

# QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS

## BROTHERS AND BOOKS

ONE SERVICEMAN'S QUEST  
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OF READING IN AUSTRALIA



## KEEPING THE ANZAC SPIRIT ALIVE

GENERATIONS OF  
QUEENSLANDERS  
CAME TOGETHER  
TO COMMEMORATE  
ANZAC DAY

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST  
ANNUAL CELEBRATION  
OF VOLUNTEERING



**RSL**  
Queensland

2024 // EDITION 02

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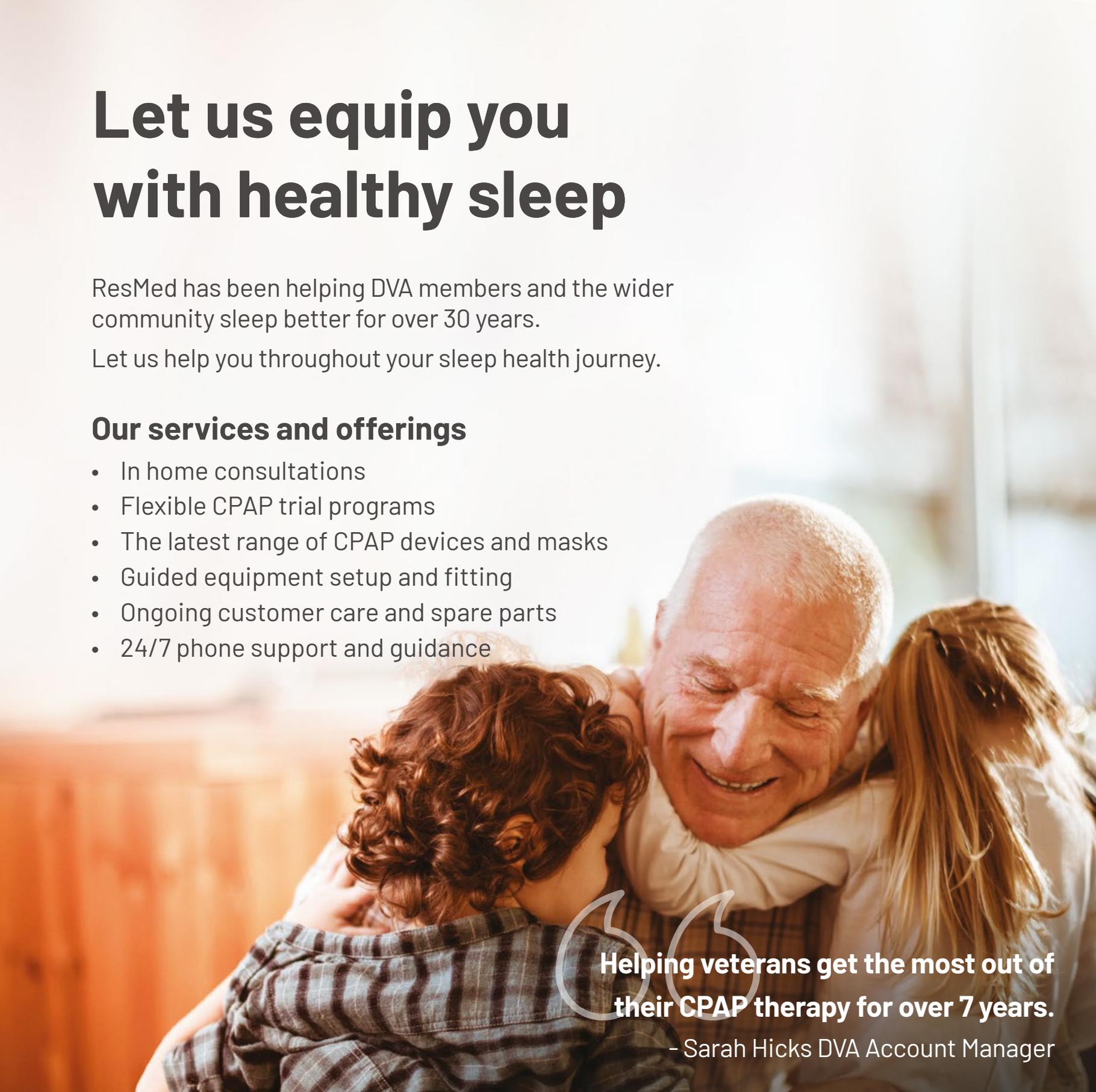
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### Front Cover

Kooralbyn RSL Sub Branch President Brian McInnis, right, with Kooralbyn International School student and trumpeter Typhoon le Garde at the Kooralbyn ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

# Coming together in the name of mateship

**ANZAC DAY** has always been a day of profound significance for our nation. Though the level of involvement, both from veterans and the community, has fluctuated over ANZAC Day's 108-year history, the extent of involvement today is extraordinary.

This did not occur by accident. The role that members, Sub Branches, Districts and State Branch have played over many years – and in particular the warm embrace of our communities – has set the conditions for the strength of support we see today.

The Governor of Queensland, Premier of Queensland and the Chief Justice of Queensland's Representative passed on their thanks and gratitude to RSL Queensland for our organisation of ANZAC Day commemorations.

As we gathered on ANZAC Day, the mateship and selflessness that underpins military service was a welcome reminder to our communities of the importance of those qualities.

Whether you were a parent taking your child to their first ANZAC Day service, a grandparent sharing tales of service with your grandkids, or a friend reminiscing on memories shared with someone you served with, ANZAC Day was – as it must be – a day to ensure the service and sacrifices of our veterans are never forgotten.

“ *As we gathered on ANZAC Day, the mateship and selflessness that underpins military service was a welcome reminder to our communities of the importance of those qualities.* ”

## **THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS: TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER**

This 20 to 26 May marked the 35th annual National Volunteer Week. At RSL Queensland, it was a chance for us to pause and celebrate the efforts of our volunteers around the state.

Without them, we could not support nearly as many veterans and their families as we do each day. I extend my deepest gratitude to all who give their time. Thank you for your continued service to your community and for providing camaraderie to those who need it most.

Whether it's organising poppy services, selling badges on ANZAC Day, cooking burgers at a local Sub Branch barbecue or visiting those in hospital, our volunteers' efforts – big or small – never go unnoticed. We are lucky to have a network of thousands of passionate people who give up their time to help others and I am immensely proud of the work you do every day.

The theme for this year was 'Something for Everyone,'

which recognises the diverse passions and talents of volunteers and the myriad of rewarding opportunities available through volunteering.

RSL Queensland is rich in stories about those who have turned to volunteering, while also using their unique skills to support others. You can read some of these stories on page 36.

Together we are better, and together our volunteers make communities across Queensland that much brighter. On behalf of everyone at RSL Queensland, thank you.

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW STATE SECRETARY**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new State Secretary Iain Carty CSM. The role of the State Secretary is to engage with and support members at a grassroots level, while also working with elected members to improve culture, standards, support and governance across the League.

When accepting the role, Iain saw an opportunity to continue to serve differently, maintain his connection with veterans and work in an organisation committed to improving the lives of veterans, members and their families.

He previously served 32 years as an officer in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and retired from full-time service on 31 March 2023 – coincidentally the RAAF's 102nd birthday. His last appointment was as the Senior ADF Officer at RAAF Base Amberley, from 2020 to 2022.

Iain's operational service included INTERFET East Timor, Iraq and the Middle East. Over the course of his military career, he has been awarded several medals and citations, most notably the Conspicuous Service Medal.

I'm sure you will enjoy meeting Iain as he engages with members around the state, if you haven't already done so.



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

# Lest We Forget



Arrives in a handsome presentation case with a Certificate of Authenticity

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# Focusing on *camaraderie*

**AS** you read this edition of *Queensland RSL News*, and for those attending our State Congress in June, you'll notice a strong focus on 'camaraderie.'

Camaraderie is a key pillar of our 2030 Strategy and a critical function of the League. This is thanks to the good work of Sub Branch members who provide support to their local communities around the state daily.

I suspect we all understand the many benefits of camaraderie. It's the sense of belonging and unity we generally enjoy as part of service, but also find beneficial as we navigate post-service life. And it's vital we acknowledge the role our volunteers play in fostering camaraderie throughout our communities.

You may have noticed an increase in the number of stories shared about our members across the state. Our Marketing and Communications Team has been busy working with many of you to showcase your stories.

There are two main reasons for this approach. First, it helps potential members understand the work of our Sub Branches and the many benefits of joining our ranks. Second, we know how proud you are of the work you do in the League and it's important for the public to understand that it's our volunteers on the ground who make RSL Queensland such a great organisation.

In this edition you'll read some incredible stories

“ I suspect we all understand the many benefits of camaraderie. It's the sense of belonging and unity we generally enjoy as part of service, but also find beneficial as we navigate post-service life. ”

about our hard-working Sub Branches. I urge you to look through the ANZAC Day wrap-up and see how Sub Branches around Queensland commemorated the day, how a wellbeing advocate from Kawana Waters transformed a veteran's life, and how regional support services are being strengthened in Gladstone.

#### **ART UNION ENABLES LIFE-CHANGING MOMENTS**

While our commercial operations navigate the challenges of the economy and consumer sentiment, we continue to invest in the future of our RSL Art Union. Our goal is to ensure it remains sustainable in supporting our 2030 Strategy and continues to remain as the market leader.

You may have noticed the RSL Art Union continues to bring large and exciting prizes to market that differentiate it from its competitors. This is key for our loyal customers, who are seeking life-changing outcomes when

they buy tickets in our prize home draws.

While our focus is on supporting veterans and their families, it's also heartwarming to see our lucky Art Union prize winners' lives change. I was honoured to make the call to our recent winner of AU413 – a \$4.4 million Sunshine Coast beach home.

The winner was a VIP Club member from Inverell Shire in NSW who has been inspired to support RSL Queensland for 15 years due to his brother's military service. He was a salt of the earth gentleman who already does a lot for his local community, and someone truly deserving of such an amazing prize.

#### **DEFENCE AND VETERAN SUICIDE REPORT**

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, which ran for more than two years, has now wrapped up. The Royal Commission is due to hand down its final report and recommendations in early September.

I had the privilege of being present at the final hearing block in Sydney in March. It was a valuable opportunity to engage with others in the community who have an interest in the inquiry and its outcomes.

We'll continue to monitor what the findings could mean for RSL Queensland. This includes whether we are already leading the way in some of the focus areas in the expected recommendations and where we can offer greater impact for veterans and their families in the future.

#### **RUN ARMY GROWS**

Finally, I want to touch on Run Army. Although in the formative years, it's generating growing interest. Events in both Brisbane and Townsville were well supported by veterans, families and members of the public.

We are proud to support Run Army as it promotes health and wellbeing across our veteran community and connects veterans and the general public for such a positive cause.

I look forward to connecting with many of you at the State Congress in June.



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



# Services supporting the Sunshine Coast veteran and Defence community

From advocacy and emergency financial support to social connection activities, you'll find free, specialist support for veterans and their families from RSL Queensland, Mates4Mates and the RSL Sunshine Coast and Regional District – all in one place.

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& Family**  
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# MAIL BOX

## PROUD FATHER MOMENT

I was so excited to receive the latest edition of *RSL News* featuring the sculpture of Sister Greta. I was at the ceremony because my son was the architect, Cam Crossley. It was a great article and congratulations to all concerned.

I am a 91-year-old ex-National Serviceman from 1951, first intake. I was wondering if another copy of the magazine could be sent to me so that I could present it to him?

**John Crossley**  
**Peregian Springs**

**Note from the Editor:** *Thanks for your great feedback, John, and congratulations! We would be happy to send you out an additional copy of the magazine.*

### CORRECTION

In *Queensland RSL News* Ed 1 2024 a photograph within the Mateship section (page 81) was incorrectly labelled. The photo was submitted by Wondai RSL Sub Branch member David Scrimgeour. It should have referred to David's grandfather (not father), whose name is Sydney Molen (service number 2932).

# NEWS

## RSL QUEENSLAND RECEIVES \$5.445 MILLION TO DELIVER WELLBEING CENTRE FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN IPSWICH





**A VETERAN & Family Wellbeing Centre** is set to be established in Ipswich, with RSL Queensland receiving a \$5.445 million funding boost in March 2024 for the Centre.

The investment from the Department of Veterans' Affairs will allow for the expansion of services and support in the region and comes after RSL Queensland was awarded a grant to develop a business case for a centre in Ipswich last year. The Centre will be delivered in partnership with Mates4Mates, GO2Health and RSL Moreton District.

RSL Queensland Deputy CEO Veteran Services Troy Watson says the investment is crucial to supporting the more than 14,000 current and ex-serving Defence members and their families in the Ipswich area.

"We recognise that Ipswich is home to a large population of current and ex-serving

members and their families with RAAF Base Amberley nearby, and we're looking forward to delivering a Centre that will allow us to expand our services and support for the veteran and Defence community in the region," Troy says.

RSL Moreton District President Paul Rogers says the Centre will support the local veteran community with services the Ipswich veteran population needs most.

"This isn't just about expanding our services – it is also about offering a centralised location that brings support for local veterans together in one place," Paul says. ←

**PICTURED LEFT:** RSL Moreton District Vice President Ross Wadsworth CSM, centre, chats with Ipswich RSL Sub Branch Secretary Debbie Wadwell, left, and Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Matt Keogh MP.

## REMINDER: QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS CENTENARY

**A REMINDER** that *Queensland RSL News* is preparing for the magazine's 100th anniversary in 2025. The first official edition (Vol. 1 – No. 1) was published on 15 April 1925 under the name *The Queensland Digger*.

We know *Queensland RSL News* is much beloved by our members and we want you to feel part of this milestone. We will officially begin celebrations in Ed 1 2025, but in the lead up to this edition we would love to hear from readers.

Do you have any special memories of the magazine over the years? Did you read any articles that were inspiring or even life-changing? Has it helped you reconnect with long-lost friends? Please email [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org) and let us know if you have any stories to share or ideas to help us celebrate this centenary. ←





## NEW MONUMENT HONOURING PAKISTAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN GALLIPOLI UNVEILED

**IN** January, the Pakistan Australian Heritage Society unveiled a new monument to honour the soldiers of the Pakistan Army (as part of the British Indian Army) who sacrificed their lives in the Gallipoli campaign. The ceremony saw the Pakistan Australia War Memorial

Monument unveiled in Roma Street Parklands by His Excellency Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, High Commissioner for Pakistan.

The monument, commissioned by the Pakistan Australian Heritage Society, pays tribute to the soldiers of the Pakistan Army

who served in the Gallipoli campaign alongside Australia and New Zealand in 1915.

It is the first memorial in the city to recognise service personnel solely from Pakistan who served in Gallipoli.

Among those who attended the unveiling were the

Naval Association, Pakistani community leaders, RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM, Senator Paul Scarr, Stirling Hinchliffe MP, James Martin MP, John-Paul Langbroek MP, Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP and Cr Angela Owens. ←

## NSW VETERAN EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS ENHANCED AS RSL LIFECARE PARTNERS WITH RSL QUEENSLAND

**TO** further enhance the employment prospects of veterans and their partners, RSL LifeCare Veteran Services announced its partnership with RSL Queensland to proudly deliver the award-winning RSL Employment Program in New South Wales.

The program, which was established by RSL Queensland in 2018, helps veterans and the partners of current and ex-serving Defence members who are looking for work – addressing the crucial need for guidance as veterans adapt their valuable skills to the civilian job market. ←



## LIFE MEMBER AND MERITORIOUS AWARDS

*Paul Scarborough*  
- PINE RIVERS RSL SUB BRANCH

**PINE** Rivers RSL Sub Branch member Paul Scarborough was recently recognised with Life Membership for close to 28 years of continuous service. Paul has held various Sub Branch positions since 2011 and volunteers his time to helping local veterans with

home tasks such as lawn mowing, tip runs and general maintenance.

He supports fundraising activities through badge selling, sausage sizzles and supporting raffles. A carpenter by trade, Paul often designs and manufactures items to raise funds for the Sub Branch.

He's an active member of the community and supports families with research, identifying medals when a veteran passes away, and medal mounting. Paul also presents at local schools and delivers tours of the Sub Branch's military history. 🇺🇲

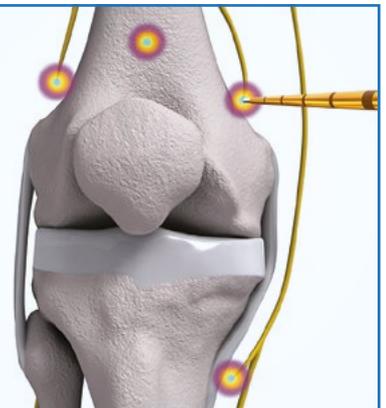
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# KEEPING THE ANZAC SPIRIT ALIVE

People of all ages paid their respects at the Brisbane ANZAC Day march, including children Jack, Lily, Felix and Florence.



**F**ew occasions bring our community together like ANZAC Day, and for the 108th year, the day saw people across the country unite to honour those who have bravely served – or continue to serve – our nation.

From poignant Dawn Services in outback towns to street marches in major cities, each commemoration paid due tribute to the ANZACs and all who have followed in their footsteps. It's through this tradition of shared pride and gratitude that we help keep the legacy of the ANZAC spirit alive.

The following pages highlight moments captured throughout ANZAC Day, showcasing the many ways in which Queenslanders commemorated.



# ANZAC Day *in pictures*



▲ The Anderson family pictured at the Brisbane march included Greta, Vernon, Eva, Harlan and Leland.



▼ Beachmere RSL Sub Branch ANZAC Day parade. Image courtesy of Anthaea Dance.



▲ Agnes Water/1770 RSL Sub Branch had 1,000 people attend the Dawn service and 800 people attend the main service. This year, the local community volunteered to raise funds to pay for the parade and 5,000 poppies for this display. This was the biggest community involvement the Sub Branch has ever seen.

▼ The Brisbane Pipe Band played during Banyo RSL Sub Branch's march and service. A good crowd attended the event, with many saying it was the best yet.



► This creative tribute to ANZAC Day was found on the side of the road just east of Beaudesert.



▲ Beerwah & District President John Nisbett was the speaker at the Sub Branch's commemoration at Turner Park. The weather was glorious, with a huge attendance of over 2,500 people.

▼ Horace Paul, the last remaining WWII veteran in Bowen, attended the event with his family.



▲ Current serving members Clayton Toward and Samson Bryant in Brisbane CBD.



▲ A heartwarming act of mateship and community spirit was displayed during the Ipswich RSL Sub Branch march, when one of the jeeps carrying veterans (including Matthew Rennie OAM) stopped due to mechanical issues. Four men came out of the crowd and pushed the jeep down the street so those in the car could continue in the parade. Apparently, the driver told the men “Just push it to the side” but one of the men replied “No sir, you’re going the journey”.

▶ Veterans and citizens of Caloundra gather at the Kings Beach Amphitheatre for the ANZAC Day Dawn Service 2024.



▲ Bulimba District RSL Sub Branch President Brian Daley and his wife Barb spoke to children at a Balmoral child care centre and accepted a floral wreath created by them for ANZAC Day. The wreath was laid alongside many others at the Bulimba Memorial.



◀ Rebecca Floss and Danka Jackson pay their respects at the Brisbane ANZAC Day service.

▼ Pictured on ANZAC Day are (back row, left to right) Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch Secretary Brent Willoughby, Vietnam veteran Ray Briese and Mark Berkovich, (front row) a member of the community and Vietnam veteran John Sullivan.



▲ Layken and Willow Burnie attended Currumbin RSL Sub Branch's Dawn Service to remember their great grandfather Ross Stevenson, who served in the Vietnam War.



▲ School students lay a wreath at the Dulacca ANZAC Day service. Photo submitted by Miles RSL Sub Branch.



▲ Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch President Greg Watt.

▼ Two fathers and two sons at the Emerald RSL Sub Branch ANZAC Day service at Capella, left to right, Ben Williamson (son), Nic Williamson (father), Emerald RSL Sub Branch President Noel Mallyon (father) and Glenn Mallyon (son).





▲ The crowd at the Gaythorne RSL Sub Branch service.

▼ Helidon RSL Sub Branch ANZAC Day march.



▲ Forest Lake & Districts RSL Sub Branch dusk service at the Animal Memorial at the Dogs Queensland Showgrounds, with veterans, family members and their assistance dogs. NTS Vengeance Navy Cadets assisted the Sub Branch at this service.



▲ Gympie Troop Train leaving Gympie Station for Amamoor in the Mary Valley. Photo courtesy of Gympie RSL Sub Branch member Tanya Easterby.



▲ Aircraft flyover during the Pine Rivers RSL Sub Branch march in Kallangur.



▲ Vietnam veterans at the Kooralbyn ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

▼ Thanks to RSL Queensland and the Federal Member for Hinkler, the Hon. Keith Pitt, three Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch members were presented with a WWII Medallion after the ANZAC Day service by Sub Branch committee member Vic Jackson. Alan Williams (pictured) will turn 101 on 16 June and served in Papua New Guinea during WWII. Alan is known within his community as an absolute gentleman and community advocate. Ken Hayden (who was involved in the D-Day landings) and Stanley Hanna (who helped bring Australian POWs back from Papua New Guinea) also received medallions.



▲ Veterans and community members gather at the Kooralbyn RSL Sub Branch Dawn Service.





▲ A Maleny RSL Sub Branch member chats with Member for Glass House Andrew Powell MP during a memorial service at Witta Cemetery. During the service, attendees were asked to disperse throughout the cemetery to stand next to a grave marked with a military white cross. This takes place during the Ode, Last Post, minute silence and Reveille. Laminated cards were handed out as people came into the cemetery. Each was researched and written by a dedicated Maleny RSL Sub Branch volunteer and provided a glimpse into the life and service of a veteran. The project is still in progress, and more biographies will be written for the 2025 ANZAC Day service.



▲ Mary Penfold (far right), guest speaker at the Meandarra/Glenmorgan RSL Sub Branch main service, and her three granddaughters Jemima, Matilda and Bonnie Penfold sharing their family's history of service in WWI, WWII and Vietnam. Photo by Kate McDonald

▼ Wes Rose, Chris Shepherd, Millie McGrath and Mackay RSL Sub Branch President Ken Higgins OAM with a bell forged from Allied shell casings used in the Vietnam War. Won in an auction to raise funds for Vietnamese children in need, the bell formed a special feature of Mackay's ANZAC Day services. See more in the story on page 33.



▼ PIB-PIR marchers form up on George Street, Brisbane in front of their banner. Pictured are Ian Ogston, Kev Horton, Consul-General of Papua New Guinea Reatau Maraki Rau, Greg Ivey, Phil Adam, John Worthington, Terry Edwsmith and David Lamberton. Photo courtesy of Ian Ogston.



▲ Marian RSL Sub Branch President and Mackay Wests Rugby League Club football committee member John Edwards presents Afghanisthan veteran Andrew Dunkley with his jersey for the Rugby League Mackay and District's ANZAC Day commemorative game between Wests and Souths on 27 April. Sadly, Mackay Wests had their ANZAC Day jerseys stolen two weeks prior to the game. RSL Queensland paid for new jerseys to be printed and they arrived just in time. Wests won the game 23-16. One of the jerseys will be auctioned at a later date to raise money to support veterans.





▲ Mossman RSL Sub Branch members, ADV Cape Fourcroy crew, veterans, ADF members and invited guests enjoyed a gunfire breakfast at the Sub Branch meeting hall following the Port Douglas Dawn Service.



▼ Mount Perry RSL Sub Branch members and visitors marching on ANZAC Day.



▲ Mounted flagbearers led marchers at Mt Molloy's ANZAC Day march.



◀ 99-year-young WWII veteran Eric Geldard OAM flanked by guest speaker Lieutenant Fiona Jones from the Australian Army Educational Corps and Western Downs Regional Councillor Kylie Bourne at Miles RSL Sub Branch's ANZAC Day service.



► The National Servicemen's RSL Sub Branch Dawn Service in Norman Park included live performances from a didgeridoo player (pictured) and the National Servicemen's Band.



▲ Oakey RSL Sub Branch marked ANZAC Day with a Dawn Service, citizen service, march, gunfire breakfast and two-up – all of which attracted large numbers. Pictured (L to R) are Sonya Steinmuller, former Oakey RSL Sub Branch President Trevor Steinmuller, outgoing Oakey RSL Sub Branch President Christopher Markham, and Western Districts and Oakey Sub Branch committee member John Warren.



▲ Coomera Clubhouse Childcare Centre's Director and some of the Centre's children prepare to lay their handmade wreath at the ANZAC Day service in Upper Coomera.



▲ Attending the 2024 Premier's Anzac Prize welcome home event were (L-R back row), RSL Queensland State President, MAJGEN Stephen Day DSC AM, Prize recipients Bryna van Stom, Grace Roberts, Elann Malot, Jacqueline Loh, Bronte Fleming, (L-R front row) Katie Somerville, Sophie Robertson, the Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice, Hon Di Farmer MP, Prize recipient Eloise Brown and the Assistant Minister for Education and Youth Justice, Ms Corrine McMillan MP.



▲ Large crowds turned out for Redcliffe's ANZAC Day services, which this year paid special acknowledgement to those who served in the Malayan Emergency. Pictured are Defence cadet flag bearers in front of Moreton Bay.





SCAN TO WATCH VIDEO

▲ Runners gather in Brisbane at the start of the Run Army event, held on 21 April. RSL Queensland was proud to be a major sponsor of the event, showing support for the Army and ADF's commitment to resilience, health and wellbeing. Run Army featured a 10km and 5km walk/run event in Brisbane and Townsville, or the virtual event anywhere around Australia and the world. In 2024, the event joined forces with Queensland's Police, Fire and Ambulance services to create one super-sized community event.

▼ Vietnam veterans St George RSL Sub Branch Secretary/Treasurer Terry Salmon, President John Chapman, members Ken Petfield and Rod Cassidy, and guest speaker Meandarra/Glenmorgan RSL Sub Branch President Philip Murray (left to right) pictured after St George's 11am service.



▲ RSL Queensland staff member Kristian Buckland and Amber Andrews following the Run Army event.



▲ Young and old, current/ex-serving and civilian alike attended Samford's ANZAC Day commemorations.



▼ Stanthorpe's Dawn Service and street parade were strongly supported by local and visiting veterans, schools, community groups and the general public. The 11th Light Horse Darling Downs Troop (pictured) led the street march. Photo by Sandra McEwan Photography.



▲ A member of the Australian Army Cadets during the Samford ANZAC Day service.

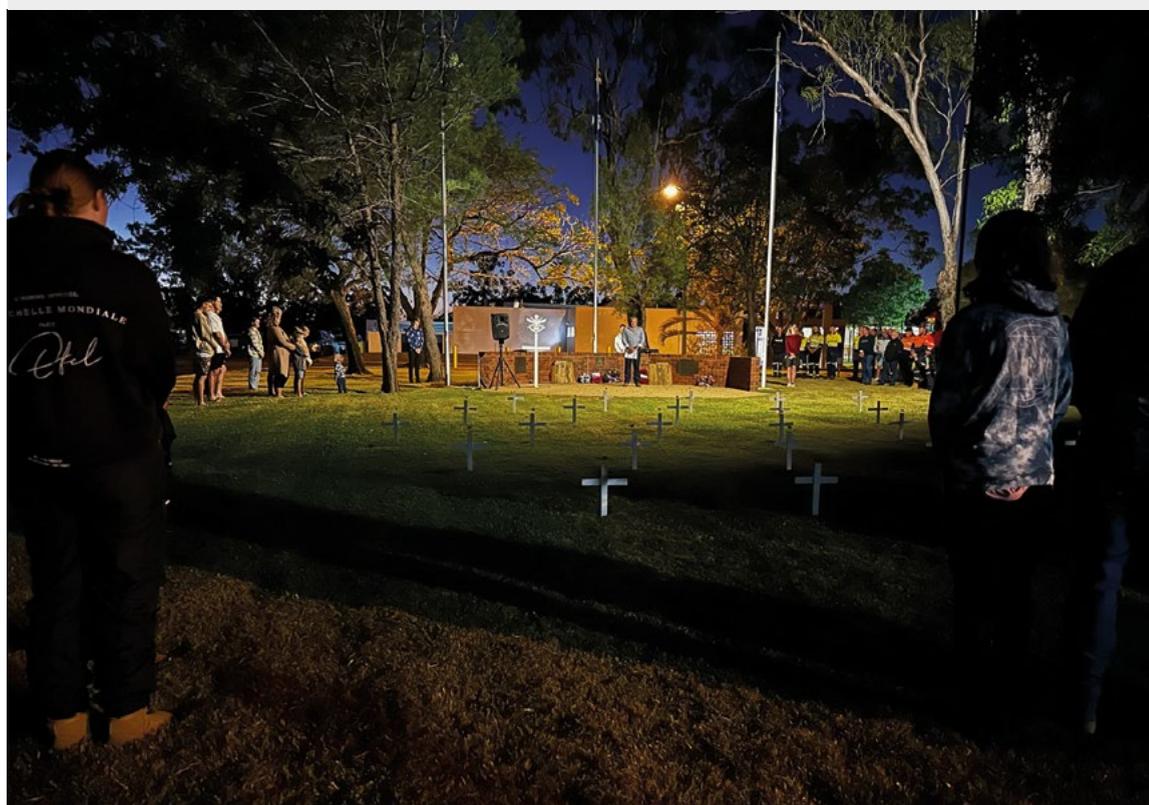
▼ Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch held three events on ANZAC Day – a Dawn Service, street parade and community service – that were all well attended by the local community. Pictured are cadets from TS Gayundah.



▲ 100-year-old Ida Jackson attended the 11am Warwick community ANZAC Day parade and service before joining other veterans at Club Warwick RSL for lunch.

Ida joined the Army shortly after her 19th birthday and served in an anti-aircraft unit in Brisbane and as a telephonist in Toowoomba until she was discharged on 21 September 1945

▼ Attendees observe a moment of reflection at the Dawn Service in Tieri.





▲ 1RAR Band bugler Corporal David Willis plays the Last Post at The Strand Dawn Service in Townsville. Photo by Troy Rodgers.



▲ Woodgate Beach RSL Sub Branch's commemorative service was attended by more than 400 residents and visitors. Among them were (pictured) guest speaker, RSL Queensland State Deputy President Wendy Taylor; Woodgate RSL Sub Branch President Lex McKay; SGT Kevin Lammi; catafalque party members; and LT Scholz from 9RQR Bundaberg.

▼ Crowds of attendees at The Strand Dawn Service in Townsville. Photo by Troy Rodgers.



# Thanks to our generous partners

*With the support of many generous partners, RSL Queensland was again able to share the ANZAC spirit with communities across the state.*



*“The spirit of the ANZACs is a fundamental part of the Australian ethos; reaching out to provide a helping hand to those in need, standing up for what is right, and the solemn promise to never leave a mate behind. Thanks to our many partners we were able to once again bring this message to all Australians.”*

**BUILDING** on the success of previous years, some of Queensland's most iconic sporting teams and some of Australia's biggest outdoor signage companies partnered with the RSL to help spread the word about ANZAC Day.

“The spirit of the ANZACs is a fundamental part of the Australian ethos; reaching out to provide a helping hand to those in need, standing up for what is right, and the solemn promise to never leave a mate behind. This day serves as an opportunity to reflect on our roots, come together as veterans and the community and remember those who have fallen,” RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM says.

“Thanks to our many partners we were able to once again share this message with all Australians.”

**OMA AND RSL JOIN FORCES**

The Outdoor Media Association (OMA) and RSL partnered for the fifth consecutive year, with the RSL's campaign – That's the ANZAC spirit – broadcast across the national outdoor media

network of OMA members leading up to and on 25 April. This included billboards, bus stops and shopping centre signage.

Strong supporters of the RSL's national commemorative campaigns, the OMA and its members have generously donated more than \$25.6 million to date in advertising space for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

**GOLD COAST SUNS (AFL)**

The Gold Coast SUNS once again collaborated with RSL Queensland to help acknowledge the contribution of our service personnel. The club created a 2024 ANZAC guernsey worn during the Round 7 ANZAC Round match against West Coast at People First Stadium on 28 April.

The SUNS guernsey featured a silhouette of ANZAC soldiers walking at sunrise along with the 2024 ANZAC badge and the words “Lest we Forget” on the back. It was also adorned with yellow wattle and a sprig of rosemary closest to the heart.

Gold Coast SUNS co-captain Touk Miller says the players are always proud to represent the club in the ANZAC Round.

“ANZAC Day is a big day in our country and is a really important day to remember and reflect,” Miller says.

Following the match, an auction was held for the match-worn guernseys, with a portion of proceeds donated to RSL Queensland and the 2024 ANZAC Appeal.

**DOLPHINS (NRL)**

The Dolphins National Rugby League team showed its support for ANZAC Day during their match against the Newcastle Knights on 28 April. RSL Queensland members formed a guard of honour and Sandgate RSL Sub Branch ran the 50:50 fundraising, generating over \$11,000 for their Sub Branch.

Meanwhile, MAJGEN Day was honoured to read the Ode prior to the start of the match.

**QUEENSLAND REDS (RUGBY UNION)**

To round out the football codes, Forest Lake RSL Sub Branch was invited to operate the 50:50 charity fundraising at the Queensland Reds rugby union match against the Auckland Blues on 27 April, delivering more than \$5,000 in much needed funds for their Sub Branch. ←



A bugler played the Last Post and RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM read the Ode prior to the Dolphins NRL match against the Knights on 28 April.



**INSET:** Gold Coast SUNS AFL Captain Touk Miller (second from left) wears the club's 2024 ANZAC guernsey. He is pictured with (left to right) Gold Coast SUNS AFLW player and Army Reservist Private Jordan Membrey and veterans Tyson Pearce and Cherisa Pearce.



**LEFT:** Pictured in front of an ANZAC Day campaign advertisement were (left to right) QMS Queensland State Sales Manager Geoff Noonan, Assistant Minister for Justice and Veterans' Affairs (QLD) Jimmy Sullivan MP, Outdoor Media Association CEO Elizabeth McIntyre, and RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM.

# Sun Rising

*The ANZAC traits of endurance and mateship are ways of life for Jordan Membrey – AFLW player, schoolteacher and Army Reservist.*

 **Belinda Crossman**

*“I’ve been involved in a few ANZAC matches that have fallen within the week of ANZAC Day, but never on the day itself. And to be able to do it alongside these other inspiring women that serve was pretty special and unique.”*

**GOLD** Coast Suns player Jordan Membrey doesn’t just rise to challenges. She pursues them.

When she’s not playing elite football, or teaching at a local high school, she’s serving part-time in the Australian Army.

“I joined the Reserves to challenge and reward myself, grow mentally and physically, and do something different that you can’t do in civilian world,” Jordan says.

#### **PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF**

A few football injuries put Jordan’s dream of joining the Army on hold – but she refused to give up.

“Around 10 years ago, I attempted to enlist, but I’d hurt my shoulder with footy, so I had a few setbacks,” she recalls.

“But I was determined to join. I

went through rehab, got MRIs and made sure that I was rock solid to say, ‘No, I’m ready to go, I’m fit and firing’”

After successfully joining the Reserves, Jordan marched out of Kapooka in November 2020 – just before a pre-season game for her then club, the Collingwood Magpies.

“I was very grateful that Collingwood supported me to attend my training for Kapooka because it crossed over the AFLW season,” she says.

“They were super supportive of me being able to start my Army career, and likewise Defence was very supportive of my football career.”

#### **JUGGLING THREE CAREERS**

Since then, Jordan has successfully juggled three careers, managing

training commitments, injuries and interstate moves along the way.

After playing for the Magpies, serving with the 4th/19th Prince of Wales’ Light Horse Regiment and teaching at a school in Melbourne, Jordan returned to her hometown to join the Gold Coast Suns.

“I’ve been at the Suns for the last two years, and it’s honestly been one of the best experiences I’ve had. I’m very grateful for the opportunities that I’ve had within the football environment,” she says.

Jordan also coaches AFL at a sports excellence school – a job she describes as “a dream” – and serves as a Cavalry Trooper with the 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers Regiment in Caboolture.

“I’ve only been there for the start of this year and I’m enjoying it very much. We’re about to go on a field



I've ever been a part of".

"One of the best things about Army is the camaraderie, and then to bring it to an AFL environment

and combine the two, it's quite unique and special. To have those people support you in your life and to be there, it's really hard to articulate that feeling and that mateship."

**PROUD TO WEAR THE UNIFORM**

On ANZAC Day, Jordan joined the ADF All Stars team in Canberra, coaching the side in a match against the New South Wales Police team, the Blue Heelers.

"I've been involved in a few ANZAC matches that have fallen within the week of ANZAC Day, but

never on the day itself. And to be able to do it alongside these other inspiring women that serve was pretty special and unique."

Jordan also attended the Australian War Memorial Dawn Service and visited the local RSL Sub Branch, where she "played some two-up and shared some stories" with her teammates ahead of the game.

"ANZAC Day is a special, powerful, emotional day – to reflect on those that have made the ultimate sacrifice, fought, never returned the same, to allow us to have our freedom and live the way we do," Jordan says.

"It's also a day when I look at all the inspiring members around me and those serving full time, and the families whose loved ones have served to protect our nation.

"I'm really proud to wear the uniform, to have the Rising Sun (Army badge) on my chest and thank those who continually make sacrifices for our country." ←

**LEFT:**

Jordan joined the Reserves to challenge and reward herself, grow mentally and physically, and do something different from that which can be done in the civilian world.

**BELOW:**

Jordan joined the Gold Coast SUNS two years ago, and says it's been one of the best experiences of her life.

exercise next weekend, and I'm really looking forward to getting to know my unit more."

Despite Jordan's packed schedule, she enjoys being "busy and on the go".

"I love a challenge, and I think I thrive off trying to fit it all in," she says. "I'm very lucky to have the support to be able to do what I do. There's definitely opportunities to be in the Defence Force in any way, shape or form if you're looking to go down that path."

**LEADERSHIP, CONFIDENCE, RESILIENCE AND MATESHIP**

For all its demands, Jordan's Army career has yielded many rewards.

"Defence is absolutely a challenge both physically and mentally. I think you grow as a person in that you build your peer learning, but also traits like leadership, confidence and resilience that you get from the Army have enhanced me as a person in a footy environment, in a teaching environment, and in my life in general," she says.

Like sport, Defence has also given Jordan lifelong friendships. Whether she's in uniform or her football guernsey, she knows her team is right behind her.

"You have your teammates there that'll go onto the field with you and have your back. That mateship is pretty special, and I think it's quite hard to find anywhere else."

For Jordan, this is most apparent in the ADF and Army AFL clubs – "two of the most special teams that



# Keeping the ANZAC spirit alive in Barcaldine

*In the small outback town of Barcaldine, community is everything. This is how locals show their support on ANZAC Day.*

*Courtesy Adams*

## THE GARDEN CITY OF THE WEST

Barcaldine – affectionately known as Queensland’s ‘Garden City of the West’ – is an outback town home to approximately 1,500 people. Barcaldine RSL Sub Branch has been running since 1929.

Jake Ardrey, a member of Barcaldine RSL Sub Branch, was posted to Barcaldine three years ago as a police officer. He served for about seven years in the regular Australian Army and later in the Reserve military police.

“What’s special about Barcaldine is that as a small outback town, our community is everything. Our Sub Branch is made up of about 40 veterans and non-service members, but there are also non-members who support us in many different ways. We are very grateful for them.”

Mark Wren, a Barcaldine local who plays for the Sandgoannas Rugby League Club, also considers Barcaldine to be a

*“It’s important that our club gets behind the RSL Sub Branch each year to include our young people and show respect to the returned and ongoing service men and women.”*

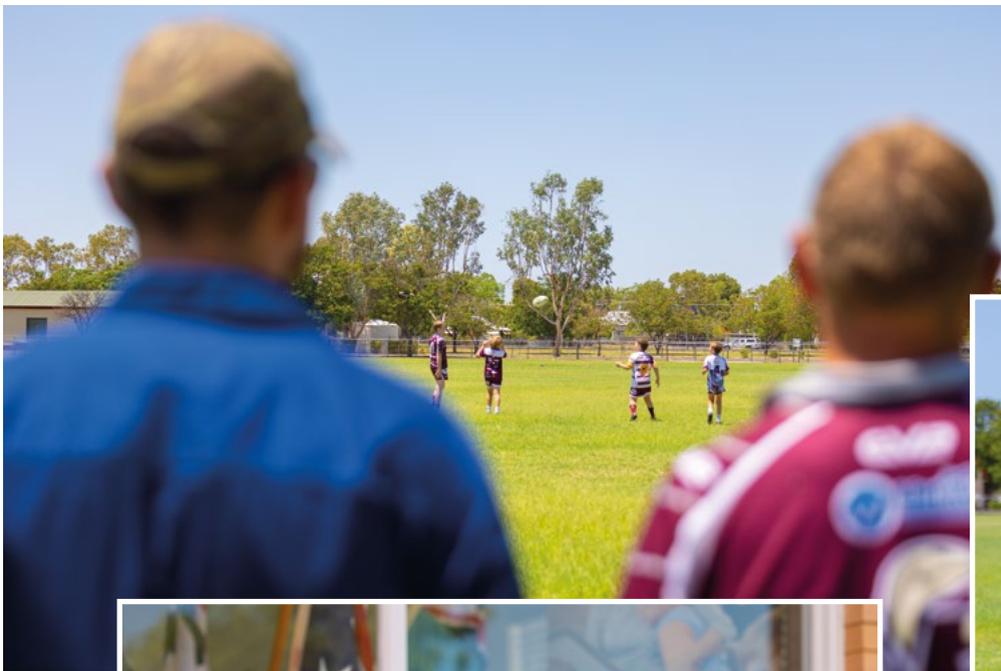


special place. The close-knit community culture has led him to volunteer his time for the RSL Sub Branch on numerous occasions.

“My family moved here about 20 years ago from Rockhampton, and everyone has been really

welcoming. It’s nice to have that in our community spirit and small-town friendships,” Mark says.

“It’s good to know that people here have your back. The community is always willing to help out in any way they can, and



all the clubs and small community groups get behind each other.”

**COMMEMORATING THROUGH MATESHIP**

By playing an active role in the town, Barcaldine RSL Sub Branch has forged strong ties with local schools, sports teams and community groups. These groups often provide support to the RSL Sub Branch for major events such as ANZAC Day.

“Mateship in a small town is very important because we are so isolated; it’s only us here within a hundred kilometres. Generally, any community event that the town holds will be supported,” Jake says. “ANZAC Day is important to me and has always been a big thing for my family,” Mark adds. “I was always taught to respect this time of year and the diggers, so I find it rewarding to help the RSL.”

In addition to the Dawn Service, Barcaldine’s ANZAC Day events usually include a gunfire breakfast, march, service and Sub

Branch members’ luncheon. With assistance from groups such as the Sandgoannas, ANZAC Day 2024 was a great success.

“The Barcaldine Sandgoannas have helped out on ANZAC Day for the last few years and have done a fantastic job and are very supportive,” Jake says.

“A lot of our players always want to be involved to pay their respects. Over the years, it’s always been something we put into our calendar,” Mark explains.

“We like to help out where we can. The Sandgoannas get involved by attending the Dawn Service, cooking a barbecue for the gunfire breakfast, and doing a march between our seniors and juniors.”

**SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY**

From Mark’s viewpoint, coming together to commemorate and honour veterans is vitally important for the Barcaldine community.

“It’s important that our club gets behind the RSL Sub Branch each year to include our young people and show respect to the returned and ongoing service men and women,” Mark says.

For Jake, he believes community engagement is the best way to emulate the ANZAC spirit.

“If you’re looking to expand your role within the community, I’d suggest engaging with different community groups,” he says. “Go to their events and support them to let them know you’re behind them if they need any assistance.” ←

**ABOVE LEFT:** Barcaldine RSL Sub Branch member Jake Ardrey and Barcaldine Sandgoannas player Mark Wren watch young football players practice.

**ABOVE:** Barcaldine Sandgoannas players.

**LEFT:** Barcaldine RSL Sub Branch member Jake Ardrey.

ANZAC

*Postcards  
of Honour*

# 20,000 school kids pay tribute to veterans

*For the second year running, children across the state paid personal tribute to veterans through RSL Queensland's Postcards of Honour initiative.*

**MORE** than 20,000 students – twice as many as last year – from 270 Queensland schools took part in this year's Postcards of Honour initiative to learn about ANZAC Day and write/decorate unique postcards recognising past and present Defence members for their service.

RSL Sub Branch volunteers were instrumental in bringing the activity to life, visiting and presenting to classrooms across the state, then displaying or distributing the postcards to veterans for ANZAC Day.

"We worked with five schools in our footprint area this year and were thrilled to be a part of it for a second year," Runaway Bay RSL Sub Branch School Liaison Officer Kerry Owen says.

"It's enlightening to talk to the teachers and students. The children come up and ask you questions about the medals or what you did; it's just great."

RSL New South Wales will run a special version of Postcards of Honour ahead of the inaugural Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) commemoration on 11 July, honouring Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel who served in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2001 and 2021. ↵



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** A current serving member of the Australian Defence Force speaks to students at Garbutt State School; Postcards created by Pacific Paradise State School students; West Moreton Anglican College participated in Postcards of Honour; Southern Cross Catholic College students with their postcards; Townsville Grammar School's 2024 Defence Leaders Dylan Price and Liam Clements visited their local Bolton Clarke Aged Care home to hand deliver postcards to veteran residents.

# National Volunteer Week

*National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering. Marked from 20-26 May in 2024, this year's theme was 'Something for Everyone'.*

## RAVENSHOE RESIDENT ENCOURAGES GIVING BACK THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

**W**orking full-time doesn't stop Jodie Bocking from dedicating time to her community.

The Ravenshoe local has been volunteering for Ravenshoe RSL Sub Branch for the past 10 years.

Sub Branch members appreciate Jodie's generosity and time, and the organisation describes her as bright and outgoing, saying her convivial personality is admired by all.



**RIGHT:** Jodie Bocking, left, has been volunteering her time to support veterans at Ravenshoe RSL Sub Branch for the past 10 years.



**SCAN TO READ MORE STORIES ABOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Beginning as the last President of the Ravenshoe Citizens' Auxillary, then transitioning to a non-League Director on the Sub Branch Board, Jodie says her multiple volunteer responsibilities over the years have been gratifying.

"It feels effortless and I enjoy it. Seeing how much individuals

appreciate and benefit from the support is just very rewarding," Jodie says.

"I really encourage individuals to volunteer for the RSL, especially younger people, because they will help support the next generation of veterans. Not only is it enjoyable, but you are giving back to people who have given so much to us."

### **FROM GREAT IDEAS TO COFFEE CHATS WITH VETERANS**

Jodie contributes to discussions around purchases and other important decisions at monthly Sub Branch meetings.

"I have put forward different ideas – such as implementing





**ABOVE:** Volunteer Jodie Bocking, right, stays busy with weekly coffee chats with veterans, and helps the Sub Branch with catering for community events and wakes for members and non-members.

a new catering fridge, lighting and renovations to the kitchen – which have all been voted in and implemented by the Sub Branch,” Jodie explains.

“I also expressed thoughts around increasing safety and risk assessment, especially as members continue to age. Small things like handrails go a long way.”

Jodie stays busy with weekly coffee chats with veterans, and helps the Sub Branch with catering for community events and wakes for members and non-members.

Her work doesn’t stop there. Throughout the year, Jodie supports commemorative ceremonies by selling merchandise and raffle tickets, which helps the Sub Branch host its services.

On the day of a commemoration, Jodie assists with catering, hands out poppies and reads a poem during the service if needed.

“I began volunteering for the Sub Branch because I was looking for ways to help out in the community and I believe the organisation does great work for our local veterans,” Jodie says.

“I also have a personal connection to the organisation. My grandfather served in World War II and another one of my relatives served in the Vietnam War.”

**JODIE’S VOLUNTEER PROJECT: NEVER FORGET WWII SITES**

In addition to her normal duties, Jodie has been working on an ongoing project with the Sub Branch for the past year called Never Forget WWII Sites.

“Myself and Kelvin Groves, a veteran and Sub Branch member, initiated the idea last year. We wanted to create a map to highlight all the WWII military activity in the area,” Jodie explains.

“There are several WWII military sights in and around Ravenshoe and we want to showcase them for the community and tourists to learn more about war history in the town.”

After discovering that the project would be too large to manage on their own, the pair approached a company to start the process of creating a mobile app, which will include a detailed map and the history of each site. From there, QR codes will be installed at each

site so visitors can conveniently connect to the app and learn from their phones.

“It’s been in the works for over a year, but I can’t wait to see the project come together – it’s very exciting. We have created a written proposal with the goal of receiving some government funding to help support the project,” Jodie says.

Jodie is also grateful for support from RSL Far Northern District and the community. Ravenshoe Council, members of parliament and Queensland National Parks have also submitted letters to the government in an effort to progress the project along.

At 52 years of age, Jodie looks forward to volunteering with the Sub Branch for years to come. Her efforts have been celebrated in 2024, with Ravenshoe RSL Sub Branch awarding her an Australia Day Medallion for resolute and outstanding service. ←

**LEARN MORE:** National Volunteer Week shines a light on the ways volunteering brings us all together, builds community and achieves vital work across Australia. Find your local RSL Sub Branch and become a member of RSL Queensland, or learn about other volunteering opportunities at [volunteeringqld.org.au](http://volunteeringqld.org.au).

# DECADES OF GENEROSITY



**W**hile National Volunteer Week was officially marked from 20-26 May this year, for Carol

Orr, volunteering is something she naturally does year-round. The 76-year-old veteran has been helping out in her community in various capacities for 33 years, with 25 of those as a volunteer and member of Redcliffe RSL Sub Branch.

From providing wellbeing and advocacy support to veterans, to assisting with the coordination of commemorative events, the former Royal Australian Air Force Clerk Administration loves giving back to her community.

"It's just so nice to help people when they need it. Putting a smile on their face makes me feel worthy and gives me so much satisfaction," Carol says.

"My husband and I served, and I really enjoyed my time in the Air Force because of the friendships I made. I think volunteering for the Sub Branch has a similar sense of that camaraderie. We understand each other's needs and how to talk to one another."

Carol volunteers in the wellbeing and advocacy space through the Sub Branch's Vic Reading Wellbeing and Compensation Centre. Her responsibilities include visiting veterans across 10 nursing homes in Redcliffe, making trips to Redcliffe Hospital and Peninsula Private Hospital, as well as conducting at-home visits for individuals who are ageing but still reside in their homes.

"A lot of Redcliffe RSL Sub Branch members are getting older and need our help, so we want them to know we are here for them and care," Carol says.

"In addition to visits, I also provide transportation services to doctors' appointments, support individuals following medical procedures, assist with understanding important documentation and forms, and support veterans experiencing homelessness."

Carol is a certified advocate through the Department of Veterans' Affairs and says the Advocacy Training and Development Program equipped her with valuable education and tools for her volunteer work.

"Part of my volunteering now includes training individuals to become wellbeing volunteers. I bring them along with me and show them how to interact with others. It's great to see people flourish and become a part of it, developing a passion for volunteering in the advocacy space," Carol explains.

Carol also organises key commemorative services throughout the year as a part of

the subcommittee. She coordinates the participation of stakeholders, including various ex-service organisations, 20 Explosive Ordnance Disposal units, and local police.

"On the day of a commemorative service, I assist with the wreath table and hand them out to each dignitary," Carol says.

Carol also organises poppy services for veterans who have passed away.

"We have sadly lost around 30 ex-service women, and I have been involved in helping at almost all those services. These services are very sad, but it's a privilege of mine to honour these individuals," Carol says.

Also serving as President of both the Royal Australian Air Force Association and Redcliffe and District Ex-Service Women's Club, Carol says, despite her age, she has no intention of slowing down any time soon.

"I really love what I do in the volunteer space, and I think it has such a positive impact. A lot people need help and I see the many benefits from our support." ←

*"I really love what I do in the volunteer space, and I think it has such a positive impact. A lot people need help and I see the many benefits from our support."*



# WEAPONS OF WAR REBORN AS *forces for good*

*A unique piece of Vietnam War history will be auctioned on 18 August to support the children of Nui Dat.*

**F**or decades, remnants of war have littered the old battlefields around Nui Dat, Vietnam.

But thanks to a former Australian Army soldier, many have been salvaged and repurposed to change local families' lives.

For several years, Jason Fenech – the man behind Diggers Rest (not related to the veterans' retreat of the same name) – has voluntarily, and singlehandedly, maintained the Long Tan cross memorial in Vietnam, a place he describes as “beyond sacred”.

“There are only two foreign memorials in Vietnam: the French one up north and the cross at Long Tan. As Australians, we are so lucky to have that,” he says.

“The cross was originally raised to remember those who died in the Battle of Long Tan, but now it's the point of commemoration for

everyone – Australians, Kiwis that served with us, plus the Vietnamese.

“That's why I clean it every day – for the veterans and families who visit.

## **A NEW CALL OF DUTY**

Born and raised near Ipswich, Jason spent 18 years in the Army, joining the Reserves at 17, being promoted to Sergeant, then opting to “drop three stripes” to serve with the Regular Army in East Timor.

Medically discharged in his mid-30s, Jason didn't have it easy after Defence – but a trip to Vietnam in 2012 called him to a new duty.

“I went there as a tourist just to see the Long Tan cross,” he says. “Soon after I sold or gave away everything in Australia to move to Vietnam to tell the ANZAC story, because there was nothing there.”

As well as caretaking the memorial, Jason recovered a heap

of war memorabilia around Nui Dat that became a (now closed) museum detailing that untold ANZAC story. He also arranged to have old Allied shell casings reforged into fundraising keepsakes such as cross, heart, and dog tag pendants.

All donations and sales he's collected have gone straight towards maintaining the memorial or supporting local children and families in need.

“I keep nothing; it all goes back to the kids,” Jason says. “This school year we paid school fees for 88 children. They all received a stationery pack and then we prepared and delivered 100 Christmas presents and 100 lunar new year gifts. We deliver food parcels to a few families weekly and to some children daily.

“What I do here around Nui Dat is my therapy. It's giving me something to do. I feel like I'm



**INSET:** Jason, pictured at the Mackay Vietnam War Memorial, holding the bell won at auction by Mackay RSL Sub Branch in 2023.

doing something in return for my pension, and it needs to be done."

### FROM BULLETS TO BELLS

A bell spotted on the Thai-Burma Railway inspired Jason's latest fundraising initiative: three solid brass bells made from Allied shell casings reclaimed in Vietnam.

But despite their sombre origins, there's also the warm, light sentiment of an old digger behind them.

"Every Army unit has a boozier, and every boozier has to have a bell," Jason explains with a smile.

Like the keepsake pendants, the three bells were hand-forged by a Vietnamese metalsmith in Ba Ria: two using shells found around Nui Dat, and one – to be auctioned on Vietnam Veterans' Day (18 August) 2024 – using shells from the Long Tan battlefield and surrounds.

"Whatever is made from the auction will go towards keeping children in school," Jason says.

The first bell went under the hammer on 18 August 2023, with Mackay RSL Sub Branch placing the winning bid: \$2,700 raised through raffles, fundraising and a personal donation from Jason's friend Chris Shepherd.

"We were very, very passionate about getting that first bell," Sub Branch President Ken Higgins OAM says.





friend Chris to hand-deliver donated school supplies to the kids in Nui Dat.

"The alliance between Mackay Sub Branch veterans, Jason and his good work over there will be ongoing and we'll make sure we continue to support him – not just with money, but also supplies for the kids," Ken says.

"It's so great that we've got a direct association with Nui Dat 50 years on from when we were over there. To be able to give back some sense into the stupidity of war in that wonderful country, it just makes us feel a lot better about it.

"I served in infantry and got ambushed, wounded in action, airlifted out and all the rest, and I never had any dislike for the Vietnamese people. They were wonderful soldiers and they were doing their job as we were doing ours.

"But here we are 50-plus years on; we're still talking, we're friends with them and we're giving back to

those beautiful young kids over there."

**A WORLD OF CHANGE**

Welfare benefits don't exist in Vietnam, so every cent Jason raises goes a long way. The stories of those he's helped are just too many to share.

"A year ago, we were delivering weekly food parcels to the kids at school. The principal said, 'Can you go and help this family?'. The dad had just died. He was the family's only source of income, and one of the children was going to have to leave school to work to support them," Jason says.

"Now, both children are still in school. We deliver them weekly food parcels and we pay for their utilities. That's just from a handful of generous people on my little Facebook page that love helping; they make donations, or they buy trinkets. It's incredible.

"It is so touching that people in Australia appreciate and support what I do and trust me enough to do it.

"We can't change the world, but we can change their world." ←

"Being a Vietnam veteran who served in that area – and a Delta 6R boy to boot – I thought how fantastic it would be to have such an iconic piece of history from the Vietnam War, from a battlefield that our boys served in, with all the money going to support children in the area where we served."

**GIVING BACK TO VIETNAM**

Conscripted in his early 20s, Ken says the bell is deeply symbolic and therapeutic to him and his Vietnam veteran mates, in a sense embodying their shared past and enduring connection.

"We are so proud to have it," he says. "It's not just a piece of metal; it's a piece of history. To be able to say, 'I actually walked on the ground where these shells were picked up. I could well have fired some of those rounds along with my mates.' So, here it is now in Mackay where we can look, tell the stories, reminisce, be passionate about what we did and didn't do, and be respectful of where it came from."

Ken says his Sub Branch is proud to continue supporting Jason's work, teaming with Jason's

**PICTURED:** As well as helping to maintain the Long Tan cross memorial, all the money Jason raises supports Vietnamese children and families in need.



**AUCTION DETAILS:** Bidding on the second bell is open until 3:40pm Long Tan time (6:40pm EST) on 18 August 2024. All funds from the winning bid will go towards school fees and supplies for children in the Nui Dat area. The third (and final bell) is for sale. To place a bid or learn more, please visit [facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064814795936](https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064814795936)

# VETERAN SUPPORT NETWORK EXPANDS TO THE SUNSHINE COAST

*Veterans and members of the Defence community on the Sunshine Coast have access to further support, thanks to the opening of the latest RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre.*



veteran and Defence community could access support," Troy says.

According to 2021 Census data, 8% of the veteran population in Queensland lives on the Sunshine Coast. It remains one of the top five locations for veterans to live in the state.

"This Centre symbolises RSL Queensland's commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the veteran community and improving collaboration across the ex-service organisation community and veteran sector, while delivering a diverse range of health and wellbeing services," Troy says.

"This Centre aligns with the services we are already providing at our existing Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centres in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville, as well as the Northern Territory and Tasmania with Mates4Mates."

**LOCATED** in Maroochydore, this Centre is the fourth from RSL Queensland delivering holistic support tailored to veterans, Defence members and their families.

RSL Queensland, Mates4Mates and the RSL Sunshine Coast and Regional District will operate from the new Centre, providing a single source outlet for specialised services – including DVA advocacy, emergency financial support, and wellness and social connection activities.

## **A KEY REGION FOR VETERANS**

RSL Queensland Deputy CEO – Veteran Services Troy Watson says the Centre represents RSL Queensland's major long-term investment in the veteran and Defence community on the Sunshine Coast.

"Queensland has the largest population of current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members, and it was vital that we extended the support and established a space where the

## **MATES4MATES BUILDS ON MORE THAN FIVE YEARS OF SUPPORT**

Mates4Mates South East Queensland Regional Manager Laura Duckworth says the Centre demonstrates their commitment to the veteran and Defence community on the Sunshine Coast.

"Mates4Mates has been providing outreach services to the Sunshine Coast community



for more than five years; we know there is a need for our services here," Laura says.

"We are excited to now have a permanent space within the Sunshine Coast Centre to provide veterans and their family members with access to more services, more often."

#### A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

RSL Sunshine Coast and Regional District President Grendell 'Skip' Antony is looking forward to connecting with more local veterans and their families as they attend the Centre. "The Centre offers veterans and their families across the region a centralised location where they can access the services and support they need all in one place," Skip says.

"Veterans throughout the Sunshine Coast, from Caloundra to Cooroy, will now have greater access to support with all three organisations, allowing us to build on our collective impact across the region."

The Centre also received assistance in the form of a \$1.8 million grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, which was awarded to RSL Queensland at the end of last year.



#### OFFICIAL OPENING

The Centre was officially opened on 12 March by RSL Queensland State President and Chairman of Mates4Mates Major General Stephen Day DSC AM.

Guests from RSL Sub Branches across the Sunshine Coast and Regional District, along with representatives from state and federal government, joined RSL Queensland, Mates4Mates and the RSL Sunshine Coast and Regional District to open the Centre. ←



#### ABOVE:

Jenny and Bob Patterson from Woodford RSL Sub Branch.

#### ABOVE LEFT:

RSL Sunshine Coast and Regional District President Grendell 'Skip' Antony.

#### LEFT:

Pictured at the official opening (left to right) Member for Fisher Andrew Wallace MP, RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM, Mates4Mates South East Queensland Regional Manager Laura Duckworth, RSL Sunshine Coast and Regional District President Grendell 'Skip' Antony and Member for Maroochydore Fiona Simpson MP.

#### BELOW LEFT:

RSL Queensland Compensation Advocate T/L1 Julie Bell.



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# A \$4.4 MILLION SUNSHINE COAST BEACH HOME

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our VIP Club Member John\* from the Inverell Shire in NSW, who was grateful when we told him he'd won RSL Art Union Draw 413: a \$4.4 million Sunshine Coast beach home.

He was humbled when RSL Queensland CEO Rob Skoda gave him a call.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR JOHN?

A \$4.4 million win means his beachfront dreams have just come true. He can now

appreciate the simple joys in life – breathing in the sea air while gazing across the uninterrupted views of Pumicestone Passage.

John can enjoy the best of old-school beach holidays with every modern luxury. Waking up to the sound of the sea and a golden sunrise. Enjoying a dip, casting a fishing line, or taking an early paddle, while keeping an eye out for dolphins.

But he does have a difficult yet wonderful decision to

make. Should he move into the ultimate Sunshine Coast beach house and live a relaxed, coastal life? Or put the home to work with an estimated rental income of \$78,000 a year?

Or convert the prize to cash and put this \$4.4 million prize home on the market? Might as well spend some time staring into the blue ocean views, to help make this decision!

"You beauty! That's super good news," John said.

"Thanks to RSL Queensland.

I really appreciate the men and women who have served!"

As a \$30 ticket book buyer, John also wins a bonus \$30,000 in gold. He is also our second VIP Club winner of 2024.

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

Many thanks to all who support RSL Art Union. Each ticket sold supports veterans and families.

*\*Name changed for privacy reasons.*

# MATES 4 MATES

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE  
FOR OUR DEFENCE COMMUNITY

## Our impact in 2023.

HIGHLIGHTING HOW OUR SERVICES SUPPORTED  
NEARLY 4,000 VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS.

+ **THE POWER OF A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.**  
ANNOUNCING OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH SLEEPY'S TO  
SUPPORT VETERAN HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

## Supporting the veteran community through gaming.

HOW GAMING PROVIDES A LIFELINE FOR VETERANS  
IMPACTED BY SERVICE.



# A message from Emma.

**In this edition of our Mates4Mates magazine, I'm delighted to share our impact from 2023 and how the services provided by our passionate team supported nearly 4,000 veterans and family members.**

It's an absolute privilege to have the opportunity to see first-hand the outcomes of our work and hear Mates' stories about how they've found mateship in our centres. On the following page we share a range of impact numbers from client connections that occurred in 2023. However, it's the connections we see being made at activities and programs across our locations that highlight the true benefits of our services.

As Mates4Mates continues to expand, the RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre was officially opened on the Sunshine Coast in March, co-located with Mates4Mates and the RSL Sunshine Coast and Regional District. This centralised health and wellbeing space will provide local veterans and families with greater access to services.

Also in March, we were pleased to receive the Australian Government's announcement that RSL Queensland, in partnership with Mates4Mates and GO2 Health, will be establishing a new Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre in Ipswich thanks to \$5.445m in funding from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. This commitment from the Government to ensure more veteran support services are available plays a vital role in the community and will allow Mates4Mates to expand on our existing Ipswich services, collaborating with other service providers to support veterans and families.

Partnerships like this, including those with our corporate partners who are dedicated to supporting current and ex-serving Defence Force personnel, allow Mates4Mates to meet the ever-increasing need for our services.

It's the support of the Defence community, fundraisers, donors and corporate partners that is critical to our work, and I want to thank everyone who helps us to make a difference in the lives of veterans and families impacted by service.

*Emma*

**Mates4Mates Chief Executive Officer**

## Make the call that makes the difference.

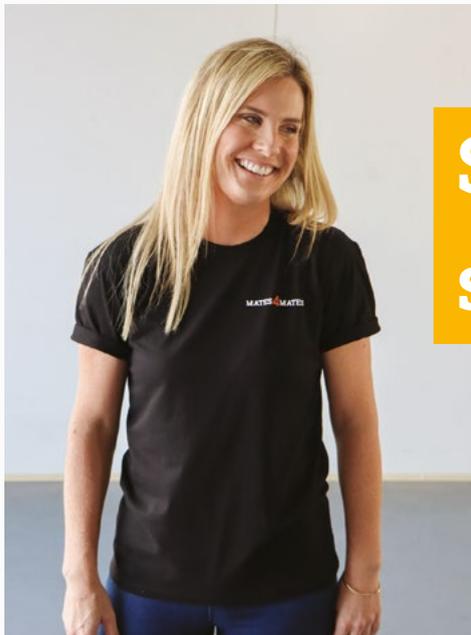
Contact Mates4Mates to find out about our services, how you can access support or get involved.

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

1300 4 MATES



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



# Shop your support.

**Every purchase supports veterans and their families.**

[mates4matesshop.org](https://mates4matesshop.org)

# OUR IMPACT IN 2023

At Mates4Mates, our holistic approach to providing support to veterans and families saw more people within the Defence community reconnect and recover in 2023.

Last year, more than 3,900 veterans and family members accessed Mates4Mates services through centres across Australia and online. This saw us provide more than 38,300 client connections: a 40% increase on the previous year. This included:

-  **6,800+** occasions of **physical rehabilitation and wellbeing services** designed to support the community.
-  **4,400+** occasions of **mental health and wellbeing services** delivered to veterans and families.
-  **3,100+** occasions of **Mates4Mates Skills for Recovery programs**, helping participants to develop skills and strategies to manage their health and wellbeing.
-  **23,900+** occasions of **social connection**, creating opportunities for veterans and families to build meaningful community connections.

Our team here at Mates4Mates are passionate about actively changing the lives of veterans, partners and families. We're pleased to share that more than 95% of clients in 2023 also reported they were 'very happy' or 'happy' with the services they received from Mates4Mates.

For more information about our impact and services, visit [mates4mates.org](https://mates4mates.org).

“Mates4Mates has given me a sense of purpose. It gets me out of bed every morning.”

**Chris\***  
Veteran, NT

“Mates4Mates is a positive space where there's so much for everyone; for me as a veteran, as a wife, and for my children.”

**Cassie\***  
Veteran, SEQ

*\*Names have been changed for privacy reasons.*



# Supporting the veteran community through gaming.

**Gaming is proving to be a lifeline for veterans experiencing the mental health impacts of military service. The Mates4Mates Brisbane team hosted our very first Gaming Expo in March, highlighting the power of connecting through gaming.**

Partnering with Veteran Gaming Australia for the expo, the Mates4Mates team welcomed more than 100 veterans and family members at the RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre in Stafford, North Brisbane.

Veterans and family members of all ages had the opportunity to experience and engage with a range of vendors and activities including VR, Dungeons & Dragons games, tabletop wargaming, Gundam workshop and miniature painting sessions, board games, 3D printing, and more.

Mates4Mates social connection activities play a key role in helping local veterans and family members find mateship and support within the community, which can be an important part of wellbeing and recovery.



Gaming as a form of social connection can increase feelings of self-worth and belonging by sharing common interests but also experiences.

Online social spaces created by gaming communities can offer veterans the mental health benefits of social connection in a less intimidating setting by removing the formality and stress that may come with accessing clinical services.

Engaging in activities like gaming that are extremely popular with the younger generation also offers veterans the chance to interact with their children in a meaningful way, connecting with their family from the comfort of their own home.

To hear about other social connection activities happening near you, visit the 'Events' page at [mates4mates.org](https://mates4mates.org).



# Students support ANZAC legacy.

**The eight student recipients of the 2024 Queensland Premier's Anzac Prize have made an incredible donation to Mates4Mates to give back to and support the Australian veteran community.**

Presented in a partnership between the Queensland Government and RSL Queensland, the Queensland Premier's Anzac Prize provides young Queenslanders with an opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of the ANZAC legacy.

As part of their prize activities, the students chose to raise funds and awareness for Mates4Mates to pay tribute to the sacrifice that Defence Force members have made for our country.

At Mates4Mates, we are incredibly honoured that **more than \$19,000** was raised by the students for veterans and families impacted by service. This was achieved through bake sales, food stalls, raffles and more.

In April, the students then travelled to important memorial sites along the Western Front of Europe to commemorate the sacrifice of Australian service people.

Speaking to Mates4Mates ahead of the tour, chaperone and teacher Courtney Walls shared the importance of this opportunity for the students.

"Participation in the tour provides these students with a profound understanding of the legacy of the ANZAC tradition and impresses upon them the responsibility of keeping this legacy alive and at the forefront of our minds," Ms Walls said.

**Scott has been accessing the support of Mates4Mates in Ipswich for just over a year.**

### **What's your favourite social connection activity?**

"At the moment it would have to be the Friday weekly walk around Queen's Park followed by a coffee catch up with Mates. It's good for both the body and the mind. But the activities I've gotten the most benefit out of would have to be the Four-Day Wellness Program.

It was great, and I made some great personal progress that really set the wheels in motion for helping my own wellness."

### **Why do you enjoy being a Mate?**

"Connecting with like-minded people who you can talk to without judgement, and you can talk to freely and know they will understand. It's a good group of people all around and it's also people who know what you're going through and have the information that can assist you."



## Meet a Mate.



# Managing external influences on your mental wellbeing.

*✍ Written by Jonathan Moscrop, Mates4Mates Psychologist*

**Our mental wellbeing, or our mental state, enables us to cope with the stresses of everyday life. There are many things in life that can impact our mental wellbeing in a positive or a negative way.**

**P**ositive mental wellbeing refers to a person's normal range of emotional, cognitive and behavioural functioning. It is expected that our emotions will fluctuate day-to-day in response to situational triggers; however, to maintain a 'positive' mental state, this fluctuation would remain within normal parameters or our 'window of tolerance'.

Being in a positive mental state can look different for everyone, but generally, positive mental wellbeing would mean the person can respond to situations with a proportionate and reasonable level of emotions.

For example, if you are running late to an appointment and feel slightly more anxious as a result, this would be an appropriate response to the situation. However, if you notice that you are becoming very anxious or showing signs of panic, this could be considered disproportionate.

If these responses to everyday situations are repeatedly different to your normal, are disproportionate in intensity, or last longer than what is reasonable, you may be experiencing negative mental wellbeing.

External influences are everything that occurs outside of ourselves or things we cannot control, including what's in the news, other people's choices, or other drivers on the road.

For many veterans, external influences can trigger complex emotions and certain behavioural responses. A common experience of external influences in the Defence community is interacting with civilians. This external influence of civilians with different societal beliefs can lead to feelings of isolation, frustration, and resentment.

As much as we might try, we cannot always avoid these external influences that trigger us. That is why it is important to learn which of these influences bring about negative responses and how we would like to respond instead.

Mates4Mates offers a range of mental health support services to veterans and family members, including appointments with psychologists, counsellors and social workers. If you are looking to explore what may be happening and why these external influences are providing a trigger for you, our clinical team is here to help.

To find out more about how Mates4Mates can support you, reach out on **1300 4 MATES (62 837)** for a confidential chat.

## Working through instant reactions to external influences

- **Start analysing which triggers cause which reactions:** Take note of your triggers, whether you write a list or keep a voice memo on your phone. By becoming more aware of this relationship, we can start to make intentional choices on how to respond to future triggers.
- **Recruit the support of a loved one:** Often our closest friends and family are most knowledgeable when it comes to how triggers influence us. If you feel comfortable, ask them what they have noticed brings about a response from you.
- **Share:** Talking with a loved one or a support group about how these influences impact you can be beneficial in finding explanations or core triggers for these situations.
- **Plan your response to triggers:** Without using avoidance as a strategy, visualise how you would like to respond to a situation in the future.
- **Work with a psychologist:** Psychologists are here to provide help and support and can assist you in finding the core of your triggers and how you may work through them in a healthy manner.



# The power of a good night's sleep.

## Mates4Mates is excited to announce a partnership with Sleepy's to support veteran health and wellbeing.

**S**leep is our internal reset button. For veterans, sleep can ease psychological symptoms, stabilise mood, reduce chronic conditions, improve their ability to cope with pain, and assist in the processing of emotionally charged memories via dreams.

Sleepy's understands the important role sleep plays in the mental and physical health of veterans and is sponsoring the Mates4Mates Online Sleep Program for 2024.

As an organisation dedicated to supporting veterans' health and wellbeing, Sleepy's CEO, Shane Flynn is thrilled to announce the partnership with Mates4Mates.

"Sleep is not just a necessity; it's a crucial component of mental and physical wellness, particularly for our veterans," Shane said.

"Through this sponsorship of the Mates4Mates Online Sleep Program, Sleepy's is demonstrating its commitment to ensuring our veterans have access to the resources they need for restorative sleep and overall wellbeing."

"Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have served our country."

Mates4Mates Chief Executive Officer, Emma Whitehead also highlighted the importance of partnerships that support the veteran community.

"Supporting the mental health of veterans and their families is one of our key priorities at Mates4Mates. The Online Sleep Program helps participants develop healthier sleeping behaviours and explore sleep from a physiological, psychological and practical perspective," Emma said.

"Sleepy's sponsorship will allow us to continue delivering skills-based clinical group programs to improve the health and wellbeing of veterans."

The Online Sleep Program will run at various times throughout 2024. Visit [mates4mates.org](https://mates4mates.org) for more details.

For more information about Sleepy's, visit [sleepys.com.au](https://sleepys.com.au).

# 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 family members.

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



[Join Mates4Mates](#)

Register today





# ARMY CADETS ARE FLYING HIGH

*Cadets put their drone flying skills to the ultimate test at the Australian Army Cadets' drone racing camp, proudly sponsored by RSL Queensland.*

---

## **NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION**

While RSL Queensland is best known for supporting current and ex-serving veterans, it is also important to nurture the next generation of leaders through sponsorship and support initiatives.



**OPENING IMAGE:** Australian Army Cadets pose with a mini-whoop drone. Image - CDTSgt Joshua Purcell

One such initiative was the recent Australian Army Cadets (AAC) drone racing camp.

From 13 to 20 January, cadets from across the country gathered at Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane to build, code and pilot drones. Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2) Michael Davis from AAC Headquarters said the camp was a chance for the cadets to learn from some of the best drone racers in the country while honing their science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills.

"Drone racing is a new and exciting STEM opportunity for the AAC program. Cadets adopt a unique skillset to challenge

themselves in the mechanical and electronics fields and develop a platform to fly," WO2 Davis says.

"[On the camp], cadets gained a military-like experience, learning alongside the Army Drone Racing Team to build, program and race a specially designed drone. They also developed new friendships in a competitive environment."

Building the drones involved everything from soldering parts together to programming computer software required to fly them. It was a prime opportunity for cadets to demonstrate their ingenuity and endurance.

"The cadets felt proud to be sponsored by RSL Queensland, as

YouTube

SCAN TO WATCH VIDEO

it's a great organisation supporting people that need assistance," WO2 Davis says.

"The sponsorship gave cadets more exposure to understand the build side of things and develop skills to race and repair drones with better knowledge. It also gave AAC the opportunity to bring in a partner to share our success of this STEM program to help upskill our youth."

### A BUZZ FOR YOUNG PILOTS

Throughout the week-long camp, more than 30 Army cadets aged 13 to 18 were treated to workshops facilitated by dedicated Defence Force volunteers and drone experts.

Cadet Warrant Officer Class 2 Eroni Tagicakitai represented 122 Army Cadet Unit at the camp, travelling to Brisbane from Mackay for the opportunity. He was initially drawn to attend through his passion for STEM.

"I've always loved STEM; it's fantastic. I'm currently taking engineering and it's one of my favourite subjects at school," Eroni says.

As the camp progressed, the cadets raced their creations in a round-robin style tournament, some reaching speeds of up to 200km/h. Throughout the week,



Eroni – whose pilot name is Destiny Zero – enjoyed flying the drones in both simulator and real-life scenarios.  
 “We practised in a VelociDrone

simulator and in preparation for the course I tried to get as much time as I could in the simulator. It was fun and a good program to use,” Eroni says.

“We moved on to the real drones (which were the mini whoops) and got to fly them through the circuit that the Army Drone Racing Team set up for us.

“We then started building five-inch drones and moved on to flying them, which was pretty cool!”

Following this exciting week, selected cadets will represent AAC at special events such as airshows, Formula 1, Adelaide 500, National Championships and the United Kingdom’s International Military Drone Racing Tournament.

Later in 2024, cadets will also share their skills in the delivery of a short course on indoor drone handling before attending another camp to finesse their five-inch drone racing. ←

**ABOVE:**

A member of the Australian Army Cadets practising her drone racing skills. Image - CDTSGT Joshua Purcell

**LEFT:**

Army Cadet Sergeant Lewis Sanderson from 126ACU Pine Rivers. Image - CDTSGT Joshua Purcell



Australian Army Cadets is a youth program that shares the character and values of the Australian Army. Visit [armycadets.gov.au](http://armycadets.gov.au) for more information on how to join.

# RISING ABOVE THROUGH READING

*Books helped Dylan through the toughest chapter of his life. Now, he's helping thousands of others improve their lives through reading.*

 **Belinda Crossman** |  **Defence Images**

**O** imagine needing nine surgeries in two years. Being bedridden for 14 months straight – unable to sit, stand, walk, or see your loved ones. Not knowing if you'd ever walk again.

That's the reality that confronted Captain Dylan Conway (Ret'd) when he was just 26 years old.

## **A TOUGH CHAPTER**

Originally from Biloela in Central Queensland, Dylan went straight from high school to the Australian Defence Force Academy. From there, he went on to become an Infantry Platoon Commander at 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

He was primed for combat – but nothing prepared him for his toughest challenge.

"During my service, I was diagnosed with recurrent pilonidal sinus disease, which led to an extended amount of hospital stays and nine surgeries on my lower back," Dylan recalls.

"Because I had gone from being physically fit, super keen on my job and progressing in my career, it came as quite a knockback. I couldn't walk for around two years, and during that time, I lost a lot of purpose that I would normally get from my team, my roles and my physical fitness routine within the Army."

One unsuccessful surgery led to another – and so on, each taking a further toll on Dylan's body and mind.

"The unknown was the hardest thing. Doctors had no idea how long my recovery would take, how many surgeries I would need or what my body would look like afterwards," he says.

"It was an incredibly difficult time. I remember having emergency surgery on Christmas Eve and waking up in hospital alone on Christmas Day. I was really, really low. Then, the following week, a book arrived from an old Army officer mentor."

Dylan had never been much of a

reader. But that book – *Yes to Life in Spite of Everything* by Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl – gave him a critical means of escape, connection and motivation.

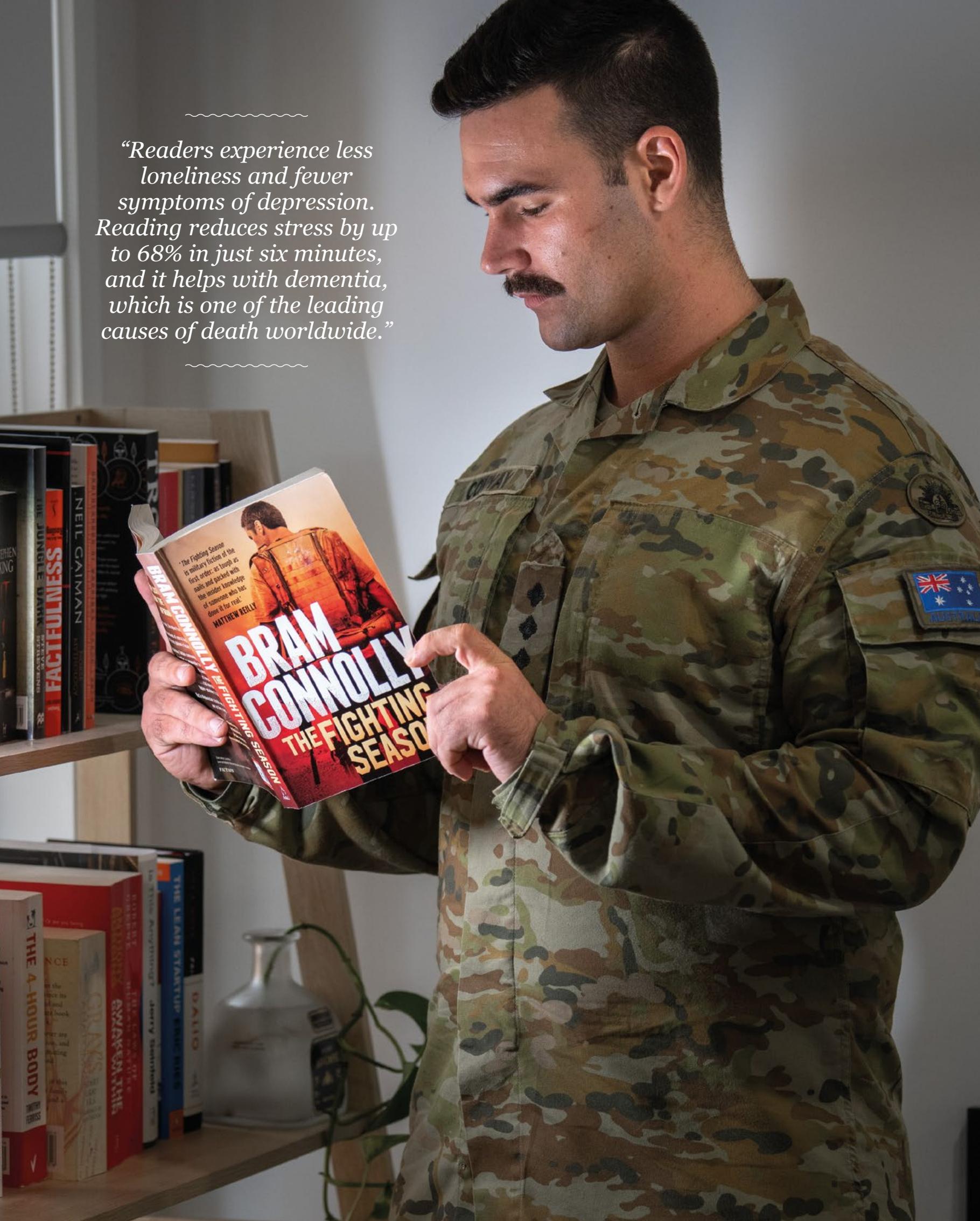
"I remember thinking to myself, wow, for the past few hours I've been relieved from the torment of disease, injuries and being stuck inside my own body. This is something I can do that's going to benefit me. And from there, I just committed to reading more and more books."

## **READING AS THERAPY**

Unbeknownst to him at the time, Dylan was using bibliotherapy – "a therapeutic approach that uses literature as a tool to support emotional wellbeing and mental health".

"A number of studies have shown how reading can benefit people's lives," Dylan says. "Readers experience less loneliness and fewer symptoms of depression. Reading reduces stress by up to 68% in just six minutes, and it

~~~~~  
*“Readers experience less loneliness and fewer symptoms of depression. Reading reduces stress by up to 68% in just six minutes, and it helps with dementia, which is one of the leading causes of death worldwide.”*  
~~~~~





**ABOVE:**  
After graduating high school, Dylan joined the ADF Academy. From there, he went on to become an Infantry Platoon Commander at 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

**CENTRE:**  
Since being founded in 2020, Brothers and Books has donated more than 9,100 books to set up around 60 free community libraries.

helps with dementia, which is one of the leading causes of death worldwide. And the beautiful thing is, reading can be used on top of other therapies to treat people when they're going through difficult times.

"I spent 12 years in the Infantry Corps, which is renowned as difficult and reserved for tough people. Reading has increased my resilience much more than anything I've ever done in the Defence Force.

"Reading about the trials people have faced and overcome definitely

gave me the perspective to keep pushing forward, find meaning and also find a way that I could give back."

### THE WORLD'S COOLEST BOOK CLUB

Dylan's way of giving back was to start Brothers and Books, a charity that "promotes bibliotherapy as a means to alleviate stress and support mental health".

It does this by connecting people who are facing hardships with others who've triumphed over them, and the books that helped change their lives.

"I thought, wouldn't it be great if I had all this knowledge from reading books before I spent four months fighting, being sad and not being able to accept my condition as a challenge?" Dylan says. "So, I

started Brothers and Books to pass on all the benefits that I gained from reading, and to get more people to read."

Since its founding in 2020, Brothers and Books has donated more than 9,100 books to set up around 60 free community libraries – each aimed at decreasing stress and increasing resilience – for organisations Australia-wide. These range from military units to veteran support centres (including Mates4Mates), RSL Sub Branches, first responder headquarters, homeless shelters, domestic violence centres, and private businesses.

"Moving forward, we're going to create a phone app and have online book club meetings for people who want to jump on our programs and join the coolest book



Australian Army veteran Dylan Conway at the Jungle Training Wing in Tully, in northern Queensland in 2016. Image: Department of Defence

club in Australia, if not the world,” Dylan says.

### SPREADING THE WORD

Dylan is on a mission to change the culture of reading in Australia, partnering with inspiring figures and delivering speeches throughout the community to “make reading cool.”

“Teachers and parents have been trying to get children to read for years, but what we’re doing is trying to change the way kids look at reading to something that’s going to benefit them in terms of resilience, strength and success,” Dylan explains.



“I show them the most successful people in the world – Bill Gates, Elon Musk, Oprah Winfrey, Warren Buffet – and they all have a long history of reading.

“It’s been great to motivate so many Australians, but especially children, to read more books.”

### SHARING THE SUPPORT

Brothers and Books now has more than 22,000 club members and – through a range of activities, including Dylan’s recent attempt to beat the Guinness World Record for reading aloud non-stop – has raised more than \$145,000 for other charities.

And Dylan sees frequent proof of the impact his work is having.

“One of the main messages that we’re trying to get across is when people get injured, they should switch to reading and activating their brain as quickly as possible. Several people have sent in photos of themselves reading in their

hospital bed on the day of their injury, which is awesome,” he says.

“Also, a lot of young men will message us about the difficulties they’re going through. The leading causes of stress in Australia are finances and relationships. We’re able to put these people onto the best books ever written about those subjects and, after a couple of months, we often don’t hear from them again because knowledge dispels fear. They’ve gained the knowledge to help themselves.

“In all the time I’ve spent running Brothers and Books, the thing I’m most grateful for is the fact that it’s solely positive. Everybody in the community encourages and supports one another. It brings me a lot of joy, and all I’m doing is sharing my passion and what helps me with others.”

**To learn more or get involved, visit [brothersnbooks.com](http://brothersnbooks.com).** ←

*“We’re able to put these people onto the best books ever written about those subjects and, after a couple of months, we often don’t hear from them again because knowledge dispels fear. They’ve gained the knowledge to help themselves.”*



**FIND SUPPORT:** If you or someone you know needs support, please contact **Open Arms on 1800 011 046** or **Lifeline on 13 11 14**.

# GLADSTONE VETERAN DROP- IN CENTRE STRENGTHENS REGIONAL SERVICES

*Gladstone's Veteran Drop-in Centre offers support, facilities and community for local veterans and their families.*

 **Courtney Adams**

## VETERANS SUPPORTING VETERANS

Gladstone veteran David Perry served in the Army from 1987 to 1990. After sustaining an injury during his service, he found himself lost in the process of seeking support. Years later, he took the life-changing step of contacting his local RSL Sub Branch.

"About four years ago, I started

coming to the Sub Branch for advocacy and wellbeing services, and they have been a fantastic help," David says.

"I come in every Tuesday and Friday now. It's a good culture in the RSL and really social, it has 100% improved me."

David's RSL experience has since inspired him to join their ranks. He is currently completing RSL Queensland's Advocacy and Training Development Program and expects to finish his Level 2 qualifications in 2024.

"The RSL has absolutely changed my life, and with the help I've received, I knew I had to give back. The difference RSL Queensland makes to its members is amazing," David says.

Throughout his involvement with his RSL community, David has also witnessed the positive change that has come with developing the region's new Gladstone Veteran Drop-in Centre, which he describes as transformative for veterans in the region.

"We're the only drop-in centre between Mackay and Bundaberg, which is exceptional. Veterans living in regional areas like Gladstone, Biloela and Rockhampton now have an area close-by where they can come and do what they need to do to help themselves," David says.

## PRIORITISING REGIONAL WELLBEING

Current serving Army Major and Gladstone RSL Sub Branch President Ed Dahlheimer has always believed that his local area needed a Veteran Drop-in Centre. The project began in 2019 during the search for the Sub Branch's permanent premises.

"When the original RSL folded, we moved into temporary buildings and that's when the Drop-in Centre became a thing," Ed explains.

"Eventually, we partnered with the Bowls Club and were given a room downstairs, but it was too crowded. At that point, the idea grew to build a purpose-built facility with a couple of dedicated consultation rooms, so that the advocates could work in comfort and privacy."

Construction of the Veteran Drop-in Centre took almost four years, drawn out by the COVID-19 pandemic and global supply chain delays. As such, the team had to secure extra financial assistance from RSL Queensland's Sub Branch Support Grants trial to fund the Centre's new elevator, which Ed describes as crucial to the project's completion.

"Because of the extended duration of the Centre's build and rising costs, the original funding grant wasn't going to complete upstairs by a long shot, so the grant from RSL Queensland was pivotal in helping us provide access for veterans who can't negotiate stairs," Ed says.

The Gladstone Veteran Drop-in Centre became operational

The Gladstone Veteran Drop-in Centre is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 12pm. Find out more by emailing [info@gladstone.rslqld.net.au](mailto:info@gladstone.rslqld.net.au) or calling 07 4972 8372.



in November 2023 and officially opened in April 2024. The new facilities are a game-changer for the Sub Branch and the communities they serve.

**COLLABORATING FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE**

Ed says that while the Gladstone RSL Sub Branch team had to work out of a small demountable office for four years during construction, the wait for their new home was well worth it.

“The Centre has become a focal point for veterans to ask for assistance. Some days, there are veterans waiting out the door to see their advocates. Over the coming months, as word-of-mouth spreads, we expect more veterans coming in to get assistance,” Ed says.

In addition to the RSL Sub Branch, one of the key benefits of the Centre is that veterans can access other ex-service organisations they would otherwise need to travel long distances to see.

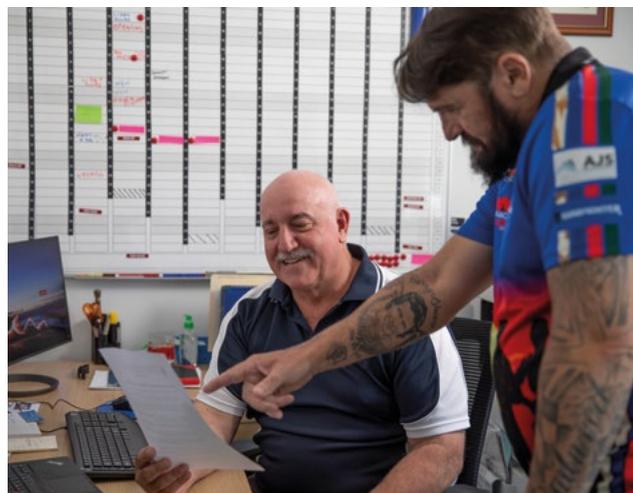
“Legacy operates in one office one to two days a week, along with Young Veterans. They’re very connected with us in just about everything we do,” Ed says.

“We are also connected with the Combined Services Group, which consists of the police, fire, ambulance, veterans and Defence. The group started up last year in Gladstone and we’re going to start having meetings out of the Centre.”

Overall, Ed is proud that this new facility in his hometown provides these essential services to improve regional veterans’ wellbeing.

“I’ve always had a vision that we need to remember why the RSL was first created. I try to think why it was originally started: to support veterans, help each other through the difficult times and enjoy the good times together,” Ed explains.

“I think that’s what we’ve created here in Gladstone.” ←



YouTube



SCAN TO WATCH VIDEO

**TOP:** Pictured in front of Gladstone’s Veteran Drop-in Centre (left to right) are David Clarke, Diane Delahoy, Libby Attwood and Gladstone RSL Sub Branch President Ed Dahlheimer.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Gladstone RSL Sub Branch President Ed Dahlheimer chats with David Clarke.

**LEFT:** Libby Attwood speaks with David Clarke.

# RSL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM PAVES THE WAY FOR WORK-LIFE BALANCE

*“This is a great program offered to veterans and their families. RSL Queensland has the right resources and the right people to make life a lot easier and more seamless when you’re looking for a job.”*

*Life-changing opportunity came knocking for Joanne with the help of RSL Queensland’s Employment Program.*

*✍ Courtney Adams*

## **EXPLORING NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

Brisbane local Joanne Lyndon-Floate has built her career as a team leader in the superannuation industry over several years. However, the demanding hours led the mother-of-one to consider whether there may be something better in the job market.

“I was working long days and I didn’t have a great work-life balance,” Jo explains. “One of my main goals in leaving was to spend

more time with my family.”

Jo’s husband of 23 years – an Army veteran – noticed the impact this imbalance was having on her life. He suggested she connect with RSL Queensland’s Employment Program to explore new opportunities.

“My husband was previously referred to the RSL Queensland Employment Program and he got a job through it. He thought that maybe they could help me find something else too,” Jo says.

“His suggestion came at the right time, and I thought, ‘Why not give it a go?’”

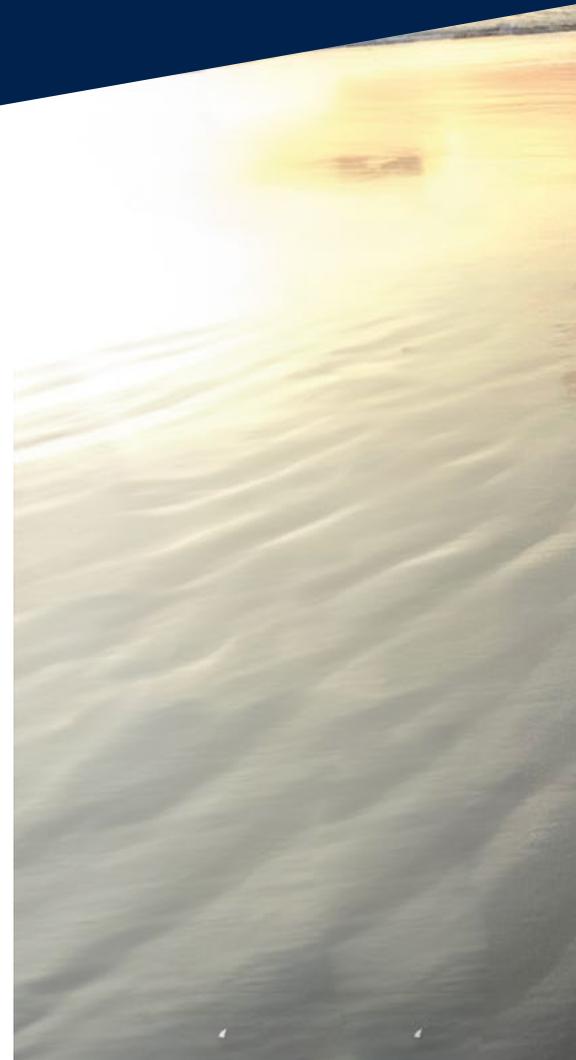
Halfway through 2022, Jo was referred to employment consultant Samantha.

## **SUPPORT THROUGH THE JOB HUNT**

Juggling job hunting can be difficult for many people. However, after connecting with the Employment Program, Jo found that her career opportunities were broadened, and her search process was accelerated.

“My employment consultant, Sam, was great – very accommodating and flexible. She ran me through everything, sent the paperwork, and from there we started talking about what I was looking for and what I was interested in doing,” Jo recalls.

Not long after Jo sent her resume to Sam and reviewed a few job listings, a professional contact in the superannuation industry called out of the blue with an opportunity that piqued Jo’s interest: the



chance to take the skills she had gained in the superannuation industry to a larger, more well-known company.

“I didn’t have long to apply, so I told Sam about the role and she helped fix up my resume, arranged assistance with a cover letter and did a mock interview with me,” Jo says.

“I’m not very confident in interviews, but Sam gave me great tips and ideas and set me up for success, without a doubt.”

## **A PERFECT MATCH**

About three months after first connecting with Sam through the RSL Queensland Employment





Program, Jo landed a new job as Team Leader of Operations with Australian Retirement Trust.

"In my new role I manage a team of about 14 people. I focus on managing performance, finding process improvements and efficiencies, and making sure that my team is meeting service levels and mandates," Jo explains.

While the role is similar to what she was doing in her previous job, the change has had an overwhelmingly positive impact on her lifestyle.

"This job has brought me more work-life balance and also an opportunity to work from home for three days a week, which has

given me more family time," Jo says.

"There is still a lot to learn, and the industry is always changing, so I am looking forward to growing in the role."

Looking back, Jo credits the help she received from Sam and the team at RSL Queensland with giving her career and work-life balance a boost.

"This is a great program offered to veterans and their families. RSL Queensland has the right resources and the right people to make life a lot easier and more seamless when you're looking for a job.

"The organisation does so much to look after those who have served or that are still serving. I'd recommend them to anyone, without a doubt." ←

**ABOVE:**  
Joanne Lyndon-Floate enjoying a day at the beach with her family.



The free RSL Employment Program is open to veterans and veteran/Defence partners. Visit [rslqld.org/employment](https://rslqld.org/employment) to explore the program or current vacancies on the jobs board.

# GRANT FUNDS SPACE FOR VETERAN WELFARE

*How an RSL Queensland grant transformed the Manly-Lota RSL Sub Branch advocacy office into a comfortable space for veterans to get help with DVA claims.*

 Courtney Adams

## A GROWING SUB BRANCH

Army veteran Bob Ikin has been a member of Manly-Lota RSL Sub Branch for three years.

"I joined the regular Army in 1964 and I served until 1984, with overseas postings to South Vietnam and Papua New Guinea," Bob says.

"I was discharged from the Army as a Warrant Officer, Class 1, and

then commissioned as a Captain in the Army Reserve for a further five years."

Bob's Sub Branch is located in the heritage-listed Manly-Lota Memorial Hall. Since its establishment in 1983, it has grown steadily to a vast community of 202 members and 77 volunteers.

"We are members of the Manly Chamber of Commerce and have very close relationships with local politicians, schools and community organisations," Bob explains.

Bob's role in the Sub Branch is twofold: he volunteers as a grants officer, while also sitting on the Sub Branch committee.

"We meet regularly to discuss what we want to achieve, and a lot of the time this involves grant funding once we establish those priorities," Bob explains.

"I then set about looking for grant opportunities and spend a fair bit of time preparing applications with research and narrative, so understanding our local community is very important."

## INVESTING IN ADVOCACY

Manly-Lota RSL Sub Branch processes hundreds of veteran compensation claims and appeals every year. With such a high workload, the Sub Branch committee identified a need to provide an appropriate and comfortable space for advocacy purposes.

"In 2021, our Sub Branch Compensation Advocate processed 171 claims and was spending an average of 14 hours per week on welfare work for other organisations like Legacy and War Widows," Bob says.

"His office was small, cramped,

and a COVID health risk. We were also storing a lot of stuff in the room. It was just not workable."

An improvement was desperately needed, so Bob started applying for grants to enable renovations. He applied to the RSL Queensland Support Grants program, which gives Sub Branches the opportunity to access additional funds for building repair and renovation works, so they have appropriate facilities to welcome and support veterans and their families.

Once approved, Manly-Lota received more than \$28,000 to expand the Sub Branch's advocacy office and build additional storage space in the hall.

"The Sub Branch support grant allowed us to redevelop the advocate's office and move all items into secure storage facilities," Bob says.

"Construction took 13 weeks and was completed in early in 2023. We converted the office to a private meeting facility, which has a counselling area and advocate workspace."

## A PROFOUND IMPACT

Commenting on the value that the finished project has added to Manly-Lota RSL Sub Branch and its members, Bob shares some words from his colleague, volunteer Compensation Advocate Mark Gallagher.

"Before the renovations, the advocacy office was small, claustrophobic, and entered via a storeroom, which was not conducive to putting veterans at ease. The new office is now the reverse: open, light-filled and airy, encouraging veterans to feel more relaxed. The layout suggests professionalism by our advocates."

As the Sub Branch's advocacy workload continues to increase, the completed works enabled by the support grant have made a significant difference.

For more information or to join Manly-Lota RSL Sub Branch, visit [rslqld.org/about-us/manlylota-sub-branch-inc](https://rslqld.org/about-us/manlylota-sub-branch-inc)





"The works have assisted the delivery of charitable services and enhanced our reputation. We are confident that we now have a space that meets our needs and are really looking forward to continuing our work supporting the veteran community," Bob says.

Looking at what's on the cards this year and beyond, it's clear there is more work to be done.

"We would like to renovate the administration office, extend the concrete paths around the hall and become more energy efficient – just to mention a few projects," Bob says.

"Most of all, we want to continue reaching out to other ex-service organisations in our region because a really important priority of ours is to strengthen our advocacy and wellbeing services for veterans." ←



Manly-Lota RSL Sub Branch member Bob Ikin, left, with volunteer Compensation Advocate Mark Gallagher.

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT HELPS MOUNT ISA RSL SUB BRANCH OPEN NEW HOME

*Mount Isa veterans and their families have a new space to connect, thanks to the support of their community.*

*Olivia Lawrence*

**ABOVE:** Mount Isa RSL Sub Branch's newly established headquarters.

**RIGHT:** Mt Isa Secretary Jim Nuttall and Bill Hilton, namesake of the new space, cut the ribbon to officially open the room.

**I**n early March, Mount Isa RSL Sub Branch came together with the local community to celebrate the official opening of their new meeting place.

The newly established headquarters, based at the Irish Club, includes an inviting space for veterans and their families to gather and socialise. Complete with a contemporary courtyard and a storage area, the space not only fosters connection but also serves as a home for the memorabilia curated by the Sub Branch.

Local veterans and members were joined by RSL Queensland State Vice President Bill Whitburn OAM, RSL North Queensland District President Garry Player, Mayor Danielle Slade, Irish Club President John Hetherington and Irish Club Manager Bernard Gillic to mark the occasion.

Mount Isa RSL Sub Branch Treasurer Kate Fischer was thrilled to unveil the new space and share it with the town, thanking the Irish Club, volunteers, Sub Branch



members, businesses and the community for their support along the way.

"Since the closure and sale of the club in 2013, we are so grateful for the support of the Buffs Club, Leichhardt Services Bowls Club and now the Irish Club for providing us with a space so

we can continue our Sub Branch activities in the community," Kate says.

"We believe this new space and its amenities – which have been generously gifted to us by the Irish Club – will allow our Sub Branch to build a greater presence in the community, offering more welfare



services and social activities to support local veterans.

"It will also give us a space to hold our meetings and planning sessions for our commemorative days."

The new Sub Branch space and accompanying courtyard has been completely renovated with the financial assistance of the Irish Club and many local builders, tradespeople and businesses. The Sub Branch also received a courtesy bus thanks to the Irish

Club, which proudly displays Mount Isa RSL Sub Branch signage.

"We were also successful in obtaining a sizeable grant so we could purchase furniture for our space. The whole project has almost been externally funded aside from a few small items," Kate says.

The Sub Branch has named the space the 'Bill Hilton Room' in recognition of Vietnam veteran and Sub Branch member Bill Hilton.

Bill served in several roles at the Sub Branch including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Welfare Officer.

"We are a great group, but right now I think there are local veterans that don't really know about us and how we can support them.

"I hope the new space will get our name out into the community and encourage more veterans to become members," Kate says.

"In addition to support services, we are looking forward to hosting mornings teas, functions, Friday night socials, and just providing a space for veterans to connect."

Given the remoteness of Mount Isa, Irish Club Manager Bernard Gillic said it's important for the community to look out for each other and come together in times of need.

"I believe it's very important for a community to have an RSL Sub Branch and we are delighted to offer them a place in our club, and we hope to see them flourish here."

The Sub Branch's new space opened just ahead of ANZAC Day, allowing members to work with the Mount Isa Council to host the town's Dawn Service and gunfire breakfast, in addition to the 10am service at the local cenotaph, which included a march led by local veterans. ←

**ABOVE LEFT:**  
Mount Isa RSL Sub Branch Treasurer Kate Fischer and Bill Hilton.

**ABOVE:**  
RSL Queensland State Vice President Bill Whitburn OAM, L3 Compensation Officer (Advocate) Darrell Edwards, and RSL North Queensland District President Garry Player. (Photo: North Queensland History Collections Inc.)

**LEFT:**  
Mount Isa RSL Sub Branch Secretary Jim Nuttall and President Troy Hartas.



# VETERAN GIVES BACK AS AN ADVOCATE

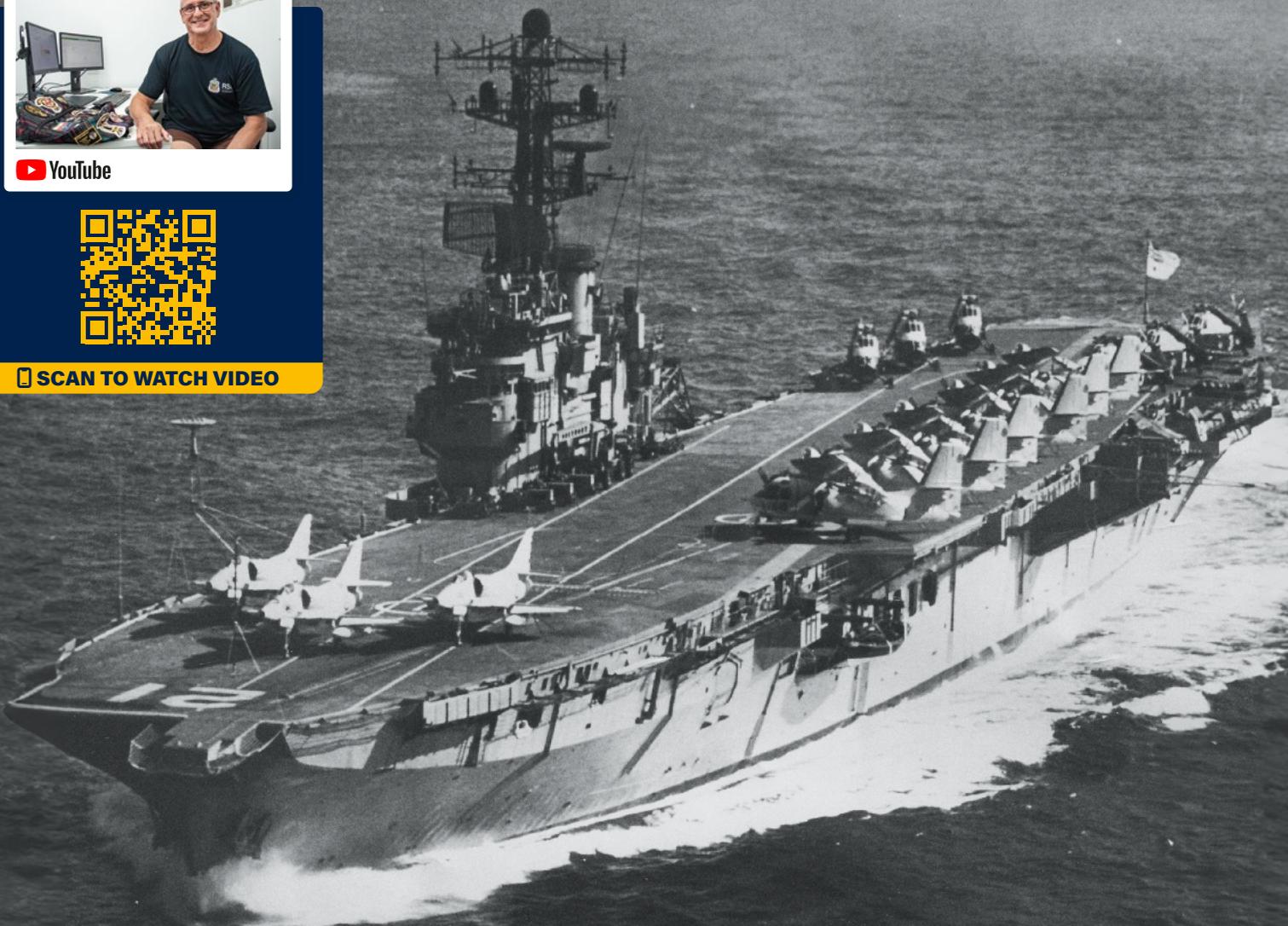
*Navy veteran Peter Blackwell describes what life is like  
for one of RSL Queensland's Wellbeing Advocates.*



YouTube



SCAN TO WATCH VIDEO



*“In this role, I get to work with many Defence families, and I can directly connect with them and build that trust because they know that you’ve been there yourself.”*

**PETER** knows a thing or two about the challenges and opportunities veterans face when transitioning out of the Defence Force. He also knows about the power of community and how it can help make this time of transition a success.

The registered nurse, who clocked seven years working for the Royal Flying Doctors, was a Navy Reservist musician for years. He says the experience inspired him to join his local RSL Sub Branch back in Victoria, where he worked tirelessly to support veterans.

Peter joined RSL Queensland as a Wellbeing Advocate based out of the RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre in Cairns in late 2022.

Peter dedicates his time to supporting veterans across

Queensland’s tropics and says if he can make even a small difference, then that’s a big win.

“My favourite part of the job is talking to people. That’s what I do well. I’ve been told I can talk underwater with a mouthful of rocks,” he says.

“There is no typical day. Some days we’re out visiting Sub Branches and making connections there; other days we’re visiting veterans at home.”

On other days, you’ll find Peter in

the office – answering the phone, helping new clients and trying to see what they need so RSL Queensland can best support them.

“Being a veteran is like being part of a family. You maintain your connections over many years,” he says.

“And in this role, I get to work with many Defence families, and I can directly connect with them and build that trust because they know that you’ve been there yourself.” ←



**OPENING IMAGE:**  
Aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne (II) (21) in 1971. AWM: 301025

**ABOVE:** RSL Queensland Wellbeing Advocate Peter Blackwell joined the Navy as a musician in 1977 aged 19.

# 'PROJECT STAIRLIFT' TRANSFORMS VETERAN'S LIFE

*A life-changing donation enabled Army veteran John Earea's heartwarming journey back to mobility.*

*✍ Courtney Adams | 📷 Matilda Dray*



**ABOVE:**  
The installation  
of a stairlift in  
John's home  
was life-  
changing.

## **A VETERAN IN NEED**

John Earea, a member of Caloundra RSL Sub Branch, has dedicated his entire life to service. At 17, he joined the Army and served three years before joining the police force in 1968, where he served his community for a further 35 years.

"There are five generations in my family who have served in the Army: me, my father, grandfather, son, and grandson," John says.

"I served in an air dispatch unit, which I found interesting because we would go all over Australia.

I also went to Vietnam and had contingencies in New Guinea and Butterworth."

Upon reaching retirement, John and his wife Julie built their dream two-storey home in Aroona on the Sunshine Coast. However, John's health has declined over the past 18 months, and he needs renal dialysis three times a week. The impact of this treatment impairs his mobility, making it especially difficult to move around his home.

"I'd spend four and a half hours on the dialysis machine in hospital, and then when I came home, I was

taking forever to try and get up the stairs – half an hour at least," John says.

"My wife couldn't help me, so my son would have to push me up. I'd have to stop and go between 'on my knees' and 'on my feet', which was so exhausting that by the time I got up there I had to collapse in bed."

With no cure for his condition, John felt despair. He was facing the prospect of a months-long wait for DVA assistance, reconfiguring his home or moving out of it permanently. That is, until help came along and turned things around.

## **AN EVERYDAY MIRACLE**

Gary Penney is a Wellbeing Advocate for Kawana Waters RSL Sub Branch. During a visit to John and Julie's home to help set up their MyGov account, a simple question turned into a gift that would change their lives.

"At the end of my visit I asked, 'Is there anything else you need?' and Julie said they had an occupational therapist trying to get them a stairlift, but that DVA had some requirements to approve one," Gary explains.

"I started thinking about a GoFundMe campaign or selling raffle tickets, but on my way home



I got a phone call from our Sub Branch Secretary asking if I knew anyone who needed a stairlift. I thought he was pranking me!"

As if by magic, a member of the public decided to donate her husband's stairlift – worth more than \$5,000 – to a veteran in need through her local RSL Sub Branch. Within hours, Gary was in her garage checking it over.

"The stairlift was in near-new condition, so I found the company that had previously maintained it and they supplied a discounted quote to collect, deliver, install and service it for John," Gary recalls.

With help from the RSL Sunshine Coast and Regional District, Gary was able to secure expedited funding to move and install the stairlift. Only five days after that

serendipitous phone call, John ascended the stairs without pain or struggle for the first time in years.

"John reacted with absolute disbelief and the donor was amazed that the stairlift went to somebody who really needed it," Gary says. "We were so fortunate that this popped up at the right time. Miracles do happen, but sometimes they just need a little bit of help."

#### "TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL"

Following the stairlift's installation, John's climb reduced from 30 minutes to 30 seconds.

"My life at home has improved significantly. Getting up and down the stairs used to be the dread of my day, but now I'm totally self-sufficient. I look forward to coming home now," John says.

"I'm sure I was touched by an angel. Between Gary and the lady who donated the chair, everyone involved has changed my life."

Reflecting on the assistance he received, John counts himself very lucky.

"Australian service people are very fortunate to have people like Gary at the RSL Sub Branch. I'm sure there's no other country in the world that has anything close to this and I am most grateful," John says.

Looking back on what he calls 'Project Stairlift,' Gary is proud that the partnership between his Sub Branch and District was able to help a veteran in need.

"This gentleman served Australia, so I'm thrilled to see John able to independently move around his house when he comes home from dialysis," Gary says. "It makes me feel good that what we do in wellbeing is all worthwhile." ←

#### ABOVE:

John and his wife Julie look through a photo album containing old photos of his time in service.

#### ABOVE LEFT:

Kawana Waters RSL Sub Branch Wellbeing Advocate Gary Penney, right, helped change veteran John Earea's life with the donation of a stairlift.

#### ABOVE INSET:

John Earea joined the Army at 17 and served for three years.

#### LEFT:

John served as a police officer for 35 years.



Volunteers like Gary are the heart and soul of RSL Queensland. Much of the support provided to veterans and their families across the state couldn't happen without their passion and dedication. There are plenty of ways to get involved in your local Sub Branch and give back to the veteran community. Learn more at [rslqld.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://rslqld.org/get-involved/volunteer)

# CAMARADERIE AND CARE: THE QUEENSLANDERS WHO MADE THE RSSILA *Part 2*

*This article is the second of a two-part series examining the four Queensland delegates who voted to create the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA) – the forerunner to what we know today as the RSL – in June 1916. Part 1 was published in RSL News Edition 1 (2024).*

*Dr Susan E. M. Kellett*

*“By finding meaning in their shared experience of war, these four men worked together to lay the foundations of camaraderie and care that RSL Queensland continues to deliver to this day.”*

## **WILLIAM BURNS**

Of the four Queensland delegates, William Burns was the only one who did not serve abroad with the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Burns was an electrician from the Lockyer Valley who enlisted in Queensland's colonial forces in 1900.

At the age of 27, he sailed for South Africa with the Third Queensland Contingent. Trooper Burns returned to Australia in 1901 but his love of the Transvaal (a former province of South Africa) saw him return to Johannesburg.

He enlisted with the South African Mounted Rifles and attained the rank of Squadron Sergeant Major. Burns was wounded while fighting in West Africa and returned home to Queensland in late 1915. He immediately enlisted in the AIF but, while in camp, was deemed medically unfit and discharged.

Burns quickly rose to prominence in the RSSILA, serving as its first Federal Organiser and then Secretary. He helped underpin the foundations of benefits, entitlements and pensions that the

RSSILA attained for the returned service community.

In May 1919, while working at the League's federal office in Melbourne, Burns fell acutely ill. He was admitted to Caulfield Military Hospital where he died from complications of a perforated ulcer. He was 46.

## **SIDNEY CRIPPS**

It was the experience of Corporal Sidney Cripps (of the four Queensland delegates) that typified the need for the RSSILA in post-war Australia.

Cripps was born into a family of undertakers, with his father and uncle founding the partnership of Cannon and Cripps. Rather than follow them into the funeral business, Sidney worked as a commercial traveller and then an Elizabeth Street merchant.

With the outbreak of war, he sold his business and enlisted in the AIF. Cripps served with the 9th Battalion and claimed to have been aboard the second boat that landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

Two months later, while fighting at Gaba Tepe, Cripps suffered

concussion and damage to his left shoulder after a shell blast threw him into a nearby gully. He was later shot in the right thigh. The bullet lodged deep in his hip and could not be removed.

During his convalescence, Cripps suffered chronic pain from his hip and shoulder, along with severe headaches. He was declared medically unfit and discharged.

Upon arriving back in Brisbane, Cripps took a room opposite the offices of the Returned Soldiers' Association (RSA) and soon became an active member of the organisation. In May 1916, the 27-year-old attended a meeting in Sydney where – along with delegates from Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales – the formation of a federated body of returned men was planned.

A month later – at the June meeting of RSAs held in Melbourne – Cripps voted alongside fellow Queenslanders John Collins, Herbert Maddocks and William Burns to form the RSSILA.

The RSSILA gave Cripps an initial sense of purpose after his demobilisation. However, like many



**LEFT:**  
The convening meeting of the RSL on 21 November 1917. William Burns is seated second from the right and is resting his chin on his hand. Herbert Maddock (who was the subject of Part 1 of this article in *Queensland RSL News* Ed 1 2024) is seated in the centre at the far end of the table and is looking off to his left.

**BELOW:**  
A photo of Sydney Cripps prior to the war, left, and William Burns.

men returning from the front, he was plagued by pain and haunted by traumatic memories of war.

Cripps was unable to re-establish his business after being denied a small government loan in 1917. He could not resume work as a commercial traveller because weakness in his left arm prevented him from packing and transporting samples. His position as a rent collector was short-lived due to pain and the physical limitations of his damaged hip.

Unable to find work in Brisbane, Cripps moved to Sydney. ANZAC Day 1918 found him drinking heavily, in trouble with the law and still without an income. After pawning his watch, Cripps bought a train fare and returned home to Brisbane.

For the next decade, the life of Sidney Cripps was characterised by increasing debility and unemployment. Like many men who returned physically and emotionally affected by the war, Cripps relied on his mother for support.

After her death in 1930, he secured seasonal work sewing

wool bales at Dalgety's wool store in Bulimba (today Teneriffe) until failing health forced his retirement in 1948. Cripps lived off the service pension that the RSSILA had helped achieve for the nation's returned men until his death at the Brisbane General Hospital in 1956. He was 68.

#### A LASTING LEGACY

The post-service experiences of John Collins, Herbert Maddock, William Burns and Sidney Cripps were not too dissimilar to those experienced by today's veteran community; some integrate back into their pre-service lives while others struggle.

But in 1916, Australia lacked an organised body to advocate for those disadvantaged by the medical and emotional effects

of service. By finding meaning in their shared experience of war, these four men worked together to lay the foundations of camaraderie and care that RSL Queensland continues to deliver to this day. ←



📱 Scan QR code to read Part 1.

If you or someone you know needs support, please contact Open Arms on **1800 011 046** or Lifeline on **13 11 14**.



# IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH WITH THESE ONLINE PROGRAMS

*Improve your health and wellbeing with RSL Be:Well, an online resource covering veteran-centric mental, emotional and physical health.*

**RSL Be:Well** is a program specifically designed for veterans by RSL Queensland, informed by research from Gallipoli Medical Research.

The program is free and provides information and tools needed to proactively improve health and wellbeing.

The courses are self-guided, interactive and designed to address the needs of the

individuals accessing the course.

RSL Be:Well has so far released five modules:



#### **BE:FOOD POSITIVE**

This module looks at how food

can have an impact on pain levels, mood, physical fitness and overall health. By understanding the relationship between food, these important factors, and making small changes to routine, more informed decisions about food options can be made and improve many aspects of life. The module explores:

- understanding the intricate relationship between food and



Start your health and wellbeing journey today at [rslbewell.org](https://rslbewell.org)

- our mind-body connection
- identifying the different types of foods that can either aggravate or reduce pain, improve or worsen mood, and enhance or hinder physical performance
- recognising how small changes with your food choices could improve your quality of life
- developing skills and exploring techniques to create personalised goals to make long-term changes to your diet.



**BE:SLEEP SAVVY**

One in every two veterans experience clinical levels of insomnia and report:

- fatigue
- sleeping difficulties
- not feeling refreshed after sleep.

Research shows these problems with sleep are more common than headaches, muscle pain, joint pain, and tinnitus in recently transitioned ADF members. In the module, the following topics are broken down:

- what is insomnia
- why ex-service members may be at increased risk of insomnia
- whether you have symptoms of insomnia and/or other commonly related conditions
- the role of unhelpful thoughts in keeping insomnia going
- a first-line treatment – Cognitive-Behaviour Therapy for insomnia (CBT-i).



**BE:MOOD WISE**

Emotions are part of being human. They are neither good nor bad,

but we often want to avoid them. It is a skill to identify, understand and respond to emotions in ways that are helpful to our wellbeing. This module helps us to manage emotions in healthier ways. The module explores:

- understanding three broad groups of emotions: 'the sad, the mad and the scared'
- identifying subtle, complex emotions using the 'feelings wheel'
- viewing emotions differently by understanding their functions and benefits
- coping with difficult emotions using a range of practical, mindfulness-based strategies.



**BE:SELF-CONTROLLED**

This module addresses anger and is designed for those who are experiencing irritability and outbursts, a problem experienced by more than half of Australia's ex-serving population.

The module is a two-part series developed for ex-service personnel who find it difficult to control their anger. In the first module, the aim is to improve understanding of anger and build self-awareness about anger in life. The module explores:

- what anger is
- whether anger is a problem in your life
- what is driving your anger
- the pros and cons of change
- how to measure your anger using SUDS (Subjective Units of Distress Scale)

- your anger signs and triggers. In the second module, practical strategies for controlling anger are explored using SUDS, including deep breathing and time out strategies.



**BE:SET FOR WORK**

The transition from military to civilian life and the change in career can be tough. The skills acquired in the military may not seamlessly transfer to civilian jobs, with employers considering different experience, as well as the challenge of adapting to new workplace norms, communication styles and developing new connections. This module helps with:

- providing information and the opportunity to reflect on yourself and your expectations about the civilian workplace
- offering practical tips and connection to resources that might be helpful during transition to civilian jobs
- above all, equipping veterans with information to boost confidence so that they feel ready to take charge of their career. ←

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# MATESHIP

## Bulimba District tours Government House

Bulimba District RSL Sub Branch enjoyed a guided tour of Government House on 19 March. The tour was conducted by two knowledgeable volunteers and included morning tea in the drawing room, where Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland joined the group for an informal chat. The tour was quite extensive, and there is a lift for those with mobility issues. Bulimba District RSL Sub Branch highly recommends this tour to all other Sub Branches. Among those pictured are Sub Branch President Brian Daley OAM, Barb Daley, Vice President John Wieringa OAM, Vicki Wieringa, Treasurer Ken Gillard, Pauline Gillard, Membership Officer Tom Williams, Secretary Andy Dennis, and members Trevor Wheate, Dianne Wheate, Al Deeth, Bruce Hermann and Kathy Hermann.



## Supporting the Bowen community

Bowen RSL Sub Branch started the year well with the election of a full committee, and donations to various community groups. Pictured is Bowen Neighbourhood Centre CEO Stephanie Cora (left) accepting a \$500 donation for emergency food relief from Sub Branch Treasurer Rhonda Doyle (centre) and Vice President Dave Chambers (right).

## Happy 100th birthday to Betty Milne-Ward

Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch member Lily 'Betty' Milne-Ward celebrated her 100th birthday on 22 December 2023. Betty served in the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force (WAAAF) from 1942 to 1945, holding various roles including nursing assistant and aircraft electrician. Betty (centre) has been a member of Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch since 2004. At her 100th birthday celebrations, Sub Branch Vice President Carol Castles (left) and Board member Noel Parker (right) presented Betty with a certificate of recognition from RSL Queensland State President Stephen Day DSC AM.



### From the Air Force to artistry

Artist and Air Force veteran Garry Dolan recently joined Centenary Suburbs RSL Sub Branch and completed a portrait of fellow Sub Branch member and WWII digger Keith Buck, aged 102.

Garry teaches at the Centenary District Men's Shed's art program on Wednesdays from 10am-2pm.

To learn more, visit [csms.org.au](http://csms.org.au) or call Mal Lancaster from Centenary Suburbs RSL Sub Branch on 0412 795 118.



### 100th anniversary of Toowong's Stone of Remembrance

On 4 April, Toowong RSL Sub Branch invited Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency Linda Hurley to Toowong Cemetery to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Stone of Remembrance and Cross of Sacrifice on 25 April.

Both monuments commemorate those who died in service or were killed in action in WWI. Typically, cemeteries of more than 40 military graves contain a Cross of Sacrifice designed by architect Reginald Blomfield and cemeteries with more than 1,000 burials typically have a Stone of Remembrance designed by Edwin Lutyens with the inscription "Their name liveth for evermore."

### Quilts of Valour presentation

Quilts of Valour, a joint initiative between the Craft Nest Sewing Club and Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch, is a heartfelt project honouring and supporting ADF personnel, veterans, and their families.

Each handmade quilt symbolises gratitude, care and comfort. For veterans recovering from injuries or facing hardships, these quilts can provide much-needed warmth, and a tangible reminder that they are not alone. Quilting is therapeutic and enables volunteers to channel their creative instincts into a productive venture. The label with the recipient's name or patchwork group creates a unique connection between the giver and the veteran.

On 20 March, veteran Des George was honoured to receive a quilt (made by Heather Ehrlich) from Queensland coordinator for Quilts of Valour, Barbara Kenny. Des (second from left) is pictured with (from left to right) Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch Welfare Officer Mark Berkovich, Crows Nest Quilts of Valour Coordinator Laticia Hollman, Crows Nest RSL Sub Branch President Greg Watt, and Craft Nest Sewing Club President Jan Scudamore.

### Welfare packs for World War II vets

Clermont RSL Sub Branch Hon Secretary Gordon Murray was proud to gift welfare packs to Sub Branch members and WWII veterans Ivan Bettridge and Archie Lawrence.





### Remembering the Bangka Island massacre

Defence Service Nurses RSL Sub Branch marked the 82nd anniversary of the Bangka Island massacre with a poignant service at Brisbane's Memorial Church on 11 February. This significant anniversary honours the memory of the 21 Australian Army nurses and several Australian and British soldiers and crew members who were tragically killed on Radji Beach during World War II on 16 February 1942.

The ceremony was attended by Queensland Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM; RSL Queensland State President Major General Stephen Day DSC AM; the Second Nurses Battalion and members of the community.

"The commemoration is an opportunity to recognise the pivotal role of nurses in Australian war history, expressing our gratitude and respect for the invaluable work and the sacrifices they have made," Defence Service Nurse RSL Sub Branch member and former Army nurse Ann Martin said.

### WWII veteran Leonard Lister turns 100

Kuttabul RSL Sub Branch extends its congratulations to Sub Branch member Leonard 'Len' Lister, who celebrated his 100th birthday on 14 February. Len lived through the Great Depression, nearly severed his foot while patrolling for Japanese soldiers, and watched harvesters revolutionise farming.

Len (centre) was presented with a special birthday plaque by RSL Central Queensland District Vice President Sharon Price (left) and Len's good friend, former Kuttabul RSL Sub Branch President John Fenner (right).



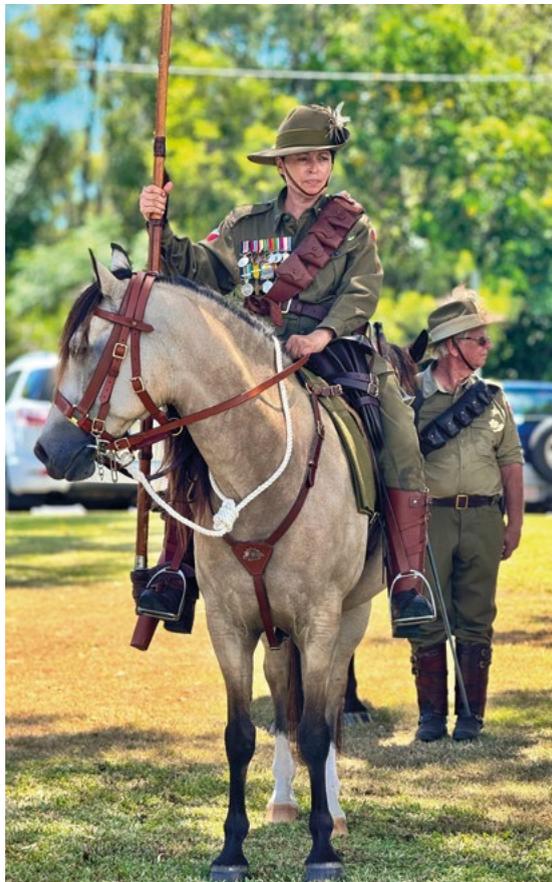
### Noel Mallyon awarded Meritorious Medal

At the RSL Central Queensland District AGM dinner on 23 March, Emerald RSL Sub Branch President Noel Mallyon was awarded the Meritorious Medal for his distinguished service to his Sub Branch and the RSL.

This award is certainly deserved, with Noel commencing his 30th continuous year as President of the Sub Branch.

In addition, at the Emerald RSL Sub Branch AGM on 26 February, RSL Central Queensland District President Phil Luzzi presented volunteer Margaret Mallyon (Noel's wife) with an Australia Day Certificate of Achievement award in recognition of the services Margaret provides to the Sub Branch.

Pictured (left to right) are Margaret and Noel Mallyon, and RSL Central Queensland District Deputy President John Edwards.



### National Day for War Animals commemoration service

Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch President Brian Tidyman hosted the National Day for War Animals Commemoration Service at the Light Horse War Memorial in Freedom Park. Horses, donkeys and medic dogs attended alongside the 9th Battalion Ceremonial Guard, which made an impressive visual impact on those present.

Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch extends a special mention to the WBB QMI 5LHR Hervey Bay Troop Inc, the 5th Light Horse Regiment Gympie Troop and Stable Minds Equine Assisted Therapy for bringing their charges and participating in the service, and to Majestic White Dove Releases for the doves released at the end of the service. Thanks to Chaplain Jeff Jarvis, bugler Geoff Harper and Hervey Bay RSL Pipe Band piper Duncan Birt for their contribution to the service.

### Greenbank members honoured

On 19 January, the exceptional contributions of four Greenbank RSL Sub Branch members were recognised in special presentations. Three Vietnam veterans – Terry 'Hippo' Hippisley, Alan Loxton and Sub Branch Secretary Doug Watts – were selected to receive Quilts of Valour.

In addition, Sub Branch President Stewart Rae presented Sub Branch Deputy President and RSL Life Member Thomas (Tom) McGee OAM with a plaque to recognise Tom's 33 years of service to the Sub Branch Board. The plaque was installed at the base of the full-size cast of a Vietnam soldier – nicknamed the 'Tommy statue' – that stands outside the Greenbank Services Club.



### Merv delivers the match ball

Currumbin RSL Sub Branch member Merv Latham (100) was honoured to deliver the match ball at the ANZAC Day Round 7 match between the Gold Coast SUNS and West Coast on 28 April. Merv joined a naval cadet unit as a telegraphist at the age of 17. One of his duties was to crew on volunteer coastal vessels as a lookout. On the night of 31 May 1942, Merv was on patrol in Sydney Harbour when Japanese submarines breached harbour barriers and torpedoed the American cruiser, USS *Chicago*. The torpedo missed the cruiser but hit the Australian Naval ship HMAS *Kuttabul*, killing 21 sailors on board. He later enlisted in the Army, serving in various postings until discharging at the age of 22.





### Bellbowrie memorial honours fallen heroes of 1974 floods

Two ADF members tragically killed while rescuing residents from Brisbane's 1974 floods have been honoured in a new memorial. On 28 January this year – the 50th anniversary of Captain Ian Kerr and Corporal Neville Hourigan's passing – Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner publicly dedicated the memorial at a ceremony honouring both men.

Moggill Historical Society led the memorial proposal and planning, with involvement from Kenmore-Moggill RSL Sub Branch. Constructed near the ANZAC memorial in Booker Place Park, the new memorial was designed by local military engineers in the shape of a LARC-V, a vessel used in both the Vietnam War and the flood relief operations.

"I think it's important to recognise that service is not just about going to war," Kenmore-Moggill RSL Sub Branch President Rick Maher – who laid a wreath at the ceremony – says.

"We've seen that recently with the fires, the floods and COVID Assist, where people are still deployed, they're still away from their families, and they're still exposed to high levels of risk.

"Two people paid the ultimate price 50 years ago and, until now, there was nothing to signify that. Through this memorial, we're also recognising the domestic service of those that have come afterwards and continue to serve in our community." Images courtesy of Brisbane City Council and Moggill Historical Society.

### Maleny wins 'Engaging the Community' award

At the RSL Sunshine Coast District AGM Dinner on 9 February, Maleny RSL Sub Branch was honoured to win the 2023 'Engaging the Community' award, recognising its outstanding level of engagement with the local community.

Maleny RSL Sub Branch President Paul Gilmour-Walsh (centre) is pictured with the award alongside RSL Queensland State Deputy President Wendy Taylor (left) and Sunshine Coast RSL District President Ian Hall OAM (right). Image courtesy of Glasshouse Country & Maleny News.



### Vale Len McLeod

Recently we mourned the loss of Wondai RSL Sub Branch member and WWII veteran Len McLeod, who passed away on 26 March, aged 97. Len tried to join the Australian Imperial Force aged 15, following in the footsteps of his father who served in WWI. Determined to fulfill 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.

Later, at the age of 18, he enlisted in the US Army Small Ships. It wasn't until 2020 that Len was presented with the 1939-45 Star – a medal that recognises the bravery and sacrifice of those who served with the US Army Small Ships Section. In August 2023, he was a special guest at the South Eastern District's commemorative event marking Victory in the Pacific. We extend our deepest condolences to Len's family and those who knew him.

### Redlands supports 42 for 42

On 22 March, Redlands RSL Sub Branch Board members (pictured) were once again invited to attend the annual 42 for 42 Luncheon at the Queensland Cricketers' Club. Proceeds from the event went towards supporting veterans and the 42 for 42 Afghanistan War Memorial Garden. Redlands RSL Sub Branch has participated in the luncheon since its inception and attended the Garden's official opening in 2021.

The memorial was designed to honour the 41 Australians killed in action during the Afghanistan conflict, as well as the veterans who returned home and lost their lives to depression, post-traumatic stress and other mental health issues. Rupert McCall OAM acted as MC and special guest speakers included Director of the Australian War Memorial Matt Anderson PSM and AFL legend Leigh Matthews.



### WWII veteran Jim Grebert turns 101

Congratulations to WWII veteran Jim Grebert, who turned 101 on 12 February. Jim – one of the newest, and oldest members of Sandgate RSL Sub Branch – celebrated the special day over morning tea at the Sub Branch with his family and friends.



### Rosewood honours member's 30 years of service

At the Rosewood RSL Sub Branch AGM on 24 February, a special presentation was made to member Brian McLucas to acknowledge his 30 years of service to the Sub Branch. At 21, Brian followed in his father's footsteps and joined Rosewood RSL Sub Branch while still serving in the Australian Army. He has been a loyal and active member and held the position of Vice President for several years. Brian regularly leads the ANZAC Day march as flag bearer and has organised ANZAC Day two-up at the Rising Sun Hotel for many years.

Brian (left) was presented with certificates of recognition from Federal MP the Hon Shayne Neumann (right) and Rosewood RSL Sub Branch President Bernie Mason, and a handmade quilt from Debbie Wadwell, representing the Quilts of Valour organisation. The quilts are made by volunteers and awarded to veterans to acknowledge their service.



### 8RAR reunites for Long Hai commemoration service

On 28 February, Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch hosted a reunion and remembrance service for members of the 8th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (8RAR), who commemorated the sacrifices made during the Vietnam War.

The Long Hai commemoration service was an opportunity to honour their fallen comrades and celebrate the enduring bonds of camaraderie. Despite the passage of 53 years since the Vietnam War, the solidarity among veterans remains steadfast, with many travelling across Australia to attend the commemorative service and support one another in times of need.

MC Grant Coultman-Smith paid tribute to the profound sense of brotherhood that defines the 8RAR veterans. The 8RAR Roll of Honour named those who were killed in action, those who died from wounds sustained in action, and those who have since passed. At the conclusion of the service, all veterans and their wives laid poppies in remembrance of those lost.



### 20 years of SCREAM Jazz Orchestra

United by music and military service, 18-piece big band SCREAM Jazz Orchestra proudly celebrates its 20th birthday this year. SCREAM ('Sunshine Coast Retired and Ex-Armed forces Musicians') was formed in 2004 by retired Warrant Officer Keith Walker, who realised that several ex-service personnel were playing in civilian bands on the Sunshine Coast.

"It became apparent that the camaraderie and dedication that these highly trained ex-serving members were used to was lacking," band and Caloundra RSL Sub Branch member Kevin Brown explains. "As a result, SCREAM was born, bringing with it a level of professionalism that's unique to military bands the world over."

Consisting mostly of current or ex-serving members, SCREAM is thought to be Australia's only civilian big band with a strong ex-Defence focus. The band plays everything from swing era and jazz to more contemporary music, and performs at public and private events across the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane.



### WWII veteran Don Dickie celebrates 100th birthday

On 21 March, Tewantin Noosa RSL Sub Branch held a special party to celebrate the 100th birthday of valued member Donald Dickie (pictured, seated).

Don's distinguished military career spanned 27 years in the RAF and 12 years in the RAAF, including operational missions in WWII. His many honours include the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE), Air Force Medal, 1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star, Defence Medal WWII, 1939-45 War Medal, and Near East Medal.

Sub Branch members were lucky to attend Don's special day along with special guest RSL Sunshine Coast District President Grendell 'Skip' Antony, who shared a few words and presented Don with a certificate of achievement and appreciation.



## Supporting Ukraine in canine first aid

The Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) donated a K-9 CPR manikin to Stepan Gzhytskyi National University of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnologies of Lviv, Ukraine, to help train and improve the skills of future veterinarians.

The donation was presented to the university by Lyuba Mocharska, Director of charitable foundation Nowzad Lviv – AWAMO's representative NGO in Ukraine. Late last year, AWAMO staff trained students at the university in canine first aid.

AWAMO has sent an additional manikin to the border force dog unit and will dispatch one each to the Ukrainian army and Pet-Friendly, another NGO.



## Defence Kidz launches new book

Founded by veteran spouse Hayley Boswell, Defence Kidz empowers Defence members' and veterans' children through education, advocacy and fun, authentic Australian Defence Force-specific resources. Defence Kidz also aims to educate the wider community about Defence and veteran life to enable empathy, understanding, healing and connection.

Having released a successful series of children's books (with more than 17,000 distributed to schools and homes), Defence Kidz launched its first graphic novel at a special event on 10 May, which was sponsored by Maroochy RSL.



## 'Minnie' the ship's cat statue unveiled in NZ

On Purple Poppy Day (24 February – also known as National Day for War Animals), a bronze statue of 'Minnie' the ship's cat was unveiled at Torpedo Bay Navy Museum – National Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy. Based on Minnie the cat – who served in HMNZS *Leander* during WWII – the statue was designed by Susan Bahary, gifted by the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO), and installed beside a memorial to animals of the Royal New Zealand Navy.



### QPS Animal Memorial's 10th anniversary

This year, 15 December marks the 10th anniversary of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) Animal Memorial. Featuring a sandstone plinth and a bronze plaque depicting a police dog and a police horse, the memorial honours the deeds and sacrifices of the many animals that have served the QPS over its 150 years.

Pictured at the memorial's unveiling in 2014 are the then Commissioner of Police, Minister of Police Jack Dempsey, representatives of the OIC Mounted Branch and OIC Dog section, and Senior Constable Nigel Allsopp.

### Navy Women Qld celebrates diamond jubilee

In February 2024, the Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld Sub-Section of the Naval Association of Australia celebrated its diamond jubilee with a lunch for approximately 80 guests at the Geebung RSL Club.

As part of the event, Navy Women Qld launched a new book – titled *From Then, Until Now* – on its Sub-Section's formation and history. Researched and prepared by Sub-Section Treasurer Lorrae Johnson, the book details all Sub-Section members over the last 60 years, from their background and service records to their lives after military service.

The jubilee luncheon was organised by Sub-Section Secretary Judy Prewett, Lorrae Johnson, and Wellbeing Officer Margie Gadd (pictured left to right).



### Animals honoured in New Zealand

Animals and people emerged through a cloud of battlefield smoke as part of an event honouring war animals in Nelson, New Zealand on 24 February. The service was organised by Brian Ramsey, NZ ambassador for the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO). Unveiled at the service was a new bronze addition – a wreath with red and purple poppies and the words 'We serve together.'

Many VIPs attended, including local councillors, federal MPs, high ranking Defence staff, ex-military dog handlers, and veterans.





**Join Scootaville to raise funds for vets**

If you're feeling adventurous this year, consider switching gears and nominating to ride in this year's Scootaville – either in Queensland or New South Wales, or both. Following the success of last year's event, which raised \$30,200 for Legacy, Scootaville 2024 has an ambitious fundraising target of \$100,000. These funds will support Legacy and the Air Force Association in their efforts to assist families of lost or injured service members and homeless veterans.

Cricket greats Merv Hughes and Ian Healy will be joining part of the Queensland journey, which kicks off in Brisbane on 28 August, passing through Warwick, Goondiwindi, Gayndah and other locations before concluding in Townsville. The NSW journey starts in Windsor on 19 November, travels through Singleton, Mudgee, Dubbo, Canberra and more before returning to Windsor.

**Naval Association of Australia (Qld) ceremony salutes war widows**

On 28 March, the Naval Association of Australia (Queensland) held a ceremony commemorating war widows, focusing particularly on the legacy of Jessie Vasey, an extraordinary woman way ahead of her time.

Pictured at the ceremony in front of the Jack Tar Memorial in South Bank, Brisbane are (from left to right) National President of Australian War Widows Inc. Jenny Gregory, Navy Commander Fiona Southwood, and Queensland State President of Australian War Widows Inc. Judy Smith.

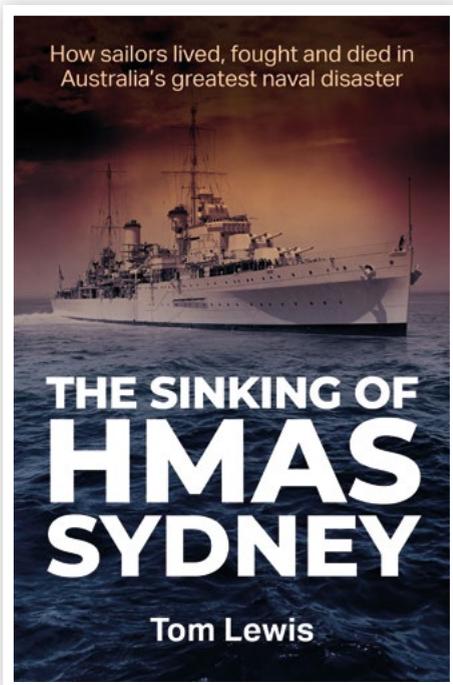


**International Women's Day**

To celebrate International Women's Day 2024, a panel discussion and networking event was hosted at the RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre in Brisbane for veterans and ex-service organisations. Guest speakers were (pictured left to right) military spouse Amber Field, who runs a blog for Defence and first responder families called Boots Back Home, Major Paula Vetter, and Warrant Officer (retd) and author Donna Bourke.

The panel presented on issues surrounding the needs of women and families transitioning in and out of service, followed by a Q&A session and networking morning tea. A total of 45 people attended the event from 15 different organisations.

# WIN



## THE SINKING OF HMAS SYDNEY

HMAS *Sydney* was the pride of the fleet during World War II. The light cruiser was one of Australia's main combat vessels. On 19 November 1941, off the coast of Western Australia, the *Sydney* engaged in a fierce and bloody battle with the German raider *Kormoran*.

Following this action, the *Sydney* failed to return to port. An extensive search and rescue was carried out, but the warship had disappeared, with all 645 men on board. While the battle lasted little more than an hour, this single ship engagement remains Australia's greatest naval disaster. More Australian servicemen died in the battle between the German raider *Kormoran* and the light cruiser HMAS *Sydney* than perished in the Vietnam War.

It was not until 2008 that the wreck was discovered. The passage of time between the sinking and the discovery led to numerous mystery and conspiracy theories, all of which started replacing the truth. Now, with an explanation of how those on board lived, fought, and died, this book tells the full story.

**The Sinking of HMAS Sydney by Tom Lewis is published by Big Sky Publishing (RRP: \$32.99).**

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN** one of four copies of *The Sinking of HMAS Sydney*, email your name, address and contact number to [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org) (with the subject 'The Sinking of HMAS Sydney') or post to 'The Sinking of HMAS Sydney', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 8 July 2024.

## TEDD WATT'S DIARY

Ted Watts' Diary is a captivating coming-of-age love story that spans over 60 years. Set in early 1900s Sydney, orphaned Ted embarks on a tumultuous journey into manhood, then he meets and falls in love with Maddie 'Dimples'.

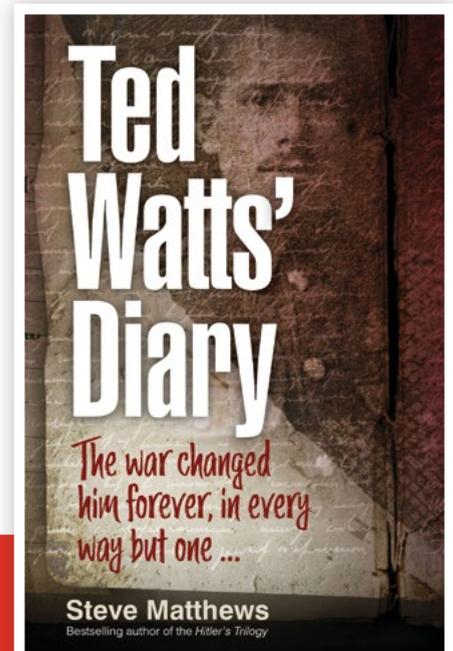
Before settling down, he decides to follow his destiny and fight in the Great War. Underage, he enlists, leaving behind a devoted Maddie who vows to wait for him indefinitely. He promises to return as a hero, with his life story detailed in the diary Maddie gifts him the day before he departs.

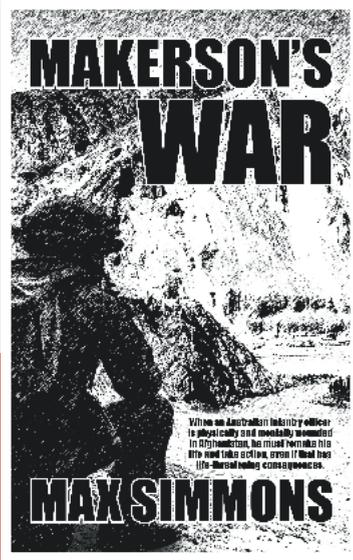
Years later, the promised diary resurfaces in Bremen, Germany, discovered by Gertie. As she delves into its pages, Ted's quest for heroism and his unwavering promise to recount his life story unfold. Through Gertie's eyes, we follow Ted's exploits and adventures from his early years and beyond, encountering larrikins, mateship, humour, heroes, villains, retribution, tears, laughter, thieves, spies, war, and tender love. But how did the diary end up in Germany in 1960 and can Gertie return it to its rightful owner, Maddie Dimples?

*Ted Watts' Diary* takes readers on a riveting journey through time, delving into the triumphs and tribulations of the human spirit. It's a poignant reflection on love, sacrifice, and the indomitable will to fulfill one's destiny.

**Ted Watts' Diary by Steve Matthews is published by Big Sky Publishing (RRP: \$29.99).**

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN** one of four copies of *Ted Watts' Diary*, email your name, address and contact number to [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org) (with the subject 'Ted Watts' Diary') or post to 'Ted Watts' Diary', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 8 July 2024.





**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN** one of four copies of *Makerson's War*, email your name, address and contact number to [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org) (with the subject 'Makerson's War') or post to 'Makerson's War', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 8 July 2024.



**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN** one of four copies of *Gona's Gone*, email your name, address and contact number to [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org) (with the subject 'Gona's Gone') or post to 'Gona's Gone', PO Box 629, Spring Hill Qld 4004. Competition closes 8 April 2024.

### MAKERSON'S WAR

Two honourable men are dramatically transformed by their participation in the Afghanistan conflict.

Australian Infantry Captain David Makerson is severely wounded by an IED explosion while on a routine patrol. During his rehabilitation, he lapses into depression and becomes a shadow of his former self.

Saarim Darwish becomes the head of his family after his father is executed by the Taliban. Saarim's plans to attend university and study engineering are destroyed as he is forcibly recruited by insurgents to join their network and construct roadside bombs.

Makerson needs to remember and take control over his life. Dangerously under-equipped, he returns to Afghanistan to exact his revenge. Enter Major Hannah Jardine. A military psychologist or the leader of a covert Special Forces operation? Why is she so fixated on Makerson and who is she really working for?

**Makerson's War by Max Simmons is published by Moonglow Publishing (RRP: \$29.00).**

### GONA'S GONE

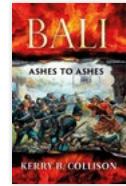
In mid-November 1942, Australian troops crossed the Kumusi River, after pushing the Japanese back along the Kokoda Track to the north coast of Papua New Guinea. The time had come to face the entrenched Japanese at their beachheads at Gona, Sanananda and Buna. The Japanese were determined to fight to the last man in the defence of these critical positions.

The first beach to be captured by the Australians was Gona, which fell on 9 December after bitter fighting. However, this wasn't the end of the fighting around this beachhead. Just west of Gona, on the opposite side of Gona Creek, a larger Japanese force had landed, intent on reinforcing Gona, Sanananda and Buna.

The fighting west of Gona Creek proved just as brutal and deadly as the fighting to take the Gona Beachhead. Even after this fighting, Australian and American troops, operating together for the first time in the Pacific War, were still bogged down in the battles to take Sanananda and Buna. The fighting at these beachheads continued into January 1943.

**Gona's Gone by David Cameron is published by Big Sky Publishing (RRP: \$32.99).**

### QUEENSLAND RSL NEWS WINNERS EDITION 1, 2024



**BALI: ASHES TO ASHES**  
R Boxall, East Toowoomba  
D Baldwin, Forest Lake  
G Curr, Beachmere  
J Clarke, Birkdale



**PAINTING THE LIGHT**  
J Duncan, Chelmer  
R Storta, Victoria Point  
M Sansom, MacGregor  
T Templar, Yamanto



**THE MAN NEXT DOOR**  
W Barker, Albany Creek  
B McKennay,  
Seventeen Mile Rocks  
K Moss, Tannum Sands  
R Hodgson, Chuwar



**WALKING WITH THE ANZACS**  
S Boon, Nirimba  
B Jenkins, Rockville  
R Manley, Mackay  
W Stephen, Mount Perry

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

# COMMUNITY CONNECT

## VETERAN GUIDES WANTED FOR ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

Would you like to volunteer as a guide at St John's Cathedral in Brisbane? The Cathedral is one of Queensland's leading shrines of remembrance. It was one of the first institutions in Australia to commemorate the dawn landings at Gallipoli when it held a requiem eucharist for the fallen, just 46 days after the landings.

Since then, the Cathedral has honoured the memory of those who have served Australia through a range of memorials. These include the Gallipoli flag, various stained-glass windows, a stone salvaged from a London church bombed during the Blitz, and a twisted metal crucifix from the 1964 HMAS *Voyager* disaster.

Cathedral guide Denzil Scrivens has taken a special interest in the war memorials.

"There is a lot of interest in our Gallipoli flag and our other memorials and it's a real joy to show them to visitors," Denzil says. "Many veterans in particular are often astonished at what we have here."

Guides come from all walks of life and their job is to welcome visitors and show them around.

Guides do one to two shifts each month and rosters are arranged to suit circumstances. New guides are rostered with an experienced guide until they feel comfortable performing duties on their own.

Those wishing to learn more about the Cathedral's war memorials can obtain a free book from the Cathedral giftshop, or view the book online at [stjohnscathedral.com.au/the-anzac-legend](http://stjohnscathedral.com.au/the-anzac-legend).

***For information about becoming a guide, contact guides coordinator Judy Fay on 07 3835 2222 or email [guides@stjohnscathedral.com.au](mailto:guides@stjohnscathedral.com.au).***



## WHERE THEY REST PROJECT

In April 1941, the first women started working for the Navy as members of the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps. On 1 October 1942, they were enlisted into the WRANS and started working for the Navy. By the end of WWII, there were over 3,140 members who joined. A handful are still alive.

Where do the fallen rest? Some are in Arlington National Cemetery, more in the USA, Greece, Canada, UK, New Zealand and many more in Australia.

A group of Navy women are researching and recording what they can find for all Australian Navy women, anywhere in the world. Joan, Carol, Tania and Lorrae need your help to record the resting places of the women who paved the way for future generations. This project includes all Australian Navy women from 1941 until now.

***For more information, email [NWQld-Treasurer@bigpond.com](mailto:NWQld-Treasurer@bigpond.com)***

## PHOTO OF ERIC PARSONS

Are you missing a photo of Eric Parsons taken in Morotai during May 1945? For more information, contact Jane Thomas via [jmathomas7@gmail.com](mailto:jmathomas7@gmail.com).

### **VOLUNTEER FOR BUNDABERG LEGACY**

Do you have time to spare? And do you want to give back to your community? If so, Bundaberg Legacy needs you. The organisation is seeking volunteers to look after widows, widowers and children of veterans who have given their lives or health in the defence of Australia.

Phone 07 4152 5958 or visit them at 11 Williams Road, Svensson Heights from 9am - 3pm weekdays.  
Email: [secretary@bundaberglegacy.com.au](mailto:secretary@bundaberglegacy.com.au) or visit [legacy.com.au/bundaberg](http://legacy.com.au/bundaberg).

# REUNIONS

### **RANKIN OCT 66 REUNION (58TH ANNIVERSARY)**

The 58th reunion of the Rankin October 1966 intake at HMAS *Cerberus* will be held on 18-21 October 2024. Both veterans and their partners are invited to attend. It will be held at HMAS *Cerberus* and the Hastings/Frankston localities. Further details can be found via the Facebook group 'Rankin Oct 66 Reunion'. Contact coordinators Steve 'Yogi' Yovan via [sgyovan@gmail.com](mailto:sgyovan@gmail.com) or 0434 890 113 or Pat 'Ringo' Ringold via [patrick.ringold@bigpond.com](mailto:patrick.ringold@bigpond.com) or 0409 726 487.

### **HMAS NIRIMBA REUNION**

The 58th reunion of the 21st intake from HMAS *Nirimba* will be held on the weekend of the 26 - 28 July in Newcastle. It will start with a meet and greet barbecue on the evening of Friday 26 July at Belmont Lakeside Caravan Park. This will be followed by a tour of Fort Scratchley on the morning of Saturday 27 July, with a reunion dinner that night at the restaurant in the Gunyah Hotel. For more details and to receive a copy of the full itinerary, please contact Fergus Sharwood at [fergus.sharwood15@gmail.com](mailto:fergus.sharwood15@gmail.com).

### **ALL NAVY REUNION**

The third All Navy Reunion will be held on the weekend of 17-20 October 2024 at Maroochydore RSL Club. For more information visit [allnavyreunion.com](http://allnavyreunion.com), contact Bill Hayward via 0411 024 985 or [bloggshayward@yahoo.com](mailto:bloggshayward@yahoo.com) or Sue Meehan via 0438 911 950 or [sue.meehan@me.com](mailto:sue.meehan@me.com).



## NEED HELP?

Are you looking for someone or something, or seeking information? Do you need help from your local RSL community? Would you like to make contact with an RSL contributor? Email your request to [editor@rslqld.org](mailto:editor@rslqld.org)

### **RAEME RESERVE/CMF REUNION**

The annual reunion is open to all current and ex-serving members of RAEME (Army Reserve/CMF or Regular Army) or associated Corps who served with RAEME Res/CMF units, their families and other people associated with RAEME and who wish to renew past friendships. Ex-cadre staff members are also welcome.

- When: Saturday 17 August 2024, 11am – 4pm
- Where: Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch, 2 Clewley Street, Corinda (next to Corinda Railway Station)
- Cost: \$5 (includes barbecue lunch)
- RSVP: John Parfitt via [iparfitt@bigpond.net.au](mailto:iparfitt@bigpond.net.au) or 07 3376 1778 by 10 August 2024

# LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Alderton	Richard	S147860	North Gold Coast Sub Branch Inc.
Allison	Rex	78192	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Anderson	William	12	Roma Sub Branch Inc.
Anderson	Brian	R56903	Roma Sub Branch Inc.
Arbuckle*	Raymond	B3795	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Archibald*	Roy	A310306	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Argo	James	R53469	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Armstrong	Daniel	R65937	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
Ash*	Charles	R45320	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Ashton	Brian	H42534	Bray Park-Strathpine Sub Branch Inc.
Ashton	Brian	189187	Bray Park-Strathpine Sub Branch Inc.
Avotins	Monty	1200254	Tin Can Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Baly*	Allan	R54636	Thuringowa Sub Branch Inc.
Barnes*	Graham	4410381	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Barry	Thomas	14215691	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Bas	Doris (nee Willett)	QF272307	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Beattie	Bryan	A29160	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Beech	James	583699	Sunnybank Sub Branch Inc.
Belton	John	R41635	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Bennett	Graeme	-	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Bettridge	Ivan	QX58457	Clermont Sub Branch Inc.
Bignall	J	QX18322	Roma Sub Branch Inc.
Bindon	James	A224369	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Black	Brian	1734817	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Blakeney	Roy	1736695	Mareeba Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Blenner-Hassett	Naomi (nee Pannill)	770	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Blunderfield	Benjamin	QX30605	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Boorman	Donald	-	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Boucher	Stephen	219103	Deception Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Bourke	Walter	38327	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Bowen	A	QX36908	Roma Sub Branch Inc.
Bowen	Ronald	4555	Airlie Beach-Whitsunday Sub Branch Inc.
Boyd	Richard	VX132859 (V185407)	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Bramble	Donald	1/725413	Gracemere & District Sub Branch Inc.
Brown	Frederick	A56788	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Brown	Christopher	A46824	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Browne	David	8242324	Ipswich Railway Sub Branch Inc.
Bruce	Phillip	A231866	Gatton Sub Branch Inc.
Brunott	Aloysius	30695XYZ	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Bryant	Ronald	1/720243	Warwick Sub Branch Inc.
Bryer	Roy	QX37681	Lowood Sub Branch Inc.
Buchanan	David	NZ16611	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Bucholz	Colin	Q14176	Gayndah Sub Branch Inc.
Burton	Thomas	16341	Goodna Sub Branch Inc.
Bust	Malcolm	R53767	Gin Gin Sub Branch Inc.
Buxton	Graham	1/706147	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Byatt	John	R58851	Tin Can Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Byrne*	Brian	5715WS	Kedron-Wavell 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 22 April 2024. Surnames flagged with an asterisk (\*) have an unconfirmed 'date of death'

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Cameron	Rodney	1203146	Farleigh & Northern Beaches Sub Branch
Camm	Ron	SN2787277	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Camp*	Francis	22481795	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Campbell	Brett	226896	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Campbell	George	D/SSX832973	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Canavan	Patrick	1/713692	Seaforth Sub Branch Inc.
Carey	Raymond	13261	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch Inc.
Cartwright	Constance	6327	Roma Sub Branch Inc.
Chalmers	Robert	22560724	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Chappel	Ailsa (nee Findlay)	QF273754	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Chatman*	Bryan	17758	Kooralbyn Valley Sub Branch
Clancy	Catherine	102723	Roma Sub Branch Inc.
Clark*	John	22826916	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Clark-Dwyer*	Stanley	1/707105	Herbert River Sub Branch Inc.
Cleary	Basil	R53773	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch Inc.
Colclough	Roger	216515	Mareeba Sub Branch Inc.
Collas*	Edward	A33394	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Colwell	Ian	148241	Clayfield-Toombul Sub Branch
Colyer*	Jim	22972642	Cardwell Sub Branch
Corban	Robert	219571	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Corrie	Lionel	1201398	Thuringowa Sub Branch Inc.
Cosgrove	Richard	147271	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Coulson	Vane	1463	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Coulson	Vane	8302	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
Craven	Richard	3/715199	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Creighton*	Eric	R52537	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Cristofoli	Marino	11262	Mareeba Sub Branch Inc.
Cronk	Kathleen	WR297	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Crow	Lorraine	101358	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Cullen	Leslie	132565	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Cunningham	Barry	Q500798	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Curtis*	Rod	57068	Mapleton Sub Branch Inc.
Dalitz	Wally	410635	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Dann	Michael	4220079	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Davis*	Arthur	1716468	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Dean	Allen	1/722299	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Denovan	Arthur	B5747	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Dillon	Garney	QX53331 (Q104480)	Oakey Sub Branch Inc.
Dimou	Nicholas	1410814	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Docherty	James	1733125	RSL QLD State Branch
Don	Leslie	NX142814 (N224470)	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Dupree	Albert	243438	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Dusting	Anthony	215741	Gladstone Sub Branch Inc.
Eaton	Albert	V290420	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Eaton	Albert	VX124959	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.

# LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Edgar	Thomas	NX205488	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Edwards	Barry	138493	Tamborine Mountain Sub Branch Inc.
Elliott	John	312791	Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch Inc.
Emslie	Allan	1/700535	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Escott*	Gerald	3215790	Sandgate Sub Branch Inc.
Fairhall	William	38248	Nerang Sub Branch Inc.
Farley	Ernest	TX4495	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Farlow	Hugh	1/700475	Nambour Sub Branch Inc.
Feeney	William	22580582	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Fell	Leslie	1714039	Walkerston-Pleystowe Sub Branch Inc.
Fisher	Neil	127904	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Fittock	Reginald	2/751943	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Fitzgerald	Lawrence	160259	Roma Sub Branch Inc.
Fitzpatrick	Ronald	A115767	RSL QLD State Branch
Flynn*	Kevin	173860	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Fox*	B	23331849	Cardwell Sub Branch
Franks	Pearl	98928	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Fuge*	Cyril	N45068	Cardwell Sub Branch
Gaddes	William	4655NS	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Gaddes	Keith	2787064	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Galloway*	Arnold	VX89926	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Gasson	John	43521	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Gauld	Errol	1708761	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Gentner	Paul	1732027	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Gnezdiloff	George	A434502	Proserpine Sub Branch Inc.
Gorrie	Kenneth	A12481	Gatton Sub Branch Inc.
Goudie	Aileen	SF84109	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Goulding	Patricia	VF515749	Mareeba Sub Branch Inc.
Graham*	Raymond	1700895	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Grant	Wallace	1704180	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
Grant	Leslie	1/716718	Roma Sub Branch Inc.
Green	Raymond	A2111962	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Greenham*	Colin	2/740488	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Gustafson	David	NX154	Crows Nest Sub Branch Inc.
Hale*	Murray	42566	Tiaro Sub Branch Inc.
Hanley	Francis	QX41946	RSL QLD State Branch
Harrington	John	1411186	Mudjimba Sub Branch Inc.
Harvey	Michael	160294	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Hawker	William	56859	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Heapey	Donald	A57671	Boyne-Tannum Sub Branch Inc.
Henderson*	Alex	1/25346	Dalby Sub Branch Inc.
Henning	Francis	131038	Mossman Sub Branch Inc.
Hicks	Henry	150696	Sandgate Sub Branch Inc.
Hill	Henry	A44419	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Hinwood*	Robert	1/21055	RSL QLD State Branch
Holloway*	Ivan	NX205526	Lowood Sub Branch Inc.
Holmes	Brian	23387657	Sunnybank Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Homewood	Richard	2795608	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.
Honeyman	Ernest	166814	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Hook	Brian	A61147	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Horne	George	868112	Coorparoo & Districts Sub Branch Inc.
Hughes	James	PJX390357	Mareeba Sub Branch Inc.
Humphreys	Kent	2/172381	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
James	Gordon	655	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch Inc.
Jeffreys	John	A17291	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Jennison	John	D1924412	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Johnson	Terrence	151622	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch Inc.
Johnson	Gene	1/720169	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Johnstone	Keith	1204852	Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch Inc.
Keating	Robert	815576	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Keating	Philip	170979	Salisbury Sub Branch Inc.
Keily	Patrick	314108	Blackbutt Sub Branch Inc.
Kernaghan	Reginald	BC1296/CS MX872066	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Kerrison	Trevor	3793714	Beaudesert Sub Branch Inc.
Kinnane	Brian	1732993	Ipswich Sub Branch Inc.
Knuckey	Grant	44317	Beaudesert Sub Branch Inc.
Laurent	John	A15107	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Lee*	John	NX101093 (N240897)	Nambour Sub Branch Inc.
Leeman	Wilfred	NX78611	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Leggat*	Peter	184521 / 8235858	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Lengren*	Cyril	R232684	Dalby Sub Branch Inc.
Leslie	Tony	8068131	Gordonvale Sub Branch Inc.
Lloyd*	James	039148	Babinda Sub Branch Inc.
Lockwood	James	2782733	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Lutton	Allan	R95136	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Mackay*	Robyn (nee Kelb)	F416877	Kooralbyn Valley Sub Branch
Mackenzie-Forbes	Donald	R108691	Blackwater/Bluff Sub Branch Inc.
Macklin	Phillip	1/729989	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
Madgen*	William	A57868	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Mahon	Thomas	A14260	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Manning	David	R58902	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Mansfield	David	54937	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Marsden	Terence	P1946499	Longreach Sub Branch Inc.
Marshall	Helen	QF267810	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Martin*	Brian	221759	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Matthews	Robin	1410779	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
Matthews	Doreen	QF143141	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
McClaer	John	2/772310	Russell Island Sub Branch Inc.
McCormack	Kenneth	-	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
McGravie*	Douglas	4244403	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
McGregor	Gregory	1732602	RSL QLD State Branch
McKay	Douglas	QX61869	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
McKinnon	Ronald	041200	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
McLean	Allan	3782692	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.

# LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
McLeod	Kenneth	214433	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
McLeod	Leonard	VX90340	Wondai Sub Branch Inc.
McMahon	Paul	222069	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
McNab	Colin	B4815	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Meacham*	Edward	A26509	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Meredith	Myrtle	QF267892	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Merritt	Vivian	QX50338	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Miller	Geoffrey	163140	Moura Sub Branch
Milne	Sydney	A289913	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Milner*	Bruce	26657	Cardwell Sub Branch
Mitchell*	Dennis	NX133420	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Moore	William	23357486	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Moran	Pearl (nee McCaffrey)	102542	Sandgate Sub Branch Inc.
Morgan	Gerald	R45688	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Morris	Anthony	357205	Dalby Sub Branch Inc.
Moss	Laurence	14882	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Motts	George	22972123	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Munster	Alan	1730850	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.
Murray	Walter	14817	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Neill	William	R58788	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Newton	Gloria	99044	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Nicholson	John	036352	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Nicholson*	Philip	1/709206	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Nissen	Vincent	1201715	Sandgate Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Nixon	Geoffrey	2300756	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Northcott	Ronald	38465	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Ogilvie	Robert	A219055	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Olcorn*	Peter	A314046	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Orr*	Vincent	A15017	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Osborne	John	1702281	Boonah Sub Branch
O'Sullivan	James	QX47438	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
Owers	William	R103917	Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc.
Packenas*	Leonard	CH/ X107136	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Page	Kevin	4415	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Page*	Linsay	182826	Cardwell Sub Branch
Palmer	Kevin	2/741922	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Palmer	Catherine	W353603	Greenbank Sub Branch Inc.
Parker	Vernon	0219695	North Gold Coast Sub Branch Inc.
Paton	Geoffrey	2237168	Nambour Sub Branch Inc.
Paul*	Michael	219320	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Payne	Noel	R64388	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Pearce	William	FX617907	Southport Sub Branch Inc.
Pearce	Gerard	A223162	Emerald Sub Branch Inc.
Penn*	John	RM 12684	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Perina*	Frank	1/3129	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Perrett	Aaron	1737356	Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch Inc.
Petitt	Eunice (nee Power)	QF143227	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Poetschka*	Donald	2/722866	Jandowae Sub Branch

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Poole	Keith	11137	Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch Inc.
Pope	Owen	130102	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Quaid	Dawn	WR4147	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Ramsay	Brian	1926178/ A46909	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Ravey	John	23418083	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Raward	Bruce	170893	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Rawlinson	Arthur	VX96659	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Read*	Peter	CJ/ X657977	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Reeves	Anthony	25400	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Richter	Margaret (nee Durden)	F35109	Maleny Sub Branch Inc.
Rigoni	Danny	5801668	Bray Park-Strathpine Sub Branch Inc.
Riley	Leslie	14205	Kingaroy/Memerambi Sub Branch Inc.
Roberts	Terence	231647	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Rose	William	R54172	Airlie Beach-Whitsunday Sub Branch Inc.
Rosengreen	Graham	R54598	Harlaxton Sub Branch Inc.
Ruwoldt	Kevin	R54814	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Ryan	Graham	8316208	Leyburn Sub Branch Inc.
Sabien	Walter	NX48274	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Schultz	Robert	138057	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Schwind	Barry	3790196	Surfers Paradise Sub Branch Inc.
Scrase	Leonard	A19123	Tewantin/Noosa Sub Branch Inc.
Scully	Lindsay	3791311	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Searle	Daniel	184276	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Serio	Emanuel	1/707855	Herbert River Sub Branch Inc.
Sharry	Colin	39733	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Silcock	Gary	61469	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Simpson*	Grayson	1/715497	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Sivertsen	Dorothy	101452	Currumbin/Palm Beach Sub Branch Inc.
Skinner	Donald	A310829	Runaway Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Skinner	Glen	135607	Bowen Sub Branch Inc.
Small	Ian	16582	Yarraman Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Ian	61795	Beaudesert Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Irene	QF266266	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Edward	2763007	Burleigh Heads Sub Branch Inc.
Smith	Phillip	615485	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Smith*	Peter	R59469	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Sparks	Alexander	P52019	Hervey Bay Sub Branch Inc.
Sparrow	Kenneth	22539387	Stanthorpe Sub Branch Inc.
Stensness	Arthur	203901	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
Stevens	Peter	0/2097	Kenmore/Moggill Sub Branch Inc.
Stevens	Ian	17708	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Steward	Claybourne	56012	Thuringowa Sub Branch Inc.
Stewart	Raymond	1/727399/ 172378	Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.
Stewart	Alexander	11493	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Summersford	Kenneth	1200352	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.

# LAST POST

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Taylor	Peter	A117479	Caboolture-Morayfield & District Sub Branch Inc.
Taylor	Leslie	R28976	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Taylor*	Alan	A117205	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Taylor*	Archie	2917	Cardwell Sub Branch
Teale	Harold	A115731	Wynnum Sub Branch Inc.
Teale*	Winten	69378	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Tetlow	Russell	15186	Gaythorne Sub Branch Inc.
Thompson	Mervyn	1733075	Innisfail Sub Branch Inc.
Tidbury*	Herbert	171108	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Tilbury	Robert	1410990	Bray Park-Strathpine Sub Branch Inc.
Timmins	Clifford	R58187	Kuranda Sub Branch
Toohy	Patrick	622941	Caloundra Sub Branch Inc.
Tribble	Donald	132980	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Tudehope	Archibald	A113479	Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch Inc.
Tuxford	Chester	2412496	Cairns Sub Branch Inc.
Vago*	Joachim	Hungarian Army	Bundaberg Sub Branch Inc.
Van Cooten	Eric	A114297	Grantham-Ma Ma Creek Sub Branch
Vennard*	Dennis	R43255	Gympie Sub Branch Inc.
Wall	Robert	184187	Gatton Sub Branch Inc.
Wallace	Joseph	161874	Townsville Sub Branch Inc.
Walters	Geoffrey	R58611	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Walton	Keith	16350	Beachmere Sub Branch Inc
Warner	Leslie	A116132	Redlands Sub Branch Inc.
Warren	Brian	1735276	Maroochydore Sub Branch Inc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	SUB BRANCH
Wason	Russell	167342	Kilkivan Chapter of the Gympie Sub Branch Inc
Waters	Arthur	1731190	Crows Nest Sub Branch Inc.
Wellings	Charles	217208	Beenleigh & District Sub Branch Inc.
West	Alan	22552494	Bribie Island Sub Branch Inc.
Western	John	S1247	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Western	John	VX64890	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch Inc.
Whale	Arthur	13892	Pine Rivers District Sub Branch Inc.
Wheeler	Russell	A116894	Cooroy-Pomona Sub Branch Inc.
Whittaker	Gwendolyne	W13967	Maryborough Sub Branch Inc.
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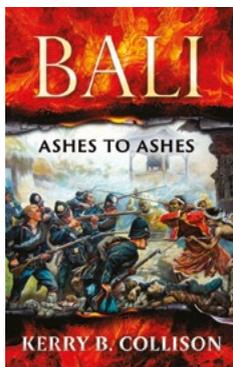
Providing simple health care in nearby villages gives her a sense of purpose, but then personal tragedy strikes, testing her to her limits. Unexpected new relationships, born in part of the tragedy, help her through her grief and encourage her to stay.

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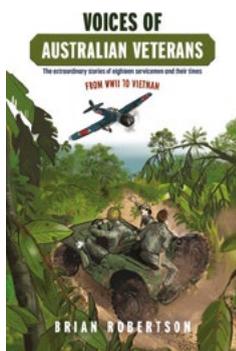
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Some of the stories are very sad, such as when you realise that it was your side who laid the mine, causing the little girl you just met, to lose her foot. For some, such experiences made them true believers. On others, it had exactly the opposite effect.

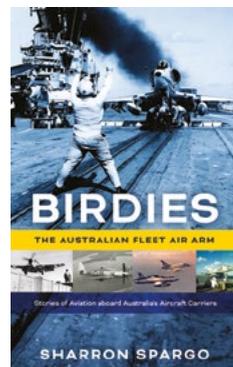
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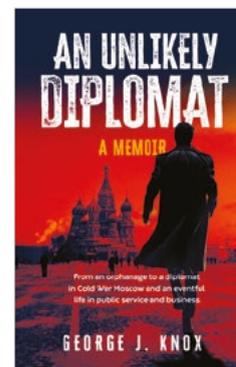
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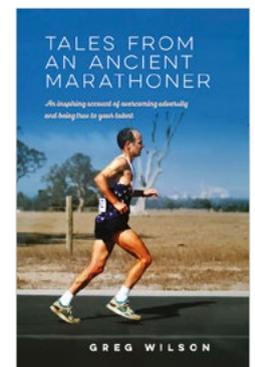


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The author spent his formative years in orphanages run by the Christian Brothers in Western Australia.



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