veterans and their families.

The RSL's strength lies in its members, its Sub Branches and its purpose. Combined, this is what makes it such an iconic Australian institution.

STRONG ENGAGEMENT IN COMMEMORATION

Across the League, it has been a strong year for commemoration, with a seemingly increased level of participation in our ANZAC Day, Korean Veterans' Day, Vietnam Veterans' Day and Remembrance Day services. Community engagement in Remembrance Day was notably larger this year.

It is important that we recognise the growing importance that our services have for our fellow Australians.

I would single out ANZAC Day in this regard. It could be argued that it has become the most important day on our national calendar. Our responsibility to steward it on behalf of all those who have served, as well as our communities, is significant.

As we look to the future, we need to continue to honour those who went before us and keep alive the understanding of why they did what they did: to ensure our freedom.

We need to continue to engage Australia's youngest generations to give them an understanding of their military heritage and the sacrifices that have been made towards the freedoms we enjoy today.

I was proud to see the continuation of the Draw to Remember initiative that supports students as they reflect on and explore their personal connection to past and present Defence Force members.

I extend my warmest wishes to you and your families this festive season. Have a merry Christmas and happy new year.



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

New purpose. New mindset. New mates.

Looking for a physical, mental or social wellbeing boost?

RSL Queensland offers a wide range of programs for veterans, Defence members and their families. Better yet, most of them are free.

Waves of Wellness Surfing Experience



Noosa / Gold Coast

Delivered through a learn to surf program, Waves of Wellness uses an early intervention approach to assist with the transition from service to civilian life and improve mental health outcomes in veterans.

info@foundationwow.org
foundationwow.org

Survive to Thrive Nation



Online

The Survive to Thrive program takes a proactive approach to health and wellbeing and is supported by peer mentors with lived experience.

The program includes eight online interactive, self-paced personal development modules focusing on topics such as purpose, resilience, indoctrination, stigma, social support, motivation, self-discipline, meditation and exercise, and crisis management.

admin@survivetothrivenation.com
survivetothrivenation.com

RAEMUS Rover off-road racing



Willowbank

Rediscover your purpose, unlock your confidence and get your adrenaline pumping as part of the RAEMUS Rover off-road racing crew.

Join a wellness weekend activity, where you'll focus on strategies supporting your transition to civilian life, or take part in an ongoing program to reconnect as part of a team.

admin@raemusrover.com.au
raemusrover.com.au

For more information, including locations and dates, please contact each program directly.

EXPLORE ALL PROGRAMS

rslqld.org/find-help



RSL
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OUR CARE AND SUPPORT IN 2023

From January to September, RSL Queensland provided a broad range of services to meet the needs of veterans and their families.



186 jobs secured

in meaningful employment for veterans and the partners of current and ex-serving Defence members

“

The team member who helped me was professional and provided input to my career direction over an extended period. Their unwavering support was greatly appreciated during my transition from 21 years of military service.

”



\$2.2m in financial support

provided to help cover groceries, fuel, bills and accommodation for veterans and their families in times of urgent need



69 scholarships awarded

to veterans and their children, as well as veteran and Defence partners, to increase their employability



165 veterans housed

in safe, permanent accommodation they can call home



5,011 claims and appeals

lodged with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)



734 nights in short-term accommodation

provided for veterans travelling from regional areas for medical treatment



12,127 enquiries answered

referring veterans and their families to services that suit their needs

FIND OUT MORE

 [rsl queensland](#)



RSL
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Caring for veterans in person and online

AS we lead into the Christmas break, I'd like to thank members for your hard work this year. I appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedules to read *Queensland RSL News* and I hope you find the magazine a great way to keep up to date with our organisation.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES MADE BY MANY

On 11 November we paused for Remembrance Day – a key date in our commemorations calendar and one that I believe has enjoyed a resurgence in popularity within the community. Our Remember to Remember campaign has been instrumental in uniting the RSL nationally towards a common narrative, but it's really the local community engagement that has made the biggest impact and encouraged people to stop and reflect on the sacrifices of others.

Thank you to the Sub Branches for fostering this high level of engagement and continuing the Remembrance Day tradition. On a wider level, this increased community interest has enabled our RSL Queensland membership to grow to 34,000 – a positive trajectory that has been building over the past few years.

BRISBANE CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPENED

We were excited to officially open the RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre Brisbane in October.

“ Adding to our in-person services, RSL Queensland launched a new online service in October. RSL Be:Well is a free online learning program designed to help veterans improve their health and wellbeing. ”

We have two smaller Centres (one each in Cairns and Townsville), but this larger Centre is reflective of the sizable current and ex-serving veteran population in Brisbane's Stafford area.

Each Centre houses RSL Queensland, Mates4Mates and other service providers, and falls under the 'care' pillar of our 2030 Strategy. Veterans are also encouraged to connect with their local Sub Branch, where they can find camaraderie and care, which we know is integral to our veteran and Defence community.

Our Brisbane Centre was opened by Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, and RSL Queensland State President and Chairman of RSL Queensland and Mates4Mates Major General Stephen Day

DSC AM. The Centre is already having a strong impact, with a high number of veterans already walking through the doors to access support.

You can read more about the Centre on page 12.

RSL BE:WELL PROVIDES FREE ONLINE SUPPORT

Adding to our in-person services, RSL Queensland launched a new online service in October. RSL Be:Well is a free online learning program designed to help veterans proactively improve their health and wellbeing.

We have invested heavily in research conducted by Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation to develop this program. And what's more important than just the research, is translating the findings into ways to help veterans and their families get the support they need, wherever they may be.

We will share more about RSL Be:Well in the next edition, and you can learn more at rslbewell.org.

RSL NSW STATE CONGRESS

In October I attended the RSL NSW State Congress, where I was pleased to see strong alignment with our organisation and evidence of the positive evolution of the League. It's obvious that the work being done by volunteers across NSW and Queensland is having a real impact on the outcomes for veterans and their families, as well as keeping the spirit of the RSL alive across our respective states.

I also appreciated the opportunity to spend some time with the new RSL NSW State President Mick Bainbridge and CEO Giles Hurst. It's positive to see such an alignment between the two states and the opportunity to collectively deliver outcomes aligned with our charitable Objects.

I hope you all have a wonderful break over the holidays, connecting with friends and loved ones, and wish you the very best for 2024.



Robert Skoda
Chief Executive Officer
RSL Queensland

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BOMBING OF DARWIN VETERANS

I read with interest the article about Richard Pethybridge via the Member Update on 6 September [Editor's note: this article is on page 58 of Queensland RSL News]. Richard is believed to be one of the last surviving Australian veterans who served during the Bombing of Darwin. I am pleased to inform you about another survivor who is still with us, my friend John 'Jock' Irwin Wilkinson, who is 102 years old and living in NSW. Jock was born on 2 April 1921 and was 20 when he survived the Japanese bombing of Darwin in February 1942. Jock was posted to the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB) at Madang in April 1944, arriving on the HMAS *Vendetta*. In 1945, Jock transferred to 2 NGIB and went to the Aitape-Wewak area, where he served until January 1946. He then continued his service at Rabaul. Following the war, Jock was very active and even at the age of 100 he proudly led the PIB NGIB and PIR Unit on the ANZAC Day march in Sydney. In 2015, at the 75th anniversary of the PIB held at Broadbeach in Queensland, Jock was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Papuan Infantry Battalion, New Guinea Infantry Battalion and Pacific Islands Regiment Association and was presented with a framed certificate of membership.

Greg Ivey
Maroochydore RSL Sub Branch

NEWS

ANNUAL LAVARACK BARRACKS OPEN DAY

LAVARACK Barracks opened its gates to the Townsville community in August for its annual open day. RSL Queensland and Mates4Mates were right in the middle of the action, with teams setting up a wheelchair basketball activation for participants to try.

Adaptive sport is a popular component of the Mates4Mates social connection program, and the teams wanted to share it with the current serving community. Not only were children able to try out a new form of sport, but it was a great opportunity to educate parents and families about the combined service delivery offered by RSL Queensland and Mates4Mates in Townsville. ←



SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS

THE Vietnam Veterans' Sons and Daughters Support Program (VVSDSP) provides financial assistance with out-of-pocket medical expenses to children of Vietnam veterans who have certain medical conditions. The VVSDSP is not a substitute program for other programs that provide assistance, support or benefits for the medical conditions covered by VVSDSP.

To access assistance, you need to register with the VVSDSP. To do this, contact DVA for a registration form by phoning 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or fill in the registration form online at dva.gov.au ←

NEWS

COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION ISSUED

A **MEDALLION** commemorating Australian participation in the British Nuclear Tests in Australia has been issued and recognises the service of Australians who participated in or provided support to the program.

If you participated in, or provided support to, the British Nuclear Test Program in Australia, you can lodge a claim for the medallion by filling out a claim form at dva.gov.au. ↩

ADVANCING STEM

RSL Queensland was named as the winner of the 'Employer of Change' category in Queensland's prestigious Women in Technology (WiT) Awards 2023.

The annual WiT Awards recognise and celebrate the significant impact of women across STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) who are positively shaping technologically driven innovations.

RSL Queensland is pleased to be part of the rising tide of female representation in STEM in the workforce, and proud of its staff, who leverage the organisation's expertise to deliver life-changing outcomes for veterans and their families. ↩

VETERANS TO RECEIVE BETTER ACCESS TO A GP

THE Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel the Hon Matt Keogh MP recently announced that the Federal Government is investing \$33.3 million to triple the Veteran Access Payment (VAP) for certain GP services.

The VAP is an incentive payment GPs receive, in addition to the Medicare rebate, when treating veterans who hold a DVA Gold or White Card. This measure is intended to make it easier for the more than 276,000 Australian veterans and eligible dependants to access a GP.

Read more at dva.gov.au/news-and-media ↩

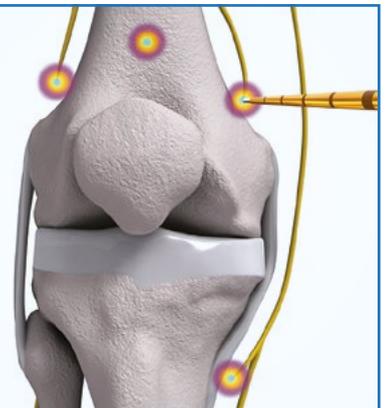
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**Veteran
& Family**
WELLBEING CENTRE

MATES4MATES
Here for those impacted by service





BRISBANE WELCOMES NEW RSL QUEENSLAND VETERAN & FAMILY WELLBEING CENTRE

Discover the new Centre providing tailored services to support veterans, Defence members and their families.

 **Belinda Crossman**



you're part of Brisbane's Defence or veteran community, accessing support and connection has never been easier.

Everything from DVA claims assistance to physical rehabilitation, mental health services, employment advice and social activities can now be found in one place: the RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre Brisbane.

Located in Stafford – just 6km from Gallipoli Barracks – the Centre conveniently combines the services of RSL Queensland, Mates4Mates and other organisations, which are tailored to meet the needs of Defence members, veterans and their families.



ABOVE:
The Centre has already made a big difference for Royal Australian Air Force veteran Bart De Vree, left, who is pictured in the rehabilitation gym with RSL Queensland General Manager Service Delivery Graeme Alley.

RIGHT:
Pictured at the Centre opening, from left, RSL Queensland CEO Rob Skoda, RSL Queensland State President and Chairman of Mates4Mates Major General Stephen Day DSC AM and Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland.

And with a rehabilitation gym, lounge and outdoor entertaining space, it's purpose-designed to make visitors feel at home.

OFFICIAL OPENING

The Centre was officially opened on Wednesday 25 October by Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland and RSL Queensland State President and Chairman of Mates4Mates Major General Stephen Day DSC AM, with distinguished guests attending from Defence, Queensland Government, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Open Arms, Legacy and other ex-service organisations.

"Our veteran and Defence community are held in the highest esteem and hopefully this purpose-built facility goes some way to demonstrate that," Her Excellency told those gathered.

"I'm so proud to officially open this wonderful resource."

RSL Queensland CEO Rob Skoda reflected on the journey and celebrated the occasion, saying, "We see this Centre providing care

through various forms, a holistic support model and one which can provide the right level of support and the right type of engagement depending on the individual needs of the veterans and their families that come here."

"AN AWESOME EXPERIENCE"

The Centre's services and facilities have already made a big difference to Royal Australian Air Force veteran Bart De Vree.





"I connected with Mates4Mates and the team at RSL Queensland earlier this year. Since then, they've been nothing but warm, welcoming and supportive," Bart says.

"This new RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre makes it incredibly convenient to access all services under one roof, meaning no more travelling all around town.

"I'm very excited about the new rehab gym, fitted with brand new equipment. It's also excellent to use the new veterans' lounge and outdoor space for social gatherings and barbecues. Having such a welcoming environment really nurtures that community spirit.

"I've also been in contact with RSL Queensland's Employment Program for several months. They've supported me to put together a new resume, form a new direction and provided a lot of coaching on how to proceed in the future. It's been an awesome experience."

A GROWING SUPPORT NETWORK

RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centres are now open in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns. Each one provides centralised, holistic support to the veteran community.

"With Queensland being home to the largest population of ex-serving Australian Defence Force members, it was vital that we established a space where the veteran and Defence community could access support," Rob says. ←

FAR LEFT: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland chats with Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Grieve from the Australian Army at the event.

INSET: The Centre is designed to make visitors feel at home and has a rehabilitation gym, lounge and outdoor entertaining space.

LEFT: The Centre is a support hub for veterans, Defence members and their families.



CENTRE INFO

RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre – Brisbane

Level 1, 274 Stafford Rd, Stafford, Qld | (07) 3130 8800 | brisbane@vfwc.org.au

Open Monday to Friday 8:30am-4:30pm (Some social activities may operate outside these hours)

Learn more at: rslqld.org/vfwc

MORE THAN A SPARK

*Local candlemaker shines
bright for veterans
this Christmas*

*Local candlemaker and veteran Hannah Martin
shares why she is part of RSL Queensland's
Christmas hamper project.*

 **Elise Hodgson**

AMID the pandemic in 2020, RSL Queensland staff came up with the idea of packing Christmas hampers for deserving veterans and their families across Queensland. The hampers, filled with gifts, food and

goodies to ensure veterans and their families have an extra special festive season, are now a tradition for RSL Queensland.

Since the initiative's inception, veteran-owned small business Elke Candles – named after Hannah's beloved golden-brown Labradoodle – has supplied handmade candles for each hamper. The candles, with notes of gingerbread, Christmas pine and beachside Christmas, have become an iconic part of the hampers.

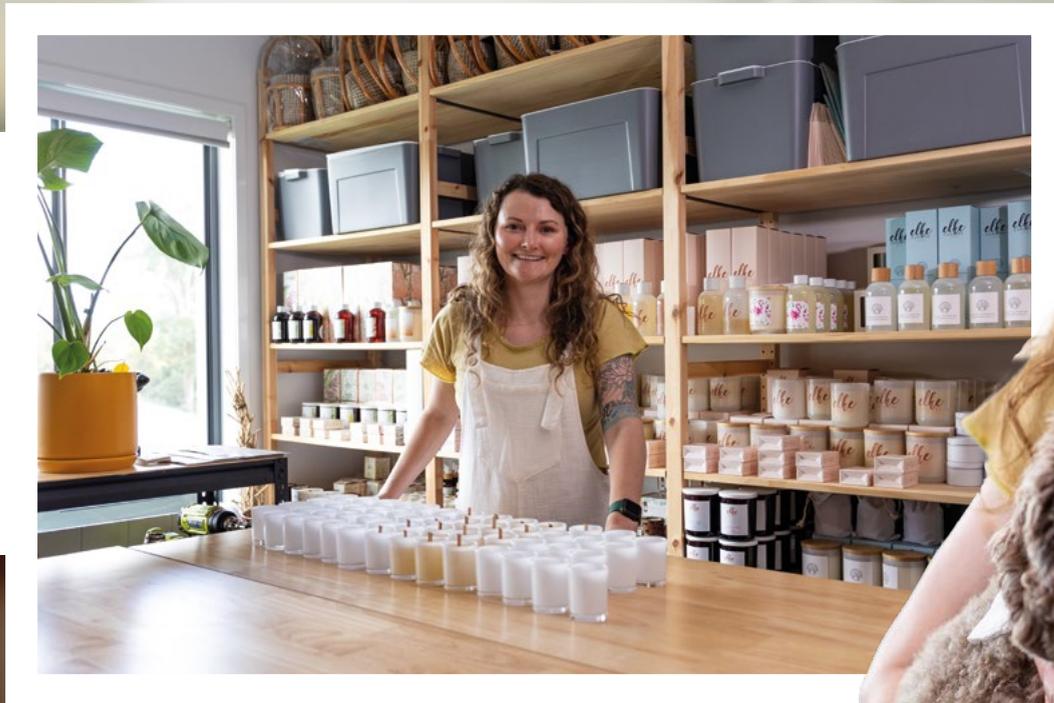
With Elke by her side, Hannah poured 500 candles this year to light up the homes of veterans and their families across the state.

"As a veteran myself, it means everything to be able to give back and support deserving veterans in the community," Hannah says.

"The chance to be part of something bigger – to be a link in the chain that connects people with the love and light they need during the festive season – is an opportunity that really strikes a chord.

Keen to be a sponsor/
supplier in 2024? Email
hampers@rslqld.org





Veteran Hannah Martin named her candlemaking business after her beloved Labradoodle Elke.



ABOVE: Hannah poured 500 candles to contribute to this year's RSL Queensland hampers.

BELOW: RSL Queensland's 2023 Christmas hamper.

"Every veteran is on their own journey, one that is unique and full of ups and downs, and the holiday season is not always an easy time for those who may be experiencing hardship, loss or isolation.

"For me, the ability to share a little warmth and fill homes with a beautiful scent is a simple yet

powerful way to bring smiles and spark joy."

From receiving a gifted candlemaking kit nine years ago to now operating a bustling small business, Hannah's creative inclination and willingness to take a leap of faith have given rise to a future she never thought possible.

"Thinking back to when I started out, it's hard to believe that all these years later I'd be pouring a batch of 500 candles for just one project alone," Hannah says.

"It's always daunting to jump into something new, and I've definitely learned a lot along the way, especially around the nuances of running a business, but I wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

"For me, it was always about having a creative outlet where I could step away from the stresses of everyday life. Still to this day, I find the candlemaking process to be a cathartic experience.

"Particularly for veterans like myself, having an outlet to channel your energy is a fantastic way to foster good mental health and wellbeing, whether it be a creative project, exercise or a hobby. It's a great way to stimulate your mind in different ways."

"Now, day in, day out, helping people create memories through scent is something I find a great deal of fulfillment in. It is my hope that this year's batch of gingerbread scented candles will surround veterans and their



RSL Queensland thanks the following sponsors and suppliers for contributing to our Christmas Hampers:



families with a fragrant aroma to ignite the senses and unlock new memories."

RSL Queensland's 2023 Christmas hamper project saw hundreds of staff members and volunteers roll up their sleeves to pack and deliver the hampers directly into the hands of veterans residing in every corner of Queensland, as well as the Northern Territory and Tasmania.

As part of an ongoing mission to provide care, commemoration and camaraderie to the veteran community, this initiative is about reminding veterans that they matter, and that RSL Queensland is here for them. ←

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- Wondaree Macadamia Nuts

SUPPLIERS

- Cosmic Sister Studio
- Dancing with Juniper
- Dog and Gun Coffee



A toast to veterans

BUNDABERG Brewed Drinks has been a proud supporter of the RSL Queensland Christmas hamper project since the project began in 2020, donating a range of premium non-alcoholic beverages for veterans and their families to enjoy.

Bundaberg Brewed Drinks CEO John McLean says this project is

one they are honoured to play a part in as the Christmas season approaches.

"This is our fourth year being a part of the RSL Queensland Christmas hamper initiative, and it's something that we are very proud to play a small role in," John says.

"Our brand and range of brews are built around togetherness and sparking moments of joy, so having the opportunity to be a part of a heart-warming initiative such as this is another way to do just that.

"We're grateful for the opportunity to give back and

spread some Christmas cheer to those who have made such significant sacrifices for our country."

Since the early years, Bundaberg's aim has been to use traditional brewing methods and the finest ingredients.

"Being a part of a project that directly supports Australian veterans over the holiday season brings immense pride across our business. Knowing that we have the platform, and the product, to help make Christmas a little brighter is truly heartening."

RSL Queensland CEO Rob Skoda says it has been fantastic to have the support of Bundaberg Brewed Drinks over the years.

"The backing of our sponsors and donors enables us to continue supporting veterans year-on-year with a project that goes a long way towards brightening up the festive season," Rob says.

"We are incredibly thankful for the generosity afforded to RSL Queensland's hamper initiative and hope to see it continue well into the future." ←

LEFT: Bundaberg Brewed Drinks is a family-owned business founded by the Flemings. Pictured, from left, CEO John McLean, Rae-Lee Fleming, Cliff Fleming, Lee Fleming and Bronte McLean.

REMEMBR



Children attended the Brisbane Remembrance Day service alongside their parents.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023

Remembrance Day (11 November) this year marked 105 years since the end of WWI – and once again, nations united to remember those who lost their lives in service.

RSL Sub Branches held commemorative ceremonies all over Queensland, bringing young and old together in solemn reflection and gratitude.

Meanwhile, in Brisbane, Remembrance Day projections lit up local landmarks; buglers sounded the Last Post across the city; and an interactive exhibit invited passersby to share and read stories of remembrance and add to a wall of poppy-shaped tribute messages.

“Everyone who serves gives something. Some give everything. This is our time to remember those who gave everything – to remember our fallen,” RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM said at the Brisbane service.

2023 Premier’s Anzac Prize recipients Tom Eccleston and Nooria Ahmadi spoke during the service, with both touching on their personal connection to the day.

“It’s about remembering the people who sacrificed for us. For myself, I came to this country and I’m living here peacefully because of the soldiers who made the sacrifice,” Nooria explained.

The following pages capture a glimpse of how Queensland remembered.

Draw to REMEMBER



Remembrance Day through art

For the second year running, Draw to Remember filled Queensland schools with colourful, commemorative chalk murals.

Around 8,500 students from 198 different primary schools were involved in the activity, an RSL Queensland initiative that teaches the significance of Remembrance Day and encourages remembrance through art.

Volunteers from 69 RSL Sub Branches delivered educational talks and materials to schools in October, before returning to see the students' finished artworks ahead of Remembrance Day.

Cooroy-Pomona RSL Sub Branch President Patricia Geelan said it was wonderful to see the students at Noosa Christian College getting involved and emphasised how this initiative helps to support their relationships in the community.

"It's really important for our Sub Branch to foster the relationship we've had with the school and our community," Patricia said.



LEFT:
Applethorpe State School students with their incredible drawing, thanks to the support of Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch.





(01) Cloncurry State School participated in Draw to Remember, with Principal Victoria Menkins pictured holding the certificate presented by Cloncurry RSL Sub Branch members (from left) Treasurer Liz Robertson, longtime member Bob Guteridge and President John Lee. (02) Ipswich RSL Sub Branch and Silkstone State School were proud to take part in Draw to Remember. Sub Branch President Paul Rogers and Secretary Debbie Wadwell are pictured with students and teachers. (03) Two students from Noosa Christian College participated in the community initiative, thanks to Cooroy-Pomona RSL Sub Branch. (04) A student from Ripley Central State School creating his chalk drawing. (05) Sandgate State School students and their teacher proudly holding chalk and instructions, ready to take part in Draw to Remember. (06) Pacific Paradise State School students participate in Draw to Remember with the help of Mudjimba RSL Sub Branch President Graeme Wong. According to school teacher Kelly McKay, the students enjoyed the initiative and gained a better understanding of what Remembrance Day meant to them. (07) North Eton State School students take part in Draw to Remember, thanks to the support of Marian RSL Sub Branch.





REMEMBER
to remember

2023





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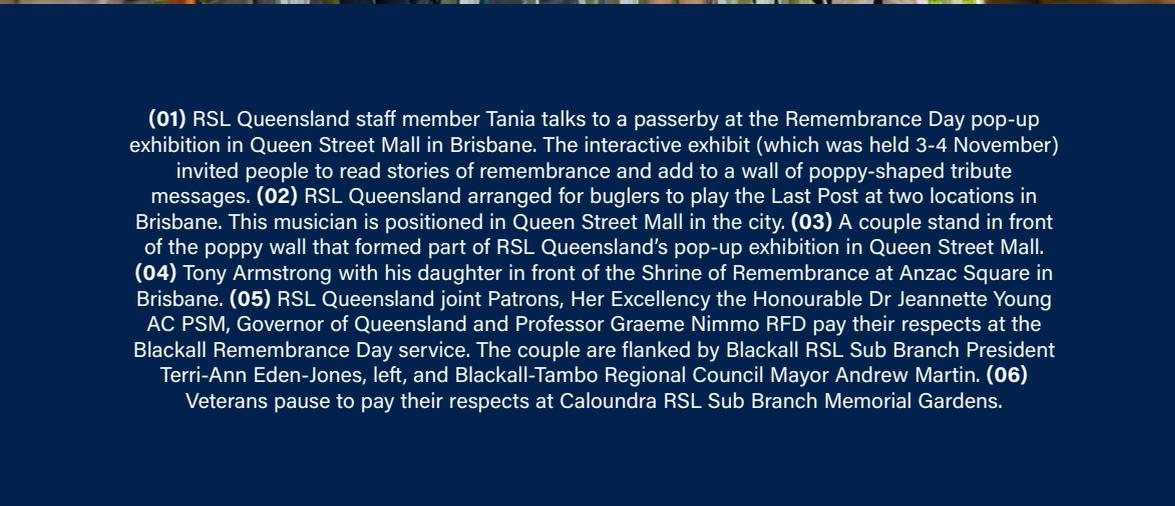


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(01) Australian Army Indigenous Elder Aunty Lorraine Hatton OAM with the catafalque party at the Brisbane service. **(02)** Beachmere RSL Sub Branch commemorated Remembrance Day with support from three cadet units: 123-ACU Catafalque Party (Army), TS KOOPA (Navy) and 234 Squadron (Air Force). **(03)** Banyo RSL Sub Branch President Michael Frawley read the Ode while Reverend Bob Rogers officiated the service. **(04)** Babinda RSL Sub Branch members on Remembrance Day, from left, Tim, Max, Peter, Don, Dante, Frank, Tricia, Tony, Errol, Malcolm, Ben, Chris and Ian. **(05)** High school students Nooria Ahmadi and Tom Eccleston spoke during the Remembrance Day ceremony in Brisbane. The students are recipients of the 2023 Premier's Anzac Prize.



(01) RSL Queensland staff member Tania talks to a passerby at the Remembrance Day pop-up exhibition in Queen Street Mall in Brisbane. The interactive exhibit (which was held 3-4 November) invited people to read stories of remembrance and add to a wall of poppy-shaped tribute messages. **(02)** RSL Queensland arranged for buglers to play the Last Post at two locations in Brisbane. This musician is positioned in Queen Street Mall in the city. **(03)** A couple stand in front of the poppy wall that formed part of RSL Queensland's pop-up exhibition in Queen Street Mall. **(04)** Tony Armstrong with his daughter in front of the Shrine of Remembrance at Anzac Square in Brisbane. **(05)** RSL Queensland joint Patrons, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD pay their respects at the Blackall Remembrance Day service. The couple are flanked by Blackall RSL Sub Branch President Terri-Ann Eden-Jones, left, and Blackall-Tambo Regional Council Mayor Andrew Martin. **(06)** Veterans pause to pay their respects at Caloundra RSL Sub Branch Memorial Gardens.



(01) Brett Breadsell and Colin Barlow at the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Remembrance Day service. (02) Rob Lang at the Cardwell service. (03) Charleville Remembrance Day service. (04) A bugler was stationed at South Bank, Brisbane to play the Last Post for passersby at 11am on Remembrance Day.





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(01) Forest Lake RSL Sub Branch members cook up a sensational barbecue following the Remembrance Day service. (02) Representatives from Vétérans de l'Armée Française d'Australie inc in WWI French Army uniforms attending Geebung-Zillmere-Bald Hills and Aspley RSL Sub Branch service. (03) A veteran pays his respects at the Cooktown service. (04) Gemfields RSL Sub Branch President Sue Ansford, Assistant Treasurer Rodney Pallentine, Rodney's two daughters (representing the local primary school), caretaker Russel and local resident Roy Woods. (05) Three of Greenbank RSL Sub Branch's oldest and active members Tony Hamers (93), George Morris (96) and Reg King (91) shared a laugh at the Remembrance Day service. (06) Paying their respects at the Currumbin service were, from left, Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch Chaplain David Marrett, Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch Vice President Peter Thorpe, Ukrainian Ambassador to Australia and New Zealand Vasyly Myroshnychenko, Martin Corkery, and Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch President Michael Humphreys.



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(01) More than 200 people attended Gaythorne RSL Sub Branch's Remembrance Day service – its biggest turnout yet. (02) Kevin Doyle, a 99-year-old WWII New Guinea veteran, was presented with his dedication of service by Mackay RSL Sub Branch President Ken Higgins OAM. (03) Lance Corporal Chris Redlich from 25/49RQR and Meandarra/Glenmorgan RSL Sub Branch President Philip Murray at their local service. (04) There was a good turnout for the Gracemere service. Pictured at the cenotaph following the service were, from left, CO Dave Britten (1st CQ Lighthorse Regiment), Sub Branch President Hayden 'Chip' Smith (ex-Navy), Paul Tyler (ex-6RAR and Open Arms Counselling), Member for Rockhampton Barry O'Rourke MP, Vietnam veteran Alan Parr MG OAM, Vice President and emcee Tony Harris (ex-RAR), and Andrew Hotz (1st CQ Lighthorse Regiment). (05) Flags flying in the wind at the Cloncurry Remembrance Day service. (06) Finch Hatton RSL Sub Branch unveiled its WWII Honour Gallery on Remembrance Day. Sharing the honour before a gathering of more than 250 people were, from left, Secretary and Auxiliary member Wendy Sievers, Treasurer and Auxiliary Life Member Graeme Ware and past President and Life Member David Oliver.



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(01) Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch conducted a moving and well attended ceremony at Freedom Park. RSL Pipe Band member Simon Bedding played the bagpipes while wreaths were laid. Paula Harberger attended to represent Member for Hinkler Keith Pitt and Member for Hervey Bay Adrian Tantari. Geoff Harper was outstanding as bugler and there was a special appearance by the 9th Battalion Re-Enactment Group and the QMI WBB 5LHR Hervey Bay Troop. Thanks to 9RQR and the 181ACU Army Cadets for their catafalque party support. (02) Wooroolin student Caidence Litzow read the poem In Flanders Fields at the Wondai RSL Sub Branch service. (03) Mount Isa Remembrance Day service was well attended by agencies such as the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Photo by North Queensland History Collections. (04) The winners and runners-up of Walkerston-Pleystowe RSL Sub Branch's Fred Taylor Memorial Bursary. The bursary is named after a former member and has been running for 12 years. Sub Branch Treasurer Gail Clark leads the initiative, with members Bill Lake and Doug Clark helping judge this year. Three local schools are involved - St John's Catholic Primary School, Homebush State School and Walkerston State School. Winners are announced on Remembrance Day prior to the Sub Branch service. (05) Miles RSL Sub Branch member Hohaia Downs led the singing of both the New Zealand national anthem (in Maori and English) and the Australian national anthem at the Miles commemorative service. (06) Mt Molloy RSL Sub Branch President Kerrie Pashen laid a wreath for Remembrance Day. (07) More than 300 people attended the Ipswich RSL Sub Branch Remembrance Day service, which dedicated nine new memorial plinths to the Boer War, peacekeeping, Borneo Confrontation, Malaya Emergency, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and First Nations. (08) Member for Glass House Andrew Powell MP, Sunshine Coast Councillor Winston Johnston and Maleny RSL Sub Branch President Paul Gilmour-Walsh lay wreaths at the Maleny service. (09) An olive tree was planted in ANZAC Park by Mareeba RSL Sub Branch President Ross Cuzzubbo and 13-year-old Zane Madgwick. Zane is the great-grandson of the Sub Branch's only surviving WWII veteran, 98-year-old Gordon Powell. The park was recently upgraded by Mareeba Shire Council. To mark the day, the local Air Force Cadets, 106 Squadron, Tablelands, provided the catafalque party, and marched through the new archway to the park.



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(01) Rosewood RSL Sub Branch President Bernie Mason with Rosewood High School leaders at the Remembrance Day service. **(02)** Australian Army movements liaison officer Sergeant Samantha Verry pictured as a child with her late grandfather, WWII veteran John 'Jack' Geary. Eighty years after Jack became a prisoner of war at Stalag VIII B/344 in Poland, Samantha (who is serving in Europe) was given the opportunity to lay a wreath at the Remembrance Day commemorations at the Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery in Krakow, where those who perished in Stalag VIII B/344, including Jack's comrade Charley, are laid to rest. **(03)** Bli Bli State School Choir sang at the Mudjimba RSL Sub Branch service. **(04)** Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch President Martin Corbett with guest speaker LTCOL Jamie McDonald (Rtd). Photo by Sandra McEwan Photography. **(05)** The 204SQN Australian Air Force Cadets doing the 303 rifle drill as part of their catafalque party duties at the Roma service. Rifle transport cases and slings were provided from the Western Districts Cadet fund.



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(01) Two local cadet units were part of the Redlands service, with the TS Norfolk Cadet Unit forming the honour guard and the 136 Army Cadet Unit making up the catafalque party. (02) A crowd of more than 100 attended the 2023 Remembrance Day service at Woodgate Beach. Photo by Traci Osborn.



02



(01) Navy Cadets at the Caloundra service. **(02)** Veteran Stuart Clark with his great-grandson at the Yeppoon RSL Sub Branch service. **(03)** Army Cadet Kroehnert marches in the Caloundra Remembrance Day service. **(04)** Bribie Island Men's Shed group constructed 'ghost soldiers' for their local service to form a guard of honour for the catafalque party, provided by B Squadron, 12/16th Hunter Rivers Lancers.

The difference between **REMEMBRANCE DAY** *and* **ANZAC DAY**

Australia has two major commemorative days for those who have served our country: ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. While they share many similarities, they have a few key differences outlined below.

 **Courtney Adams**



1 The dates

ANZAC Day is observed as a public holiday and national day of commemoration each year on 25 April – the date Australia and New Zealand began their first major battle in World War I.

Remembrance Day is commemorated internationally on 11 November, with 11am being the most important time to pause and reflect. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month is historically significant as the time that fighting in WWI officially ended.

2 The history

Some people may confuse ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day because both days trace back to WWI.

ANZAC Day is held on the anniversary of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps' landing at Gallipoli, Turkey (now Türkiye) on 25 April 1915. The story of ANZAC Day is one of courage and endurance in the face of trauma and tragedy; what was anticipated to be a quick mission to remove Turkey from WWI turned into a battle that caused thousands of casualties on both sides over eight months.

Though the Gallipoli campaign failed to achieve its military objectives, it profoundly impacted Australia and its reputation as a nation. In 1916, the first ANZAC Day was observed in remembrance of all the troops who served in the fateful Gallipoli campaign. The 1920s cemented ANZAC Day as a national commemoration, which has since grown to a day of solemn reflection and gratitude to all who have served in Australia's military.

Remembrance Day is held on the anniversary of the Armistice that ended fighting with Germany in WWI. At around 5am on 11 November 1918, the Armistice was signed by representatives of France, Britain and Germany, and six hours later at 11am, the guns fell silent on the Western Front. Remembrance commemorations began a year later in 1919, on what was originally known as Armistice Day.



3 The nations

ANZAC Day is the national day of commemoration observed in Australia and New Zealand. However, with large expatriate populations and commemorative sites located across the world, ANZAC Day services are often held overseas as well. For example, the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs manages ANZAC Day services in Türkiye, France, Thailand, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea.

Remembrance Day is commemorated primarily in Commonwealth countries that formed the Allied forces during WWI, such as Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Canada. The United States, which was also an Allied country during WWI, also commemorates its Veterans Day on 11 November. Like Australia, other commemorating nations usually observe at least one minute of silence at 11am to pay respect to those who have served and sacrificed for their country.



4 The traditions

Widely practised throughout Australia and New Zealand, ANZAC Day traditions include attending a Dawn Service or ANZAC Day march, baking ANZAC biscuits, enjoying a gunfire breakfast, and playing a game of two-up.

The primary Remembrance Day tradition observed in Australia is holding one minute's silent reflection at 11am to remember those who lost their lives in service. Remembrance Day services are held across Australia for communities to commemorate together.

Several traditions are followed on both ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, such as playing the Last Post and reciting the Ode of Remembrance.

5 The symbols

Floral symbols are common features of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day events, often seen laid at war memorial sites, worn on lapels, and used in fundraising initiatives for veterans' support charities and ex-service organisations.

The red poppy is often associated with all military commemorative days in Australia. However, the traditional floral symbol of ANZAC Day is the rosemary sprig. As well as being symbolically linked to memory, rosemary grows wild on the Gallipoli peninsula, giving it deep significance to ANZAC Day and those who commemorate it.

During WWI, red poppies were among the first flowers to bloom on the Western Front battlefields, making them a powerful symbol representing the bloodshed of the war. The red poppy has since grown in recognition as the official symbol of Remembrance Day worldwide. The community is encouraged to wear a red poppy on Remembrance Day in memory of those who sacrificed for our nation.



NATIONAL SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA: A HISTORY AND LEGACY

RIGHT: Even at the age of 92, Jack Hamilton still volunteers as a sailmaker at the Queensland Maritime Museum three days a week.

FAR RIGHT: Jack and his Navy mates on leave in Sydney in August 1951.

“It’s important to stop and take a moment to remember these dedicated service men who valiantly sacrificed for our country – some with their lives.”

Australian National Servicemen (Nashos) were recently honoured in a ceremony by the Naval Association of Australia (Queensland) in Brisbane.

REFLECTING ON LIFE AS A NASHO

Ninety-two-year-old Jack Hamilton served as an Australian National Serviceman in the Navy – more affectionately known as a Nasho – from 1951 to 1954, in the first 50 intake from Queensland. At the time, Jack was an apprentice sailmaker and already a Naval Reservist very familiar with the sea, ships and boats.

“I still look back at those Nasho days as one of the best times of my youth. Maybe we should bring National Service back again,” he suggests enthusiastically.

After his time in the service, Jack would move on to make sails for racing yachts, including the first Australian America’s Cup Challenge.

It’s a passion he’s nurtured to this day, now serving as a volunteer sailmaker at the Queensland

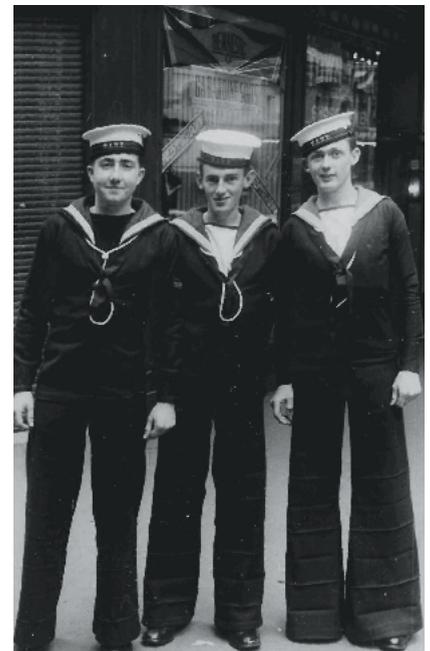


Maritime Museum three days per week.

Set up in his workroom with industrial sewing machines and canvas, Jack mends and makes sails and his bestselling Navy kitbags, raising funds for the Museum while honing his craft.

AUSTRALIA’S NATIONAL SERVICE

Jack Hamilton is just one example of hundreds of thousands of Australians who served as Nashos. There were two National Service



schemes in our military history: the first was active from 1951 to 1959 and the second from 1965 to 1972. A short history is summarised below.

THE FIRST SCHEME

During the first scheme, young men would receive birthday greetings from the Prime Minister when they turned 18, asking them to register for National Service. These young men could be called up for training to serve in the Navy, Army or Air Force.



The Navy and Air Force would only accept Nashos who had already gained some connection with those services. A total of 227,000 Nashos served in 52 intakes during this time. Some of the Nashos would eventually serve in Malaya, Korea, Borneo and Vietnam.

Nashos in the first scheme are also acknowledged for their service during the atomic bomb tests that took place off the coasts of Western Australia and South Australia, as well as the Suez Canal crisis in 1956.

THE SECOND SCHEME

National Service was reinstated in 1965 to help recruitment efforts during the Indonesia Confrontation and Vietnam War. This time, only the Army would train Nashos for service.

When a young man turned 20, he would be eligible for selection via a birthday ballot. Approximately



64,000 men served in this scheme and many served in Borneo, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam. Sadly, 212 Nashos perished in these conflicts.

REMEMBERING THE 'SILENT GENERATION'

Many Nashos were born just before or during WWII, when

ABOVE: Men from C Company, 13th National Service Battalion, based at Bardia Barracks, Ingleburn, waiting to go home after completing their period of National Service. A chartered double decker bus is waiting in the background. (AWM: P04443.007).

INSET: Jack Hamilton in 1951.

LEFT: The Nasho parade on HMAS Sydney III's flight deck made the cover of *The Australian Women's Weekly* on 19 October 1955.

their country was at war and their fathers, uncles and brothers were fighting away from home. Unlike today's elective military enlistment system, young Australian men born into the silent generation were all required to undertake National Service at the height of some of Western history's most tense geopolitical periods.

As such, memories of the War in the Pacific, Japanese attacks on Australia, and the commencement of the Korean War in 1950 remain seared in our national consciousness. It's therefore important to stop and take a moment to remember these dedicated service men who valiantly sacrificed for our country – some with their lives.

A ceremony to honour our country's Nashos was held on Thursday 27 April at the Jack Tar Memorial in South Bank, Brisbane. ←

INSPIRATION IN ENDURANCE

In the lead-up to this year's Vietnam Veterans' Day in August, Toowong veteran George Hulse shared his service experience and recent athletic achievements.

Olivia Lawrence

IT'S been a year of milestones for 80-year-old veteran George Hulse. After completing the 226km Ironman Oceania Championship event in Cairns, the retired Lieutenant Colonel turned his attention to the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

Vietnam Veterans' Day is commemorated annually on 18 August, the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan – one of the most significant conflicts for Australian service personnel who fought in the Vietnam War.

More than 60,000 Australians served in the Vietnam War from 1962 to 1973. Of those who served, more than 500 died and around 3,000 were wounded or fell ill.

George's Army service spanned more than 30 years from 1960 to 1992, including 20 years in the Regular Army followed by 12 years in the Army Reserve. His deployment to the Vietnam War was one of his key posts from 1968 to 1969.

"When it comes to commemorative events like this, it goes a long way in keeping recognition alive and connecting veterans to the broader community," George says.

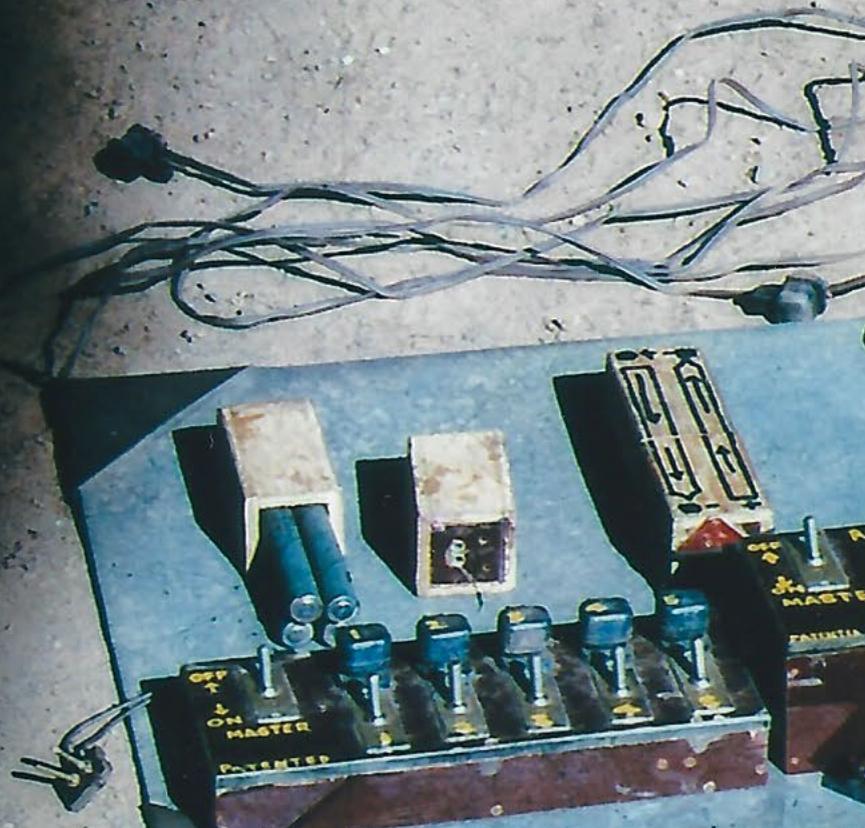
"Vietnam Veterans' Day is a way for people to say 'thank you' and understand the work and how it affected us physically and mentally."

In 1968, George was called to the 26-day Battle of Coral and Balmoral near Saigon. Upon arrival, he was told he would use his expertise in both infantry and military engineering. He worked day and night in what he called a very tight battle against the 7th Division of the North Vietnamese Regular Army.

"It was the largest battle fought by an Australian Army since World War II," George explains. "However, back home, it was not as publicised as the Battle of Long Tan."



ABOVE: Vietnam veteran George Hulse celebrating first place in the 80-84 years age category of the 226km Ironman Oceania Championships event in Cairns.



Due to anti-war attitudes in Australia during that time, George noticed the effect the war had on veterans' mental health when they returned home.

An athlete all his life, George found out early on that running and sports enabled him to let off steam and would later help him deal with his PTSD.

A cycling accident, which resulted in a titanium hip, meant George would be a true 'Ironman'. He decided to engage in endurance triathlon events with the East Coast Cycos club after his retirement in 2002.

"It's mental and physical and keeps you engaged in wanting to achieve things. It's therapeutic to do your best at it," George says.

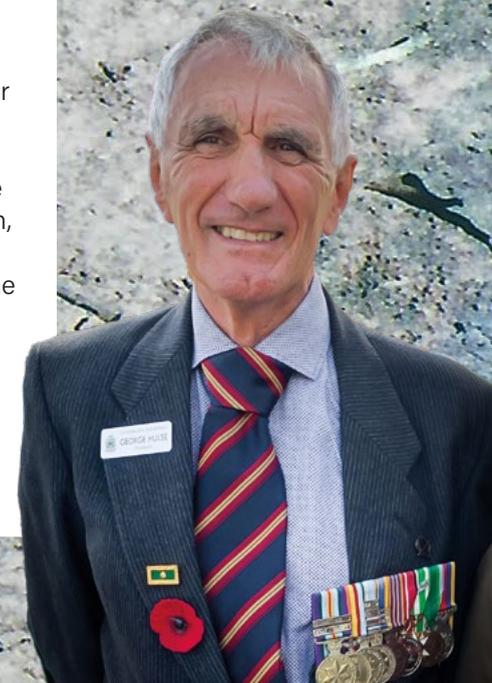
In the final 200 m of his recent Ironman event, George chose an inspirational Vietnam song to be played for him over the speakers: Khe Sanh by Cold Chisel.

"When the officials said, 'You're an Ironman!', I had euphoria."

ABOVE: George's Army service spanned more than 30 years from 1960 to 1992, including 20 years in the Regular Army followed by 12 years in the Army Reserve.

George continues to stay very involved in service to his community, including a two-year presidency with the Toowong RSL Sub Branch. He is also the Immediate-past President of the First Field Squadron Association, Vice President of the War Dogs Association and a member of the Defence Reserves Association.

"Time goes on and Vietnam veterans understand there are younger vets who need to be cared for and looked after too," George says. ←



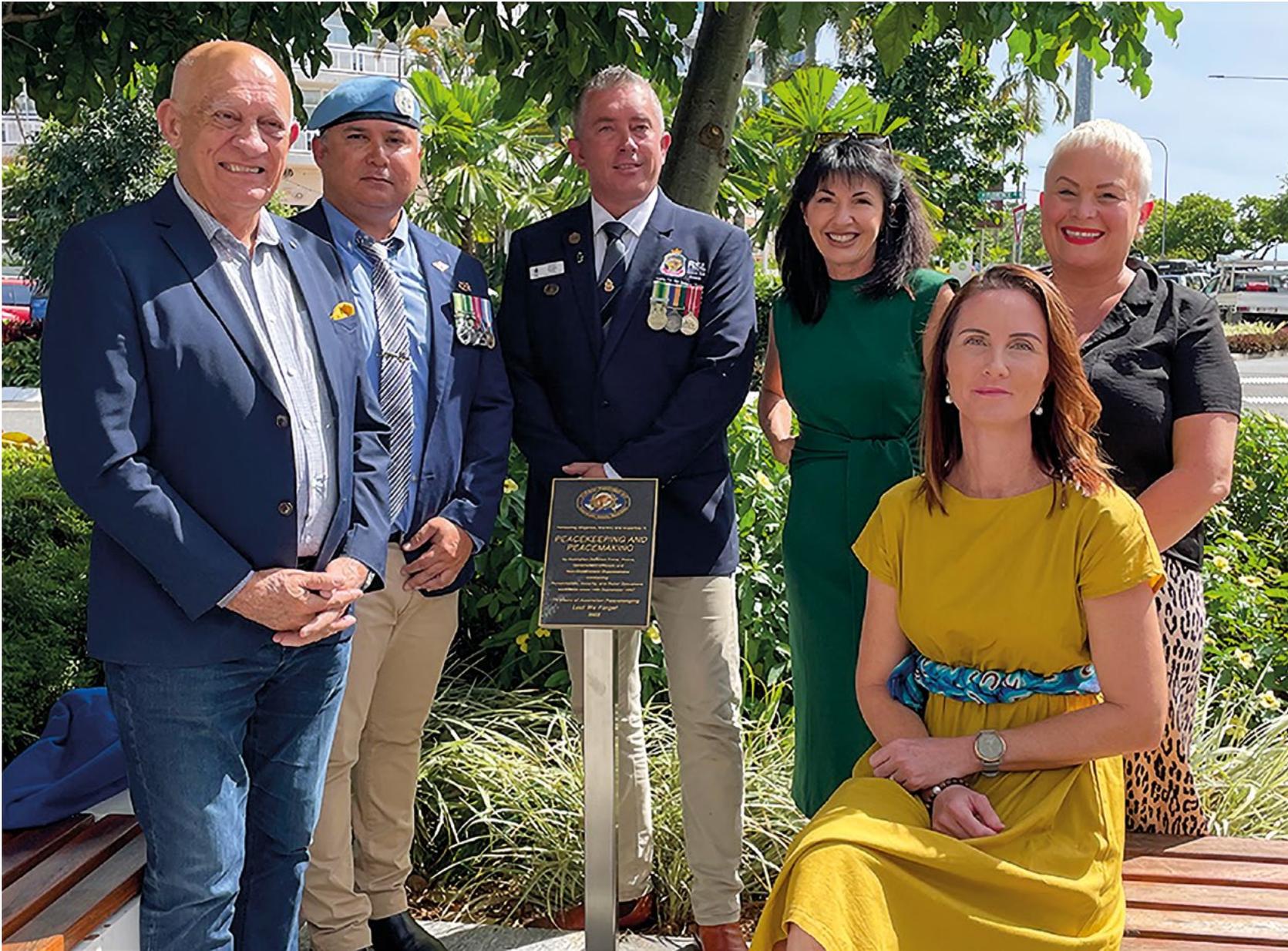


PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS

honoured in Cairns

Army veteran Paul Walker talks about the importance of peacekeeping and peacemaking, following the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in Cairns.

✍️ Courtney Adams



Paul Walker is a Waanyi man from the Gulf of Carpentaria on his mother's side. His father migrated from Scotland to Australia in the 1960s along with his grandfather, who served in the British Army.

From 1996 until 2003, Paul served in the Australian Army Signals Corps as an electronic warfare operator in peace monitoring and peacekeeping roles.

"I joined the military as a young, shy man. I was in limbo through labouring jobs when I saw a TV ad for the Army. I went to the Cairns RSL Sub Branch, met with a recruit

officer and signed up. I was sworn in at Townsville and then went down to Kapooka in the middle of winter just a couple of weeks later," Paul recalls.

Paul's work formed part of the intelligence community trades, with most of his service based at 7th Signals Regiment (EW). In 1998, he was posted to Bougainville with the Peace Monitoring Group, then to East Timor in 2000 until 2001 with the United Nations Transitional Administration (UNTAET).

"I did some amazing things during my time in the Army," Paul says. "I learnt Morse code and five different specialist languages as part of my trade. I became para-

qualified and at that time trained to support the 3rd Parachute Battalion and special forces."

COMMEMORATING AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING

Today, Paul volunteers as Treasurer of the Cairns RSL Sub Branch, and as the Far North Queensland representative of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA).

"I'm very new in my roles as I only joined up this year, but I'm honoured to be part of the RSL and APPVA. They definitely keep me busy and are very close to my heart.

ABOVE: Pictured at the unveiling of the plaque were, from left, Cairns Mayor Bob Manning OAM, Army veteran Paul Walker, Cairns RSL Sub Branch President Nathan Shingles, and Councillors Amy Eden, Cathy Zeiger and Kristy Valley.

RIGHT:
Members from
HMAS Cairns.

“It feels surreal to be in these positions after serving for seven years some time ago. Meeting all the members, the veteran community, and anyone involved with the Sub Branch has made for a fantastic experience.”

“It feels surreal to be in these positions after serving for seven years some time ago. Meeting all the members, the veteran community, and anyone involved with the Sub Branch has made for a fantastic experience.”

In September 2022, Paul attended the nation’s 75th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping commemorative service in Canberra. The anniversary sparked an idea that would be brought to life through the Department of Veterans’ Affairs’ Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program: a new plaque commemorating peacekeeping and peacemaking, to be installed at the Cairns RSL Sub Branch.

“Peacekeeping is a display of the diversity of our services. I think it’s great that peacekeeping is spoken about more often; it’s a huge part of what we have done between major conflicts, and as part of the transition from conflict to peacetime as well,” Paul explains.

Over six months, the plaque was brought to life with assistance from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, the Cairns RSL Sub Branch Board, APPVA, the Cairns Regional Council, and Hanby Welding and Engineering, which provided its services free of charge.

UNVEILING THE PLAQUE

Cairns RSL Sub Branch’s commemorative plaque was unveiled on 29 May 2023 – International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. As a peacekeeping veteran who helped facilitate the project, Paul played a special part in the unveiling ceremony.



“I was honoured to be invited by the Board to personally unveil the plaque. It was a privilege to talk about my story of signing up to the Army from that very building. I got to reflect on my own service and pay my respects to Australian peacekeepers of the past 75 years,” Paul says.

The ceremony was attended by more than 50 people, including Mayor Bob Manning, Cairns Regional Councillors, and members of RSL Queensland, the Australian

Federal Police, Australian Border Force, Queensland Police, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, HMAS Cairns, the RAAF, and 51 Far North Queensland Regiment.

“It was a very warm, welcoming event. Everyone was taking photos and congratulating the Sub Branch on the unveiling. It was empowering to have older veterans, especially from the Vietnam era, providing encouraging words,” Paul reflects. ←

Cairns RSL Sub Branch would like to thank DVA, the Cairns Regional Council, the Defence community, and Hanby Welding and Engineering for their support. Find the plaque at the Cairns RSL Sub Branch building, located on the corner of Florence Street and The Esplanade.



MATES 4 MATES

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
FOR OUR DEFENCE COMMUNITY

A snapshot of 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 12 MONTHS
SUPPORTING VETERANS AND FAMILIES.

+ SOCIALLY CONNECTING VETERANS ACROSS AUSTRALIA.

HEAR ABOUT SOME OF THE TEAM'S
FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR.

Managing your physical activity over the holidays.

FIND OUT HOW TO STAY ACTIVE FOR YOUR PHYSICAL HEALTH
AND YOUR MENTAL WELLBEING.

10Years
OF MATES

A message from Emma.

As I reflect on the year that we've had at Mates4Mates, it's certainly been one of growth as we continue to provide support to veterans and their families across the country.



With three new centres opening in the last 12 months, it's been wonderful to see high numbers of clients coming through the doors and accessing our services. New centres can bring significant change, so I want to thank all the veterans and families who have worked with us as we developed and opened more services for the community.

This year also saw Mates4Mates continue to strengthen our clinical services. We established a service and clinical governance committee which will help us to build on our strong foundation of evidence-based service delivery to best support our clients' needs. We also saw our physical rehabilitation services grow in Tasmania, with the introduction of regular group class blocks for physical training (PT) and hydrotherapy, led by exercise physiologists.

Around all this change and growth was the Mates4Mates team, whose professionalism and dedication kept veterans and families at the centre of everything. We celebrated Mates4Mates' 10th anniversary this year and it's been a true joy to hear the stories of how our staff have had a real impact on the lives of veterans and their families over the past decade. I'm incredibly proud of our team and their achievements for 2023.

As we move into 2024, we look forward to using generously shared client feedback to design more services to support the needs of the veteran community, especially women veterans and families. We also will be seeking new opportunities to provide support on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

Finally, I'd like to wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday season. I acknowledge that this can be a challenging time for some in the Defence community. Mates4Mates is here to provide support and there are other services available during this time including Open Arms and Lifeline. I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Emma

Mates4Mates Chief Executive Officer

Thank you.

Thank you for continuing to support veterans and families who have been impacted by service. Once again, we have seen the power of our community who are willing to support one another. From the entire team at Mates4Mates, thank you!

Where to find support.

All Mates4Mates centres will be closed from lunchtime on Friday, 22 December 2023 to Monday, 1 January 2024, re-opening on Tuesday, 2 January 2024.

If you need support over the holiday period, there are many organisations that offer 24-hour support:

Open Arms
1800 011 046

Suicide Call Back Service
1300 659 467

Lifeline
13 11 14

Make the call that makes the difference.

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

mates4mates.org

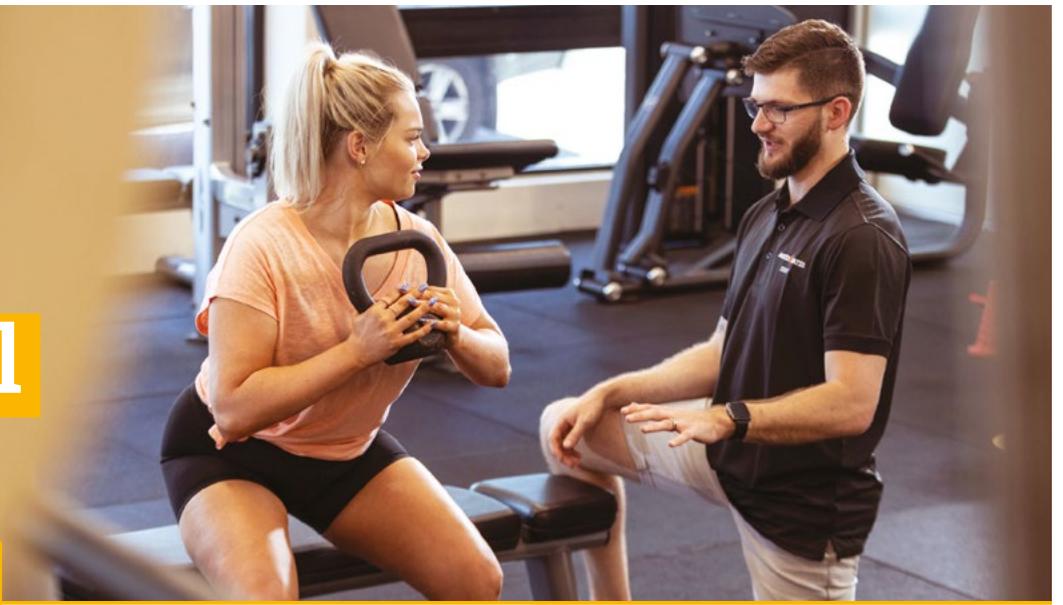
1300 4 MATES

Keep up to date, follow us:



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

Managing your physical activity over the holidays.



✍ Written by Harley Fox,
Mates4Mates Exercise Physiologist

It's no secret that exercise is beneficial for both our physical and mental health. During the holiday season, it is helpful to find ways to stay active and keep those positive endorphins flowing through our body.

The holidays can be a busy time of year, which can lead to increased stress levels. For veterans, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), isolation and other challenges related to the holidays can be overwhelming or lead to an increase in symptoms. As a result, exercise may not be a priority.

It is important to remember not to place too much stress on yourself to maintain a routine in what can be a very busy time of year; instead, be proud of yourself for achieving simple daily goals. The same can be said for exercise during the holidays; if you can only achieve a 10-minute walk, that is still something that you can tick off your list for the day.

Heading to the gym or completing your usual exercise routine may not be manageable during the holiday season.

Other physical activity suggestions include:

- going for a walk or run around your neighbourhood
- swimming at the local pool, or beach if you're close to the coast
- completing home workouts, either provided by an exercise physiologist or following an online tutorial
- going through your own stretching routine
- utilising exercise equipment at your local park.

If you are visiting or seeing family or friends over the holiday period, this can be a great opportunity to get active together. The holidays are a perfect time for some classic activities such as backyard cricket or family footy.

When we exercise socially with friends and family, the 'feel good' hormone dopamine is released. This benefits our physical and mental health and also helps to strengthen the bonds we feel within our relationships.

If you're a veteran or family member and want to find out more about how Mates4Mates can support your physical and mental health, reach out to us on **1300 4 MATES (62 837)** for a confidential chat.

Tips from an exercise physiologist for managing your health over the holidays:

- Make some time for exercise in the day, even if it's five minutes of stretching in the morning.
- If your usual exercise routine isn't an option for you due to holiday stressors or a busy schedule, find a physical activity that you enjoy closer to home.
- Get involved in incidental activity, whether it's backyard sports, jumping in the pool, or walking around the neighbourhood to look at holiday decorations.
- Remember to slip, slop, slap, and hydrate on hot summer days. If you're sweating, make sure to replace the lost fluid with more water!

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

A snapshot of 2023.

Across our centres and online throughout 2023, the Mates4Mates team celebrated a wide range of milestones. Each momentous occasion highlights our ongoing commitment to support veterans and their families impacted by service.



January

Happy birthday to us.

Mates4Mates was established by RSL Queensland in 2013, making this year our 10th birthday! Celebrations were held across all the Mates4Mates centres with both staff and the veteran community, and of course, there was cake involved! There was even a commemorative orange t-shirt created for the special occasion.



March

Ipswich centre opens its doors.

Health services for Ipswich veterans and family members were boosted this year with the opening of the Mates4Mates centre in Ipswich. The centre provides mental health and physical rehabilitation and wellbeing support services, as well as regular social connection activities in a safe and supportive space.



February

Improving health through exercise.

Five new programs, led by our team of exercise physiologists, were rolled out this year. These included our Online Pain Education Workshop, The Next Step Program, Falls Prevention Program, Managing Diabetes Program, and Tai Chi Program. These programs provided veterans and family members the opportunity to learn how to exercise safely and confidently to improve their overall health.

April

Learning more about PTSD.

Ran multiple times throughout the year, the brand-new Explaining the Brain Program was offered in person and online to veterans and family members. Mates4Mates psychologists led sessions, providing education on the biological mechanisms of PTSD and its symptoms and experiences within the veteran community.

EXPLAINING THE BRAIN



May

Darwin officially welcomed a new centre.

The Mates4Mates Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre in Darwin opened its doors in May. The official opening hosted a wide range of distinguished guests, including Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Matt Keogh; His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM, Administrator of the Northern Territory; and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Natasha Fyles.



A new program focusing on relationships.

The Healthy Relationships Program was held online in May to provide support around Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. Designed by the Mates4Mates clinical team, the program aimed to help veterans and family members better understand the difference between healthy and unhealthy interpersonal relationships and was well received by participants.



August

North Brisbane centre opened.

The Mates4Mates Brisbane team relocated from Milton to Stafford with the opening of the RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre in North Brisbane. This purpose-built space provides a wide variety of services for veterans and their families, allowing us to provide our much-needed services and support to many more members of the Defence community.



Cairns centre officially opened.

After the Mates4Mates team in Cairns relocated to a larger space within the RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre in late 2022, the centre held its official opening alongside the rapidly growing Far North Queensland veteran community.



October

Running for Bridge to Brisbane.

More than 560 Mates4Mates supporters walked, ran or wheeled to the finish line in this year's Bridge to Brisbane on 15 October. It was wonderful to see a sea of orange across the city! As a proud charity partner, Mates4Mates raised over \$15,000 for veterans and their families who have been impacted by service.

Celebrating Veterans' Health Week.

Focusing on 'Mental Wellness Matters' for this year's Veterans' Health Week, Mates4Mates hosted a wide variety of activities to promote good health and wellbeing in the everyday life of veterans and families. These included a fishing workshop, online mosaic, music therapy, Pilates and yoga, camel cuddling, and much more!



Socially connecting veterans across Australia.

Our Mates in every region continue to enjoy connecting socially through Mates4Mates activities, from creative workshops to sporting fun. We're taking a look at some of the best activities of 2023!

A hive of activity.

Mates in Townsville were buzzing with excitement as they headed to a local beekeeping workshop, learning not only about the bees, but also about the sweet benefits of teamwork.

Veterans and family members joined the team at Townsville & District Beekeeping Association in this hands-on experience, with many of our Mates picking up a new hobby and now tending to hives of their own.



Adventures with furry friends.

Going on the ride of a lifetime, Tasmanian Mates enjoyed an adventurous day of dog sledding!

This activity was a crowd favourite for Tasmanian veterans and family members who had the opportunity to get outside, socialise with other Mates, and try something new and exciting.



A virtual trip to 'Paris'.

Brisbane Mates were given the opportunity to participate in a virtual experience and step back in time to 19th century Paris as art came to life in the immersive 'Monet in Paris' exhibition.

Veterans and family members shared in the wonder of this amazing event and said they left with a "strong feeling of mateship and appreciation".

Sweet treats at Bumble Bean.

Northern Territory veterans and families experienced the life of Willy Wonka for a day, heading to Bumble Bean Chocolates where they got hands-on and creative in a chocolate making workshop.

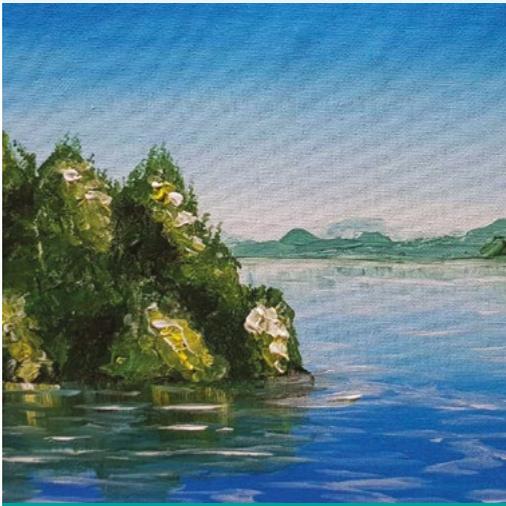
This activity gave everyone the chance to socialise with new faces within the community and try a new skill at the same time.



Inspiring new artists.

The online community got creative in our Introduction to Acrylic Painting workshop, learning basic ways to build beautiful paintings in realistic, contemporary and impressionistic styles.

With some veterans and family members participating as beginners and others using the opportunity to refine their techniques, this activity was the perfect way for Mates to build their confidence and connections, and leave feeling inspired.



Working towards reconciliation.

Mates4Mates was excited to recently launch its inaugural Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) after it was formally endorsed by Reconciliation Australia. Through this Reflect RAP, we will ensure that, as an organisation, our services, operations, and our workplace are reflective and representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.

While we acknowledge that reconciliation is an ongoing journey, we look forward to working directly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, our staff and clients, and the wider Defence community to implement the actions outlined in our RAP.

To read more about the Mates4Mates Reflect RAP, head to mates4mates.org.



Meet a Mate.

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

Lance has been accessing Mates4Mates services in Launceston, Tasmania for more than 12 months.

What's your favourite social connection activity?

"They're all pretty amazing and it's because they all offer different things, so I couldn't pick just one. Activities that come to mind for me are our weekly walks, hydrotherapy and PT, and also our monthly toasties. Each one brings together new people with a new dynamic which makes it fun and interesting."

Why do you enjoy being a Mate?

"I enjoy the social interaction with other veterans that Mates4Mates offers me. There's a diverse range of military experience but it all comes back to that commonality that we all share and can bond over. We can be more ourselves, we understand each other, we banter, and we have fun together."

MATES4MATES

Here for those
impacted by service.



Join Mates4Mates

Find a way forward from
service-related injuries.

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

- ✓ Mental health and wellbeing services
- ✓ Physical rehabilitation and wellbeing services
- ✓ Social connection activities
- ✓ Skills-based recovery programs



Join Mates4Mates

Register today



PIPING FOR PURPOSE

Pipe Major John Ferguson retraces his music and military career, from performing for royalty to starting Townsville's Veterans and Families Pipe Band.

✍ Courtney Adams

GROWING UP IN THE SCOTS GUARD

Originally from Bradford, England, Townsville RSL Sub Branch member John Ferguson started playing the bagpipes as a child, after years of pestering his parents for lessons. Years later, his piping opened the door to a lifelong career.

"I grew up on the estates of Bradford, where there was a lot of gang activity and unemployment. For me, the only way out of the rat race was to join the Army," John explains.

"I had been learning the bagpipes in school, and one day noticed that *Amazing Grace* had been released by the Scots Guard and Pipe Major, Angus McDonald. It got me thinking that I could be a soldier and do my hobby at the same time."

John enlisted in the British Army before his 16th birthday. After completing basic and advanced training, he joined the 1st Battalion Scots Guard Pipes and Drums and conducted piping courses at the School of Army Bagpiping at Edinburgh Castle.

There are many places and faces that stand out over his 11 years in the Battalion.

"I went all over the world on piping and drumming trips: the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, France, Italy, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia. In 1984, we even won the Piping World Championships in Glasgow," John recalls.

"I piped for Queen Elizabeth II, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Lady Diana, the Queen Mother, and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Prince (now King) Charles was the reviewing officer at my passing parade from the Guard's Depot."





John is silhouetted as the sun rises during a Dawn Service to commemorate the Battle of Long Tan on Vietnam Veterans' Day, held on Mt Matabean, in East Timor. Image courtesy of the Department of Defence.



ABOVE:
Pipe Major John Ferguson meeting Pope John Paul II during his time with the 1st Battalion Scots Guard Pipes and Drums.

RIGHT:
Townsville's Veterans and Families Pipe Band.

PIPING IN AUSTRALIA

In 1987, John left the British Army to move to Australia. He was promptly recruited to the Australian Army's 3RAR and worked his way up from Private to Senior Warrant Officer.

"My original plan when I came to Australia was to serve four years if I got accepted as a resident, but I ended up liking the Army and the people in it so much that I just couldn't leave!" John chuckles.

Almost 35 years later, John continues to serve in the Australian Army as a Reservist. He has piped the entire time for various events and bands, and even worked for the Defence Force School of Music as the Senior Instructor of Piping and Drumming.

John eventually settled in Townsville and joined Townsville RSL Sub Branch. He started playing for the RSL Pipe Band, which gave him an idea that

would lead to a bold chapter in his career.

THE VETERANS AND FAMILIES PIPE BAND

Using skills honed from a lifetime of music and military, John has established a new competition-focused pipe band in Townsville.

"I personally believe that all veteran families are as much a veteran as the person enlisted. I started the Veterans and Families Pipe Band because I have a unique perspective as



both a veteran and a family member from when my wife was deployed," John explains.

In just 18 months, the Veterans and Families Pipe Band has grown to a 12-member ensemble that is inclusive of different ages, genders, abilities and military service. They are currently preparing to play events around Townsville, Mackay and Cairns.

"We have an 11-year-old girl who is legally blind. We've got regular and retired soldiers. We've even got a retired padre from the Australian Army," John says.

"There is a good sense of belonging in the group. As soon as someone joins, we can talk about the old times, the new times, or we don't have to talk about anything; we can just learn the bagpipes and drums together."

As the band grows and improves with every practice



LEFT: Townsville's Veterans and Families Pipe Band has grown to a 12-member ensemble that is inclusive of different ages, genders, abilities and military service.

BELOW: The band grows and improves with every practice session.

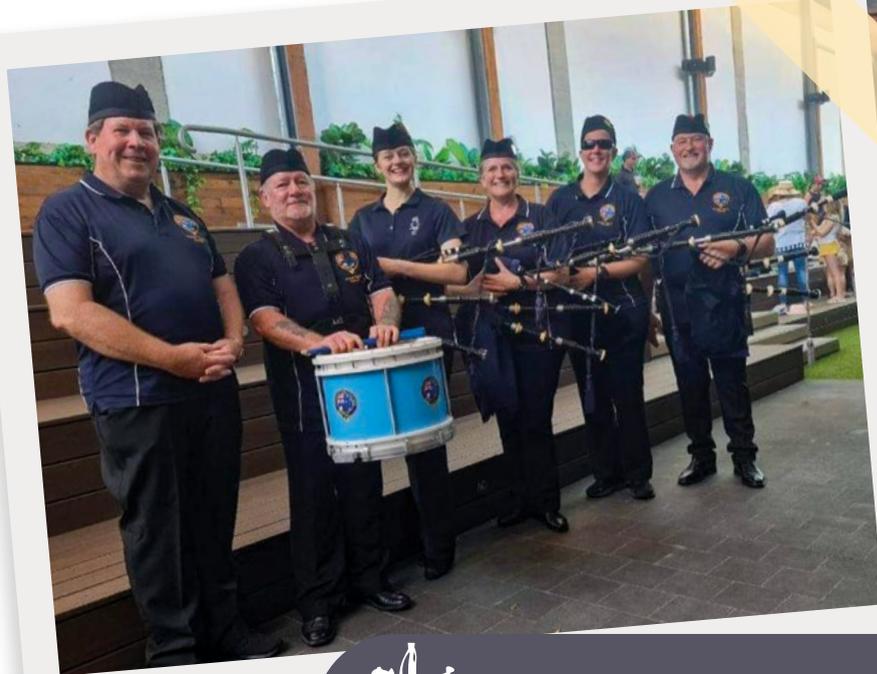


session, John has developed big dreams for the ensemble.

"We're not always going to win competitions, but getting comments from judges and other pipe bands helps us get to the next step," John says.

"To stand together one day in front of 12,000 people at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo – that's what I'm aiming for." ←

LEFT: Pipe Major John Ferguson, left, with other members of Townsville's Veterans and Families Pipe Band.



Interested in finding out more or joining the Veterans and Families Pipe Band? Visit theoasistownsville.org.au or contact Pipe Major John Ferguson on 0449 116 651.

The Forgotten Fleet

Queensland veteran reflects on Small Ships service

During this year's Victory in the Pacific Day commemorations, 97-year-old Queensland veteran Len McLeod came together with RSL Queensland's South Eastern District to reflect on a day that marked the end of the World War II for Australians 78 years ago.

Elise Hodgson

"It is Len's hope that Queenslanders will remember all who served in Australia's WWII efforts and spare a thought for those who never received recognition."

LEN'S action-packed service history began at the formative age of 15, when he joined the Australian Imperial Force – following in the footsteps of his father who had served in Gallipoli and on the Western Front during World War I.

Determined to fulfil his duty to his country and to his family, Len enlisted four times during the war, signing up under four unique enlistment numbers and three different names.

"It was a time when all my mates were being called up to serve. The war had broken out in 1939, and after Singapore fell, the Japanese were streaming down the coast into New Guinea," Len said.

"I was the youngest of the group planning to join the Army, but we were all about the same height,

and I thought I'd see if I could go along with them.

"We lined up at the recruiting office in Footscray. I was thrown out a few times but kept going back with different names until I eventually got away with it."

Telling his mother that he was headed for Queensland to join the Home Guard, Len instead set out for Brisbane to undertake jungle warfare training with the first intake at Canungra before setting sail for New Guinea.

"I spent my first night in Port Moresby in a slit trench while a Japanese air raid took place... I could hear the bombs dropping as they came over the top of us," Len recalled.

"After some time in field, they were calling for volunteers to service on the 'Biscuit Bombers'

and I put my hand up – even though I'd never stepped foot in an aircraft before."

Len's new role involved dropping supplies from the air to the ground below, given it was not possible for soldiers to carry all the necessary supplies on foot through the jungle.

However, after some time had passed and the death of two of his best mates left him shaken, Len transferred back to the Infantry. He went on to serve with the 2/7th Battalion at Wau and Buna before coming down with dengue fever and dysentery, which ultimately led to his medical discharge.

While in recovery, Len was shooting rabbits with a mate at his home in Victoria when his friend ironically shot him in the hip and legs by accident, ruling out any prospects of re-joining the Army.

Later, at the age of 18, Len enlisted in the US Army Small Ships and witnessed one of the largest naval battles the world had ever seen.

Len moved between postings and ultimately ended up on board the *Armand Considere* as part of what was known as 'Mission X' – a section primarily made up of Australians who were considered too old, too young, or medically unfit to serve in the Armed Forces during the war.

"A key part of our role was to deliver essential supplies to other forces in the south-west Pacific – from weapons and ammunition to food, building materials and medical supplies," Len said.

"We'd also facilitate many logistical tasks like transporting soldiers, repatriating those who were wounded or killed, guarding and removing prisoners – often sailing at night and taking cover during the day."

After the war, Len served in China to support the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, returning to Australia in 1946 and working on the oil rigs in Bass Strait.

Over the years, Len has passionately pursued peacekeeping endeavours and is now devoted to shining a light on Small Ship veterans who were part of the 'forgotten fleet'. His own service was not officially recognised until 75 years after the war.

At a small local ceremony in July 2020, Len was presented with the 1939-45 Star – a medal that recognises the bravery and sacrifice of those who served afloat with the United States Army Small Ships Section.

However, Len says that many were not afforded the recognition they deserved, as the eligibility of Small Ships veterans was not officially recognised until 2010 and the records were often lost or insufficient.

It is Len's hope that Queenslanders will remember all who served in Australia's WWII efforts and spare a thought for those who never received recognition for their service.

RSL Queensland South Eastern District President Kerry Gallagher echoed Len's voice and encouraged the community to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of those who fought in the Pacific.

"Victory in the Pacific Day provided an important opportunity to reflect and call attention to those who were instrumental in Australia's efforts during the Second World War," Mr Gallagher said. ←



BIRTHDAY WISH GRANTED BY BUNDABERG

WWII veteran Richard Pethybridge was recently gifted the opportunity of a lifetime by his RSL Sub Branch: to return to Darwin for ANZAC Day.

Courtney Adams

BELOW:
Darwin was bombed by Japan in 1942. (Image courtesy of Australian War Memorial)

AT 100 years old, Richard Pethybridge is believed to be one of the last surviving Australian veterans who served during the Bombing of Darwin.

To mark his momentous birthday a few months ago, Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch granted Richard his once-in-a-

lifetime wish to go back to the Top End for ANZAC Day. The trip was an opportunity to reflect on Richard's story and his service.

SERVING DURING THE BOMBING OF DARWIN

Back in 1941, Australia's Defence Force was fighting abroad in WWII.

In response to the increasing threat from the Japanese that loomed closer to home, the Army appealed for home service volunteers to work in Darwin.

Too young to be sent overseas at just 18 years old, Sydneysider Richard Pethybridge responded to the call, moving to the Top End to begin his service. He originally worked on base as a cook, and fondly remembers making Christmas dinner for the troops that year.

However, things took a turn when Darwin was bombed during the air raids of February 1942. Following these attacks, Richard was transferred into a gunner role, in which he remained until the end of the war.

A few years later, Richard celebrated his 21st birthday on a train heading back to Sydney. He was returning home to begin his post as a ship guard, working



PLAQUE HONOURS SERVICE MEN 80 YEARS ON

Eighty years after the WWII crash of a RAAF aircraft west of Cairns, Malanda RSL Sub Branch has commemorated those onboard by sharing their story.

Kylie Hatfield

BELOW: Malanda sub-committee members (left to right) Glynn Morice, Sub Branch President Gary Hunt, Lionel Smith and Trevor Sorenson developed a plaque to commemorate the plane crash.

WHEN RAAF aircraft A34-24 crashed into the rugged mountains and thick tropical rainforest west of Cairns in 1943, three of its crew perished and two were seriously injured. The De Havilland DH-84A Type 2 Dragon plane took off from Cairns on 7 March 1943, but never made it to its destination of Mareeba.

The two survivors – Lieutenant Colonel Philip Heathcote George Cardale and Leading Aircraftman Ronald Henry Appleby – were found days later wandering around

in the dense bush with serious injuries.

The other three personnel on board – Sergeant Lindsay James Sutherland McColl, Brigadier John Wilson Crawford and Lieutenant Arthur William Morris – died in the crash and were laid to rest in the Cairns War Cemetery.

Other than these graves and what is left of the wreckage deep in the bush above the Crystal Cascades, near Freshwater Gorge, there was no local acknowledgement of the accident.

That is, until Malanda RSL Sub Branch decided to recognise the tragedy and honour the 80th anniversary of the crash this year with a new commemorative plaque.

A TRAGEDY FINALLY RECOGNISED

The Sub Branch funded the project and formed a sub-committee of Sub Branch members to streamline the process.

Vietnam veteran and Sub Branch member Trevor Sorenson was heavily involved throughout the nine-month project, together with Sub Branch President Gary Hunt, Lionel Smith and Glynn Morice.

“We researched the tragic incident to find out all we could about who was on board and what happened, so we could tell their story and commemorate them properly,” Trevor says.

“The sub-committee also worked closely with Cairns Regional Council and the local business engaged to create the plaque so that we could truly honour these service men.”

On 26 April 2023, the plaque was completed and fitted at the popular tourist viewing platform overlooking the Crystal Cascades at the base of Freshwater Gorge.

Through their research, the sub-committee discovered what happened to the plane to cause the crash, and in the weeks that followed. The Court of Inquiry found that the crash was the result of pilot error.

The pilot entered the mouth of Freshwater Gorge low and couldn't climb to a sufficient altitude to clear the ridge at the head of the gorge in time. Instead, while attempting to turn away from the ridge, the plane crashed into the side of the mountain.

“After the crash, a retrieval crew was brought in from the RAAF base in Charters Towers; they went into the rainforest to the crash site and by the various means available to them at the time, they retrieved





the two motors and other major components from the aircraft, which were then taken back to Charters Towers for refurbishment and for use as spare parts for refitting to other aircraft," Trevor says.

What remains of the wreckage – the shell of the aircraft – was located again in 1995 by aircraft historian Stephen Fowler, who contributed some information to the sub-committee's research.

HONOURED TO COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO SERVED

For Trevor and the sub-committee, and indeed their whole Sub Branch, the project has been really rewarding.

"It's been our honour to commemorate these service men and to inform our community and the visiting tourists about this tragedy that happened in WWII not far from where we are."

Located in the small rural town of Malanda on the Atherton Tablelands, the Malanda RSL Sub Branch has a membership of 93. This includes 71 service members, three Auxiliary members and 24 non-League/social members.

"We're a progressive and active Sub Branch, always looking for ways to get involved in the community and do things for our veterans and their families," Trevor says. "We believe we're doing quite well at that." ←

ABOVE: A new commemorative plaque honours the De Havilland DH-84A Type 2 Dragon plane that crashed near Cairns in 1943.

LEFT: Vietnam veteran and RSL Sub Branch member Trevor Sorenson says the sub-committee researched the plane crash thoroughly so they could tell their story properly.

MENTAL READINESS FOR MILITARY TRANSITION

Introducing MT-Ready

*World-first research aims to assess Defence personnel for
a mentally healthy transition to civilian life.*



RESEARCHERS at Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF), through a partnership with RSL Queensland, have developed a world-first tool to predict how likely a Defence member is to have a difficult transition from Defence to civilian life, and what areas of reintegration they might need support with along the way.

The research-based tool, called the Mental Readiness for Military Transition Scale (MT-Ready), could have a significant impact on the lives of service members as it assesses their mental readiness for transition.

"The MT-Ready assesses psychological and social variables that impact Defence members' transition from the military to civilian life," says Dr Madeline Romaniuk, principal investigator on the study.

"This proactive, preventative approach – which hasn't been used before – can be used before someone leaves Defence to predict what might happen once they leave.

"Using a tool that has the ability to predict whether someone is going to have poor outcomes post-service, prior to their leaving service, can ideally prevent a potential cascade of negative events happening."

THE CHALLENGES OF TRANSITION

The transition to civilian life following separation from military service is associated with increased risk of mental health disorders, suicide and poor adjustment.

Australian research has found that approximately 78% of transitioned members experience a difficult transition out of military service, with 50% reporting they have not reintegrated or adjusted to civilian life up to 10 years after separation.

GMRF's Director of Mental Health Research, Associate Professor Luke Johnson, says MT-Ready could make a huge difference to the trajectories of someone's life.

"If the transition process itself is not as smooth and as seamless as it could be, then the effects of that could linger on for some time; people don't feel settled in the community, they don't feel welcomed into the community and they feel a sense of loss and out of place in the community," Associate Professor Johnson says.

ABOUT MT-READY

The MT-Ready is a self-report 15-question assessment that takes two minutes to complete. Results identify whether a Defence member needs support in three key areas shown to be predictive of adjustment post-service: future focus and optimism, anger and perceived failure, and civilian connections and social support.

"The results from the questionnaire identify whether the person is performing well in a specific area or if further support is recommended prior to their transition to civilian life," Dr Romaniuk says.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

This research was the final phase of a seven-year program of research run by GMRF in partnership with RSL Queensland, which ultimately aimed to identify and predict Defence members who were most at risk of poor adjustment and reintegration difficulties post-separation, as well as mental health conditions associated with those difficulties.

Other tools that were developed throughout the program of research include the Military to Civilian Adjustment and Reintegration Measure (M-CARM) and its companion online training program Go Beyond. Both

initiatives are currently being used by veterans once they have transitioned from Defence.

MT-Ready is unique in that it addresses the crucial steps required before a person transitions out of Defence.

"This research is important because it provides the Defence community with a scientifically validated and tested tool that can be used by both Defence members themselves and in partnership with their health professionals to assess and predict how they will fare after transition and then, importantly, take action to improve wellbeing in any of the psychological or social areas identified," Associate Professor Johnson says.

INFORMED BY VETERANS

RSL Queensland CEO Rob Skoda says MT-Ready was built in collaboration with veterans who have walked this path.

"It was built upon the lived experiences of their mates – upon those who have strong insights and connection with the veteran community every day. And it's the fusion of research and lived experience that makes this tool very relevant for veterans," Rob says.

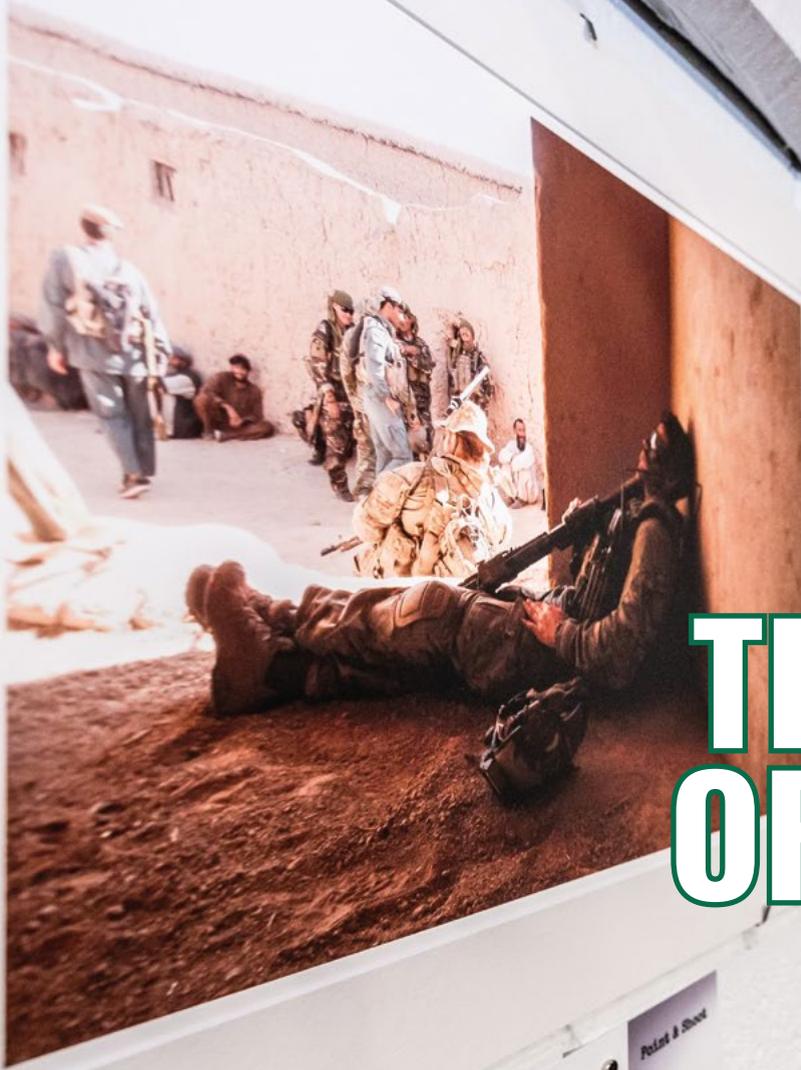
READY TO HELP

GMRF has translated the MT-Ready measure into an interactive online tool that is available Australia-wide, free of charge. Members of the Defence Force who are about to go through the process of discharging can access MT-Ready online themselves or with the support of a medical or healthcare professional. ←

"Using a tool that has the ability to predict whether someone is going to have poor outcomes post-service, prior to their leaving service, can ideally prevent a potential cascade of negative events happening."



Complete MT-Ready
at m-carm.org



THE POWER OF A SINGLE IMAGE

Point & Shoot Exhibition captures veterans' untold stories

Point Assist
Alghusdan 2007
A Kill and Capture mission on a well known high level Taliban commander. When we landed we were engaged immediately and spent the whole day clearing the village in contact. My patrol had been on this mission without any casualties. This SASR 6 man team had been on another mission 1 hour earlier, conducting an IED mission on a different patrol person of interest.
- Jordan McCallum
Australian Veterans Photography Initiative



ABOVE: The exhibition visited Brisbane and Townsville.

Lifting the lid on the untold stories of Australian veterans, the Point & Shoot Exhibition – an initiative by veteran-owned business, Point Assist – has come to a close after visiting Brisbane and Townsville ahead of Remembrance Day 2023.

DELIVERED in partnership with RSL Queensland, the 2023 Point & Shoot Exhibition took viewers behind the camera lens to provide a raw and unfiltered perspective on veterans' experiences in a variety of wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Brisbane veteran Greg Ivey was one of the many veterans who submitted an image to the Point & Shoot Exhibition, providing a glimpse into his time serving in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

"The activity shown in my image highlights a very positive

connection with the Indigenous soldiers, which in turn led to my lifelong friendship with the people of PNG and many return visits," Greg says.

"Looking retrospectively at this image – it takes me back to the best posting a soldier could have hoped for in 1970.

"This Army outstation was sited strategically close to Indonesia, but the site was also tropical, comfortable and unspoiled.

"Our duties were not onerous, allowing the Australian soldiers to explore the landscape and the



waterways in the company of relaxed and skilful PNG soldiers.”

Since the launch of the Point & Shoot Exhibition in 2020, hundreds of eye-opening photographs have been submitted, providing veterans with an opportunity to share their stories with the public.

Point Assist Founder and veteran Mark Direen said it was wonderful to see so many veterans connect with one another and share core memories that shaped their time in service and beyond.

“It has been heartening to see veterans from around Australia contribute to this year’s exhibition and shine a light on the moments that hold immense meaning to each individual,” Mark says.

“Our hope is that we will continue to see more veterans get involved year-on-year, as we harness the power of storytelling through imagery.” ←

ABOVE: Brisbane veteran Greg Ivey submitted this image to the Point & Shoot Exhibition, providing a glimpse into his time serving in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

LEFT: Mark Direen, left, and Greg Ivey at the 2023 Point & Shoot Exhibition in Brisbane, Queensland.

BELOW: Point Assist founder and veteran Mark Direen speaking at the exhibition.



To view the 2023 Point & Shoot Exhibition online, visit pointandshoot.online

LOCAL WWI GRAVES HONOURED AT PLAQUE UNVEILING CEREMONY

On Saturday 23 September, Toowong RSL Sub Branch, in collaboration with the Australian Remembrance Army, held an official unveiling ceremony to honour 301 WWI veterans whose unmarked graves have recently been identified in Lutwyche Cemetery.

✍ Olivia Lawrence | 📷 Lily Zhu, Toowong RSL Sub Branch



ABOVE: The unveiling ceremony was held at Lutwyche Cemetery.

OF the 301 veterans commemorated, many served in Gallipoli, as well as the Boer War and WWII.

Toowong RSL Sub Branch President Peter Gow said the Sub Branch has been very passionate about this project, emphasising the importance of this undertaking to recognise veterans

who bravely served Australia.

"This project symbolises our commitment to encouraging commemoration and honouring the service and sacrifice of those who fought for the freedom that we enjoy today," Mr Gow said.

"The unveiling of these commemorative plaques marks the legacy of hundreds of veterans,

allowing their service history to be seen for generations to come.

"There is a wealth of history to uncover behind each and every individual identified, with two awarded a Military Medal, one awarded the distinguished Military Cross and another bestowed with a Meritorious Service Medal.

"Now, we are humbled to be providing fitting recognition for these veterans who were ultimately laid to rest here in Lutwyche Cemetery."

Among these veterans, 203 were born in Australia and 98 were from various countries around the world.

Through meticulous research and the support of the Department of Veterans' Affairs 'Unmarked WWI Graves Program', Cate Walker and Katrina Trevethan from the Australian Remembrance Army were able to determine each individual's service background, their origins, and some remarkable military accomplishments.

"It has been excellent to collaborate with Cate and Katrina on this project and we feel immense pride in bringing this event together," Mr Gow said. ←



ABOVE: A total of 301 WWI veterans were honoured during the ceremony.

RIGHT: Guests gather to watch the plaques being unveiled.

BELOW: Kenmore-Moggill RSL Sub Branch member Chris Moon speaking at the event.



ABOVE: Toowong RSL Sub Branch collaborated with the Australian Remembrance Army on this project.

LEFT: Australian Remembrance Army researcher Katrina Trevethan speaks with those at the event.

BELOW LEFT: It was a momentous day for those who have been involved in the project.



BELOW: Kenmore-Moggill RSL Sub Branch member Chris Moon, Australian Remembrance Army researchers Cate Walker and Katrina Trevethan, and Toowong RSL Sub Branch President Peter Gow.



MATESHIP

Bribie Island holds dedication ceremony for Nashos

On 20 October 2023, more than 150 people gathered on the grounds of Bribie Island RSL Sub Branch for a dedication ceremony for the new National Serviceman's Memorial Park. The ceremony honoured the 287,000 young Australian men who were called to undertake compulsory National Service from 1951 to 1972. Sadly, 212 of these men died while serving in Borneo and Vietnam.



WWI veteran honoured with headstone in Bowen

Bowen RSL Sub Branch recently became aware of a Boer War and WWI veteran laid to rest in an unmarked grave at their local cemetery. Service number 352 Major Stuart Tooth passed away on 8 June 1968. He served in the 6th Light Horse Regiment and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and was Mentioned in Dispatches for his bravery during the war. His unmarked grave was brought to the attention of the Sub Branch by Gary Parsons from Brisbane, who is researching a history of Australians in WWI. With funding provided by RSL Queensland and the expertise of Trevor Neal from Whitsunday Monuments, a suitable headstone was installed to recognise Major Tooth, followed by a short dedication service on 10 November 2023.



Honouring Harry Smith

By David Law

LTCOL Harry Arthur Smith SG MC (Retd) was born in Hobart on 25 July 1933 and passed away peacefully in Buderim, Queensland on 20 August 2023. Days earlier, Harry commemorated the 57th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan with fellow diggers, who visited him to reflect on their 1966 experiences in the infamous rubber plantation.

"Long Tan was probably the most significant battle we had in Vietnam," Harry wrote in 2017.

"There are other battles that went for longer with similar casualties, but Long Tan was such a short, sharp, savage battle, and it stopped the Vietnamese regiment from attacking the taskforce base, and our company was able to hold that regiment off, of course supported by wonderful artillery fire."

Harry was called up for National Service in 1952 and went on to commission at Officer Cadet School, Portsea in December 1952.

He learned valuable skills in jungle warfare while serving with 2RAR in the Malayan Emergency (1955-57) and from his time with the Commandos, both of which helped Harry train his diggers for Vietnam.

Harry was the first Officer Commanding of Delta Company 6RAR when it formed in June 1965 as part of Australia's increased involvement in the Vietnam War. When the Battalion returned to Australia, he returned to the Commandos and later became the first Army Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor of the Parachute Training School. In 1976, Harry's Army career was cut short by an unfortunate parachuting accident.

Harry will forever be known for his leadership, tenacity in fighting for what is right, standing up for his mates, and his dogged refusal to give up. The Battle of Long Tan lasted just 3.5 hours, but that day sparked a lifelong fight to ensure his diggers were recognised for their actions.

For his own actions on that day, Harry was awarded a Military Cross. In 2008 this was upgraded to the Star of Gallantry. His Company received the United States Presidential Unit Citation, South Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation, and Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry.



Vale Kevin Byrne

The RSL community recently farewelled former Cairns Mayor and Army veteran Kevin Byrne, who was a stalwart supporter and member of Cairns RSL Sub Branch. Kevin passed away on 21 September 2023, aged 74. His 17-year career in the ADF included service in Vietnam, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. After leaving the military, he served as Mayor of Cairns from 1992 to 1995 and again from 2000 to 2008. Kevin, right, is pictured with Colonel John Paterson (Retd) at a Vietnam Veterans' Day commemoration earlier this year.

Father's Day celebrated at Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch

To mark Father's Day, Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch members taught the Crows Nest Boys Brigade about RSL traditions and military history. The Boys Brigade also participated in Paddle Pop stick building and trivia competitions at the RSL Sub Branch. The activities ended with an RSL 'passing of the torch' ceremony, where the eldest RSL member present passed a torch to the youngest child present. The ceremony ensures that the responsibility of remembering those who have made the ultimate sacrifice is not forgotten. A statement was read by a Boys Brigade member, with the torch ending up in the safe hands of the new generation.



Vale Wladyslaw 'Wally' Sokoluk

Darra RSL Sub Branch member Wladyslaw 'Wally' Sokoluk was laid to rest at Mount Gravatt Cemetery on 14 September. Wally served in the Army from 1963 until 1969. He was deployed to Vietnam in Section Commander 9 section, 3 Platoon, A Company, and went to Delta Company's aid at the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966. Wally was known for his cheerful disposition and willingness to have a yarn. He is dearly missed by those who had the privilege of knowing him.



VP Day on the Gold Coast

On 15 August, Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch held an intimate ceremony at the Currumbin RSL Cenotaph to honour VP Day and to pay respects to the more than 100 million people who were directly involved in WWII. This year, the RSL Sub Branch felt privileged to welcome WWII veterans Mervyn Latham, James Lewis, Frederick Logan and Marjorie Logan to their VP Day service. In total, more than 40 Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch members served in WWII.



Centenary celebrations held at Geebung

October marked a key milestone for Geebung-Zillmere-Bald Hills and Aspley RSL Sub Branch, as it proudly celebrated its centennial anniversary. Sub Branch President Harry Boxsell said the anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on a journey of rich history and exceptional growth. "It's a special milestone to reach. I can't help but think of all the dedicated individuals who came before us and all the work they have done; we wouldn't be here without them," Harry said.

The Sub Branch began from humble beginnings in the Geebung Memorial Hall in 1923. Known as 'The Hole in the Wall' or 'The Green Shed', this small space began as a memorial for those who served in WWI and quickly grew to serve various needs of veterans. Harry, left, is pictured cutting the cake with Mickey Bartkowski OAM.



Marian members mark key anniversaries

Two members of Marian RSL Sub Branch were recently presented with certificates acknowledging a significant membership anniversary. Assistant Treasurer Sharon Price received her 15-year membership certificate along with Rob Murry, who received his 30-year membership certificate. The presentation was facilitated by Sub Branch President John Edwards and took place during a meeting where welfare was high on the priority list, particularly for the elderly in the Marian area as the festive season approaches.

A great day on the green

On 27 August, Mossman RSL Sub Branch held its second annual Diggers Golf Day at Mossman Golf Club. Along with 64 members, the Sub Branch was pleased to host RSL Queensland State President Stephen Day DSC AM and Far North District President Ken Willoughby at the event. The winning team included Wayne Christensen and Toddy Newman, followed by Joe Taylor and Hearth Craft in second place.



ANZAC Youth Competition presentations

Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch President Brian Tidyman welcomed teachers and students from Fraser Coast Anglican College and Urangan Senior High School for the ANZAC Youth Competition presentations on 10 October. Students Alyssa Lewis and Sulav Tajhya were awarded with the honour of presenting their speeches at the 2024 ANZAC Day services. Each winner will also receive \$2,000 towards their further education or an apprenticeship.



Miles has bin getting creative

As part of the biennial Miles Back to the Bush Festival in September, a competition to paint a wheelie bin depicting the theme 'Transport Through Time' was held. Miles RSL Sub Branch Secretary Shirley Makin painted an entry with transport pertinent to the Military: RAAF C-130 Hercules, HMAS *Tobruk*, a raft to transport personnel ashore, and an Army truck. Shirley's piece won Best Commercial Bin in the competition.

Battle for Australia Day

Battle for Australia Day was observed on 6 September at the Chermerside Historical Precinct, Brisbane, to commemorate the end of the Battle of Milne Bay in 1942 and the first time Japanese forces were defeated on land in WWII. Allied forces continued to throw the enemy back throughout 1942 and 1943 in New Guinea and across the South Pacific to turn the tide of the war and prevent an invasion of mainland Australia. Wreaths were laid by RSL South Eastern District President Kerry Gallagher AM and Kedron-Wavell RSL Sub Branch Committee Member Greg Peake OAM (pictured).



WWI digger's memorabilia returned to his spiritual home

Items belonging to a Gallipoli first day lander – Private 'Iodine' Joe Saunders – recently made their way home to Sydney after their surprise discovery by the Kedron-Wavell RSL (KWRSL) Memorabilia Team. PTE Saunders joined the 1st AIF in 1914 and served as a stretcher bearer with the 1st and 14th Field Ambulance. After serving at Gallipoli, he survived a gunshot wound and gassing on the Western Front, and sadly died after a bomb attack in 1918. On 14 September, KWRSL Memorabilia Team members John McQueen and John McGhie visited Harbord Diggers RSL sub-Branch (in PTE Saunders' home of Freshwater, NSW) to formally hand over the collection, which includes a memorial plaque, King's thank you note, letters, and items found on PTE Saunders after his death.

Vale William Bruce

We recently mourned the passing of William (Bill) Wallace Mervyn Bruce, a WWII veteran, founder of Nebo RSL Sub Branch (now Auxiliary), and RSL Life Member. A keen poet and sportsman, Bill sadly passed away on Remembrance Day (11 November), aged 106. Born in Nebo on 2 January 1917, Bill joined the Australian Army Reserves in 1942. He later transferred to the regular Army, serving as a Craftsman with the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in New Guinea and New Britain. After discharging in 1945, Bill worked as a contractor and dedicated himself to community service. He became Secretary of Nebo RSL Sub Branch in 1960 and then President from 1987 until the Sub Branch's closure in 2012.

Bill has been a much-loved member of the community; in 2017, he was joined by almost the entire population of Nebo for his 100th birthday celebrations.

(Photo: AWM2017.5201.4060)





National Police Remembrance Day

While most kids were enjoying their school holidays, seven-year-old Eliza-Dane Jacobs spent her break working to advocate for National Police Remembrance Day. The day is observed on 29 September each year and to show her support, Eliza-Dane sat patiently through her local Mundubbera RSL Sub Branch's latest meeting before fundraising in the town's main street. Eliza-Dane's mother Billie-Jean said that her daughter was excited to have approval from the local police to wear a uniform, appropriate for the occasion.



Young mariner out at sea for eight days

In early August, TS Kookaburra Cadet T Kennedy enjoyed an eight-day Young Mariners cruise from Townsville to Mackay on a 100-foot-tall ship with South Passage. This was an unforgettable journey for Cadet Kennedy, as she experienced the wonders of the Whitsundays, whale and dolphin watching and even sailing the ship. "Overall, it was a voyage full of new experiences, new friendships and lifelong memories that I'm extremely grateful I was given the opportunity to experience," Cadet Kennedy said.

It's all fun and games at Sunnybank

Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch's annual indoor Games Day has once again proved to be a huge success. Now in its third year, the 2023 event was attended by approximately 50 competitors from both the RSL and members of the wider community. Games included quites, darts, indoor bowls and basketball goals, with the winning team taking home some wonderful prizes.



Kokoda Youth Foundation Project in full swing

Rosewood RSL Sub Branch recently hosted 11 students from Rosewood High School who are taking part in the Kokoda Youth Foundation Project. The project aims to engage vulnerable youth in the Kokoda values of courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice, enabling life-changing experiences that give them a chance to reach their full potential as young adults. Students were also given the opportunity to hear the stories of several Rosewood veterans and learn about the varying roles needed in today's military.



Veteran lays flag in Ukraine

Nigel Allsopp (2017 RSL ANZAC of the Year) was recently in Kyiv for a second time with Australian charity, Australian Animal Aid (AAA), a sub branch of the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO). While he was there, Nigel laid a flag in the Remembrance Garden, writing 'For the ANZACs' in an emotional tribute serving as a reminder that war concerns the entire world, and honouring those who have given their lives for a cause they believe in.

Blackall statue unveiling

A statue honouring ANZAC nurse Greta Towner has been unveiled in the western Queensland town of Blackall. This is just months after the first ever sculpture of an individual nurse or woman was installed at the Australian War Memorial. RSL Queensland Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, and Greta's nephew John Towner officially unveiled the statue.



Centenary for George

WWII veteran and Forest Lake RSL Sub Branch member George Churchward celebrated his 100th birthday in October 2023 and is pictured standing with LTCOL Shaun Richards.



Ipswich takes on Golden Rivet Competition

The Naval Association of Australia Ipswich & West Moreton sub section hosted fellow members, sub sections, and supporters at Ipswich CSI for the annual Golden Rivet Competition on 15 September. The competition – now in its 48th year – pitted teams of various athletic and mental skills in both darts and indoor bowls. Teams from Redcliffe, Pine Rivers, Navy Women (WRANS) and Ipswich competed and utilised some interesting and varying styles in both sports. The winner's trophy was presented by Ipswich Mayor Teresa Harding, who is a great supporter of veterans and the local community.

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

18 August 2023

50th ANNIVERSARY
of the end of the Vietnam War



Vietnam Veterans' Day was nationally observed on 18 August to recognise the more than 60,000 Australians who served in Vietnam from 1962 to 1973, and those

who returned for humanitarian operations in 1975. Significantly, 2023 also marked the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

RSL Sub Branches across Queensland paid their respects to those who fought and sacrificed. Many reported encouraging turnouts for their commemoration services and luncheons, with hundreds of veterans, dignitaries and community members attending across the state. Prime Minister the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP also commemorated in Queensland, attending Ipswich RSL Sub Branch's service.



VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

18 August 2023

50th ANNIVERSARY

of the end of the Vietnam War



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(01) Attendees gather for Beenleigh's Vietnam Veterans' Day service. **(02)** Barbara and Pat Fairon (RSL Gold Coast District President), John Salter MC and his partner pictured at the Burleigh Heads Cenotaph for Vietnam Veterans' Day. **(03)** Layken Burnie represented his great grandfather Ross Stevenson's memory, pictured with other veterans at Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch's Vietnam Veterans' Day service. **(04)** Guests of Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch's Vietnam Veterans' Day Memorial Service at Jubilee Park.

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

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of the end of the Vietnam War



01

(01) Emerald RSL Sub Branch hosted a twilight service in town for Vietnam Veterans' Day. **(02)** Forest Lake RSL Sub Branch hosted its Vietnam Veterans' Day Service inside the chapel in the Military Museum Precinct at Wacol. **(03)** Greenbank RSL Sub Branch reported the best turnout of members and the wider community in many years. **(04)** Goondiwindi RSL Sub Branch member Terry Farrell laid a wreath on behalf of 6RAR for the Vietnam Veterans' Day service at Goondiwindi Town Park Cenotaph.



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VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

18 August 2023

50th ANNIVERSARY

of the end of the Vietnam War



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(01) The Toogoom and District RSL Sub Branch unveiled a replica of the Long Tan Cross. Pictured, Greg Harris (back left), Ron Warren (front left), John Wockner (back right) and Jack Edmunds (front right). **(02)** Miles RSL Sub Branch member Ian Perry played the bugle at the Vietnam Veterans' Day service. **(03)** Gympie RSL Sub Branch hosted a Vietnam Veterans' Day service at the Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam monument in Memorial Park. Photo by Tanya Easterby. **(04)** Jason Fenech, Chris Shepherd and Mackay RSL Sub Branch President Ken Higgins OAM are pictured at the presentation of the Nui Dat Bell on 11 September. The bell was forged from empty brass shell cases gathered over decades from Nui Dat and purchased by Mackay RSL Sub Branch in auction on Vietnam Veterans' Day. The funds will be used to help the local Nui Dat community. **(05)** Australian Prime Minister, the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP (second from right) attends Ipswich RSL Sub Branch's Vietnam Veterans' Day service. Also pictured, from left, General Manager of Club Services Ipswich Natalia Onoprichuk, Ipswich RSL Sub Branch Secretary Debbie Wadwell and Ipswich Mayor Teresa Harding.

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

18 August 2023

50th ANNIVERSARY

of the end of the Vietnam War



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(01) Rosewood RSL Sub Branch President Bernie Mason, Colin Plenty, Vietnam veteran Doug Brown, CPL Emanuel Annosa, Reverend Louise Orpe and Bernie Kington attended Rosewood's first ever Vietnam Veterans' Day service. **(02)** Springwood Tri-Services RSL Sub Branch collaborated on its Vietnam Veterans' Day 2023 ceremony with the Logan Diggers. **(03)** Woodgate Beach RSL Sub Branch conducted a commemorative service for Vietnam veterans at the Centenary of Anzac Memorial. President and Vietnam veteran Lex McKay was emcee and refreshments followed at the Woodgate Club, sponsored by Australia Post. **(04)** Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch saw outstanding attendance of its Vietnam Veterans' Day service from the veteran community, local schools and guests. Following the service, Vietnam veterans were provided with lunch and the atmosphere was buzzing with conversation.

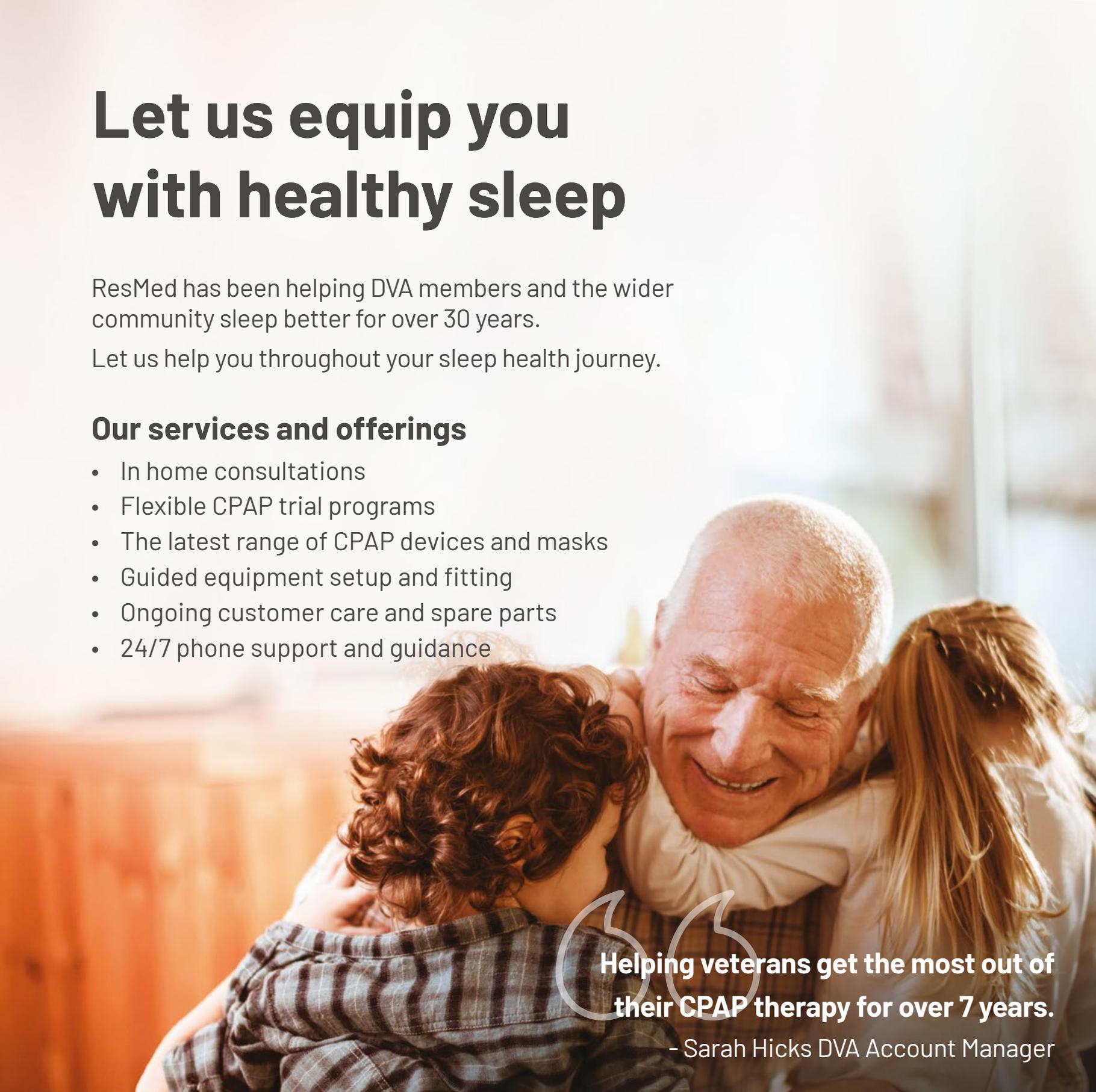
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COMMUNITY

Unmarked graves restored at Home Hill

Home Hill RSL Sub Branch recently held a dedication ceremony honouring WWI veterans who had been laid to rest in unmarked graves. This major project has been in progress since 2019, working to acknowledge the gravesites that were not formally and respectfully recognised. Pictured at the ceremony on 26 August (from left): Andrew Willcox MP, Home Hill RSL Sub Branch Secretary Allan Peterson, President Richard Kelly, State Member for Burdekin Dale Last, LTCOL Silverson, RSL Queensland State Vice President Bill Whitburn OAM, a member of the veteran community, and RSL North Queensland District Treasurer Rocky Hema. Sub Branch Secretary Allan Peterson said the project was an important undertaking that sought to commemorate those who had served, particularly veterans of the Boer War and WWI. Image supplied by Saskia Vollema-Creek.



Community connection in Hervey Bay

As part of Queensland Mental Health Week 2023, Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch participated in the *Connecting for Awareness* initiative on 11 October at Scarness Park. The event was a wonderful opportunity to network with local service organisations and provide the community with insight on how the RSL assists veterans and their families. The pension and wellbeing team brought lawn games to initiate conversation and connection. Seeing both new and familiar faces at the event was terrific. Wellbeing coordinator Lou Shipard and committee member Victor Jackson are pictured at the Sub Branch stall.



Horsing around for mental health

Ipswich and West Moreton Naval Association of Australia sub section members were recently offered a preview session of the Healing with Horsemanship program. The program was developed by an Army veteran to facilitate close-up and systematic interactions between attendees and horses. The key basis is to work with horses to help individuals and families develop awareness and understanding of the ways that we communicate, both verbally and non-verbally.



Wounded Heroes honoured in Ipswich

A presentation recently took place at the Ipswich Centre to honour Wounded Heroes Australia. Wounded Heroes Australia President Martin Shaw is pictured accepting a plaque donated by the Ipswich and West Moreton Naval Association of Australia sub section.



Recognition for Sunnybank RSL member

Hugh Polson from Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch made a presentation to Steve Monteath, who recently resigned from the South Eastern District Board. The certificate recognised Steve’s support of the Sub Branch, particularly in the area of wellbeing.

United States Ambassador addresses Navy veterans ceremony

Coastwatchers were commemorated in a moving ceremony in Brisbane earlier in the year. The ceremony was attended by US Ambassador to Australia Caroline Kennedy, whose father John F. Kennedy was saved by the Coastwatchers in New Britain in 1943. His torpedo boat, PT-109, was sunk by a Japanese destroyer, and the crew were rescued as a result of John carving their position on a coconut which was relayed by an Islander to a Coastwatcher. Ambassador Kennedy surprised and delighted the group by presenting the Naval Association with a replica of the coconut that her father kept on his desk in the White House Oval Office. Since then, the Association has received a letter from the Ambassador thanking them for the opportunity to be part of the ceremony and her desire to be involved with all veterans as part of the special relationship of our two countries.



Scootaville 2023 raises \$30,000 for Legacy

On 24 August, 31 men and women set out on their scooters to ride from Boonah to Townsville on an 18-day journey through Central and Western Queensland. Most riders are veterans who participated to raise over \$30,000 for Legacy. They saw many wonderful places and made new friends across the communities they visited. Several RSL Sub Branches are thanked for their support, including Kedron-Wavell, Toowoomba, and Dalby. Plans for 2024 are now underway.



The Promise

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

Vicki Bennett

WORLD War II was in its third year, and the Battle of Milne Bay was raging in Papua New Guinea. On the night of 25 August 1942, Japanese soldiers landed between Waga Waga and Wandula, on the northern coast of Milne Bay. The intention was to seize Milne Bay in preparation for landing in Port Moresby, their final destination.

It was during this time of carnage and confusion that a wounded Australian airman, John Donegan, was fished out of Milne Bay by local fisherman Kidilon Luka. He pulled him into his canoe and took

him to a mission nurse, Maiogaru Taulebona, who hid him deep in a shadowy cave so that enemy soldiers could not find him. It was then that she made a promise to protect him and take him to safety.

She treated his wounds, wrapping them in banana leaves, and stayed with him until he was well enough to move. Determined to fulfil her promise to save him, Maiogaru placed him in a canoe, concealed under a pile of vegetables, and paddled him through the night to safety.

Maiogaru Taulebona was just

one of the brave locals who took an enormous risk by helping injured soldiers in WWII. The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) thanked Maiogaru for saving the life of an airman, and she was awarded the Loyal Service Medal.

This is my second book written about a nurse in Papua New Guinea during WWII. *The Flying Angels*, published in 2021, was my first. *The Flying Angels* revealed the story of a group of RAAF nurses who were handpicked to rescue injured soldiers from the frontline of Papua New Guinea.





At the launch of this book, a friend placed a Kina (sea urchin) in my hand as a gentle reminder of the local Papua New Guinea people who also assisted and helped Australian soldiers in WWII. It was my friend's passion for PNG's unsung heroes that encouraged me to start my journey to find this amazing story about Maiogaru Taulebona.

The Promise is a story of courage, resilience, kindness and hope, which celebrates the bond between the people of Australia and Papua New Guinea. It is also a personal story for me as my father, Henry George McGregor, was stationed in PNG during WWII in the Signals Corp.

He told me that he would not have survived without the help of the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, as they were fondly called at the time. With care and love, these PNG natives became the Australian soldiers' unsung heroes, rescuing injured Australian soldiers and bringing them to safety.

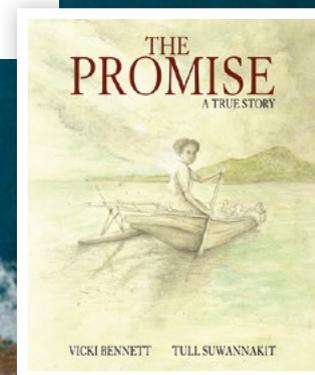
On the 80th anniversary of the battle of Milne Bay, Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Robert Chipman AM CSC presented copies of *The Promise* during his official visit to Milne Bay. Nurse Maiogaru's family and local primary schools were very proud to receive these books. The Chief of Air Force recognises the significance of this story in connecting children in both Australia and PNG, and the significance of their shared history.

This book is a valuable resource for children to learn about their ancestors and how this conflict significantly shaped our history. *The Promise* also speaks of the bravery of women in the community.

I believe there is a great need for authentic stories of local PNG heroes to be heard, and these ancestors will reach out to young PNG and Australian children to show them the way forward with clarity, courage, and hope. ←

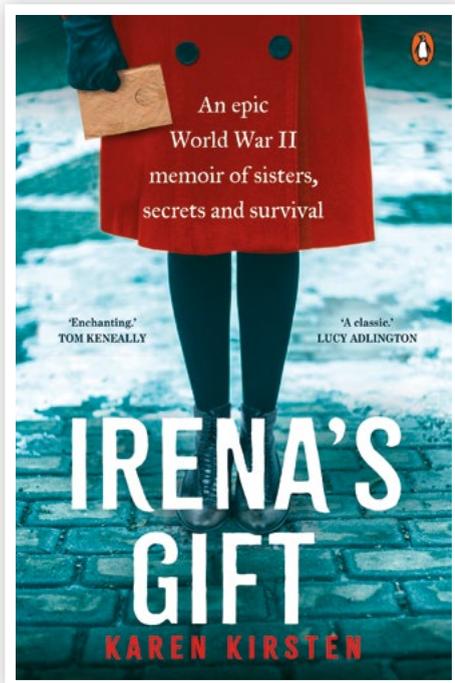
ABOVE LEFT: Presentation of Loyal Service Medal to Maiogaru (Gimuleia) Taulebona (1900-1986) by Major General Basil Morehouse Morris, General Officer Commanding, Australian and New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU), right, and an unidentified Lieutenant Colonel, middle. (AWM: P03500.001).

LEFT: Maiogaru Taulebona receiving her Loyal Service Medal alongside other Papua New Guineans who were honoured for their service during the Battle of Milne Bay. (AWM: 014649).



Author Vicki Bennett has made a career of telling little-told Australian stories of WWI and WWII. *The Promise* is the first of a series of books to be written about PNG heroes in WWII. Published by Boolarong Press, *The Promise* is available in bookstores and at boolarongpress.com.au or vickibennett.com.au

WIN



IRENA'S GIFT

In 1942, in Nazi-occupied Poland, a Jewish child was smuggled out of the Warsaw ghetto in a backpack. That child was Karen Kirsten's mother, but she knew nothing about this extraordinary event until one day a letter arrived from a stranger.

After Karen eventually discovered that the grandparents she loved dearly were in fact not her biological grandparents, she travelled the globe to uncover her family's past and to find the answers to baffling questions: Why did her adoptive grandmother treat Karen's mother so unkindly? Why did she hide the truth that she was her mother's aunt? And why, if she appeared to dislike Karen's mother, did she risk her life to save her and bring her to Australia?

Irena's Gift weaves together a mystery, history and memoir to tell the story of a family torn apart by war.

Irena's Gift by Karen Kirsten is published by Penguin Books Australia (RRP: \$35).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Irena's Gift*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject '*Irena's Gift*') or post to '*Irena's Gift*', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld 4004. Competition closes 16 January 2024.

PHOTOS IN THE ATTIC

This compelling romance follows the heart-wrenching story of a soldier caught between the love of two women. The tale is brought to life with the discovery of the Thuillier photos that were taken in Vignacourt, France, during WWI. These images hold answers to some questions raised by a current-day character, Valerie Bernard, who is a village local.

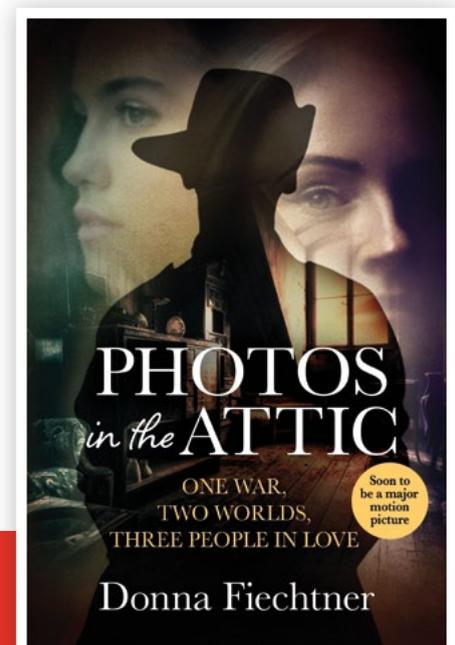
In 1916, Rosie Marchand leaves her hometown of Albert on the Somme. A survivor of the war, she finds shelter in the home of her cousin, photographer Louis Thuillier, a shell-shocked veteran of Verdun, who with his wife Antoinette takes pictures of soldiers behind the lines.

For Australian Bill Foster, the war is a faraway adventure where he is driven to go and join his brother. Bill is in love with Isabella De Luca, a passionate Queensland woman, and promises to return to her. However, Mick De Luca, Isabella's father, vows to do all he can to ensure this doesn't happen.

In the Vignacourt hospital, an injured Bill meets Nurse Rosie.

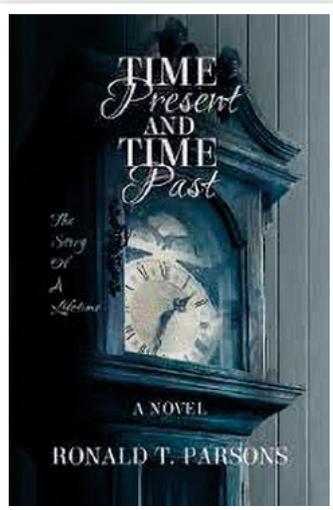
Photos in the Attic by Donna Fiechtner is published by Big Sky Publishing (RRP: \$29.99).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Photos in the Attic*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject '*Photos in the Attic*') or post to '*Photos in the Attic*', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld 4004. Competition closes 16 January 2024.





FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Where the Flaming Hell Are We?*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject '*Where the Flaming Hell Are We?*') or post to '*Where the Flaming Hell Are We?*', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld 4004. Competition closes 16 Jan. 2024.



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN one of four copies of *Time Present and Time Past*, email your name, address and contact number to editor@rslqld.org (with the subject '*Time Present and Time Past*') or post to '*Time Present and Time Past*', PO Box 629, Spring Hill, Qld 4004. Competition closes 16 Jan. 2024.

WHERE THE FLAMING HELL ARE WE?

March 1941: 40,000 Australian and New Zealand troops are rushed to Greece in a desperate attempt to stop the Wehrmacht overrunning the country. Most of them are overseas for the first time in their lives and seek excitement and adventure. What they get are experiences they could never have imagined.

The operation is doomed to fail, but not before the Aussies and Kiwis succeed in holding up the German advance and evacuating thousands, mainly to Crete, where Hitler next sets his sights. As the Nazis assault the island, they deploy a devastating new weapon of invasion – paratroopers – for the very first time, meeting desperate resistance as the Allies fight for their lives.

Craig Collie, bestselling author of *The Path of Infinite Sorrow* and *Nagasaki*, delves into the experiences of the soldiers who fought in the mountains and villages of Greece, and faced entrapment and death on Crete.

Where the Flaming Hell Are We? by Craig Collie is published by Allen & Unwin (RRP: \$34.99).

TIME PRESENT AND TIME PAST

Take a stroll down memory lane as an ailing old man reflects on his life, loves, family, friends, and the times both good and bad. Born during the Great Depression, he recounts the war years, the fabulous 50s, the swinging 60s and the intervening years up to, and including the COVID-19 pandemic. It's a classic Australian story with a touch of humour and insight.

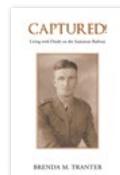
Time Present and Time Past by Ron T. Parsons is published by Boolarong Press (RRP: \$24.99).

QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS WINNERS EDITION 3, 2023



BACK TO BANGKA

M Holst, Mirriwinni
J Dalton, Ferny Hills
M Hurley, Eli Waters
M Joel, Gatton



CAPTURED!

L Bell, Bribie Island
W Davidson, Burnside
T Lewis, Everton Hills
G Mehay, Roma



JUNGLE GREEN & RUGBY

J Gay, Cotton Tree
J Ryan, Moffat Beach
D Backwell, Eight Mile Plains
C Hatch, Victoria Point



EASY PREY

T Stafford, Sandstone Point
L Rooney, Chermside
D Prickett, Armstrong Creek
M Kuilboer, Mitchelton

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

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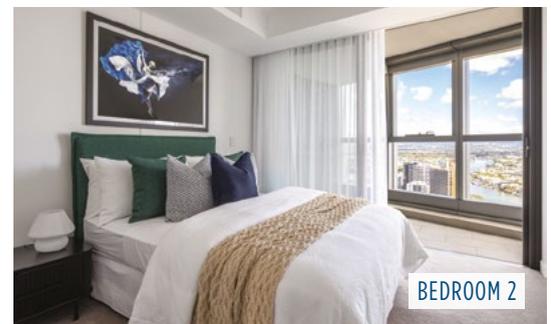
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NSW: GOCAU/2332, QLD: 29819, SA: M14474, VIC: 10344/23. Prize value: \$3,560,642. Draw AU412L has a total of 4,703,400 tickets available, including a maximum of 1,199,179 bonus tickets. Drawn at ANZAC House. Winners notified illustration only. Gold bullion selling costs and market fluctuations apply. Rent and property values are based on third-party evaluations and subject to fluctuating market conditions. Market demand statements based on third-party terms and conditions. RSL Queensland's appointed sales agents may earn a commission. RSL Queensland's appointed traders may receive contributions for their services, estimated as a percentage of the total gross proceeds of Affiliated online advertisers, 1.7%. Information correct at time of printing. Terms and conditions apply. For full T&Cs, refer to rslartunion.com.au.





THE MORTGAGE-FREE DREAM: \$3.5 MILLION WINNERS

IT'S happened again! VIP Club members have won the prize home for the eighth time this year, and now Nathan* and Sue* from Perth find themselves able to retire "without any worries".

After a hard year, they can now change their lives and the lives of their family. They are weighing up their big choice between a \$3.5 million Coolangatta beach dream or the equivalent in glittering gold.

Ben Sawkins, Head of Product and Marketing at RSL Art Union, delivered the huge news to Nathan*, leaving him almost speechless. Nathan* shared that they have found the constant interest rate rises a struggle and were even considering cancelling their subscription to the VIP Club. Now things have completely

turned around, giving them "emotional freedom" and a "legacy that looks beautiful and bright".

Nathan* and Sue* have been dedicated VIP Club members since November 2012, and their commitment to RSL Art Union's cause has come full circle. Their contribution, which has consistently changed lives by supporting veterans and families, has now brought about a life-changing moment for themselves.

The values important to the pair – epitomised by their two children serving in the Reserves – inspired their support of the RSL Art Union.

"When you think about ANZAC Day and all those people who serve, you realise it could be your kids. When these individuals come back,

they need support, and that's why we contribute," Nathan* says.

As the winners stand at the crossroads of choice, the thoughts they share with others are simple but profound. It's more than the material gains; it's about the psychological freedom that comes from the win.

"It's a weight off our shoulders... not having a mortgage would mean being free... but it's so much more, an emotional freedom," Nathan* says.

The wonderful choice faced by the Perth couple is between a luxurious, multi-million-dollar beachfront apartment on the Gold Coast with an estimated rental income of \$114,400 a year; or opting for the entire \$3.5 million prize in gold.

They loved the incredible, 180-degree views and the idea of being surrounded by sunshine and coastal life.

In the end, the deciding factor was being able to stay close to family in Perth and spend more time with them in retirement. They decided to take the gold, including a book buyer's bonus of \$50,000. They will pay off debts, look into a river cruise holiday and no longer stress about a mortgage. They will be able to live "the Aussie dream – being able to reach retirement and actually retire".

It's always so amazing to see how RSL Art Union can change people's lives. Congratulations, Nathan* and Sue*.

**Names changed for privacy reasons. ←*

COMMUNITY CONNECT



RSL COMMUNITY LINK

Have you heard of the Community Link program? This remembrance project is dedicated to keeping alive the names, memories and deeds of departed Australian or Allied service veterans no matter when or where they served or when they died.

It enables people of all ages to attend remembrance services as the personal representative of the departed veteran. This program is particularly popular with school students, families and community members with a keen interest in their local veterans.

Community Link was founded at Bribie Island RSL by Scott Barrett in 1994. Its purpose was to engage youth through the lives of people who represented Australia during the wars, from the Boer War to Afghanistan.

The program as it was run was ceased by RSL Queensland in 2018 and re-launched by Bribie Island RSL Sub Branch in 2018, to continue providing this important program to those who wish to commemorate in this way.

In 2022, Community Link became a joint project between RSL Queensland and Bribie Island RSL Sub Branch as we continue to build on and raise awareness of the program.

Learn more about Community Link via the Sub Branch Knowledge and Information Portal (SKIP) or by contacting Bribie Island Sub Branch via 07 3065 8010 or commink@bribiersubbranch.org.au.

INDIAN SERVICE MEDALS FOUND

A set of Indian service medals was recently purchased from a second-hand shop in Woodford. The details attached to the medals are: 7227121, Supt, J. L. D'Souza, 1 ACD. The medals are the India Service Medal 1939-1945, the India War Medal 1939-1945, and the Indian Independence Medal 15 August 1947.

Research shows two J. L. D'Souzans in the Australian Electoral Rolls – Joseph Lawrence, WA (1980) and Joseph Leonard, NSW (1977). While the original recipient is possibly deceased, there is a desire to return the medals to his family. Please contact Lawrie Bowman via lawriebowman@hotmail.com.

DO YOU KNOW RON HANSEN?

The 2RAR Historical Collection is hoping to contact family or friends of SSGT Ron 'Chad' Hansen, QX26788 and 1/280. An article was recently found inside the second tour of Malaya (1961-1963) folder in the 2RAR Historical Collection.

The amazing story tells of someone who served for the longest period in the Battalion. Chad started in the 66 Battalion, Puckapunyal, Korea, then Enoggera, the first tour of Malaya, Holsworthy and then the second tour of Malaya.

This equated to 17 years in the Battalion in one stretch, from formation through to many significant wars. According to the article, Chad retired after 20 years, during the second tour of Malaya, and returned to Brisbane. He comes from Moorooka and was born in Kilcoy.

Chad never married and his next of kin was listed as his sister T.G. Barker of 283 Henson Road, Salisbury. He features in 2/15 Battalion as a volunteer for the 66 Bn, which became 2RAR in the book *Let Enemies Beware*. If you have any information, please contact Jason via 2RAR. Museum@gmail.com or 0419 749 198.

WAR MEDAL OF PTE MCLEAN

A 1939-1945 War Medal has been handed in to the Gympie Veterans Service Centre and they would like to return the medal to the family. The details: QX31781, PTE McLean GY. Please contact memorabilia officer GJ (Wuzzy) Alford via mrbo@gympiersla.com.au or 07 5483 7707.

REUNIONS

HMAS NIRIMBA REUNION

The January and July 1964 intakes to HMAS *Nirimba* will be holding a 60th year reunion in May 2024 in the Hunter Valley, NSW. Anyone from those intakes interested in attending should contact either Glen Friedrich via 0407 917 827 or glenfriedrich924@gmail.com or Keith Chay via 0447 169 610 or kchay@bigpond.net.au.

LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Andersen	Bevan	1/704403	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Andrew	Ronald	1/718509	Gatton Sub Branch Inc.
Austin	Douglas	163604	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Ballantyne*	Robert	23487569	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Bellamy	Dawn	F38037	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Berry	Brian	35814	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Beynon	Russell	217495	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch Inc.
Bishop	Albert	429302	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Blandford	John	39717	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Blundell*	David	R46099	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Bohn	Terence	172770	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Bray	Albert	45608	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Briggs	John	1473670	Toowong Sub Branch
Brogden	David	314066	Tin Can Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Brown	Donald	1/717680	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Browning	Malcolm	168601	Mt Larcom Sub Branch
Bruce*	Keith	RM4739	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Bryant	Mervyn	QX59420 (Q148644)	Barcaldine Sub Branch Inc.
Burke	Brian	2787274	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Burke*	Daniel	13765	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Burnett	Noel	4149363	Beaudesert Sub Branch Inc.
Byrne	Kevin	1202372	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Cachia	Peter	1410862	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Cameron	Donald	6321	Bray Park-Strathpine Sub Branch Inc.
Carter	Colin	434100	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Chipman	John	63503	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Churches	Neil	N52376	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Cislawski	Harold	1731411	Nanango Sub Branch Inc.
Clewley	Rodney	582004	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Cockroft	Eril	R57841	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Collins	Joseph	431807	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Collins	Diane	N14615	Warwick Sub Branch Inc.
Collins	Stewart	R67194	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Connell	Ronald	2221935	Warwick Sub Branch Inc.
Cook	Dave	14292	Mudjimba Sub Branch Inc.
Cowan	Peter	53419/5709988	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Crang	Leslie	1/717232	Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.
Creber	Ronald	446272	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Cridge	Gordon	13807	Tin Can Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Crollick	D Beaudes	1204977	St George Sub Branch Inc.
Cromar	Harold	38615	Gracemere & District Sub Branch Inc.
Cullen	David	18307	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Cunningham	George	24217901	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Dachs	K	176506	Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.
Darlington	John	16983	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Davis	Robert	2135371	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Dawson	Edward	QX37541	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Devlin	Theo	329591	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Dipell	Neville	214306	Mapleton Sub Branch Inc.
Dishot	Ian	227826	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Dobbin*	Douglas	1734454	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Dodds*	George	32531	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Douglas	Marie	F2/512	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Dwyer	Alison	W15732	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Earley	Neil	47402	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Edwards	Daryl	3/609639	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
Elliott	Edward	QX34866/11663	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Evans	Evan	1/706253	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Eveans	Thomas	13932	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Fairclough	Brian	22883589	Mudjimba Sub Branch Inc.
Fairweather	Michael	127761	Manly-Lota Sub Branch Inc.
Farrow	Brian	05333	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch Inc.
Fisher	Colin	A114779	Beaudesert Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Fox	Robert	15974	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Fritz	William	1/713236	Esk Sub Branch Inc.
Froggatt	Dennis	22852890	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Frugniet	Hylton	5411149	Canungra Sub Branch Inc.
Fuller	Raymond	QX63927	Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch Inc.
Gagino	Alexander	W2774	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Ganly	Michael	1203161	Herbert River Sub Branch Inc.
Garside	Kevin	A56494	Murgon Sub Branch Inc.
Gees	Jim	Q9473	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Geoghegan	John	2793464	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Gillooly	Terence	D675766	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Gittins	Donald	2531172	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Golden	Anthony	1/725934	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Goodell*	John	RA1373057	Toowong Sub Branch
Graham	Kenneth	2785296	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Grant*	Colin	1/703177	Jandowae Sub Branch
Hadlow	Margaret	VF345415	Kawana Waters Sub Branch Inc.
Hall	Noel	34887	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Hammond	Ian	2775742	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Hartigan	John	A112387	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Hartwell	Rayney	625093	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Harvison	Margaret	273394	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.

LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Hastings	Neville	1730813	Mundubbera Sub Branch Inc.
Hayes	Michael	A21736	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Haylock*	Raymond	3/710989	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Hayward	Maxwell	138380	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Heitkonig	John	-	Dalby Sub Branch Inc.
Hicks*	Ronald	2/7582	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Hjortshoj	Colin	R128850/ 8074707	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Hoepper	James	A19526	Kawana Waters Sub Branch Inc.
Hopcraft	Margaret	F25129	Defence Service Nurses Sub Branch
House	Kenneth	234775775	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Houstein	Hilton	438135	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Hutton	Archibald	A111338	Agnes Water/1770 Sub Branch Inc.
Huxtable	John	V180377	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Jacobs	Leslie	R50710	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Jelley	Keith	217151	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Jelley	Keith	219962	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Jeppesen	Mark	112410	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Jessop	Keith	R29702	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Johnstone	Ronald	R64409	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Kaatz	Patrick	124494	Boonah Sub Branch
Kamp	Wallis	R54679	Tin Can Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Keenan	David	A43145	Toowoomba Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Kelly	Stuart	227122	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Kelso	Norman	QX62607	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Kinne	Raymond	1715458	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Knight	James	16860	Sunnybank Sub Branch Inc.
Kropp	Doris	AF142815	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Kyle-Little	Lloyd	1/45041	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Lancelott*	Derek	R64845	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Larking*	Michael	22705846	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Lowe	Cyrus	A113350	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
MacKenzie	Colin	D/ JX363306	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Maitland	Andrew	045766	Cooktown Sub Branch Inc.
Maloney*	Thomas	A5356	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Manning	Barbara	F15014	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Manning	Royston	23270782	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Marsh	Anthony	-	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Mattson	Mervyn	A221487	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
McClements	James	QX35626 (Q122323)	Unattached List
McConnell	John	3052118	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
McDowall	Wayne	R93552	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
McLeod	Sydney	1/5801- 1201143	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
McMahon*	Bernard	1/701272	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.

Queensland RSL News has published this list at the request of RSL members. Queensland RSL News takes no responsibility for inaccuracies outside the control of RSL Queensland. This list was correct as at 1 November 2023. Surnames flagged with an asterisk (*) have an unconfirmed 'date of death'.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Meers	Stanley	163352	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Milde	Ernest	417593	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Mills	Robert	138882	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Milward	John	A325151	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Mitchell	Les	112144	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Moffitt	Malcolm	A19502	Chinchilla Sub Branch Inc.
Morris	William	141143	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Murray	James	445174	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Nabbs	Reginald	5717792	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Neville	Raymond	23607392	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Newman*	Gary	1738556	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Nicholls	Neville	R38446	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Nielsen	William	26361	Mareeba Sub Branch Inc.
Norton	Raymund	R37182	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Inc.
Nugent	Brian	1708713	Clifton Sub Branch Inc.
O'Connell	Brian	1204059	Samford Sub Branch Inc.
O'Keefe*	Kevin	QX44285	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
O'Leary	Brian	R49176	Harlaxton Sub Branch Inc.
Parrott	Charles	VX6586	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Parsons	Frederick	19032310	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Peel	David	122317	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Petersen	Anson	43774	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Pinney	Bruce	29193	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Platt	Gary	R57414	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Politch	Desmond	A112921	Toowoomba Sub Branch Inc.
Pump	Brian	3/773506	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Rance	Robin	2205666	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Raumer	Stephen	1/705694	Gordonvale Sub Branch Inc.
Rennie (nee Tindle)	Reneth	NF465145	Gemfields Sub Branch Inc.
Robson	Paul	A213189	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Rodgers	Clifford	A117612	Gin Gin Sub Branch Inc.
Roy*	Agnes	L85952	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Russ	Robert	212522	Tin Can Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Ryan	Lawrence	175806	Centenary Suburbs Sub Branch Inc.
Salmon	Mark	NSM07120	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Sargent	Gerald	3108461	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch Inc.
Schuurs	Roy	1703437	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Selby	Philip	R94560	Gemfields Sub Branch Inc.
Service	Robert	1200605	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Shanks	Jean-Leon	R279354	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Shapcott	James	175023	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch Inc.
Sharpe	Neil	A115884	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.

LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Shelley	William	2782962	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Short	Linda	99359	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Leonard	242871	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Gavin	A111867	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Carlton	16536	Beaudesert Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Greagh	A230823	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Harry	6776	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Lloyd	134519	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Smith*	Ronald	Q148097	Goodna Sub Branch Inc.
Smith*	Stanley	431135	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Sokoluk	Wladyslaw	17808	Darra & District Sub Branch Inc.
Staunton	Lindsay	3/7818910	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Steele	Kevin	15653	Tin Can Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Stein	John	133854	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Inc.
Stewart*	Keith	126371	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Strohfeltdt	Colin	A123421	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Stuart	Margaret	WR2881	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Taylor	Boyd	1735261	Mudjimba Sub Branch Inc.
Taylor	Mervin	14798	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Toll	Graeme	3/778343	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Traill	Glen	2788933	Tin Can Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Trevethan	Valentine	013894	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Tubbenhauer	Anthony	402895	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Turner*	John	Q151575	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Vanquaethem	Andre	84/05643	Logan Village Sub Branch
Venables	Edgar	1733409	Herbert River Sub Branch Inc.
Vernon	Donald	1/707431	Clifton Sub Branch Inc.
Waley	Brian	PM8456	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Wallace	William	VX500295	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Ward	Donald	15716	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Ward*	Haydn	4028961	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Watters	Robin	224428	Mossman Sub Branch Inc.
Weale	John	A227601	Agnes Water/1770 Sub Branch Inc.
Webb	Graham	1/3622	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Wedge	Henry	VX94678	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Whittle	Andrew	R118024/ 8064529	Glasshouse Country Sub Branch Inc.
Whyte	Alexander	14990634	Kawana Waters Sub Branch Inc.
Wilding	James	R50744	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Willis	William	43984	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Wilson	Andrew	181456	Bray Park-Strathpine Sub Branch Inc.
Wilson	Audrey	NF463855	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Wood*	Joan	1874	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Wright	Alan	A122607	Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.



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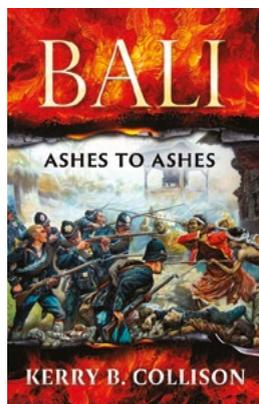
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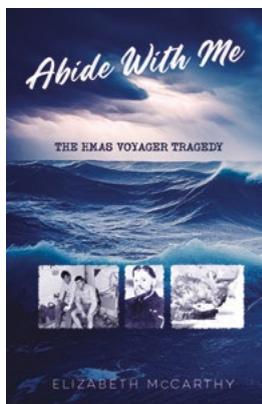
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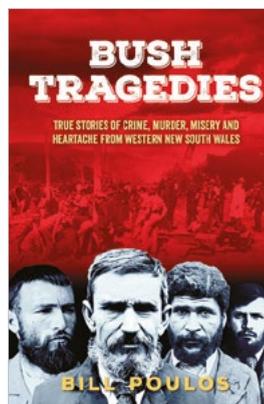
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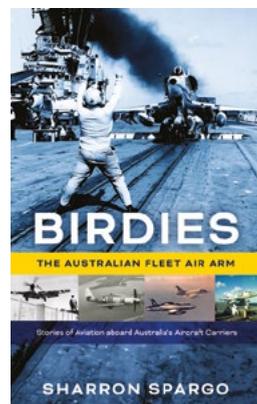
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 In 1904, the *Sri Kumala*, a Chinese schooner became wrecked off Sanur in Bali. Claiming the vessel had been sacked by the Balinese, the Dutch attack recorded in history as the brutal Puputan Wars, was to change Bali and its culture forever. Entire kingdoms perished as wave upon wave of the island's inhabitants committed suicide. European artists become entrenched, integrating with the Balinese. Their stories of surviving the Dutch invasion, then the Japanese and the brutal 1965 slaughter of more than eighty-thousand Balinese, reveals an unspoken image of Bali, The Island of the Gods.



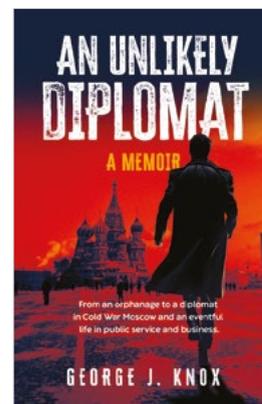
ISBN: 978-1-922958-51-8
 This book is the most comprehensive study ever undertaken of the peacetime naval tragedy that occurred 10 February 1964 in Jervis Bay NSW 60 years ago. H MAS *Melbourne* and HMAS *Voyager* were exercising in Jervis Bay NSW, a collision took place that resulted in the loss of 82 lives from *Voyager*. Despite two Royal Commissions the reason for the collision has never been known. The powers that be are shown to have tampered with evidence, withheld vital information and allowed bullying of witnesses at the first inquiry. The aim of this book and its study of the HMAS *Voyager* disaster is to restore the story of the tragedy and the individuals involved to their true place in history; a living vindication and a symbol of our Australian democracy.



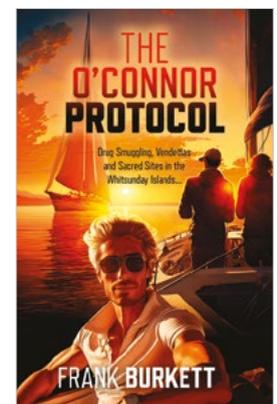
ISBN: 978-1-922958-40-2
 Award-winning journalist Bill Poulos delves deep into Australia's turbulent and lawless past with this collection of stories recalling crimes, murders and tragedies that once made headlines. His detailed research takes the reader into townships, settlements and the wide-open spaces of the outback where there is no escape from the shocking and often brutal events he vividly recreates. *Bush Tragedies* throws a light on shocking events that occurred far from the big cities – tragedies that disrupted and divided tight knit communities. This rollicking time capsule brings to life the truly appalling crimes and tragedies that horrified a nation all those years ago. It can be a tragic world out there in the bush . . .



ISBN: 978-1-922958-47-1
 Quiet achievers in the most dangerous workplace in the world... They are the 'Birdies' – the proud members of a unique fighting force unknown to the majority of Australians whose land and lives they have long protected. Officially known as the Australian Fleet Air Arm, they have operated as an aviation component of the Royal Australian Navy since 1947; quiet achievers in the most dangerous workplace in the world. Their "airfields" are the decks of purpose built aircraft carriers, landing strips pitching and rolling in deep blue water. This fascinating book places these quiet achievers, the Birdies, in their rightful place in Australia's naval and aviation history.



ISBN: 978-1-922958-21-1
 WARD OF THE STATE – AIR FORCE – BRITISH NUCLEAR TESTS VETERAN – COLD WAR DIPLOMAT – BUSINESS
 This is a true-life story told by a man who believes that despite his start in life he succeeded in reaching the almost impossible goals he set for himself. There is much to interest the reader: Domestic and child abuse – Ward of the state – Orphanages – RAAF service, British nuclear tests at Maralinga, Office of the Air Attaché, Washington, DC, USA; and Foreign Service at embassies in Moscow, USSR in the '60s and again in the '70s, at Santiago de Chile, and the Consulate-General in Chicago, USA, and Business. The author spent his formative years in orphanages run by the Christian Brothers in Western Australia.



ISBN: 978-1-922958-18-1
 The protocol saved Tom's ancestor. Will it now save him?
 The year is 1990, and for twenty-something Tom O'Connor, life is good. Descended from a family of Queensland pioneers, he runs a newspaper at Airlie Beach. Success and women come his way easily. But that is soon to change. An 1860s incident, in which an Aboriginal woman was killed, has surfaced to haunt the O'Connor family. Tom's ancestor should have been investigated over her death but was saved by his magistrate brother. This dubious act invoked the O'Connor Protocol – a family tradition that obliges an O'Connor to protect his sibling. Generations later, land-developer Todd Steele, whose descendant took the blame for the crime, intends squaring the account.



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