

# Australian Peacekeeper

MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2011

**Equal in  
Service  
Unequal in  
Death**

**Public hearings  
for the  
Victoria Cross  
inquiry**

**PLUS**

**HMAS Broome averts maritime disaster**

**IT Training for East Timor Army**

**Afghan & Australian forces seize record narcotics haul**





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 **AIRBUS MILITARY**

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Australian Peacekeepers Magazine attempts to provide insight into the experiences of peacekeepers, Defence members and war veterans and the issues that confront them together with encouraging informed debate regarding issues dealing with but not limited to Commonwealth compensation, pensions, superannuation and occupational health and safety that affect peacekeepers and their families. We welcome input from members and would love to feature personal experiences in each issue. Please email the editor with any stories you would like to see printed. The views expressed in the articles are those of the particular author and not those of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA). The APPVA will not be legally responsible in contract, tort or otherwise for any statement made in the articles in this publication.



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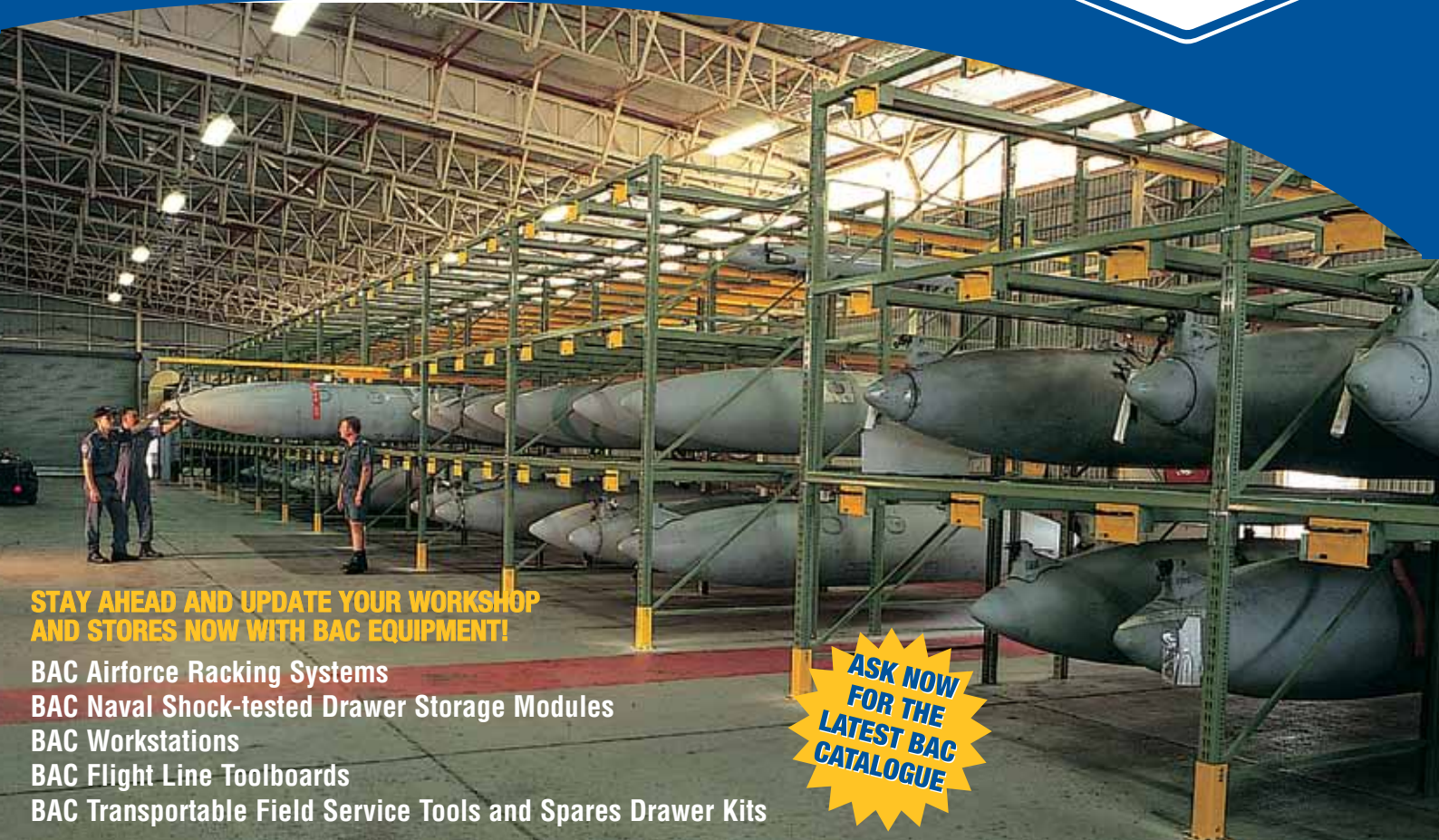
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# From the President's Desk

As the newly appointed National President of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) I attended the association's Annual General Meeting held in Brisbane on the 21 October 2011. I emphasized the importance of working together with other Ex-Service Organisations and the need to take a more collaborative approach to ensure future funding is maintained for veterans, current and past members of the ADF and the Australian Federal Police.

I am very pleased to be representing the Association and our constituents on current and past issues. With a great respect for younger veterans and Australian Federal Police who deployed overseas as part a task group, I look forward to working with other Ex-Service Organisations to build and improve current funding for the veteran community.

I intend to spend time listening to veterans' views and ideas with the promise to take up this post of National President with vigour, determination and commitment. Like many, I remain deeply concerned about the Government's approach and its invested interest in veterans' entitlements and needs past, present and future.

In recent times we have seen the Government decrease funding for the veterans community because of a decrease in VEA claims amongst those veterans who have served

and have sustained an injury, illnesses and disease during a period of service from 7 December 1972 to 30 June 2004. The Government is fully aware of the increased injuries/illnesses and diseases that are current with serving members under MRCA legislation that was enacted on the 1 July 2004 onwards.

The APPVA will continue to provide the relevant government agencies with constructive reports and submissions to ensure that those current and past members of the ADF are not disadvantaged by changes in legislation.

Additionally, the APPVA will continue to deliver the highest level of support to its members and the younger veteran community. Veterans hold a very special place in the hearts of many Australians and I will continue to provide our constituents with the same level of advice when required.

Once again I look forward to my tenure as the National President of the APPVA and wish all members of the association a safe and Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. I look forward to catching up with you all in the New Year.

Allan Thomas  
National President  
APPVA

# From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the Summer 2011 edition of the Australian Peacekeeper.

In this issue we have included a recent article written by James Brown and published in the Sydney Morning Herald on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. The opinion piece challenges the reader about commemorating past wars through national emotional investment but ignoring the current conflicts and veterans.

The recent deaths in Afghanistan highlighted the focus of this country when ABC National News placed the story at the 18-minute mark – the bulletin filled with the Qantas debacle.

Apparently it is okay to give your life in service of this nation but just don't do it on a day of major industrial action. I have long stated that Australia is a country at peace with its Defence force at war and very few Australians understand anything about ADF operations around the world. They'll have an opinion but actually have no context of the complex tasks being undertaken in each operational area.

But this is nothing new – soldiers returning home on leave in WWII found many people, particularly in the southern states, didn't know or understand what was occurring overseas – the impact at that time being mainly rationing and practice air-raid drills. It could be said that Vietnam had more of an impact on the population of this country because of National Service and media focus.

But certainly being a veteran doesn't enter the Australian psyche – except perhaps around ANZAC Day. There aren't major entertainers holding concerts to raise money towards veterans' projects or corporate leaders asking what they can do for our wounded soldiers or the younger veteran community. Just ask those trying to raise funds for the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial.

No one is making movies or television series of our operations aside from a few excellent ABC documentaries. Yet even the Danes have made a telemovie of their involvement in Afghanistan.

Also in this edition of the Australian Peacekeeper, National President, Allan Thomas, has written an article on the failure of the Australian War Memorial to recognize those who have died on peacekeeping, post-armistice or humanitarian operations (non-warlike) by placing their name on the Roll of Honour in the cloisters.

It is the firm view of the APPVA that it is time to change this inequality that remains linked into the original intent – commemorating those who have sacrificed their life in war. At the time of the opening of the Memorial, the concept of non-warlike (peacekeeping, humanitarian or post armistice) operations weren't considered. Seventy years after the Memorial was first open, perhaps it is now time to reconsider commemoration.



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The feature for this edition focuses on the Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) that is now being produced in other variants including ambulances. Under Project Bushranger, the vehicle is unique piece of wholly Australian produced military hardware with the design (and upgrades) saving lives in places like Afghanistan.

In taking over the reins as editor of the Australian Peacekeeper, I'd like to thank former editor Paul Copeland for his efforts and the team at K and R Publishing for continuing to produce an excellent publication.

Let us know your thoughts and views on what is happening out there in the younger veteran community and what you'd like to see on the pages of this magazine.

Lastly – may you all have a safe and relaxing Christmas and New Year. Eat and drink in moderation and don't forget to get some exercise over this time.

Phil Pyke  
Editor – Australian Peacekeeper  
editor@peacekeeper.asn.au

# Letters to the Editor

## Peacekeeping Book Up-Date

A few months ago I started a peacekeeping project, which will present the experiences of peacekeepers from individual perspectives. The aim is for a book that will give ordinary Australians an insight into peacekeeping, and acknowledge and increase awareness of your efforts. In light of feedback since commencing this project, one big change has been made, and a clarification is also required. As an individual un-funded writer/historian, my scope is necessarily limited. Initially I was only looking at operations in Somalia, Bougainville and the first deployment to Timor Leste.

However, importantly, Rwanda has now been added to the picture (and I thank those who encouraged me to do so). Furthermore, I am looking for people to interview who served in any capacity, across all the forces (including the AFP), not just the Army. So far I have received much warm support (thank you). If you would like to contribute to the story, I am still looking for interviewees and I would look forward to hearing from anyone happy to contribute their story — Jacqui Durrant jacqui@jacquidurrant.net

## Searching for A Book and Unit Crest/Plaque

Reference: MFO el-Gorah RWAU/SINAI - 1985/6

When the Australian Contingent left el-Gorah and handed over the Rotary Wing duties to the Canadians, they produced a book called QUIET SUCCESS -

ANZAC'S IN SINAI 1982-1986

There also was a Plaque designed by SQNLDR Ian Fogarty (Pilot) and very exceptional man.

It was a UNIT BADGE - ANZAC - RWAU with the Moto QUIET SUCCESS

QUIET was written in Hebrew

SUCCESS was written in arabic.

There is a Date Palm Tree in the shape of a crown at the top of the badge, Kangaroo on the right of the badge and Kiwi on the left with a Camel in the centre of the badge

RWAU stands for Rotary Wing Aviation Unit - this being the ANZAC Peacekeeping Unit in Egypt (SINAI) in the 80's (RAAF) AND SOME ARMY

I am seeking a copy of the book QUIET SUCCESS - ANZAC'S IN SINAI 1982 - 1986 and would like to locate a plaque as well.

Do you know anyone who could help me with my quest? Please contact Maureen at ittllesparrow65@optusnet.com.au

## Thank you

After putting it off for more than 15 years and with nearly 33 years of service, I have recently completed my DVA journey with the assistance of the associations Entitlements Officer, Mr Michael Quinn.

I wish to bring his exceptional performance to your attention. Prior to commencing the process, I held serious concerns about how and what to do. Mr Quinn not only put my concerns to rest, he also ably stepped me through the application process helping me understand my entitlement's

My belief is that my application was relatively straight forward and without any complicated issues. Now while this has proved correct and DVA has recognized my injuries, without Mr Quinns calm nature and educational approach I am confident I would have suffered levels of stress that should be avoided and would have been unnecessary. I can only imagine how much better he makes the process for those suffering a mental injury, such as PTS.

In conclusion, I like to thank the association for having an advocate available to veterans such as myself with the skill level displayed by Mr Quinn. I would ask that you pass on my thanks through the associations own official channels. I will be recommending not just Mr Quinn, but the use of an advocated to the soldiers I serve with. Thank you.

B. R. Dunn  
Warrant Officer Class One  
Regimental Sergeant Major  
Royal Australian Armoured Corps  
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# Bushmaster

## – A Success Story in Battlefield Protection



By Phil Pyke

In late September, three Australian soldiers were Wounded in Action as a result of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blasts during two separate incidents in Uruzgan Province.

On Friday 23 September, three soldiers from Mentoring Task Force – Three (MTF-3) were wounded when their Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) struck an IED during a partnered Mentoring Task Force – Three (MTF-3) and Afghan National Army (ANA) resupply mission in the Karmisan Valley.

Director of Health, Headquarters Joint Operations Command, Group Captain Karen Leshinkas said the

three wounded soldiers received immediate first aid and were evacuated by helicopter to the Role 2 Medical Facility in Tarin Kot.

“The soldiers were assessed as being in a satisfactory condition and have since returned to restricted duties,” Group Captain Leshinkas said.

Once again, the Bushmaster provided high levels of protection from mine blasts, ballistic rounds and improvised explosive devices to soldiers operating in the high-threat environment of Afghanistan.

From the outset, the Bushmaster appears to be a great success story for the Australian defence industry from the days of the first proto-types being deployed into East Timor in 1999 to wide use in Afghanistan. It is the only armoured military vehicles to be designed, developed, manufactured and supported in Australia.



Better known as the Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV), the Bushmaster was originally developed by Thales Australia in collaboration with Timoney Technology, Ireland, to provide integral ground mobility capability to infantry battalions as part of the ADF's Project Bushranger. It is now a recognised global class of vehicle in its own right.

The Bushmasters are produced in seven military variants – troop, command, mortar, assault pioneer, direct fire weapon, ambulance and air defence.

The v-shaped monocoque hull of the Bushmaster provides a high degree of protection against Improvised Explosive Devices, deflecting blast away from the vehicle and its occupants – and it is this feature which predominantly saving the lives of ADF members. The armour provides protection against small arms fire up to around 7.62 calibre.

Since the deployment of the proto-types into East Timor, the Bushmaster has been deployed to Al Muthanna Task Group 1 and later the Over Watch Battle Group. 6RAR used the vehicle during the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne and later that year Bushmasters were deployed under the Reconstruction Task Force into Afghanistan.

Taking into account feedback from the soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, including exposure of the gunner to

enemy fire and the lack of a drinking water cooling system, the vehicle design was changed to include the Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station (CROWS). With a quick response to these changes, the upgrades were installed on Bushmasters deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2007 by a team from Project Bushranger and the Australian Army.

More recently further upgrades have been undertaken in theatre include the installation of new seating and flooring in the cabin to provide additional protection for commanders, drivers and the troops being transported.

Expert Defence and industry engineers from Thales and Stratos Seating developed the upgrades based on data from damaged Bushmaster vehicles hit by improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan and blast trials conducted in Australia. The upgrades were completed in August this year

### Design and delivery:

Under the prime contractor, Thales Australia, Project Bushranger delivered 737 vehicles in seven variants (troop, command, mortar, assault pioneer, direct fire weapon, ambulance and air defence). All 300 troop, command, assault pioneer, mortar, direct fire weapon and ambulance variants under the original acquisition contract

Left: Leading Aircraftwoman (LACW) Shannan Turley, a military working dog handler operates a mag 58 on the Bushmaster while on patrol with members from No. 2 Airfield Defence Squadron.

Below: Internal image of Protected Mobility Vehicle (Bushmaster) fitted out as an ambulance. Four new Bushmasters fitted out as ambulances have been delivered to Headquarters Health Services Wing, enabling the development of an enhanced casualty transport and treatment capability within the Combat Support Group at RAAF Base Amberley.





Above: Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) soldiers out on patrol in Afghanistan with a Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle as support.

Opposite: Dwarfed by the snow capped mountains of southern Afghanistan, a Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle moves through a village during 1st Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force operations in the Baluchi Valley, Oruzgan Province.

(Production Period 1) have been delivered, says a Defence spokesperson.

“Delivery of 144 Enhanced Land Forces vehicles (Production Period 2) was completed in April 2009. Delivery of the residual 293 Protected Mobility Vehicles for Project LAND 121 (Production Period 3) will be completed by March 2012 on schedule.”

Earlier this year, Government announced the acquisition of an additional 101 Protected Mobility Vehicles (Production Period 4), with deliveries scheduled for completion by May 2013. This will see this phase of the project extended for a further 18 months and the delivery of a total 838 PMVs.

The prime focus of the project for 2011-12 is the completion of the delivery of 293 Bushmaster vehicles by June 2012 to satisfy Production Period 3 (Project LAND 121) requirements. The project will also determine the most appropriate way to meet the requirement for the provision of up to 184 protected mobility vehicle compatible trailers, which are also part of Production Period 3.

In mid-October, it was further announced that four Bushmaster ambulances have been delivered to the Air Force Health Services Wing at RAAF Base Amberley.

The Bushmaster ambulance is one of seven variants of the Bushmaster vehicle being built for the ADF at a cost of \$670,000 each. So far 25 Bushmaster ambulances have been delivered to the ADF including:

- 19 to 7 Brigade based at Enoggera Barracks, Brisbane;

- One to the School of Health at Latchford Barracks, Bonegilla;
- One to the Motorised Combat Wing, School of Artillery at Puckapunyal Barracks; and
- Four to the Air Force Health Services Wing at RAAF Base Amberley.

The Minister for Defence Materiel, Jason Clare said the Bushmaster ambulances were an improvement on the Sprinter ambulances currently used by the Royal Australian Air Force.

“The Bushmaster is a terrific vehicle – saving lives in Afghanistan,” Mr Clare said.

“These ambulances provide blast and ballistic protection. That means protection from bullets and artillery fired at the vehicle as well as roadside bombs.

“This gives patients, paramedics and drivers better protection in high threat environments.”

Mr Clare said the Bushmaster ambulances are fitted with the latest in medical equipment.

“The Bushmaster ambulance can transport two stretchered patients, or one stretchered and four seated patients, at the one time,” Mr Clare said.

The vehicles will be ready for operational service after personnel have completed their training and medical fit-out has been finished.

Workers at the Thales factory in Bendigo have been

producing Bushmaster vehicles for the Australian Defence Force, and export orders for the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

In May, the Government announced the purchase of an additional 101 Bushmaster vehicles to support ADF operations in Afghanistan. The vehicles, together with associated support, are being purchased at a total cost of \$133 million. This includes fitting Middle East Area of Operations protection kits and protected weapons stations.

It also includes funding to evaluate a range of enhancements to the Bushmaster vehicle to increase the level of protection it provides to ADF personnel. If these enhancements are viable they may be applied to the 101 vehicles.

The vehicles will be manufactured at the Bendigo factory and will be delivered over the next 18 months.

The Bushmaster is a truly Australian vehicle with workers around the country being involved in the production. Iron ore mined from the Pilbara and coking coal from the Hunter is forged in Port Kembla, cut to size in Melbourne and delivered to Bendigo where it is welded together to produce Bushmaster vehicles.

As of May 2011, 31 Bushmasters have been damaged beyond repair while in service with the Australian Army.

As the soldiers in Afghanistan continue to face the ever-evolving threat, particularly from Improvised Explosive Devices, it is certain that the best protection and mobility possible will continue to be provided for these members through the Bushranger Project.



## Supacat announces Australian operations and launches Supacat Team Australia to deliver REDFIN 1b

Canberra, ACT 13 October 2011, Supacat announced today the operational launch of Supacat in Australia and the launch of Supacat Team Australia, comprising 15 Australian partner companies, to bid, build and deliver the JP2097 Ph 1B (REDFIN) programme for the Australian Defence Material Office (DMO).

Supacat Team Australia is bidding the Special Forces HMT Extenda vehicle, which shares commonality with the Navy HMT fleet, delivered by Supacat to the DMO in 2009. The DMO is expected to announce its vehicle selection by the end of the year.

Supacat will be led by Australian national, Michael Halloran, who will transfer as Managing Director from his current position as Director & General Manager of Supacat's UK operations. Halloran has a strong track record in developing new businesses and extensive industry experience gained with Australian, UK and US prime contractors.

"Supacat will be first and foremost an engineering company, solving problems and developing products focussed on the people that use them, whether they be soldiers, drillers, lifeboat pilots or miners. Secondly, we will be an effective and efficient prime contractor, delivering on time, to cost and to quality", said Halloran.

Also attending the launch was Nick Jones, Director and Founder of Supacat. Jones commented, "We have built Supacat into a strong business over the past 30 years and we are very excited to be opening our first international office."

To form Supacat Team Australia, Supacat conducted a rigorous down-select process to identify industry partners, who have all agreed MoUs. Supacat Team Australia will work in partnership to deliver the entire program efficiently, on a best value for money basis, within Australia. Supacat has already established its Global Support Solution in Australia in partnership with VEEM Pty Ltd to support vehicles in service with Australian forces and this will be expanded to support the REDFIN Ph 1B fleet.

Supacat Team Australia partners include: Aerostaff, Andrew Engineering, Baker and Provan, Broens Industries, Cablex, Egger Consulting Engineers, Hallmark Logistics & Engineering, Hofmann Engineering, Marand Precision Engineering, PS Management Consultants, QinetiQ, Tectonica Australia, Unique Solution Partners and VEEM.

"Supacat Team Australia offers the Australian Defence Force an Australian led solution, built, delivered and supported by local industry. The delivery of the REDFIN 1B project will provide an enduring legacy of Australian capability and provide local companies with entry to global supply chains," said Halloran.

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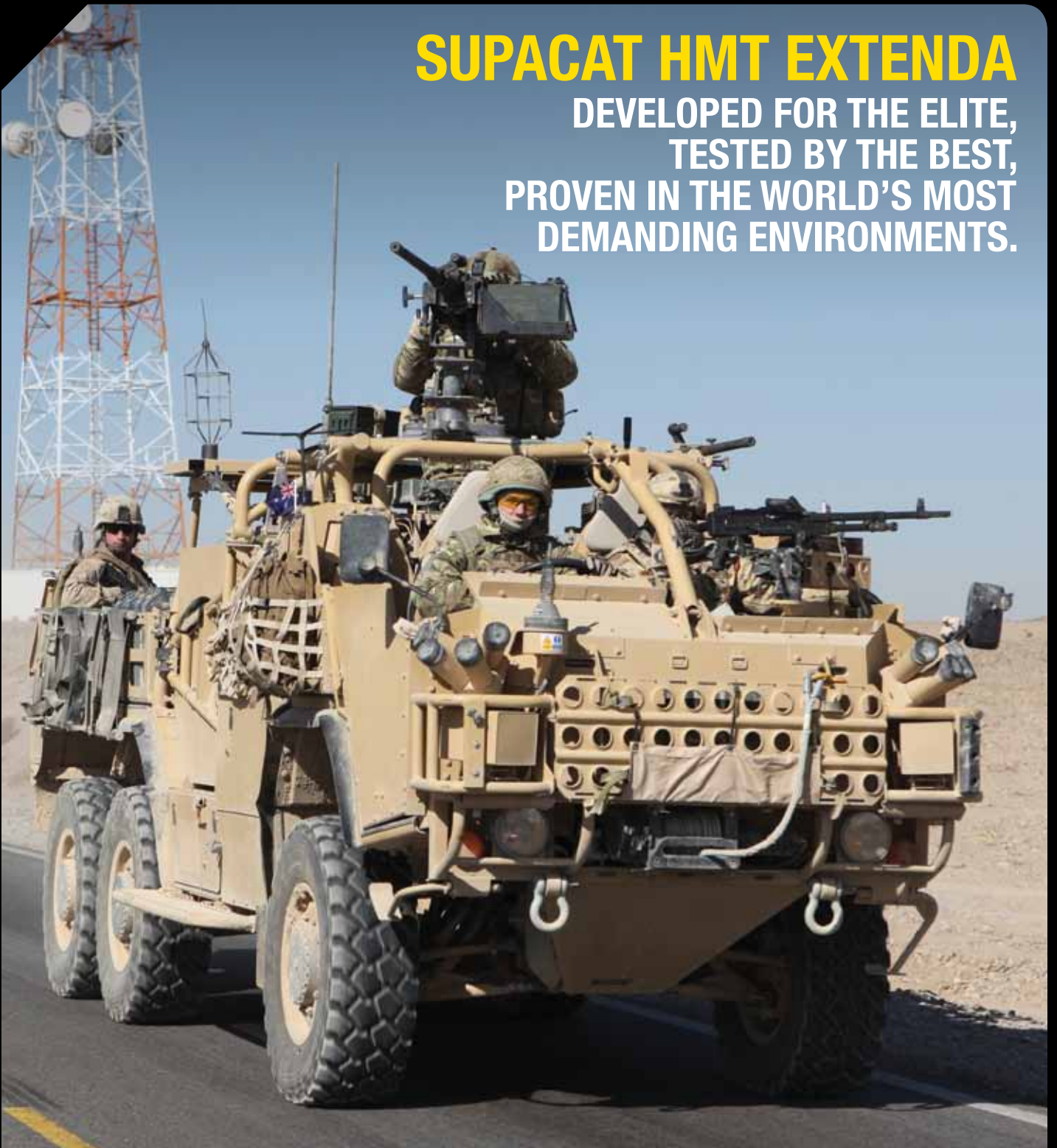
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TEAM AUSTRALIA

# NURSES

## FROM ZULULAND TO AFGHANISTAN

By Robyn Siers

Senior education officer at the Australian War Memorial and curator of *Nurses: from Zululand to Afghanistan*.

Australian nurses have been going to war for well over 100 years. Never far from the front line, but often far from home, they treat the sick and wounded in the air, and on land and sea. A new exhibition at the Australian War Memorial draws on its rich collection to explore the stories of military nurses from the first known Australian in the Zulu War of 1879, right up to the experiences of nurses serving in recent conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Ellen Julia “Nellie” Gould was a pioneer of service nursing in Australia. Born in Wales, she moved to Australia when she was 24 and completed her training at Sydney’s Royal Alfred Hospital. With the formation of the New South Wales Army Nursing Service Reserve in 1899, Matron Gould was appointed Lady Superintendent. Within a year, 14 of its members along with small groups of nurses from each Australian colony travelled to South Africa and worked in British hospitals during the Boer War. Unmarried, and

## *A new exhibition at the Australian War Memorial looks at the history of Australian military nursing*

mostly aged from 25 to 40, they were well-educated women from middle-class families. Nursing was one way that women could participate directly in the war effort.

Gould and her team set about transforming filthy buildings into hospitals, and raising the level of patient care. Supplies were often limited and food and water in short supply. Gould was undaunted by these challenges: “No one who has experienced the satisfaction that arises from work of this nature ever goes back to earning her living in any other of the spheres open to women.”

Today, both male and female nurses are officers in the Australian Defence Force, serving as part of Joint Health Command. With a high level of specialist training and the benefit of improved technology, these men and women continue to work in remote and dangerous places, often under difficult conditions. As well as providing essential medical treatment to Australians wounded in war, nurses are also deployed in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, providing care to local military personnel and civilians in countries ravaged by war or natural disasters.

In 1994–95, nurses formed part of the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (Unamir), sent to monitor the fragile peace between the Tutsis and the Hutus. While the medical unit’s primary role was to treat sick and wounded members of Unamir, casualties were low so the Australians were able

**Below: (L to R) Matron Nellie Gould, Sister Penelope Frater, and Sister Julia Bligh Johnston with Buller the dog. Opposite: Lieutenant Meg Frugtniet with a local interpreter and health worker at the Kasdem military hospital in Banda Aceh.**





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to look after the local population, treating gunshot wounds, mine injuries, and road trauma cases.

The nurses were met by scenes of chaos: the public health system had collapsed, there was no power or running water, and buildings were in ruins. As Gould and her team had done almost 100 years before, the nurses first had to clean up. After an intensive scrub down of the wards in the Central Hospital in Kigali, an intensive care unit, operating theatre, x-ray department, and general wards were established. Many patients bore injuries which had gone untreated and become infected; a third of operations were on patients under 15 years of age.

Captain Lewis MacLeod, a senior nursing officer with trauma and theatre experience, and a veteran of service in Cambodia in 1993, was posted to the Australian Medical Support Force wing at Kigali hospital. He witnessed the aftermath of the massacre of up to 4,000 refugees at the Kibeho Internally Displaced Persons' Camp by Rwandese Patriotic Army soldiers. "After Kibeho we operated non-stop for 48 hours, and they just kept coming through the door."

More recently, navy reservist Lieutenant Meg Frugtniet participated in three short-term multinational operations providing humanitarian aid to countries in the Pacific. Aboard USNS *Mercy*, Frugtniet worked as part of a medical team in Banda Aceh in 2006 and East Timor in 2008. Her third deployment, in 2010, was in HMAS *Tobruk*, which sailed to New Guinea and East New Britain. As a specialist theatre nurse, most of her time was spent with surgical cases, often children: "I felt so privileged to be there. It was so gratifying to assist with procedures like repairing cleft

palates; giving people back their smiles."

Australian service nurses continue to share a spirit of adventure, a desire to make a difference, and the discipline required to work in a military team. But most of all, they remain committed to putting their patients first, come what may.

*Nurses: from Zululand to Afghanistan*

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# Major Commendation for UN Effort

On the morning of 22 Oct 11, CJOPS presented Australian Service Medals with Sudan clasp and the UN Mission to Sudan (UNMIS) medal to Australian Contingent 13 (ASC 13) Staff Officers and Military Liaison Officers, prior to their return to Australia in the coming weeks.

ASC 13 worked through and contributed directly to the establishment of the new United Nations Mission in Southern Sudan as well as the transition of personnel and logistics from UNMIS and ultimately, the liquidation of UNMIS in Sudan.

Above: WOFF Jamie Auld is presented a Chief of Joint Operations (CJOPS) Gold Commendation by CJOPS, LTGEN Ash Power, in recognition of his efforts during the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Southern Sudan.

Below: Members of Australian Contingent 13 deployed on OP AZURE gather to witness the Chief of Joint Operations presentation.





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Above: APPVA Ambassador, Matina Jewell had the privilege of representing the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project at a recent reception for the UN Secretary General His Excellency Ban Ki-moon at Government House, Sydney, in September.

Matina personally met the Secretary General and managed to have a one-on-one conversation with him later in the evening as the Secretary General was interested in her service on UNTSO, particularly given Matina was at Patrol Base Khiam just days before the fatal bombing during the 2006 Lebanon War.

## Illegal fishing caught in Orion's patrol belt

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is casting a wide net in support of the Australian effort to help our Pacific neighbours protect their fisheries.

From early to mid-November 2011, a Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion aircraft deployed to support Operation KURU KURU, the large-scale law enforcement operation held annually by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).

Operation KURU KURU is part of a wider FFA coordinated campaign of airborne and maritime patrols against illegal fishing.

Aircraft Captain, Flight Lieutenant Richard Court, said the Orion joined with the assets of neighbouring Pacific Islands Countries in patrolling a 30-million square kilometre area.

"It's very rewarding to support Operation Kuru Kuru; we are contributing to securing food supplies and economic interests of South Pacific Island nations," Flight Lieutenant Court said.

While on Operation KURU KURU, the Orion flew four missions, identifying, locating and documenting approximately 100 fishing vessels within its assigned areas of operation.

The information was provided to the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency Joint Coordination Centre, which conducts Operation KURU KURU.

Royal Australian Navy Commander Mike Pounder, led the Australian assistance to the Joint Coordination Centre. Commander Pounder said the operation was aimed at securing a vital, yet threatened food resource.

**A suspect fishing vessel is photographed by a low-flying Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion flying out of Solomon Islands as part of Operation SOLANIA**



# The Diggers we choose to forget

## Why commemorate wars past if troops of today end up ignored?

James Brown  
Sydney Morning Herald November 11, 2011  
OPINION

ACROSS our nation today Australians will pause to commemorate a war that began before the vast majority of us were alive and ended with the deaths of 60,000 Australian soldiers. Our leaders will make speeches echoing honour and sacrifice, school captains will lay wreaths, and trumpeted reveilles will puncture a minute's silence. But what is the point of all this national emotional investment in commemoration?

Australians seem obsessed with commemorating world wars past. Driving from Sydney to the nation's capital you can cross the Anzac Bridge, swing through the Sir Roden Cutler, VC, interchange, and cruise down the Remembrance Driveway, where roadside toilets remember our Victoria Cross winners. We have thousands of war memorials and our children even swim in war memorial pools. You can buy sand from Gallipoli over the counter at Australia Post shops. Commemoration is almost inescapable - lest we forget.

This year while the Australian Defence Force budget was cut the Australian War Memorial budget rose 25 per cent, and \$25 million is planned for two new world war memorials beside Lake Burley Griffin. A further \$8.1 million is committed to building memorials in Wellington and Washington.

Despite the proliferation of memorials and a fetish for military history, the gulf between the public and the military that serves them today has never been more yawning. The public do not understand the complexity or context of the modern wars our soldiers are fighting in places such as Afghanistan. Many soldiers now question whether the public care. In May, when two Diggers were killed, a federal MP noted his office had been deluged with hundreds of calls about the welfare of Australian cattle in Indonesia, but not a single call about the welfare of Australian soldiers in Afghanistan.

After a decade of war in the Middle East, private citizens, with a few honourable exceptions, have done little new to help ease returned and wounded soldiers back into their communities. In Britain a hugely successful charity campaign, Help for Heroes, has raised \$175 million for wounded veterans in four years. Celebrities and prime ministers have signed on to build recuperation centres for soldiers and their families, to write cookbooks, and to record chart-topping singles. In the US, a private group has pioneered Operation Proper Exit, an innovative program that takes wounded soldiers back into war zones to see where they were injured, thank colleagues who saved

their lives and leave the war on their own terms. Actor James Gandolfini has made a critically acclaimed HBO documentary to help soldiers with post-traumatic stress disorder.

In Australia, our wounded soldiers are invisible. The poker machine lobby cynically brandishes "Clubs support our Diggers" signs while donating a pitifully low percentage of gambling revenue to veterans. While top US entertainers perform in Afghanistan and Iraq, only five of Australia's top 120 musical acts have joined ADF-run war zone tours in the past five years. No wonder our soldiers are confused that so much commemorative effort is not matched with contemporary concern.

Somewhere in all this Anzac nostalgia we have forgotten that commemoration in a vacuum is pointless. Why remember Gallipoli and the Somme if not to learn from the tragic sacrifice and never let soldiers be sacrificed again? Our amphibious ships don't float, our Black Hawks can't be sent to a war zone, and we have more generals than we do tanks. If the modern ADF wanted to land troops ashore in Gallipoli, it would struggle to do so.

Australians are apathetic about defence policy and the decisions that shape where, how and with what our soldiers fight.

Our defence force has serious problems that need more than a minute's reflection. Rather than building an Anzac interpretive centre for last century's military, we need one for today's. Building war memorials is easy; building defence policy for the future is hard. It's time we started caring more about soldiers who are alive than those long dead.

James Brown is the military associate at the Lowy Institute and served in Iraq, Afghanistan and Solomon Islands.

This article is reproduced with full acknowledgement to the Sydney Morning Herald 11 Nov 11





# Keeping in touch

There is little doubt that leaving a unique job such as Defence can be difficult – especially after a long committed career or operational deployment, and into the transition through civilian life.

Touchbase is a joint Defence and DVA initiative, aiming to provide assistance, information and links that can help former Defence members in their civilian life, from jobs and finances to health and well-being.

Members can sign up to “Find Your Mates” section and subscribe to the quarterly e-newsletter to get in contact with family and friends and receive stories written especially for the ex-service community – covering topics and people of interest to the Touchbase community.

The on-line program is an initiative arising from the Dunt Report in looking at on-going recognition of service, reduction of isolation and providing a level of information relating to mental health support through the Well-Being Tool Box.

The Tool Box targets the “hard to engage” veteran with content supplied by the Australian Centre For Post-Traumatic Mental Health and assists with prevention and early intervention with self-assessment and management tools.

While mental health assistance should be managed in the long-term by professionals in this area, these tools assist the user through initial steps of developing social connections, solving problems, building support, getting active, keeping calm and sleeping better.

Touchbase is under a year long trial and a visit to the site [www.touchbase.gov.au](http://www.touchbase.gov.au) is worth the time – even just to register your details to find your former mates or perhaps use the forum to place a reunion notice.



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# Afghan and Australian Forces seize record narcotics haul

The drug trade out of Afghanistan has been dealt major blow when Afghan National Security Forces supported by Australia's Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) recently seized and destroyed record amounts of drug products in two significant operations.

United States Drug Enforcement Agency representatives say the ingredients would have been used to make heroin with a street value in excess of a combined value of US\$500 million if sold in the United States.

The haul included a large quantity of narcotics manufacturing equipment and chemicals, weapons and ammunition.

The Commanding Officer of the SOTG, Lieutenant Colonel G (who cannot be named for security reasons), said the second significant find during a counter-narcotics operation in Helmand province on 26 September 2011 greatly exceeded the first drug destruction mission – with the potential value of \$350 million.

“This is one of the biggest narcotics busts by Afghan National Security Forces, comprising the National Interdiction Unit and the Air Interdiction Unit, and Australian Special Operations Task Group to date,” Lieutenant Colonel G said.

“In Afghan terms, the combined hauls will remove around US\$21 million from directly funding the insurgency.”

More notable is the fact the drug labs were seized and destroyed without a shot being fired.

“The destruction of such a large quantity of drug products will have a considerable effect on the insurgent operations

in northern Helmand and west Uruzgan throughout the remainder of 2011 and into 2012,” Lieutenant Colonel G said.

“Insurgent finance of fighters, weapons and IEDs will be significantly affected, making the provinces safer for the locals.”

This find followed a previous successful mission in Helmand Province earlier in September when a narcotics laboratory housing enough ingredients to manufacture drugs worth around US\$150 million was uncovered.

Two SOTG members, an Afghan National Interdiction Unit officer and an Afghan interpreter were wounded in this operation when the partnered force came under attack from insurgents defending their narcotics operations during this operation.

Four of wounded men received immediate first aid at the scene with three of the more seriously wounded, including one of the SOTG members, were aero-medically evacuated to a nearby medical facility,

Three men were subsequently transferred to the Role 3 Medical Facility at Camp Bastion in Helmand Province where they are receiving specialist care.

“The second SOTG member, who sustained a superficial wound, stayed with the patrol to complete the mission,” said Lieutenant Colonel G.

“The Australian soldiers have both been assessed as being in a stable condition and their families have been notified of the incident.”

During the mission a number of insurgents were killed. A small group of insurgents were also detained and taken to Multi National Base – Tarin Kot for processing.

Another operation conducted by the SOTG and Afghan National Security Forces in early November in the Kajaki Region of Helmand Province seized and destroyed around 4000 kg of poppy seed. Several insurgents were killed in these engagements as well.

**SOTG members examine the drug laboratory located on the second operation**





International Stabilisation Force member, Army Corporal Matt Ellis, instructs an East Timorese Army (F-FDTL) member on correct wiring procedures during the Information Technology course at Metinaro F-FDTL Barracks in East Timor

## IT training for East Timor Army

Australian Army technicians serving with the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in East Timor are teaching Information Technology (IT) skills to East Timorese Army recruits.

The training is being conducted under the Australian-led Defence Cooperation Program aimed at professionalising and enhancing the operational effectiveness of the East Timorese Army (F-FDTL).

Officer in Charge of the training, Army Lieutenant Cody Goulding, said that the course was designed to give students a basic understanding of IT skills and theory.

"Over a period of four weeks, two of our ISF signalers have been attached to the F-FDTL providing basic IT training to the recruits," Lieutenant Goulding said.

"This training provides the recruits with core IT skills, from basic mouse functions right through to simple networking skills."

For instructor, Army Signaler Corporal Matt Ellis, teaching the recruits was a chance to also broaden his own skills and contribute towards the ongoing development of the F-FDTL.

"It has been a real pleasure instructing the F-FDTL students," Corporal Matt Ellis said.

**Defence Cooperation Program Communications Advisor to the East Timorese Army (F-FDTL), Army Sergeant Daniel Walker, instructs F-FDTL trainee, 2nd Sergeant Lucia Araujo De Jesus, on the basic layout of computer hardware during the Information Technology course at Metinaro F-FDTL Barracks in East Timor.**

"The training is important because as the F-FDTL grows and develops data communication networks, they will need to have professionals to maintain the equipment and fix any problems."

One such professional is F-FDTL trainee, 2nd Sergeant Lucia Araujo De Jesus, who chose to specialise in IT because it was an area she believed the F-FDTL would need to develop in the future.

"It is important that we can transfer this training and knowledge to others so that East Timor and the F-FDTL can grow and work with other forces in the future," said 2nd Sergeant De Jesus.

The ISF IT training with the F-FDTL concluded at the end of November 2011.





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# RWB Adventures PNG Kokoda Track

RWB Adventures PNG and RWB Adventure PNG Ltd. were founded by Bob Bulloch after completing the trek himself. After meeting and being with the people from the track over the 9 days of trekking, Bob decided to found the company with the aim of providing jobs for the people of the track especially those from villages around Owers Corner.

The Kokoda campaign first started on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1942 with the Japanese landing on the northern side at Buna & Gona. With the many battles taking place firstly between Popondetta and Kokoda and then along the track there were many casualties who needed to be transported back to Owers Corner (Port Moresby end of the track). Unfortunately the track was so rugged and mountainous that vehicle access of any type was not possible. The people of PNG came to our troops aid and either carried or helped our wounded through atrocious conditions (in some cases days of travel) back to Uberi (a medical dressing station) and then onto Owers Corner where they were transported to nearby hospitals. These natives were dubbed 'ANGELS' by those who they helped and subsequently were known as 'FUZZY WUZZY ANGELS'. The first of these people originated from the villages of Owers Corner and Kokoda. Many of the other companies offering treks use people from the track as porters and guides but the people from the villages of Owers Corner are largely forgotten. All of RWB Adventures PNG Porters and Guides come from

villages around Owers Corner. RWB's head guide Willie Anapa has 16 years experience and has guided 102 treks over the track. His brother Steven, also a RWB guide, has led 104 treks over the Kokoda track. All of our guides and many of our porters are First Aid trained and hold certificates. The Kokoda track is centuries old. It was originally used by natives to travel between their villages and to move from the Hinterland to the coast, often to escape inter-tribal warfare. The Kokoda Track is definitely one of the world's greatest treks with it being challenging to the mind as well as physical. The track follows World War II, wartime route of the Australian Diggers as closely as possible but a number of villages have moved to nearby locations and some in fact have been abandoned. The track winds its way over many ranges, ridges and valleys, crossing rivers and creeks and all the time that you are on the track imagining what it would have been for the men who defended Australia and Papua New Guinea from the enemy onslaught. History is very much present today as you venture through your trek you will come upon monuments, trenches and gun pits. When in the villages you will also see many relics such as mortar shells, rifle barrels and helmets. The relics have mostly been found in the jungle by locals when clearing land for new farming fields and even today relics are still being found.

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# Equal In Service

# Unequal in Death

## An Opinion Piece by Allan Thomas, National President APPVA

The cloisters at the Australian War Memorial are a special place – unequalled, in the opinions of many, by any other memorial in the British Commonwealth as a commemorative site.

In mid to late afternoon the sun forms arched shadows across the right hand wall, the light enhanced by the thousands of red poppies placed beside a bronzed name of a departed Australian who gave their life in service of this country.

It was at this time late last year, I saw him – a younger veteran who had come to the AWM not to commemorate but to grieve. Oblivious to those around him, his head bowed, fingers stretched out touching the name of his fallen comrade under the heading, “Afghanistan”. His face was creased with grief as finger tips pressed hard against raised bronze letters.

After several minutes, a large group of tourists interrupted his personal moment and quickly the younger veteran moved down the stairs and out of the Memorial, his minutes of reflection noisily broken.

As I approached the post-Vietnam commemorative plate where the younger veteran had been standing, I realised that those who had died on non-warlike (humanitarian, peacekeeping or post-armistice operations) didn't have a right to have their names placed amongst the other 102,000 Australians who died on warlike operations.

An inquiry to AWM staff found the names in a Remembrance Book locked in a cabinet hidden in a stairway corner at the end of the cloisters. I found this is hardly acceptable recognition and hardly adequate for the families of those who have died to be able to grieve properly.

C.E.W. Bean always intended that the AWM would be a place where the fallen would be equal in death – no rank, no gallantry awards and no post nominals. At the time the AWM opened, there were no concepts of peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance or even warlike/non-warlike operations. All were considered equal – until bureaucratic decision making become involved.

A query to the AWM found the criteria to be included on the bronze panels in the cloisters means a person must die or be killed on war-like service. In other words, the AWM still adheres to the original intent of the Memorial – commemorating the sacrifice of Australians who have died in war – despite this intent being adopted before peacekeeping, humanitarian operations and the post-armistice of Korea were considered.

In looking at this division in a straightforward scenario, it means if one ADF member dies in a vehicle crash in Afghanistan and another dies in similar circumstances in the Solomon Islands, one name goes on the Wall while the other member goes into the Remembrance Book.

Perhaps the absurdity of war-like versus non warlike could be best relate to the Army Training Support Team in East Timor (ATST-ET) between Sept 1999 – Aug 2003 under the Defence Cooperation Program. While the service of the rest of the ADF across the country was classified as warlike, the ATST-ET, based at Com where they were training Falantil guerrillas into a fledgling Timorese defence force, had their service classified as non-warlike.

There is a further argument that police officers killed while on overseas service should have a place in the Memorial. While this would certainly be a “bridge too far” for the Government and the AWM, the National Police Memorial (NPM) in King's Park is a magnificent memorial in itself and is considered amongst police officers to be adequate as a commemorative point.

Located on the north shore of the lake and adjacent to the National Carillon, the NPM reflects the intense operational nature of policing not just within Australia but also overseas.

**It is perhaps important to reflect that in the time Australia lost 32 soldiers in Afghanistan, 33 Australian police officers have been killed in the line of duty both within this country and overseas.**

Therefore I believe that the NPM is the only place for police officers who die or are killed in the line of duty, irrespective where this occurs.

In the design, the NPM recognised that touching is an important part of grieving for families and the bronze touchstones containing the names of fallen officers invite this connection. In contrast, the AWM completely overlooks this physical connection despite the thousands who touch the names of their ancestors on the bronze panels in the cloisters each year.

Families of those who die on non-warlike service can't touch anything, turn the pages of the book or put a poppy into the locked cabinet. Consider this – if an ADF member was killed in Cambodia or Rwanda, their name would have initially gone into the Book of Remembrance.

Yet with the reclassification of these operations to warlike service, the names would have been eligible to be



placed onto the bronze plates in the cloisters. So what changed? Certainly not the circumstances of death or operational details - just a bureaucratic decision.

The AWM website states the Memorial will be the principal national means of showing the nation's gratitude and respect for those who served. But digging further finds that the Memorial's purpose is to commemorate the sacrifice of those Australians who have died in war. Its mission is to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the nation's experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society.

Many younger (and older) veterans agree it is now appropriate for the AWM to change the position either through inclusion on the current bronze panels or a separate panel for the 47 who have died on peacekeeping/humanitarian or post-armistice operations.

We have become a society where Governments argue about equality for all in many areas, including same sex marriages, yet there's not one level of equality in recognising those who have died in service of this country outside war-like conditions.

Yet this anomaly, which benefits no one, exists in our national shrine due to little more than bureaucratic inequality and a lack of will to show proper respect and gratitude for all those who die in service of this nation.

Equality in death – I think C.E.W. Bean would agree with that. Pity the rest of us can't.



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# National Security and Prosperity headline

## Royal Australian Navy Sea Power Conference in 2012

*The Naval Contribution to National Security and Prosperity* is the theme for the next Royal Australian Navy Sea Power Conference to be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour from 31 January to 2 February 2012.

Chief of Army, **Lieutenant General David Morrison AO** will join the Chief of Navy, **Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AM CSC RAN** as the Conference key note speakers.

They will be joined by more than twenty guest speakers from Australia and overseas who will present papers that cover the latest in Australian and international maritime affairs, from protection of seaborne trade and conservation of ocean resources, to enforcement of maritime sovereignty and the preservation of good order at sea, including:

**Dr Sam Bateman**, a retired RAN Commodore and Professorial Research Fellow at the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security at the University of Wollongong, will present *Promoting Australia as a Maritime Power: the Significance of the Law of the Sea*. With the maritime environment around Australia becoming more complex and contentious, his paper will look at how Australia might meet that challenge of managing one of the largest areas of maritime jurisdiction in the world.

**Dr Christian Bouchard**, Associate Professor at Laurentian University in Canada, will speak about *The French Navy in the south-west Indian Ocean*, with particular focus the island communities of Réunion and Mayotte from where it operates as well as its roles in both bilateral and regional multilateral cooperation.

**Professor Henry Ergas**, Senior Economic Adviser for Deloitte Australia and Professor of Infrastructure Economics at the University of Wollongong, will look at the renaissance in naval shipbuilding within Australia over the past 20 years. His presentation, *Australian Ship Building*, will explore the economic and strategic costs and benefits of domestic naval construction, its implications for defence industry policy and Australia's future naval ship building programs.

**Dr Norman Friedman**, an internationally known strategist and naval historian, who has spent more than a decade at a major US think-tank and another as consultant to the Secretary of the Navy. His paper, *Maintaining Good Order at Sea*, recognises that navies help maintain world peace by ensuring world trade flows freely and protecting the vast resources of the sea. However, a new way of helping maintain 'good order' seems to be emerging with the ability of ships at sea to intercept ballistic missiles which has implications for peacetime and wartime naval roles.

**Dr Alessio Patalano** is a lecturer in War Studies at the Department of War Studies, King's College London. His presentation, *Sea Power and Security in the East and South China Seas* addresses the inherent tensions existing between the use of naval forces to exert influence and protect core national interests and the requirements to engage in maritime governance in the East and South China Seas.

**Dr Sam Tangredi**, Director of San Diego Operations for planning-consulting firm Strategic Insight Ltd and a retired US Navy Captain, will discuss the direct and indirect

economic benefits from security cooperation between the Australian defence establishment and US naval forces in his presentation *The Economic Benefits of Security Cooperation: A Case Study of the RAN/USN Relationship*.

**Professor Geoffrey Till**, Emeritus Professor of Maritime Studies at King's College and Director of the Corbett Centre for Maritime Policy Studies in London, considers the economics and strategic cost-effectiveness of sea power using naval and maritime developments in both Europe and the Asia-Pacific region in his paper entitled *The Economics of Sea Power*.

**Captain Frank van Rooyen**, South African Navy (Rtd), presents a paper on *A Southern Perspective on the Indian Ocean*, which aims to give a perspective of the Indian Ocean from the global south, a term covering the previously colonised, underdeveloped and impoverished nations of Africa, Latin America and most of Asia.

Additional topics on Australia's future submarine; the Australian Hydrographic Service; maritime medical diplomacy; regional maritime trade operations, Australia's seaborne trade, international naval cooperation; naval engineering, the Naval Reserve; and an update on plans for the International Fleet Review 2013 will appeal to anyone with a professional interest in maritime affairs.

The Sea Power Conference is an integral part of the biennial Pacific Maritime Congress, one of the most prestigious and comprehensive international maritime event in Australasia. Registration for the Sea Power Conference includes free access to Pacific 2012 International Maritime Exposition, conducted by Maritime Australia Limited, and all presentations of the Pacific 2012 International Maritime Conference, hosted by Engineers Australia, The Royal Institution of Naval Architects and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology.

The conference is designed to permit all delegates to visit the many industry displays in the Exposition itself, and to conduct informal professional discussions with exhibitors and fellow delegates. It includes a major social program comprising of official opening and closing ceremonies plus an RAN Reception on the evening of Tuesday 31 January at which guests will be treated to a military tradition of centuries old combining the Sunset Ceremony and Beat to Quarters conducted by the Royal Australian Navy Band and Australian Federation Guard Navy Detachment on the Darling Harbour foreshore.

A number of RAN fleet units will also be open to delegates, including the Guided Missile Frigate (FFG) HMAS Sydney and an ANZAC class Frigate Helicopter (FFH) HMAS Ballarat at Garden Island, and an Armidale class Patrol Boat (PB) HMAS Ararat and a Mine Hunter Coastal (MHC) HMAS Huon at Darling Harbour.

The Royal Australian Navy Sea Power Conference is open to all Australian and foreign defence personnel free of charge. Non-defence personnel can attend the three day event from \$930.00, with concessions and single day tickets available from \$580.00. For more information, full event program or to register visit [www.seapowerconference.com](http://www.seapowerconference.com)

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# HMAS Broome averts maritime disaster



The view from HMAS Broome's Quarterdeck of the towing hawser and MV Vega Fynen stern – courtesy Dept of Defence.

An environmental and maritime catastrophe was narrowly averted off the coast of Papua New Guinea – thanks to the rapid response by the crew of the Royal Australian Navy Patrol Boat, HMAS *Broome*.

At 9.20am on the 24th of October, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority requested Defence support in aiding the container vessel MV *Vega Fynen*, which had lost engine power and was drifting towards a charted reef, 100 nautical miles south-east of Port Moresby.

Commanding Officer of HMAS *Broome*, Commander John Navin, said his Ship's Company were preparing to berth at the PNG town of Alotau when the new orders were received.

"The crew took the change of task in their stride as our Patrol Boat turned away from port and increased speed," Commander Navin said.

On receiving the call, HMAS *Broome* sailed 146 nautical miles to rendezvous with the 13 000-ton MV *Vega Fynen*, offering assistance to the crew should they be required to evacuate their ship.

While on-station, HMAS *Broome's* command team confirmed MV *Vega Fynen's* drift rate and direction and worked to develop options to prevent the almost certain grounding on the reef.

Commander Navin said his team planned a stern-to-stern tow option in the hope they could at least arrest the drift of MV *Vega Fynen* until commercial salvage vessels and tugs arrived.

"The tow line was passed to the MV *Vega Fynen* only 700 metres before the ship entered uncharted waters as the sun was setting."

Despite the MV *Vega Fynen's* large size and tonnage,

HMAS *Broome* was able to arrest the northerly drift of the container vessel, and slowly pull the vessel south and away from immediate danger.

Dwarfed by the commercial carrier, the Armidale Class Patrol Boat kept the ship under tow for six hours until the tow line was passed to a commercial tug better suited for the heavy role.

After successfully handing over the job, the Ship's Company of HMAS *Broome* sailed back to Alotau to continue with their planned activities.

The next morning the crew of HMAS *Broome* received a congratulatory message from Port Moresby's Rescue Coordination Centre.

The signal highlighted that the actions of HMAS *Broome* almost certainly averted a major environmental disaster. Given the recent ground of the container ship, *Rena*, in New Zealand, it appeared all parties were aware of the potential impact should the MV *Vega Fynen* strike the reef.

"The measured risks taken in this dangerous evolution proved of great benefit and not only held the MV *Vega Fynen* but slowly brought her back into deeper waters," the message stated.

Commander Navin said his Ship's Company achieved a complicated task on a scale that had not been attempted by an Armidale Class Patrol Boat previously.

"The crew are proud of their achievement and satisfied that their training and skills were put to good use to save lives and save the environment.

"The Master of the MV *Vega Fynen* was very appreciative of the efforts of HMAS *Broome* and expressed his sincere thanks once we had recovered our towing equipment."

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# Navy cook earns bravery award

Queensland born Royal Australian Navy sailor Quinton Boorman feels humbled to be included along with other ADF members for a significant national bravery award.

Able Seaman Boorman was in one of the rigid hull inflatable boats (RHIB) from HMAS *Childers* monitoring the Suspected Irregular Entry Vessel (SIEV) 36 when it exploded on the morning of 16 April 2009 while undertaking border protection operations for Operation RESOLUTE near Ashmore Reef.

The 27-year-old man, with family scattered across south-west Queensland, said he was humbled and flattered for being recognised by Governor General Quentin Bryce for a Group Bravery Citation.

“We were just doing the job that we had been trained for. We had a half a second quick pause to understand ‘what just happened’ and then just started plucking people out of the water,” he said.

“It was pretty damn hectic at the time and I was worried about getting people out of the water. I’ll be honest, it was a scary thing to be a part of and something I’ll never forget.”

AB Boorman, a Navy cook on Armidale Class Patrol Boats said this is definitely an award that he will cherish for all his crew and Navy mates.

“It was a group effort, it wasn’t just me, it was a whole lot of

people pulling together in trying circumstances.”

AB Boorman is one of 18 Australian Defence Force members recognised by the awarding of the Group Bravery Citation for reacting swiftly and professionally to rescue people in the water.

**Below: Able Seaman Cook Quinton Boorman (right), Petty Officer Boatswain Mate Paul Hetherington (centre) and Able Seaman Boatswain Mate Michael Lordan(rear), at HMAS Coonawarra in Darwin.**





TODAY  
24

FLIGHT CREWS OUTPACED  
THEIR AIRCRAFT UPGRADE.  
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## Maintainers keep aircraft on task in Middle East

Keeping two operational AP-3C Orion's airborne at a near-perfect launch rate is no mean feat and is carried out by an often unrecognized maintenance team.

Just ask the maintenance team at Al Minhad Airbase, working 24 hours a day, seven days a week to keep the aircraft on task. In mid-August, the Orion detachment reached 20,000 hours of operational flight time and the work that goes into keeping them airborne is equally impressive.

Shift boss, Flight Sergeant (FSGT) Nick Hanna, said his guys take a lot of pride in the fact they are doing operational work.

"The experience and knowledge of the guys is fantastic," said FSGT Hanna.

"They just relish the opportunities and challenges to fault find problems, because over here we've got no choice but to nut it out ourselves and the guys pick up a lot of knowledge from that."

Most of the maintenance team are veterans on their second, third or fourth deployments to the Middle East Area of Operations and regularly work through temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius and in withering United Arab Emirates humidity.

Aircraft technician, Corporal (CPL) Lincoln Rawlings, said it was the operational job they train to do.

"We've had a couple of high tempo days when we had three major scheduled services come up on a single day, so that was pretty big," said CPL Rawlings.

"It takes quite a few hours to get one done, but we got all three done in one day. It's just amazing to watch guys go 'right let's get it done and let's have this thing flying tomorrow'," he said.

Senior engineering officer, Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Matthew Durbin, said the team work hard and have accomplished something special.

"When you add it up, those 20,000 hours of flying over the last eight years add up to roughly half a million maintenance hours," said FLTLT Durbin.

FSGT Hanna said the 20,000 hour milestone was a real feather in their cap.

"I'm sure if you ask any of the maintainers they will just blow it off and say 'well that's just what we do,' but you can see it in their eyes they're proud that they have achieved that milestone," he said.

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# Calling all MEAO Veterans - There's still time to have your say, but be quick!

In 2010, the largest health research program ever undertaken for the ADF, the Military Health Outcomes Program (MilHOP), was launched.

The Centre for Military and Veterans' Health (CMVH) at the University of Queensland, has been conducting the MEAO Health Study which is part of the Military Health Outcomes Program (MilHOP). The study aims to capture the health, wellbeing, and deployment experiences of ex-serving and Reservist personnel who deployed to the MEAO since 2001.

Research indicates that following deployment, physical and mental health outcomes for ex-serving members are different from those of currently serving members.

Earlier this year invitations went out to ex-serving and Reservist personnel to participate in the study, but "Given that ex-serving and Reservist ADF members can be more difficult to locate, we welcome these group members to contact us directly," urges Associate Professor Susan

Treloar, CMVH, the University of Queensland.

"Due to lack of current contact information, it can be difficult to ensure that information about such an important study reaches all ex-serving and ADF Reserve members. We need their current contact details in order to send information about how to join the study. Log-in and password details for a secure online survey will also be sent, or there is the option to do a mailed paper survey."

This survey is about to close. If you have not yet participated in this study, we would like to hear from you. Or if you have commenced the survey but have not yet submitted it, please complete and submit the survey as soon as possible.

For further information on the MEAO Health Study, please visit [www.cmvh.org.au/milhop](http://www.cmvh.org.au/milhop).

Enquiries are also welcome by contacting CMVH on freecall 1800 886 567 or email to [milhop@cmvh.org.au](mailto:milhop@cmvh.org.au)

## MISSION: "CMVH is to optimise the health of ADF personnel and the veterans' community through research and education"



**CMVH is an internationally unique collaboration between The University of Queensland, The University of Adelaide and Charles Darwin University to improve lifelong health management for Defence, veterans and future personnel.** CMVH is the preferred health research provider for the Australian Defence Force, conducts studies for the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and also undertakes independently funded research.

**CMVH provides lifelong health management.** CMVH is dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of past and present Defence personnel. By investigating a wide range of physical and mental health issues, we help build military capability and enhance the cognitive wellbeing of Defence personnel and veterans.

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**CMVH is committed to continually enhance the way we communicate** with our key stakeholders.



ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE HEALTH ISSUES OF AUSTRALIA'S DEFENCE PERSONNEL AND VETERANS





# Peacekeepers Day Commemorated

September 14th saw numbers of younger veterans from respective police services and the ADF join together around the country at various commemorations in growing recognition of Australian Peacekeepers Day.

On what was the 64th anniversary of Australia's contribution to international peacekeeping efforts, younger veterans also gathered in Canberra at the site of the proposed Australian Peacekeeping Memorial.

In sunny but windy conditions senior ADF and Federal Police representatives lay wreaths at the makeshift cenotaph before a crowd of around 200.

Across the country, from Tasmania to North Queensland, smaller ceremonies were held – all services reporting increased numbers indicating a growing interest in Australia's peacekeeping operations and history.

In 1947, Australia helped monitor observance of the ceasefire between Dutch and Indonesian forces, the first

nation to have personnel on the ground in any modern peacekeeping operation.

Since then, more than 60,000 Australians have served around the world as peacekeepers.

During his recent visit to Australia, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon paid tribute to Australia's contribution to international peacekeeping efforts. Australian peacekeepers have served in Africa, Europe, Central America, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region.

Australia continues that noble tradition to this day. Currently over 600 Australian peacekeepers are serving overseas, including in the Middle East, East Timor and Solomon Islands. Australia's contribution to the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus has been the longest continuous peacekeeping commitment of any country to a UN peacekeeping operation.



# Public hearings for the Victoria Cross Inquiry

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, recently announced that public hearings will be held around Australia as part of the Victoria Cross Inquiry.

Following the nationwide call for submissions in April this year, the hearings will be another opportunity for the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal to receive evidence in relation to specific acts of gallantry or valour performed by the following naval and military personnel:

- Gunner Albert Neil (Neale) Cleary - Army
- Midshipman Robert Ian Davies - Navy
- Leading Cook Francis Bassett Emms - Navy
- Lieutenant David John Hamer - Navy
- Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick - Army
- Lieutenant Commander Robert William Rankin - Navy
- Able Seaman Dalmorton Joseph Owendale Rudd - Navy
- Ordinary Seaman Edward Sheean - Navy
- Leading Aircrewman Noel Ervin Shipp - Navy
- Lieutenant Commander Francis Edward Smith - Navy
- Lieutenant Commander Henry Hugh Gordon Dacre Stoker - Royal Navy
- Leading Seaman Ronald Taylor - Navy
- Captain Hector Macdonald Laws Waller - Navy

"I am pleased that the Tribunal is now in a position to speak face to face with people who can contribute further to this important Inquiry," Senator Feeney said.

"Many Australians have fought for years for further recognition of these 13 naval and military personnel. The Tribunal has received about 55 written submissions from across Australia in relation to acts of gallantry and valour.

"To make sure the Inquiry has all of the relevant and accurate historical evidence before it, the Tribunal is inviting a wide range of people to provide more information to the Inquiry.

"The Tribunal will invite historians, authors, former members

of the Australian Defence Force, and representatives of ex-Service associations to give evidence.

"The hearings will be open to the media and in 2012 the Tribunal will consider a further 89 submissions which propose additional names of ADF personnel who may be considered for recognition of military valour," Senator Feeney said.

The Inquiry is headed by the Chair of the Tribunal, Mr Alan Rose AO.

He will be assisted by Tribunal members:

- Professor David Horner AM, Military Historian;
- Vice Admiral Don Chalmers AO (Retd), former Chief of Navy;
- Brigadier Gary Bornholt AM, CSC (Retd), former senior Army officer; and
- Air Commodore Mark Lax OAM, CSM (Retd), former senior Air Force officer.

Hearings will be run by the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal and held in Canberra, Melbourne and Launceston in December 2011. In 2012, the Tribunal will hold public hearings in Sydney, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane.

Locations have been chosen by the Tribunal and reflect where the 55 written submissions have been received from.

Interested members of the public are invited to attend these hearings and witness the proceedings. Those interested in attending are asked to register their interest (for administrative purposes only) by contacting the Tribunal via telephone (02) 6266 3486 or via email to [DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au](mailto:Tribunal@defence.gov.au). Please note that only those invited by the Tribunal to speak will be able to do so.

The Terms of Reference can be found at: <http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/2011/04/16/parliamentary-secretary-for-defence-victoria-cross-inquiry/>





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\* As calculated based on a response rate of 10,643 averaging 67 minutes for each





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# Lofty Receives Well-Deserved Award

Geoffrey "Lofty" Evans was listed in the Australia Day Honours List, 26th January 2010, for "Services to the veteran community of North Queensland." Lofty has done an enormous amount of work volunteering in the veteran community for a number of years.

Lofty became the founding member and inaugural Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association North Queensland Branch President and has done an outstanding job in promoting the profile of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association North Queensland Branch in Townsville. As a result of his efforts, the Branch has a good membership, provides a service to current and ex-serving members of

the Australian Defence Force and assists in the wellbeing, welfare and assistance to disabled veterans and their families.

He has also negotiated with other Ex-Service Organisations and jointly placed the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association at "Quinn's Post" a veteran support centre at the Townsville Returned and Services League Sub-Branch.

As a recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia, Lofty has more than provided meritorious service to the veteran community that is above and beyond that is normally required of individuals.



In front of a Cambodian Painting



Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland



Hardrock - Brig Stuart Smith AM and Brig Neil Weeks AM, MC (Retd)



Keith Payne VC, OAM





The Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson, The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Defence Science and Personnel, The Honourable Warren Snowdon, the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project Director Mr Warren Lewis, and Major General (rtd) Tim Ford in front of a model of the new memorial.

# Big End of Town urged to back Peacekeeping Memorial

Large Australian corporations, which have benefited from peacekeeping operations, are being challenged to back the National Peacekeeping Memorial Project on Anzac Avenue

"Australian banks, miners, builders and communications firms had all been quick to seize commercial opportunities in places such as East Timor, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands once they were stabilised," Major General (Retired) Tim Ford, AO (Chairman of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project Committee) told *The Canberra Times* in a recent interview.

Major-General Tim Ford said Australian companies that have benefited from peacekeeping operations conducted by diggers, police and public servants to give something

back by contributing to the \$3.2 million project.

Since Australian peacekeepers first played a role in the creation of modern Indonesia during the war of independence in 1947 more than 90,000 Australians, including regular ADF personnel, reservists, military and civilian police and public servants, have been deployed in more than 60 missions around the world.

"Many of our soldiers have served on multiple missions and, in the case of our reservists, as police, civilians and military," Major General Ford said.

He told *The Canberra Times* that peacekeeping was difficult, dangerous and challenging work that had complex rules of engagement.

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Registration is quick and easy, accessible on the ASSG website: [www.army.gov.au/ASSG](http://www.army.gov.au/ASSG)

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"Some peacekeepers have been killed and many have been injured or traumatised," he said.

National President of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA), Allan Thomas, agrees with Major General Ford's perspective.

"However, it is not only corporate Australia which is reluctant to recognise the contribution of peacekeepers, it is also the Government which has refused to undertake a number of proposals or reclassifications of service put forward by the APPVA," said Mr Thomas.

"Given that Australia has been providing personnel and resources to peacekeeping operations for nearly 65 years, there is very little recognition of this contribution, except for acknowledgement of September 14<sup>th</sup> as Australian Peacekeeper's Day."

Mr Thomas said the Government had recently agreed to fly the United Nations flag on all Commonwealth buildings on October 24<sup>th</sup> each year – even displacing the Australian flag where there is only one flagpole.

"While this is commemorative of Australia's support of the United Nations Charter back in 1945, there's been very little acknowledgement of peacekeeping operations since including support for the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial."

The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project chair and the APPVA hopes the memorial will be ready in time for the 65th anniversary of Australian and international peacekeeping on September 14 next year.

***With acknowledgement to The Canberra Times: Companies urged to aid peacekeeper tribute plan, David Ellery 17 October, 2011.***

## Homelessness Becoming Veteran Issue

An estimated 200,000 American war veterans are homeless, and unemployment among recently returned veterans is 3 per cent higher than the national average, according to a recent Lateline report on ABC television.

In Australia, veterans have been identified as an "at-risk" group with research undertaken during 2009/2010 with the aim of building on the 1998 Veterans At Risk Research.

This research determined the incidence and needs of veterans' at risk, attempting to identify who is experiencing homelessness. It documented the roles and responses of service providers and developed recommendations for enhanced responses including possible housing and support strategies.

The report identified, within a very broad definition of the veteran community, there are an estimated number of 3000 homeless veterans with around 1000 of these being "rough sleepers."

These figures are based on a proportion of the general population and are comparable to the 1998 estimates. Generally it was found that the needs of veterans mirror that of the general community but with possibly more

mental illness and substance abuse issues.

The report was released in January this year, making a number of recommendations that focused on greater integration of services. One recommendation wasn't supported, three were noted and all others were fully or partially noted. Three recommendations related to ESO involvement.

While there are a number of federal and state funded strategies targeting what former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd labeled as "a national obscenity", the recommendations in the report provide additional levels of support for "at risk" veterans.

While according to the Lateline Report, the US is facing a significant problem with veteran unemployment and homelessness it appears Australia is well on the way to addressing this issue through proactive strategies.

Further information on the recommendations can be found at [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)

## APPVA Far North Coast News

The members on the Far North Coast APPVA recently held a Men's Health Week hook line and sinker in Ballina where members and guest's had time to relax and throw in a line which we feel was a successful day had by all. The fish were biting although if you relied on the catch for dinner by the fishermen thank god there are two fish co-ops in Ballina to fall back on.

The local Manager from DVA attended and a consultant from VVCS also made herself available on the day which a BBQ was supplied to all that attended on the day and we look forward to next year

We would also like to congratulate Allan Thomas on becoming the National President for APPVA and welcome our new NSW President Bruce Relph.

Our pension team is growing larger each month for NSW with new members, in Sydney, Grafton, Central Coast and we will also have a welfare member in the near future. The team have constant work preparing claims for Veteran's for VEA, SRCA, and MRCA claims, plus a continual run of VRB hearings.

As this will be the last news letter for 2011, on behalf of the NSW APPVA President I would like to take this opportunity to wish all and everyone a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year and that we enjoy ourselves over the break and we all return safe and well in the New Year.



# Three fallen Australian soldiers return home

It has been described as our worst day for casualties since Vietnam. A rogue Afghanistan army officer, just after finishing a parade, opens fire on members of Mentoring Task Force 3 (MTF-3), killing three and wounding seven more.

The reasons behind the shooting remain unknown at this stage with the Afghan army officer's father denying his son was a member of the Taliban.

Recently a ramp ceremony was held at the Multi-National base at Tarin Kot to farewell the three soldiers, Captain Bryce Duffy, 26, Corporal Ashley Birt, 22, and Lance Corporal Luke Gavin, 29, who were tragically killed on Saturday (29 October, 2011).

With the three flag-draped caskets loaded into the C130, members of MTF-3 knelt down, paying their last respects to their fallen comrades as they began their journey home to grieving families.

Catafalque Party member Private Ben Campbell rests on arms during the Memorial Service for Captain Bryce Duffy, Corporal Ash Birt and Lance Corporal Luke Gavin at Multi National Base Tarin Kot, Afghanistan.



The Commander of Australian Defence Force personnel deployed to the Middle East, Major General Angus Campbell said the Army had lost three courageous and brave soldiers who had served with distinction.

"Captain Duffy, Corporal Birt and Lance Corporal Gavin were held in high regard by their mates and their commanders and their loss has deeply affected all Australian and coalition personnel serving in Afghanistan and the Middle East." Major General Campbell said.

"In true ANZAC spirit they gave their all because they believed they were making a difference for the people of Afghanistan – their sacrifice will inspire us as we go about our crucial mission here in Afghanistan."

Australian commanders in Tarin Kot reflected on the qualities of the soldiers during their eulogies at the memorial service.

Deputy Commander CT-U, Colonel Dave Smith remembered Corporal Ashley Birt as a popular soldier who was highly regarded by his peers.

"He was a well respected member of CT-U headquarters and an outstanding soldier who was everything we want in a junior non-commissioned officer," Colonel Smith said.

The Commanding Officer of MTF-3, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Smith described Captain Bryce Duffy as a reserved bloke with a sharp wit.

"He was a talented and dedicated young officer. This was his second tour of Afghanistan, having served with the first Mentoring Task Force," Lieutenant Colonel Smith said.

"His comrade, Lance Corporal Luke Gavin, was also a fine and courageous soldier who was dedicated to the task of mentoring the soldiers of the Afghan National Army.

"Luke was a loving husband and father who had an infectious laugh and loved a joke. He leaves behind his wife Jackie and his three lovely kids; Joshua, Holly and Olivia."

Major General Campbell also acknowledged the seven Australian soldiers wounded and the Afghan casualties from the same shooting incident.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Australian, Afghan and Coalition personnel lined the road from the Memorial Service to an awaiting RAAF C-130 Hercules, saluting as the three Australian flag-draped caskets moved through their ranks.

The procession signalled the final departure from Afghanistan for the fallen soldiers and the commencement of their journey home to Australia.

Colonel Smith said the men had lost their lives in the service of their nation and they would never be forgotten.

"The best way we can honour their sacrifice is to re-double our efforts, because that is what they deserve," Colonel Smith said.



Final Goodbye, soldiers say farewell to their fallen mates as they commence their journey home to Australia.



The Bearer Parties slow march carrying the caskets of their fallen comrades to the Memorial Service at Multi National Base Tarin Kot, Afghanistan.

# Captain Bryce Duffy

Afghanistan 29th October 2011

Captain Duffy was a member of the Mentoring Task Force – Three and was from the 4th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA) based in Townsville.

He was born in Sydney, NSW, in 1984, educated in Brisbane and joined the Australian Defence Force Academy in January 2003, completing a Bachelor of Science. He graduated from the Royal Military College in December 2006. He was then posted to 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery based in Brisbane.

He served with the 1st Field Regiment between 2007 and 2010. He was transferred to the 4th Field Regiment in Townsville in January 2011 as the Assistant Operations Officer, before his second deployment to Afghanistan in September.

Captain Duffy was a well known and highly-regarded young officer. He was recognised by his commanders for his strength of character, determination and diligence. His peers remember him as an officer who maintained the highest possible personal standards. His selfless dedication to duty was demonstrated by the fact that he had volunteered for his second tour of duty in Afghanistan at short notice, after a fellow officer was wounded in action.



Captain Duffy has been awarded the following honours and awards:

- Australian Defence Medal
- Meritorious Unit Citation – 1st Mentoring Task Force – Afghanistan 20 January to 30 October 2010
- NATO Non Article 5 Medal with clasp – International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- Australian Active Service Medal with clasp International Coalition Against Terrorism (ICAT).
- During Captain Duffy's service in the Australian Army he deployed on the following operations:
- Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – January 2010 – October 2010
- Operation YASI ASSIST (Australia) – February 2011
- Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – September 2011 – October 2011.

Statement on behalf of the Duffy family Bryce was an exceptional man and a dedicated officer who was an inspiration not only to us, but also to his peers and the men and women he served alongside.

He was a Churchie (former student of the Anglican Church Grammar School), a rower, a surfer, a fisherman, a scuba diver and a much loved member of a very proud military family.

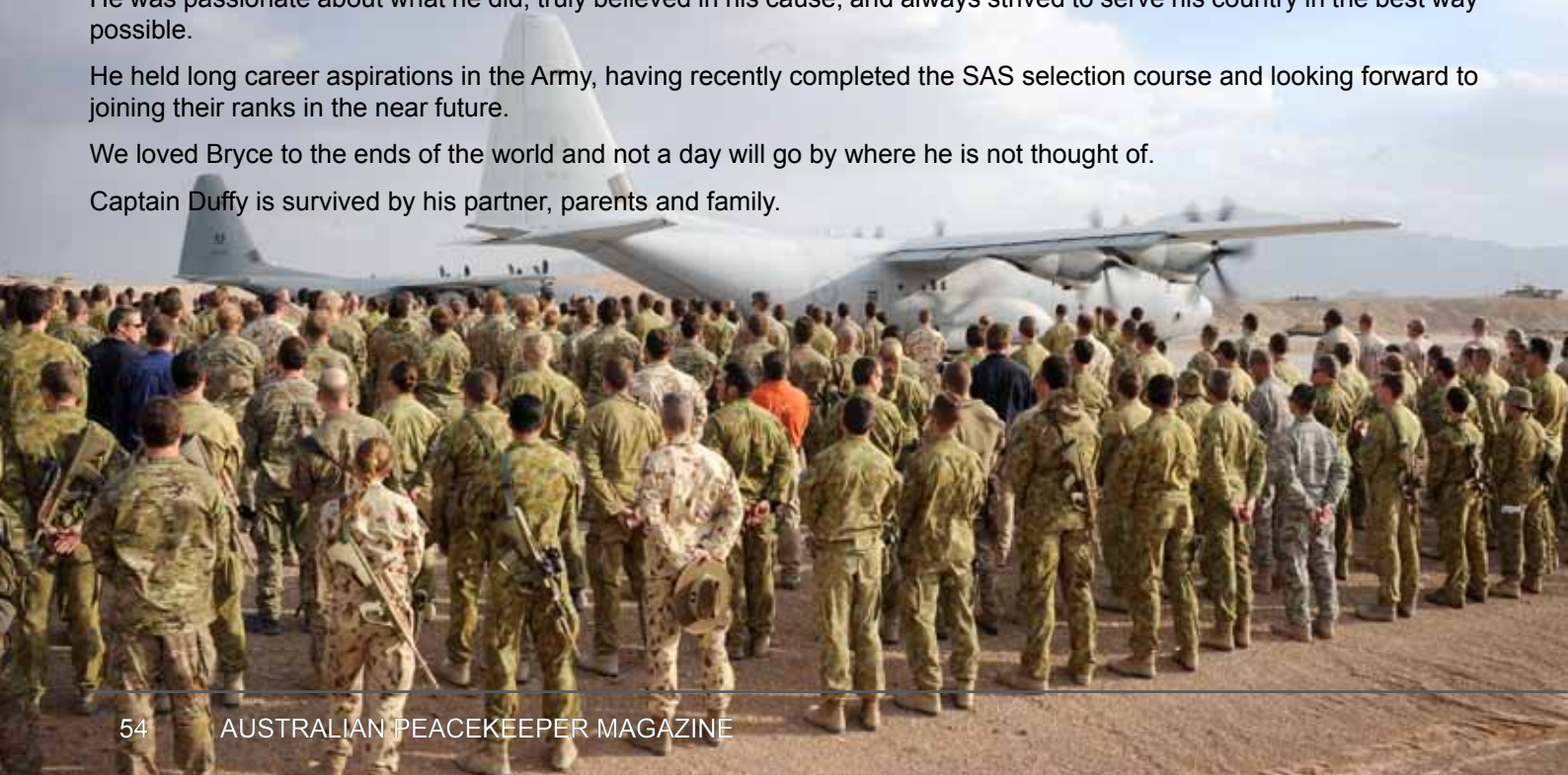
He was forever the consummate professional, extremely competent and very well respected by his colleagues and commanders.

He was passionate about what he did, truly believed in his cause, and always strived to serve his country in the best way possible.

He held long career aspirations in the Army, having recently completed the SAS selection course and looking forward to joining their ranks in the near future.

We loved Bryce to the ends of the world and not a day will go by where he is not thought of.

Captain Duffy is survived by his partner, parents and family.



## Private Matthew Lambert

Afghanistan 22 August 2011

Private Lambert was a member of the Mentoring Task Force - Three and was from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) based in Townsville, North Queensland. Private Lambert is survived by his spouse, parents and family.

Private Lambert was born in Kogarah, NSW in 1985. He joined the Army from southern Queensland enlisting in the 9th Battalion, Royal Queensland Regiment in August 2005, transferring to the Australian Regular Army in February 2007 and posted to 2RAR in Townsville.

Private Lambert is described as a well-respected soldier who excelled in any task he was assigned, and was looking forward to serving his country in Afghanistan.

Private Lambert has been awarded the following honours and awards: Australian Active Service Medal with clasp International Coalition Against Terrorism, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Australian Service Medal with clasp Timor - Leste, Australian Defence Medal and the Timor – Leste Solidarity Medal.

During Private Lambert's service in the Australian Army he deployed on the following operations:

- OPERATION ASTUTE (East Timor) - June 2009 – November 2009.
- OPERATION SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – June 2011 – August 2011.

Statement on behalf of the family of Private Matthew Lambert

He is survived by his partner Ellesse, mother Vicki and her partner Gregg, father Chris and his wife Amanda, and his sister Jess.



## Lance Corporal Luke Gavin

Afghanistan 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2011

Lance Corporal Luke Gavin was a member of the Mentoring Task Force—Three and was from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) based in Townsville, North Queensland.

He was born in Manly, NSW, in 1984 and enlisted in the Army in 2004. On completion of his basic training and initial employment training he was posted as an infantryman to the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, in Townsville in 2005. He was promoted to Lance Corporal in January 2009. He was a highly-qualified soldier, having completed specialist training as a combat first aider, Pashtu linguist and infantry support weapons operator.

Lance Corporal Gavin was a highly-respected member of the 2nd Battalion and acknowledged by his superiors for his positive attitude and loyalty. His subordinate soldiers were motivated by his professionalism, mateship and outstanding specialist skills. He was also known for being a devoted husband and father.

Lance Corporal Gavin has been awarded the following honours and awards:

- Australian Service Medal with clasp Timor – Leste
- Australian Defence Medal
- Timor – Leste Solidarity Medal
- Australian Active Service Medal with clasp International Coalition Against Terrorism (ICAT)
- NATO Non Article 5 Medal with clasp – International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).
- During Lance Corporal Gavin's service in the Australian Army he deployed on the following operations:
- Operation ASTUTE (East Timor) - May 2006 – October 2006
- Operation ASTUTE (East Timor) – October 2007 – March 2008
- Operation ASTUTE (East Timor) - May 2009 – February 2010
- Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – June 2011 – October 2011.

Lance Corporal Gavin is survived by his wife and their three children.



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Matthew was a son both his parents Vicki and Chris were extremely proud of. He had just bought his first home in Townsville and he loved to take his treasured motorbike for long rides with friends around the area. He was loved very much by all his family and friends and made an impact on anyone who was part of his life.

"He was an inspiration, and for a man there is no greater gift than to have a son like him," said Chris, Matt's father.

"He was an extraordinary young man with everything, including incredible physical and mental agility. Matt had a great enthusiasm for living life, generously sharing his time, thoughts and ideas and inspiring us all by walking the talk". Matt believed the world could be made a far better place and he had a very positive outlook on life. He always encouraged and motivated others.

"He was very adventurous and an inspiration to all who met him," said Vicki, his mother. "Matt was an extremely focussed person who really wanted to help make the lives of other people better."

Ellesse, said that he was the love of her life, everything she had ever wanted in a partner and no one could ever replace him.

"He was the most special man in my life and we had planned our whole life together. Matty made me a better person, he is my best friend and I will always love him. Matty always protected me and was the best part of my life, he was my everything".

Matt and his sister Jess were inseparable. He was her best friend and the big brother who always looked after and protected her. They shared a unique sense of humour and Matt sent his love to Jess in his last message.

## Corporal Ashley Birt

Afghanistan 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Corporal Ashley Birt was born in Nambour, Queensland in 1989. He enlisted into the Australian Regular Army in June 2007 and was allocated to the Royal Australian Engineers as a Geospatial Technician.

Following his Engineer Initial Employment Training and Specialist Technical Geospatial Basic course in December 2008, he was posted to the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron (1 TOPO SVY SQN) as a Geospatial Technician. He was promoted to Lance Corporal in February 2011 and to Corporal in April 2011.

Corporal Birt was part of Combined Team Uruzgan and is survived by his parents and brother.

His colleagues describe him as being a proud and well-liked soldier of the 1 TOPO SVY SQN. He maintained a very high level of physical fitness and played hockey at the highest levels. Due to his natural leadership style, maturity, hard work ethic and dedication to his specialist trade, he was quickly promoted through the ranks.

He was a great mate to his many colleagues and well liked by all. He was a larrikin and someone who was always smiling. His mates remember him as a great bloke, a distinguished sportsman and an excellent soldier. He will not be forgotten and will always remain a part of the sapper family.

Corporal Birt has been awarded the following honours and awards:

- Australian Defence Medal
- Australian Service Medal with Clasp Solomon Islands II
- Australian Active Service Medal with clasp International Coalition Against Terrorism (ICAT)
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- NATO Non Article 5 Medal with clasp – International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).
- For his efforts on OPERATION FLOODS ASSIST, he was nominated for a soldiers' medallion.
- During Corporal Birt's service in the Australian Army he deployed on the following operations:
- Operation ANODE (Solomon Islands) – July 2010 – September 2010
- Operation QUEENSLAND FLOOD ASSIST (Australia) – January 2011– February 2011
- Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – May 2011 – October 2011.

Statement on behalf of parents Don and Linda, brother Dale and the extended Birt family

The death of Ashley has been a tragic shock to our family, his mates and the Gympie community. Ashley was a proud soldier who loved his job. He was a loving son, devoted brother, wonderful uncle and loyal friend who will be dearly missed.





## Craftsman Beau Pridue

It was a sad ramp ceremony in mid-September when the body of Army Reservist, Craftsman Beau Pridue, arrived at RAAF Base Williamtown NSW on his final journey home.

Craftsman Pridue died from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident in East Timor on 15 September 2011.

Soldiers from 8th Combat Service Support Battalion formed an honour guard and bearer party to escort Craftsman Pridue's casket from the RAAF C-130 aircraft to his grieving family.

Chief of Army Lieutenant General David Morrison, Commander 2nd Division Major General Craig Williams and Commander 8th Brigade Brigadier Phillip Bridie paid their respects to his waiting family.

"Craftsman Beau Pridue was a fine Australian, a proud citizen of this country and a man prepared to serve on operations as an Army Reservist. He died while answering his Nation's call," Lieutenant General Morrison said.

"Craftsman Pridue's commitment and dedication to helping the people of Timor Leste will never be forgotten."

The family and colleagues of Craftsman Pridue gathered at the moving ceremony as they witnessed the Chief of Army present the Australian Service Medal with clasp Timor-Leste, Australian Defence Medal and the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal. Craftsman Pridue has been described as a professional soldier who could be relied upon to always get the job done. He consistently dedicated his time and effort in support to tasks and events within his battalion.

He enlisted in the Australian Army Reserve on 15 December 2007 under the Army Reserve Traineeship and Apprenticeship Program as a Fitter Armament. On enlistment he was posted to 111 Workshop Company, 8th Combat Service Support Battalion and becoming qualified within his trade in December 2010.

He was described as a young, professional soldier who could be relied upon to always get the job done and consistently dedicated time and effort in support to tasks and events within the Battalion. Craftsman Pridue was awarded the Company's Most Efficient Soldier for 2010.

Craftsman Pridue was on his first deployment with the Timor Leste Task Group Rotation Three.



The Bearer Parties carry the casket of Corporal Luke Gavin at the commencement of the ramp ceremony to on arrival to RAAF base Amberley.





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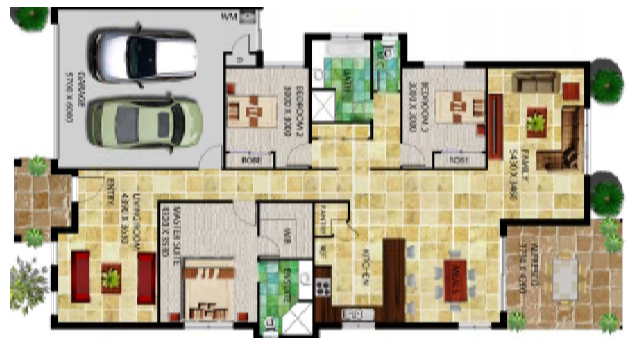
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# KOKODA ECO TREKKING COMPANY



Kokoda Eco Trekking Company is a 100 % locally owned (PNG) trekking company that is the life's dream for Priscilla Ogomeni. Priscilla was born and raised in Kokoda Village and is one of the traditional land owners in Kokoda. Her father Sampson Arari was one of the original fuzzy wuzzy angels (carrier) in World War 2 and a Kokoda Village Chief. Priscilla, however, lived and worked in Queensland for 25 years.

The Kokoda trail is a remote jungle track in the old Australian Territory of Papua where diggers and the fuzzy wuzzy angles battled against the Japanese invaders to save Australia in 1942. The track then became an honoured part of the Australian heritage. But there is much more to the Kokoda track than this. The track is in the mountainous part of the country of Papua New Guinea and extends from Owers Corner (North of Port Moresby) across the Owen Stanley Ranges to Kokoda. It takes approximately 40 to 45 minutes to fly over it and eight days to walk the track.

One of the first questions people ask is "how tough is the walking track?" Experience trekkers rate the Kokoda Track as one of the toughest treks in the world. However, with the right preparation and training most people will be able to walk the Kokoda Track, but even if you can't many people don't walk the full track from Port Moresby to Kokoda visa versa. For this reason we offer a range of Kokoda trekking options from Full Track to Half-Track to 2 Day Trekking This makes our company run to suit our client's budget and what they have to spend on their trip.

So what ever you want to do or where ever you want to go, just contact us and we can cater for your budget and time you want to spend here.

- Two day trekking to I Isurava from Kokoda, over night at Isurava and back to Kokoda. Visit the famous Memorial (battlefield), this also is the very site where the brave young man (Bruce Kingsbury) to saved his mates without a thought of is own life.
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- 2 days in Port Moresby, this will include Bomana War Cemetery, Artifacts shops, site seeing specially the coast line of Port Moresby where houses are built on stilts over the sea, the Museum, and the Parliament House upon arrangement. Includes a bus trip out to Owers Corner and back to your hotel.
- We also do the 4 day trekking from Ifogi and add on the other trips at the end of the track. Two dasy touring in Kokoda after the trekking and travelling to Buna and Gona before flying back to Port Moresby then back home.
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# Dust of Uruzgan Defines Younger Generation



## A Review by Phil Pyke

Take a public servant, add in a mix of unique experiences with Australian forces in Afghanistan and other operational zones, overlay these elements with a love of music – and you have talented Australian songwriter Fred Smith.

Recently returned from an 18 month stint working for the Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Uruzgan, Fred has produced album of songs called *Dust of Uruzgan*. The album has been getting rave reviews, and is raising public awareness of the realities for Australian and coalition soldiers on the ground in Afghanistan.

He was the first Australian DFAT Officer to be posted to Uruzgan in July 2009, serving for 18 months in the province alongside members from 1 RAR, 6 RAR and 5 RAR, working for a year at the Multinational Base in Tarin Kowt before leading a PRT District Team up to FOB Mirwais in the Chora Valley following the Dutch withdrawal.

From this very unique experience, Fred has written a collection of powerful songs from his experiences, now released on a CD *Dust of Uruzgan*.

I first heard Fred on ABC Radio when a channel change broke into the title track of *Dust of Uruzgan*. Without

knowing anything about Fred, I knew immediately from the words that he was writing from a very personal perspective.

To me, *Dust of Uruzgan* is as defining to the younger veteran generation who have served in the MEAO as John Schumann's *I Was Only Nineteen* is to the Vietnam generation.

Fred is currently on tour promoting the album, with his performances conducted against a backdrop of images taken by the talented Defence photographers of the 1st Joint Public Affairs Unit – arguably the ADF's most deployed (and overlooked) unit.

Youtube has a unique rendition of *Dust of Uruzgan* where Fred performs a rendition with a group of Afghan musicians. Although the vision is shaky, it is a great version and well worth a look. Fred states in the attached blog, the local musicians returned to Kandahar and were never seen again.

Through the title track, Fred takes the listener into a deep insight of the complex environment in which Australia finds itself in Afghanistan. Australia is a nation at peace with its Defence force at war and that most of the public fail to understand the personal challenges of those soldiers on these operations, including the loss of mates. Listening

to *Dust of Uruzgan* and the other eleven tracks gives the listener a raw exposure unlike any other generated media.

*Taliban Fighting Man* takes the listener into the unique perspective of a US officer heading home on leave between completing operations in Iraq and commencing operations in Afghanistan.

A tribute to two engineers, Sappers Jacob Moerland and Darren Smith is played out in *Sapper's Lullaby* – a song guaranteed to bring the tears to one's eyes.

Stephen Fitzpatrick of The Weekend Australian Review "Cover Story" (July 30 2011) wrote that Fred "continues a tradition of profoundly affecting Australians-at-war ballads that includes Eric Bogle's *And the band played Waltzing Matilda*, Don Walker's *Khe Sanh* (Cold Chisel) and John Schumann's *I was only 19*"

When one considers the many war ballads generated out of the United States, Australia has very few. But these few are very memorable in the psyche of a particular generation. I believe *Dust of Uruzgan* has already become part of that unique club and tragic recent events in Afghanistan reinforce this perspective.

All younger veterans, irrespective of whether they've served on war-like, peacekeeping or humanitarian operations, should get along to catch Fred in concert or at least get hold of the CD.

His tracks are also available on iTunes or via Fred's website [www.fredsmith.com.au](http://www.fredsmith.com.au) where tour dates and venues are also posted.

Other reviews:

"These 12 songs have a singular power and emotional honesty, because Smith was actually there"

Warwick McFadyen, The Saturday Age, 30 July 2011

"an exceptional songwriter and certainly the equal of Bogle, Walker and Schumann,"

Bruce Elder, Sydney Morning Herald 'Review of the Week' 6–7 August 2011

"There's so much vacuous bullshit around, it's a delight to hear songs well-crafted, with something to say."

John Schumann (ex Redgum)

Images: courtesy Fred Smith. Photographer: Leading Seaman Paul Berry 1JPAU



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*For All other Financial Institutions:*

Account: APPVA    BSB: 803 205    Acc: 20638827    Member No: 153601

Reference field: Include your name and or membership number (if known)

**Membership Type - Please select criteria**

**Full Member**

Open to any member or ex member of the Australian or New Zealand Armed Forces, Police Forces, Government Organisations or Defence Civilians who have Served on Warlike Operations; Peacekeeping or Peacemaking Operations; or Non-Warlike Service. In addition, Peacetime serving and ex Serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Full voting rights

**Associate Member**

Open to members of other National Armed Forces or Police Forces who have served in War, Peacekeeping or Peacemaking Operations. Persons who have served with Non-Government Organisations. No voting rights.

**Affiliate Member**

Open to all persons who have not been discharged for reasons of discipline, War Widows / Widowers, Defence Widows / Widowers, Partner(s), Parents and Children of an APPVA Veteran. No voting rights.

Persons applying for membership as a member or ex-member of an Armed Force, Police Force or, as a Defence Civilian meeting the above criteria for Full or Associate Membership, are required to complete the Service Details above. Persons applying for Affiliate Membership as a Parent, Partner or Child of a current APPVA member are required to complete the "Parent / Partner / Child" section in the Contact Details area above, to confirm the membership of the APPVA Member.

**AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &  
PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION**

# MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM



APPVA (Incorporated in Victoria)  
 ABN 59 558 194 094  
 PO Box 552 Torquay Vic 3228  
 Email: merchandise@peacekeepers.asn.au  
 Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

MERCHANDISE	QUANTITY	OPTIONS – Please Circle	COST	SUB TOTAL
Navy Blue Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$38	
Light Blue Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$38	
Tan Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$38	
Green Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$38	
Pink Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$38	
Black Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$38	
White Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$38	
Long Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Neck:      cm Chest:      cm	\$45	
Short Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Neck:      cm Chest:      cm	\$40	

MERCHANDISE	QTY	COST	QTY	MERCHANDISE	QTY	COST	SUB TOTAL
APPVA Cap		\$20		Digger Bear - WW1		\$75	
APPVA Lapel Badge		\$10		RAAF Bear		\$75	
APPVA Sticker		\$6		Digger Bear - Vietnam		\$75	
Book - COMBAT MEDIC		\$29		Digger Bear - Aus Cam		\$75	
Book - SOLDIERS' Tales		\$19		Digger Bear - Desert Cam		\$75	
Book - Aussie SOLDIER		\$29		Stubby Holder		\$8	
Book - A Pogo's Perspective		\$35		APPVA Magazine issue:		\$8 ea	
Jack Tar Bear		\$75					
<b>TOTAL \$</b>							

**CREDIT CARD**

Send order form with completed details to Merchandise - APPVA PO Box 552, Torquay VIC 3228

Please charge my credit card for the amount of:.....  Visa  Mastercard

**Credit Card No** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Expiry Date** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Name**..... **Signature**.....

**CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER** - Send order in mail with cheque or money order payable to APPVA PO Box 552 Torquay Vic 3228

**DIRECT CREDIT - Internet Transfer**

*For Def Credit account holders:*

Account: APPVA (AUS) BSB: 803-205 Account: 20638827 Member No: 153601

Include your name and the word "Merch" in the reference field and mail the order form.

Enter Member No 153601 (if required)

*For All other Financial Institutions:*

Account: APPVA BSB: 803-205 Account: 20638827 Member No: 153601

Include your name and the word "Merch" in the reference field and mail the order form.

Enter Member No 153601 (if required)

**DELIVERY DETAILS**

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr (Rank) ..... Address .....

Last Name ..... City .....

Given Name(s) ..... State ..... Post Code .....

Email..... Country.....

Mobile.....

The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) will accept returned products / merchandise where:

- The product is faulty, or not fit for the purpose
- The product does not match the sample or description

Proof of purchase (APPVA merchandise receipt) must be provided in order to:

- Obtain a refund (if paid by credit card, the credit card will be credited), otherwise a cheque will be provided, or
- Re-issue a like article

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

The APPVA will take the utmost care in packaging; however, we will not accept any responsibility for goods damaged in transit.

The APPVA will not accept returns where the product or merchandise is ordered specifically for an individual (e.g. Montage, clothing, etc).

All queries for return of merchandise must be received within 30 days from date of purchase and directed to APPVA Merchandise Officer at merchandise@peacekeepers.asn.au. Item returns will be at the discretion of the APPVA Merchandise Officer provided the above criterion is met in the first instance. Please choose carefully as APPVA cannot accept returns due to change of mind.



## ProActive Rehabilitation AND Health

We offer exercise programs in a private studio setting, away from commercial gyms.

These small group exercise sessions are exclusively for DVA clients

The sessions are conducted by tertiary Qualified Exercise Physiologists who specialize in exercise prescription for:

- Musculo-skeletal Injuries
- Management of chronic health conditions, eg. Diabetes, High Blood Pressure.
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Increasing general health and well-being



For more information please call Anita or Mark on (02) 4957 2757

Lot H / 132 Garden Grove Pde, Adamstown, NSW, 2289

[www.proactiverehab.com.au](http://www.proactiverehab.com.au)

Exercise Physiologists (EP) are university qualified allied health professionals who specialize in the delivery of exercise programs for clients with special needs. Whether it be for improved health or for the treatment of Type I and II Diabetes, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, High Blood Pressure, ongoing lower back or joint injuries or any other musculoskeletal issues, EP's can design a training program to address your needs.

As a Gold and White card holder, through DVA, you are entitled to access these services for FREE with a referral from your Doctor. This service is provided through ProActive Rehabilitation and Health's specially equipped Studio in Adamstown. The Studio offers excellent exercise programs in a non-threatening facility away from commercial gyms, still using all the equipment you need to achieve your desired goals.

Sessions are conducted in small group settings. You are supervised at all times, completing your own specifically designed program that is tailored to meet you specific needs.

To access this program you will need a referral from your GP specifying that they recommend the use of Exercise Physiology services for your particular ailment.

If you require further details please call Mark or Anita on (02) 4957 2757 or see the Studio at Lot H / 132 Garden Grove Pde, Adamstown, NSW 2282. More details can be found at [www.proactiverehab.com.au](http://www.proactiverehab.com.au)

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- Royal Humane Society of Australasia Medal, & Commendation for Brave Conduct mounted for Shane Harding
- WWI Australian group - from Egypt to the Western front includes originals & replicas
- WW I to WW II including civil OBE on display Returned and Services League of Australia, Warrambool, Victoria
- MBE & insignia for Pauline Gower - founder women's section of the Air Transport Auxiliary WWII - framed for the family

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<b>Men's V Comp Tank</b> <b>\$37.50</b> (normally RRP \$75)	<b>Women's Crop Top</b> <b>\$32.50</b> (normally RRP \$65)

To take advantage of this substantial Defence saving, visit [www.linebreak.com.au](http://www.linebreak.com.au) and use the exclusive discount code **DF50DC** to save a bundle.

World Class Compression. Direct-to-you prices. **LINEBREAK**



# Who Is The Real Veteran

Who is the real veteran?

Did he die charging trenches under murdering fire, or suffer the gas, entangled in wire?

Did he clash with foreign soldiers fighting from tanks, or fall from the guns side by side with the Yanks?

Did he lie in a trench dreaming of peace and of calm, or was he helped from the battle by a brother in arms?

Did he return from the track all covered in mud, or was he carried by fuzzy angels all the time losing blood?

Did he return to the dock after numerous years, to tears of relief and victorious cheers?

Did he chose to go fight, or was he just sent; did he live amongst jungle in hoochie or tent?

Did he fight the North Koreans or the Viet Cong, who is the soldier to question was it right or was it wrong?

We go to keep peace and end trouble and strife; only to re-live the events for the rest of our life.

How do we get partners and kids to understand, and stop our dear mates dying at their own hand?

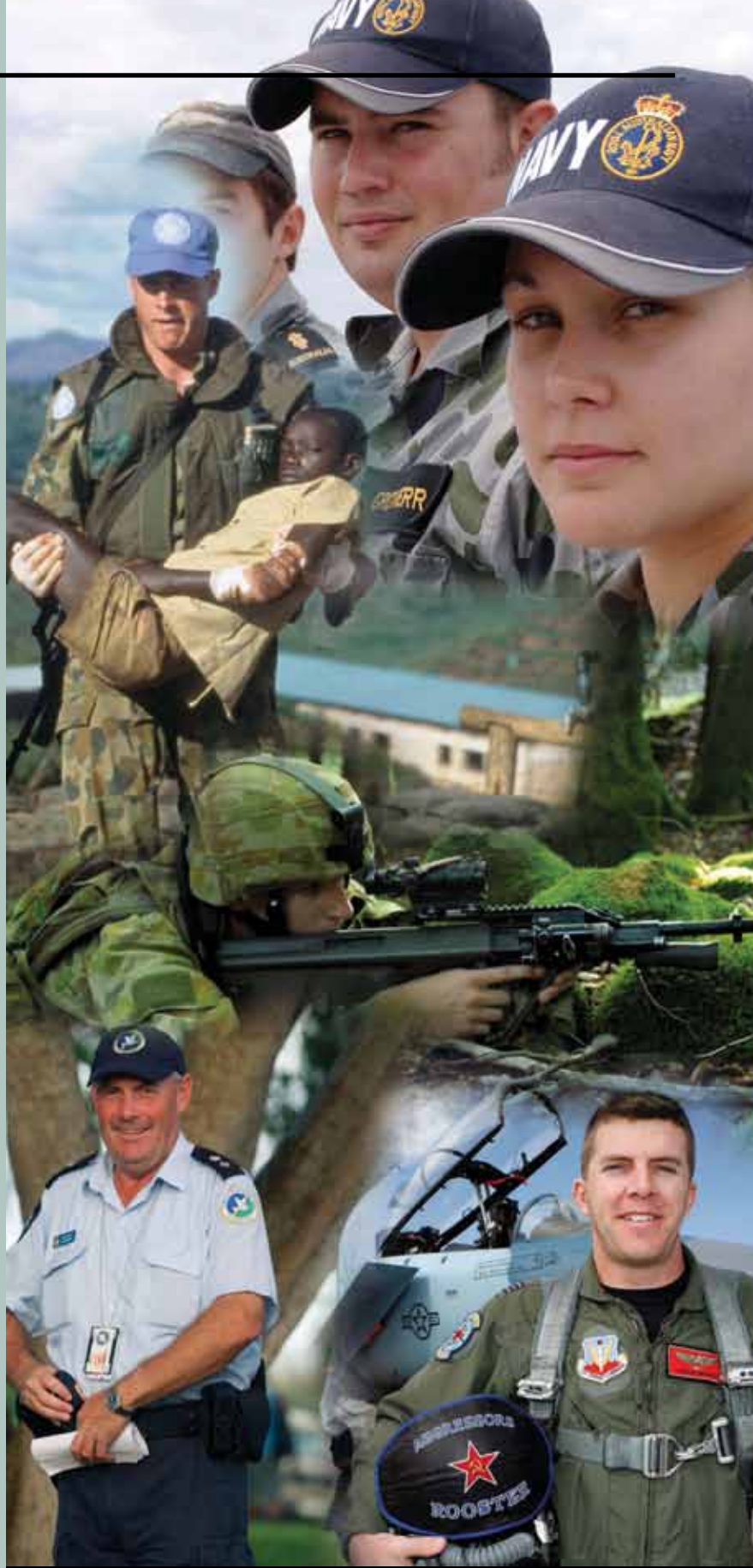
We are the ones fighting tyrants and IEDs, and carrying the burden of comrades lost overseas.

Our scars may not be visible from the outside; they cover our souls, but don't cover our pride.

We don't ask for riches from those we protect, we ask only for thanks and a little respect.

Who are the real veterans, who can they be; we serve our nation with honor, and look just like me.

*By Scott Brooks*



[www.peacekeepers.asn.au](http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au)



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## NSW Department of Primary Industries

Yanco Agriculture Institute, NSW DPI's Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Rice and Horticulture, is located between Leeton and Narrandera in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation area. The National Vegetable Industry Centre and the Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre are both located at the Institute.



For further information please visit our website:

**www.dpi.nsw.gov.au**

Yanco Agriculture Institute  
Private Mail Bag, Yanco NSW 2073  
Tel: 02 6951 2611 Fax: 02 6955 7580  
Email: [yai@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:yai@dpi.nsw.gov.au)



**Australian Government**

**VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families  
Counselling Service**

## **Supporting Australia's peacekeepers, peacemakers, veterans and their families**

WVCS provides counselling and group programs to veterans, peacekeepers, partners, widows, sons and daughters and eligible ADF personnel and F-111 Fuel Tank Maintenance workers and their immediate family members. WVCS is a specialised, free and confidential Australia-wide service.

WVCS can provide you with:

- Individual, couple and family counselling
- Case management services
- After-hours crisis telephone counselling service via Veterans Line
- Group programs for common mental health issues (e.g. anxiety, depression, sleep and anger)
- Psycho-educational programs for couples, including a residential lifestyle management program
- Health promotion programs including Heart Health – a 52 week supervised exercise and health education program offered in group and correspondence formats
- The Stepping Out Program, a 2-day 'transition' program for ADF members and their partners preparing to leave the military
- Changing the Mix, a self-paced alcohol reduction correspondence program
- Operation Life Workshops
- Information, education and self-help resources
- Referral to other services.

WVCS counsellors can assist you to work through stress, lifestyle, relationship or family problems, and emotional or psychological concerns associated with your military service.

If you need support, would like more information about us or if you know someone who does, please give us a call or visit our website.

**1800 011 046\***

**[www.dva.gov.au/health/vvcs](http://www.dva.gov.au/health/vvcs)**

\* Free local call. Calls from mobile and pay phones may incur charges.

# **VVCS**

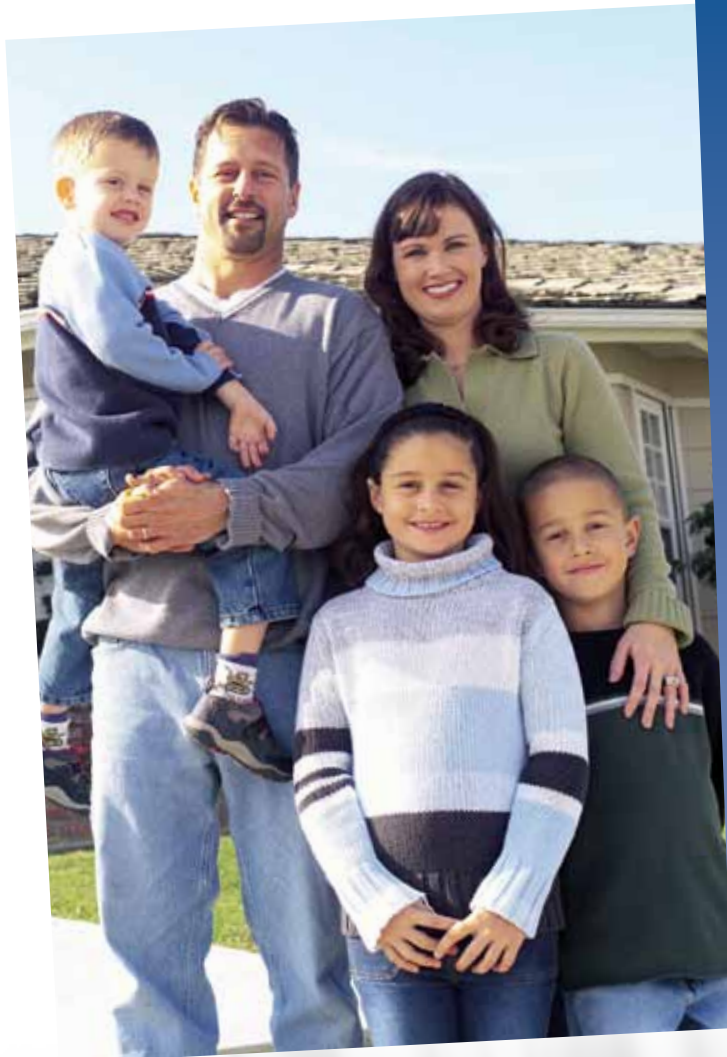
**Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service**

**A service founded by Vietnam veterans**

# Defence Service Homes Insurance Scheme

Home & Contents insurance for ADF personnel & peacekeepers who are:

- Entitled to benefits under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (including AASM Qualifying Service),
- Entitled to DHOAS (whether used or not),
- Entitled to use a DSH loan (whether used or not), or
- Have a Defence Housing Assistance Act loan.



# cover plus the care

Defence Services Homes Insurance Scheme offers:

- Comprehensive cover
- Economical premiums
- No general excess
- Contents new for old replacement, regardless of age.

Our Australia-wide network is easy to access.

For the cover you can count on visit [www.dsh.gov.au](http://www.dsh.gov.au) or call 1300 552 662

*Proud supporters of Defence Special Needs Support Group*



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

