

# Australian Peacekeeper

WINTER 2024 MAGAZINE

**Independent entity vital to implement Royal Commission recommendations**

**Police Peacekeeping – 60th Anniversary**

**New Veteran Legislation “Rushed and Inadequate”**

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Twenty fifth anniversary of Australian service *in* Timor-Leste



AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS 2024

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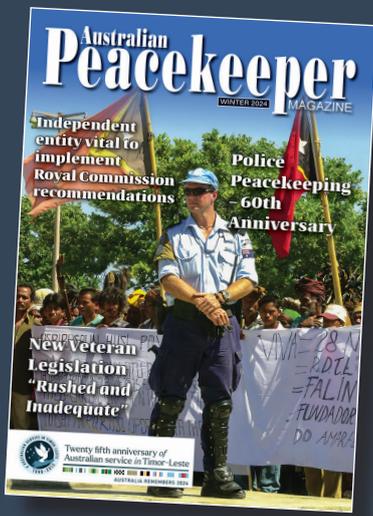
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Australian Peacekeepers Magazine attempts to provide insight into the experiences of peacekeepers, Defence members and war veterans and the issues that confront them together with encouraging informed debate regarding issues dealing with but not limited 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.



# Padre's Ponderings

Chaplain Steve Neuhaus  
RFD, Command Chaplain,  
2nd Division, Australian  
Army

*Fide et Fortitudine By Faith & Courage*

## Lost / Loss

Over the years I have been bushwalking, hiking or patrolling in many places and countries. So often I seem to be the one who ends up with the responsibility of ensuring the group does not get lost. I do not have a perfect record and one time on a NAVEX, we took the wrong turn on a saddle and ended up in a dense overgrown re-entrant which made progress difficult, and we thought at one stage, we may not get out.

Once we had established that we were lost and then, through a re-section, established our location, we were able to begin the long and painful task of extracting ourselves and getting back on track. We studied our map in detail and related it to the ground, trusted our compass and we able to get to our destination before dark.

In life at times, we can find ourselves maybe not physically lost but spiritually and mentally lost. This can often be because of a loss that has caused us grief and pain, this loss can be loss of a loved one, a career, physical or mental health the list goes on. We can end up feeling lost and adrift from those around us.

However, there is hope – God in Ezekiel 34:16 states: I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured and I will strengthen the weak. Jesus when He came to earth demonstrated that God really cares for us and wants the best for us despite the trials that often seem to beset us.

God has provided us with the Bible as our map to negotiate the pitfalls of life and people such as chaplains as a compass/guides to point us in the right direction.

Within the APPVA we also care about you and your needs and we are developing a chaplaincy network throughout Australia to assist veterans negotiate what at times appears to be a mental and spiritual jungle.

If you find yourself felling a bit lost please feel free to ring me (Steve Neuhaus) on mobile phone 0403 060 369 and I am happy to have a chat and where possible link you up with a local APPVA volunteer chaplain.

### Godspeed

**Steve Neuhaus**  
Chaplain APPVA

Ph. 0403 060 369  
Stephen.neuhaus@bigpond.com

# Chairperson's Report



This Magazine is a milestone publication in our new series, edited by Karl Patterson and brought to life by our graphic designer Gavin Benson. We are thrilled with the outcome and grateful to have entrusted the production to seasoned professionals. To recognise the 60th Anniversary of police peacekeeping, I have included a photo below from the longest police overseas peacekeeping operation (UNFICYP).

We are excited to announce a strategic partnership with The Last Post Magazine, allowing both publications to cross-promote key stories. Mark your calendars for 14 September 2024, as we commemorate Australian Peacekeeper Day and kick off a weeklong commemoration marking the 25th Anniversary of Australian Service in Timor-Leste.

This day also honours 60 years of Australian Police Peacekeeping, culminating in a special book launch at the National Gallery of Australia.

2024 is significant as we have achieved our goal of integrating younger directors onto the board within three years.

All directors introduce themselves in this edition followed by a condensed version of Our Strategic Plan.

A standout achievement this year has been establishing ourselves as a trusted source of information within the veteran community. Through rapid information dissemination and extensive networking, we are positioned to assist veterans effectively. The creation of the National Register of Veteran Issues and regular network meetings have strengthened our outreach.

Monthly meetings play a crucial role in addressing communication challenges with the DVA, facilitating prompt solutions and fostering constructive dialogues. These interactions not only expedite issue resolution but also cultivate robust relationships with DVA leadership. Collaboration is central to our ethos as we tackle challenges collectively.

This year also marks the conclusion of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, providing a platform for veterans and their families to share experiences. While uncertain whether new legislation will reduce veteran suicidal ideation, we see renewed vigour within



DVA, presenting opportunities for collaboration and positive change.

To bolster our support for the veteran community, we will fund a paid advocate, and we thank the benefactors who supported that initiative.

I invite you to explore this magazine, a testament to our collective dedication and spirit. Thank you for being part of this journey.

**Ian Lindgren**  
**Chairperson**

**Australian Peacekeeper  
and Peacemaker Veterans'  
Association**

**[ian.lindgren@peacekeepers.asn.au](mailto:ian.lindgren@peacekeepers.asn.au)**



# Australia Remembers

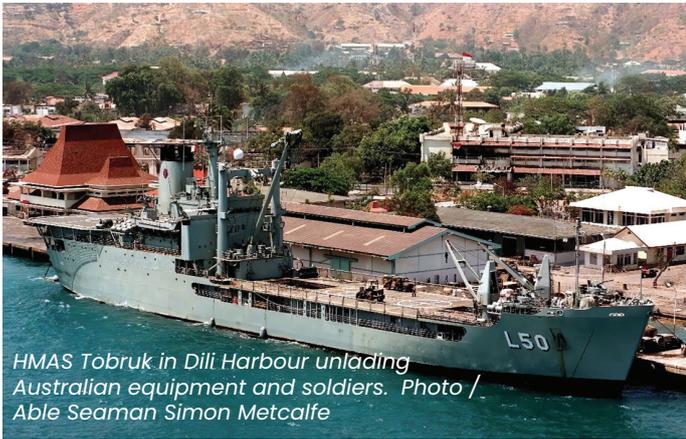
## *25th Anniversary of Timor-Leste's struggle for independence*

On 14 September 2024, Australian Peacekeeper Day, Australia commences a week long commemoration of the 25th anniversary of a pivotal moment in the history of Timor-Leste – the United Nations Mission East Timor (UNAMET), the Australian-led International Force East Timor (INTERFET) intervention, and all follow on UN operations. This momentous event marked a critical juncture

in the long and complex journey of Timor-Leste's struggle for independence from Indonesia. The intervention was precipitated by an outbreak of violence following Timor-Leste's referendum for independence, with local militia backed by elements of the Indonesian military unleashing a campaign of killing, maiming, and destruction against the civilian population.

*Armed forces of the National Liberation of East Timor (FALANTIL)*





HMAS Tobruk in Dili Harbour unloading Australian equipment and soldiers. Photo / Able Seaman Simon Metcalfe

## The Road to Intervention

Timor-Leste's history is intertwined with the shifting tides of colonial rule and the emergence of competing political factions vying for control of the territory. After the withdrawal of the Portuguese administration in 1975, the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (FRETILIN) assumed control, only to be met with an Indonesian invasion and subsequent annexation of the territory as Indonesia's 27th province. This sparked a prolonged resistance campaign by the armed forces of the National Liberation of East Timor (FALANTIL).

## Armed forces (FALANTIL)

Over the years of Indonesian rule, Australia's position on Timor-Leste's status evolved, shifting from recognition of Indonesian sovereignty to increasing support for the territory's eventual independence. The change in Indonesia's own political landscape, with the fall of President Suharto in 1998, opened the door for a new approach.

Indonesia agreed to a referendum on the question of Timor-Leste's autonomy, with the understanding that a rejection of the "special autonomy" proposal would lead to a recommendation for independence.

## UNAMET Referendum & Aftermath

The United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) was established to oversee the referendum, which was accompanied by a surge in violence and intimidation from pro-Indonesian militia and elements of the Indonesian military. Despite the challenges, the referendum was a resounding success, with 95% of registered voters, some 430,000 people, casting their ballots. The result was a decisive rejection of the "special autonomy" proposal, with 78.5% of East Timorese opting for independence.

Civilian Police Officers also slept outside the Indonesian Police Headquarters in Gleno after the evacuation of the United Nations

Headquarters for protection against the pro Indonesian militia. UNAMET were sent to East Timor on 11 June 1999 to organise, conduct and supervise the referendum, held on 30 August 1999.

The aftermath of the referendum, however, was marked by a campaign of violence and destruction by pro-integration groups, with the involvement of the Indonesian military and police. The situation rapidly deteriorated, putting the hundreds of UN international staff, civilian police (CIVPOL), and East Timorese electoral volunteers at risk, as well as the civilian population in general.

## INTERFET Deployment & Restoring Order

As the unfolding catastrophe was broadcast around the world, Indonesia acquiesced to diplomatic pressure and declared a state of martial law on 6 September 1999. This paved the way for the deployment of INTERFET, a multinational force led by Australia, with the aim of restoring peace and security in Timor-Leste



Civilian Police Officers, all members of the United Nations Mission East Timor (UNAMET) sitting in their make shift sleeping area outside the Indonesian Police Headquarters in Gleno



OPERATION STABILISE - Mick Newbold, of Winnellie, N.T., patrols the streets with his section from 5/7, Mortar Platoon Support Company. Photo / Mark Dowling CPL



*OPERATION STABILISE - INTERFET Commander Major General Peter Cosgrove, is welcomed by the Commanding Officer of UNTAET Colonel Farjat of JORBAT in Oecussi. Photo / CPL Andy Hall*

## Tensions & Confrontations

Despite the overall improvement in security, tensions and confrontations between INTERFET and the Indonesian military and militia remained a constant challenge. Incidents such as the ambush near Suai, the clashes with Indonesian border posts, and firefights with militia in the border districts highlighted the delicate nature of the situation and the potential for escalation.

The arrival of additional Australian units, including the 5th/7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, further bolstered INTERFET's capabilities and allowed for a more comprehensive approach to securing the territory. The force's technological advantages, combined with its willingness to engage when necessary, played a crucial role in maintaining stability and deterring further violence.

## Withdrawal & Transition

As the security situation in Timor-Leste stabilized, planning for the withdrawal of INTERFET and the transition to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) began in mid-October 1999. The gradual withdrawal of larger INTERFET units commenced in January 2000, with the last substantial unit, 17 Construction Squadron, departing in March.

On 23 February 2000, Major General Cosgrove officially ended the INTERFET mission, handing over responsibilities to UNTAET. The new UN mission was tasked with providing a peacekeeping force, coordinating relief assistance, creating sustainable governance and legal structures, and conducting elections to pave the way for Timor-Leste's independence.

and supporting UNAMET in facilitating humanitarian assistance operations.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) played a pivotal role in the INTERFET deployment, with more than 5,500 service personnel sent to Timor-Leste, the largest deployment since the Vietnam War. Under the command of Major General Peter Cosgrove, INTERFET's arrival in Dili on 20 September 1999 marked a crucial turning point, as the force projected its power and sent a clear message to the militia about its resolve.

## Operation Stabilise

Securing the Territory and Providing Humanitarian Assistance

In the initial stages, INTERFET faced a complex and volatile security situation, with the Indonesian military and militia still active in parts of the country. The force undertook a series of peacemaking operations to demonstrate its strength and seize the operational initiative, including sweeps through central Dili, shows of force in Liquiçá, and plans to secure the border districts with West Timor.

Alongside the security operations, INTERFET played a crucial role in the humanitarian effort, securing food and water supplies, creating safe areas for refugees, and facilitating the distribution of essential materials and aid. The force's presence and actions encouraged the return of East Timorese civilians to their homes, as the Red Cross and other aid organizations began to provide much-needed assistance.



*Australian AFP investigate arson as East Timorese firefighters - The Bombeiros - attempt to put out a major fire lit by feuding gangs in Calico, near the Old Market area of Dili. Photo / David Dare Parker.*



*CNRT Party leader and Parliamentary candidate for Prime Minister of Timor-Leste Xanana Gusmao with wife Kirsty Sword-Gusmao at a CNRT Rally at Dili Stadium. Photo / David Dare Parker*

The 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, formerly handed over command of the Oecussi Enclave to the Jordanian Battalion on February 15, 2000.

### **Journey to Independence**

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste achieved formal independence on 20 May 2002, following the presidential election and the signing of the 5 May agreements that established the process of popular consultation. This milestone was the culmination of Timor-Leste’s long and arduous struggle for self-determination, with the support of the international community, particularly Australia’s leadership in the INTERFET operation.

### **Ongoing Engagement & Stability**

Even after Timor-Leste’s independence, Australia’s involvement in the country’s development and security continued. The United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET) and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) were established to provide assistance to the new government, including law enforcement, internal and external security, and the development of critical state institutions.

In 2006, Timor-Leste experienced a domestic security crisis, which prompted the deployment of the Australian-led International Stabilisation Force (ISF) under Operation Astute. This multinational effort, comprising approximately 1,800 ADF personnel, worked to restore stability and confine the conflict to secured areas, while the Australian Federal Police (AFP) supported the mission through Operation Serene.

### **The Lasting Legacy**

The 25-year journey of Australia’s involvement in Timor-Leste’s path to independence and stability has left an indelible mark on both countries. The courage and professionalism of the ADF, AFP, and other international personnel who served in UNAMET, INTERFET,

and subsequent missions have been widely recognized and celebrated.

The collective experience of the Australian military in Timor-Leste has been hailed as evidence of its adaptability, discretion, and ability to navigate complex, evolving situations. The lasting impact of Australia’s contribution is evident in the strong bilateral relationship between the two nations, as well as Timor-Leste’s continued progress towards sustainable development and democratic governance.

Former Chairperson Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans’ Association Rob Woods, JP was an AFP Officer in 2000 and stationed in Gleno as the East Timor Police Service Coordinator. At the time he mentored the youngest East Timorese female trainee police officer Natercia Martins and

after 22 years in 2022 they were reunited.

Natercia was then the most senior woman in the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste.

As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of this pivotal chapter in Timor-Leste’s history, it serves as a testament to the power of international cooperation, the resilience of the human spirit, and the enduring commitment to the ideals of self-determination and peace.

Six Australians lost their lives whilst deployed, or as a result of their service, in Timor-Leste. Five - Lance Corporal Russell Eisenhuth, Sergeant Andrew Emmerton, Corporal Stuart Jones, Private Ashley Baker and Craftsman Beau Pridue - were ADF members, and their names are recorded with other members of the Australian armed forces on Australia’s national Roll of Honour. Sergeant Brett Kinloch, a member of the AFP, was posthumously awarded the UN’s Dag Hammarskjöld Medal.



*Former APPVA Chairperson Rob Woods and Natercia Martins*

*Celebrating enduring relations between*

# Australia and Timor Leste

*By Martin Hess*

**September 2024 marks the 25th anniversary of Australian engagement in East Timor, now known as Timor Leste. While many consider that this modern engagement commenced with the arrival of the Australian-led International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) on 19–20 September 1999, very few are aware of the reason this intervention was required.**

A few days before the arrival of INTERFET, the last remnants of the previous UN electoral mission, the United Nations Mission East Timor (UNAMET) had been withdrawn to Darwin from Dili and Bacau.

UNAMET had been raised hastily to conduct a ballot of the East Timorese population as to their political future. The choice was between pro-autonomy which meant remaining with Indonesia or rejecting this and pursuing a path towards full independence.

The ballot was the catalyst for the creation of a number of extremely

violent, pro-autonomy, militia groups by elements of the Indonesian military. The violent militia activities in East Timor in the first half of 1999 created sufficient concern in Australian intelligence and political circles that a summit was held in Bali in late April between Australian Prime Minister Howard and Indonesian President Habibie.

When a military peacekeeping force, estimated by the Australian Defence officials to be 12,000–16,000 strong as a minimum requirement, the Indonesian military objected strenuously. A compromise of up to



300 UN Civilian Police was reached between the two leaders.

Following this meeting a security agreement, known as the May 5 Agreement, was reached between the former colonial power, Portugal and Indonesia the de facto power. This was brokered by the UN in New York.

Part of the security arrangement included vesting sole responsibility for the upcoming ballot in the Indonesian National Police, which had only recently separated from the Indonesian military and was still a para-military police force. They were to be advised by international police, known as UN Civilian Police or UNCIVPOL. The AFP was to provide the largest single national contingent of what was to become 270 UNCIVPOL.

Following the April meeting in Bali, the AFP was called upon to raise, train, equip, inoculate and deploy a contingent of 50 members over a period of about a month. The

Advance Party of three members deployed in early June 1999 with the main body deploying in tranches through Darwin throughout the month of June. Due to limited accommodation in Dili the members were deployed rapidly into remote and regional areas to allow room for incoming tranches.

These members were deployed without rations, water, communications or maps into areas where the security environment was either unknown or known to be hostile. Although each tranche deployed through Darwin as national police from around the world became available, there was no common briefing, particularly in relation to the unfolding security situation on the ground.

It should be remembered that these international police were fully engaged in their domestic crime roles in their home jurisdictions and that there was no common policing doctrine among them. They came

from Five-Eyes countries, South East Asian countries, European countries, the United States, Africa and even the Russian Federation.

They worked in small electoral teams, similarly composed of members from all around the world. The usual configuration was one UNCIVPOL with two electoral workers, known as District Electoral Officers (DEOs), with one local driver and interpreter. Each electoral team also had to be accompanied by a member of the Indonesian police, which was problematic in some areas as the Indonesian police did not have sufficient vehicles to travel independently of the UN.

There was no international military support as sole responsibility for security was placed in the hands of the Indonesian National Police in accordance with the May 5 Agreement. There was a number of UN Military Liaison Officers (MLOs), totalling about 50, of which the ADF provided 10.

- An Australian soldier in Dili, East Timor, in 1999. Photo: Emmanuel Dunand /AFP



Indonesian president BJ Habibie with John Howard in Bali in 1999





Chief of the UN Peacekeeping Force MAJGEN Peter Cosgrove with his Indonesian counterpart General Syahnakri

They were to liaise with the Indonesian military, the TNI. Facilities and infrastructure in the regional and rural areas was rudimentary, with things like fuel for the UN vehicles being one of many challenges. Sourcing food locally was also a challenge, because there simply was very little food available. There were no medical facilities and no medevac capacity. The Indonesian police had orders to fire upon any aircraft flying at night including any attempt at medevac. Vehicle movement was prohibited at night.

The local Indonesian police were a mixed group. Some were paramilitary, some were local East Timorese and some had been brought to East Timor from other parts of Indonesia. It was quite clear to the UNCIVPOL that the Indonesian police were very much subservient to the Indonesian military and their militia proxies.

The ballot process included voter registration, where identities and bona fides were checked and voter education, which involved international electoral staff, explaining the concept of a secret ballot to a largely traumatised and somewhat sceptical East Timorese population. This was followed by campaigning for both the pro-autonomy and pro-independence sides. There were some serious security incidents during this period.

Despite the harassment and intimidation as well as blatant attempts at bribery and coercion, the ballot took place on 30 August 1999. East Timorese lined up on the roads to walk in their Sunday finery, to be present when the polling

stations opened so they could cast their vote.

According to the UN, 95% of registered voters actually cast a vote on that day and of those, 79% voted to reject the Indonesian offer of autonomy and thereby pursue a path towards full independence. It was a palpable demonstration of political will and an example to those in countries who take their democratic rights for granted.

The announcement of the ballot result on 4 September 1999 triggered a deliberate campaign of death and destruction at the hands of the militia and some elements of the Indonesian security forces. Dili, Bacau, Maliana, Liquica and several other towns and villages were destroyed by fire and thousands of people were displaced and forcibly evacuated to West Timor.

UNCIVPOL members were withdrawn from regional and rural areas into two locations, Dili and Bacau, which incidentally were the only locations capable of taking C130 aircraft for eventual evacuations of UN staff.

In Dili, several hundred internally displaced persons sheltering in the school next to the UN compound, had been panicked by Indonesian firing in the school yard and had fled into the compound to seek refuge from the UN.

Tracer fire and grenade blasts continued just outside the compound as overcrowding, water, food and hygiene in the compound itself became a priority. Attempts at resupply from the docks area of Dili came under militia attack or were turned around by Indonesian forces.

Evacuation of UNCIVPOL commenced on 06 September and concluded on 14 September 1999. Many UNCIVPOL signed a petition refusing to leave until safe passage for the East Timorese IDPs could be arranged.

After lengthy and difficult negotiations with the Indonesian security forces this was achieved and several hundred East Timorese were evacuated to safety in Darwin. This is one of many examples where unarmed UNCIVPOL stood between predator and prey with nothing but a blue shirt and a sense of moral authority. Such actions throughout the entirety of UNAMET saved countless lives.

Between the corralling of UNAMET into Dili and Bacau and the arrival of INTERFET, an estimated 70% of Dili was razed by arson, between 1200 and 1400 East Timorese were murdered and their bodies dumped at sea or thrown down wells, and tens of thousands forcibly evacuated to West Timor.

The violence and destruction was so widespread and so intense that U.S. President Clinton, attending an APEC meeting in Auckland warned the Indonesians directly that unless the violence was halted and INTERFET was permitted to land unopposed, there would be severe consequences.

The Indonesian government wisely agreed, and the story of INTERFET and what followed is well known.

The AFP members of UNAMET were awarded a Group Bravery Citation by the Governor General. UNAMET itself was awarded the Elie Wiesel Ethics Award. To link what occurred in East Timor during UNAMET with events in 1940s Europe speaks volumes as to how dangerous it was.

UNAMET was declared a peacekeeping mission and is covered by the old Veteran's Entitlement Act, but in reality there was no peace to keep. This anomaly is very much a live issue for those who served with UNAMET.

East Timor became the independent nation of Timor Leste in 2002. If wasn't for the efforts of both UNAMET and INTERFET the likelihood of this independence would have been very slim.

UNAMET was the beginning of what has been 25 years of continuous



Villagers from the mountainous Bobonaro district shout 'Viva Timor L'este!' in 1999. Photo / AAP

engagement by the AFP in East Timor and Timor Leste. This includes all of the United Nations missions, UNAMET, UNTAET, UNMISSET and UNMIT.

The UN withdrew from Timor Leste in 2012-13 but the long-term police capacity mission, the Timor Leste Police Development Program (TLDP), commenced shortly after independence in 2002, continues to this day, and continues to yield dividends in a police peer-to-peer sense.

Several AFP UNCIVPOL members of UNAMET returned to Timor Leste in 2019 for the 20th anniversary of UNAMET, and reunited with many of their British UNCIVPOL colleagues. Many of these same people, plus a

few additional ones are returning to Timor Leste for the 25th anniversary in late August and early September 2024.

Noteworthy is that both the former UN Special Representative, Ian Martin and the current UN Secretary General will both be in Timor Leste and it is highly likely that former UNAMET UNCIVPOL members will meet with them both.

This provides some background to the AFP engagement in East Timor prior to INTERFET and the subsequent 25 years of continuous service by AFP members with all of the UN missions as well as crisis responses and the TLDP police capacity-development program.

This article is intended as a combined commemoration for those who died or were injured, an acknowledgement of those who served and a celebration of enduring relations between the people and the police of both Australia and Timor Leste.

Police contributing countries to UNAMET were Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Uruguay, U.S., and Zimbabwe.



## Australian Police Peacekeeping

# The Past, Present and Future

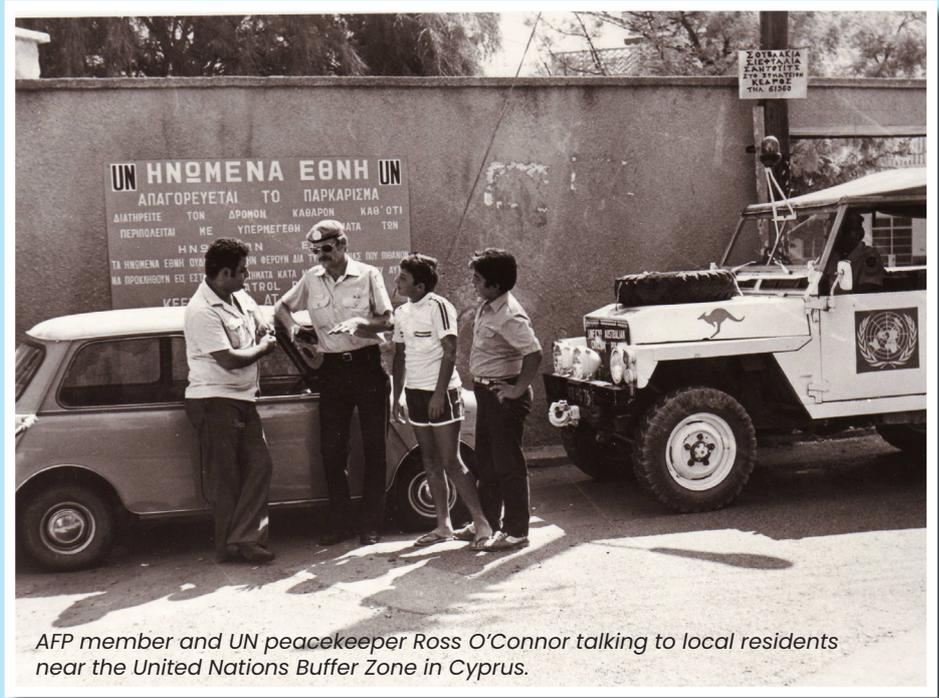
By AFP COMMISSIONER REECE KERSHAW



This year marks several significant anniversaries for Australian police peacekeeping.

Sixty years ago - in May 1964 - forty police formed the first Australian contingent to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The contingent joined police from four other countries in monitoring the actions of Greek Cypriot police towards Turkish Cypriots.

In later years the UNFICYP mandate evolved to patrolling an island-wide buffer zone separating the two communities, and monitoring the human rights of minorities groups.



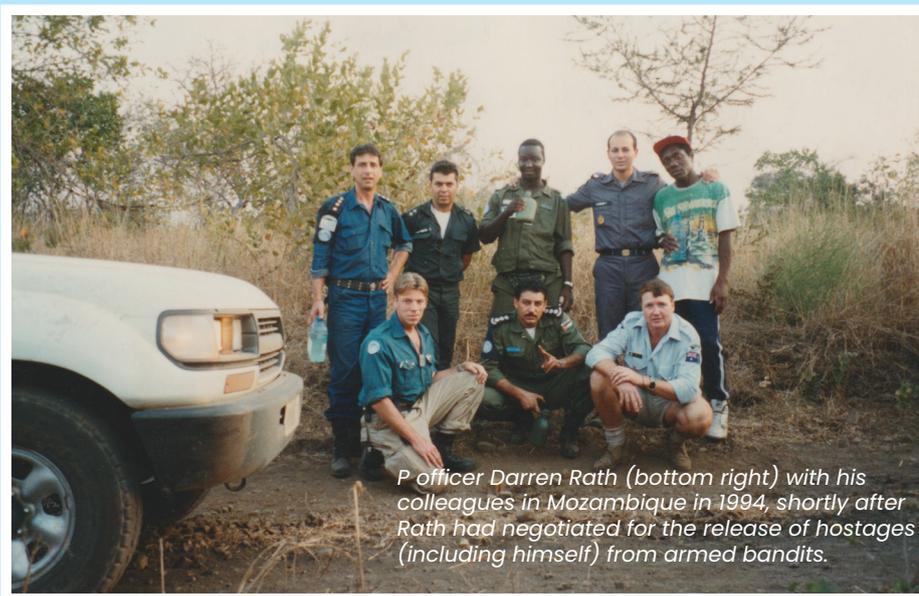
AFP member and UN peacekeeper Ross O'Connor talking to local residents near the United Nations Buffer Zone in Cyprus.

It is also the 30th anniversary of Australian police participation in UN operations in Mozambique. Thirty-two Australian Federal Police (AFP)

officers worked in remote locations with fellow police peacekeepers to monitor nation-wide elections, which successfully brought a political solution to almost two decades of conflict.

Twenty-five years ago - in June 1999 - 52 AFP officers commenced operations with the United Nations Mission in East Timor. In some of the most hostile situations imaginable, Australians worked with police peacekeepers from 28 other countries, to assist in conducting a ballot to determine East Timor's future.

Sadly, the vote for independence resulted in horrific island-wide violence. Forced to evacuate all its personnel, including their unarmed police peacekeepers, the United Nations (UN) returned only after the intervention of the Australian-led International Force East Timor (INTERFET) military force.



P officer Darren Rath (bottom right) with his colleagues in Mozambique in 1994, shortly after Rath had negotiated for the release of hostages (including himself) from armed bandits.



Two AFP officers on patrol with Australian military personnel in Dili, Timor-Leste, in 2006.

and the costs of societal collapse, civil war and peacekeeping missions. A key component of prevention is embedding the rule of law in police culture, and building the institutional resilience of law enforcement agencies.

Police development assistance and capacity building are key focus areas for the AFP's efforts offshore, especially in regions close to Australia.

These are just three examples of the many international peacekeeping and similar missions Australian police have undertaken in the past six decades. Throughout my own policing career, I have had the privilege of being both a UN peacekeeper in Timor-Leste and a member of the Regional Assistance

**Mission to Solomon Islands.**

I have seen first hand the unique abilities and skills Australian police can bring to war-torn nations seeking to rebuild the rule of law.

As police, our primary goal is to prevent a breakdown in the rule of law, the arising social trauma

Today, more than 120 AFP officers are based in nations such as Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu, working in enduring partnerships with local police to build their resilience, capabilities and effectiveness.



AFP officer and UN peacekeeper Tina Westra during a community engagement patrol in South Sudan.



AFP trainer Jennifer with police from Timor-Leste and the Pacific Islands. The AFP provides pre-deployment training for police selected to deploy to UN peacekeeping missions.

and leadership skills. They will then take their learned knowledge home, where AFP personnel will be available for mentoring and support.

The AFP also supports Pacific Islands and Timor-Leste police selected for UN peacekeeping service, through the provision of UN-accredited pre-deployment training. This enables the police to draw on the highly skilled and experienced team of AFP trainers.

While the AFP remains capable of providing personnel to UN peacekeeping operations if directed to do so by the Australian government, our focus remains on bilateral and multilateral partnerships within the Pacific, working shoulder to shoulder to keep their communities safe and ensure the stability and security of the wider Pacific stable.

It is through improving the capabilities of our policing partners that the AFP, on behalf of Australia, helps to prevent the emergence of the conditions requiring regional or UN peacekeeping operations. The benefits of this approach, in terms of reduced social trauma and a more stable Indo-Pacific region, are long-lasting for us all.

The AFP officers are proud to mentor, train, advise and in some cases provide operational support to our regional policing partners. The areas of support include investigations practices, management, corporate administration, use of force, public order management and equipment acquisition. AFP efforts are tailored to complement existing initiatives provided by other nations.

One recent initiative has been implemented in cooperation with the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC), the Queensland Police Service and the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM).

This year, more than 60 RPNGC officers will undertake training in North Queensland and at the AIPM, to enhance their policing



AFP and Solomon Islands police on a joint patrol during a period of public disorder, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022. In the Solomons the AFP provides both capacity building and operational support to local police.

# New Veterans Legislation

On 28 July 2024 the APPVA provided a submission to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee's inquiry into the Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024.

Our conclusion based on wide consultation was that the new legislation does not meet the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide's need for simplification and less complexity. While the association appreciates the Government is moving quickly to address the issues raised by the Royal Commission, this bill reflects a rushed and inadequate consultation process. A process undertaken by a government determined to be seen doing something quickly, rather than one seeking to spend the time to achieve a workable and simplified solution.

The only simplification that has been delivered is for the Department of Veterans Affairs, who if the bill is passed, will not need to invest in any new systems, training or processes in a large way. For

veterans, we will still be forced to engage with complex legislation with the onus placed on the individual to understand differing entitlements and opaque decision-making processes. The Royal Commission demonstrated that current arrangements are not fit for purpose and will only be improved through revolutionary rather than evolutionary change.

This Bill misses the opportunity the Royal Commission gave us, and we would have preferred to see the current systems stay in place while a new revolutionary system was developed incorporating features such as liability being accepted at initial injury or illness while in service, all injuries considered equal such that if you lost a leg in war then you received the same treatment for the leg and any mental illnesses as a veteran suffering the same loss in training or a disaster relief operation.

This would have reflected the changes in contemporary operations and community expectations. We would have liked to see the onus of proof falling on the government to disprove any claims for support (reflecting the social

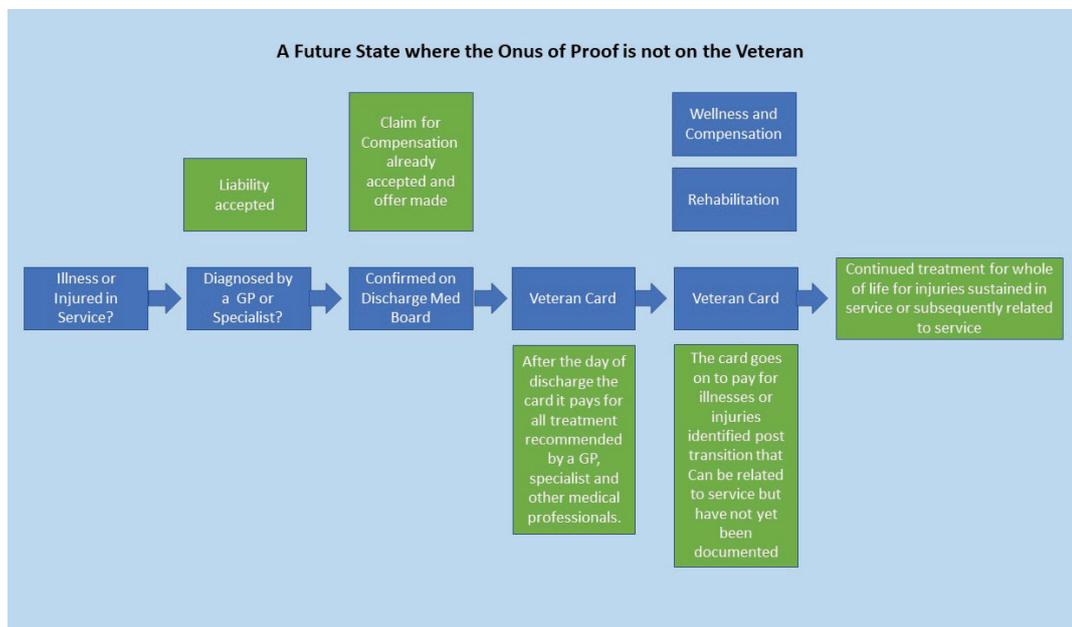
## OPINION

Written by  
**Ian Lindgren,**  
 Chairperson of the  
 Board of Directors.  
 Unanimously agreed  
 at Combined Board  
 and Management  
 Committee Meeting of  
 12 July 2024.

contract the underpins military and operational service) rather than the veteran having to prove the claim.

Despite these shortfalls, we are fully committed to publicly supporting the Bill if it is passed by both houses. The increased openness and flexibility of DVA gives us the opportunity to have success on the new legislation environment when it is introduced in mid-2026.

Unity rather than disunity is much better for our community.



***This bill reflects a rushed and inadequate consultation process.***

# MAJGEN Pearce brings vision and values to the United Nations

With over 35 years of military service, Major General Cheryl Pearce AM, CSC was seconded from her role of Deputy Chief of Army, to the United Nations Headquarters, New York as Deputy Military Advisor in January this year.

Within three weeks, she unexpectedly stepped-up into the role of Acting Military Advisor – leading the Department of Peace Operations Office of Military Affairs, providing oversight of all current UN Peacekeeping Operations, as well as providing military advice to the Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, and the Security Council.

***Peacekeeper Magazine contributor Jess Sullivan interviewed MAJGEN Pearce to gain insights into her career trajectory, influences, challenges and vision for the future of peacekeeping operations. Her down-to-earth nature and inclusive leadership style shines through, which makes her appointment to this unique and high-calibre role clearly evident.***

***Your military career spans over 35 years, starting with your graduation from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea in 1985. Can you share what initially inspired you to join the military and how those early experiences shaped your career?***

Joining the Army was a decision I took in an incremental approach. I intuitively knew I wanted to contribute to something bigger than myself, to serve our country in some capacity and it was a few 'sliding door' moments that landed me in officer training nearly 40 years ago. I love what I do and feel very blessed to have had the opportunities that I have had.

My earlier drivers for success were based on a fear of failure and trying to fit in, rather than just backing myself and giving it my best every day. This 'believing in myself and

backing myself' approach came much later in my career.

Noting I joined the Army at 18, my early experiences, both in appointments and environment also shaped and developed my character, prioritized my values, and over time, my leadership style.

***You've held various significant roles, including Force Commander of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and Commander of the Australian Joint Task Force in Afghanistan. Which of these roles do you feel most defined your approach to leadership, and why?***

There is not a single appointment that has defined my leadership approach. Each opportunity to command and lead throughout my career was nuanced by the

composition of the force/group, the environment in which I was serving and the purpose of the role I was doing.

My whole career (training, education and experience) prepared me to lead the Australian Task Force in Afghanistan. The culture, values, training and anticipated responses to incidents and issues was known and intuitive. Additionally, I learnt a lot through listening and engaging as part of a multinational coalition in supporting the Afghan Security Forces and the government of Afghanistan.

This multinational operation within a political narrative honed my thinking and developed my approach around military diplomacy and multilateralism. This understanding and approach became an essential





component in my leadership and engagement with the United Nations

At the operational level, the biggest adjustment between leading Australian forces in Afghanistan and a 14-nation multinational force in Cyprus was the culture, training and language. As such, I quickly adjusted my leadership style to what was required, ensuring that I maintained a values-based approach with an inclusive and diversity mindset.

**Your educational background includes degrees in Asian Studies, Policing, Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism, and Defence Studies.**

**How have these academic pursuits influenced your strategic thinking and decision-making in your military roles?**

Each of my academic pursuits were for a particular purpose and interest at the time. Whether it be the region we were/are operating in, or pursuing professional mastery, my love of learning and curiosity has resulted in an education across a broad background of topics and environments.

It is the critical analysis skills that are developed through academic pursuits and the educational/experiential opportunities as well as my gendered perspective that

brings strength to my thinking and decision making.

**You went through a transition experience in 2021 when you moved from full-time service to reserves, which can be a challenging time for many. Do you have any reflections on that time?**

I'll admit that it was hard for me, I knew transition was the option if the UN role I was nominated for at the time didn't come off, however the head and heart don't always align, and when you love what you do and the opportunities run out at a point in time, choice is taken away.

Although the next step is logical, as transition is inevitable, emotionally it takes time. I had my family and friends supporting me and a great job to transition to which helped, especially in the middle of COVID, but Army was more than a job, it was a community.

I landed well, it just took an energy I hadn't anticipated, and I needed to be kind on myself and not fight it the whole time. Looking back now, the opportunity to work at the strategic/political level in another organization broadened my thinking, provided me a more nuanced awareness of military culture and better prepared me for my current role within UNHQ.

**How has your civilian experience in Australian Border Force (2021-23) influenced your perspective since returning to full time service and working with the UN?**

Working with the Department of Home Affairs and Australian Border Force as Deputy Commissioner was a great opportunity to contribute at the senior level across government on significant political/strategic and operational issues, and to lead a Departmental Group during a difficult period.

In addition to meeting and working with some great individuals where I learnt a lot, the opportunity also provided me the clarity around my strengths and what was important to me: sense of purpose, good leadership and lived values. I was able to bring this experience back into the full time military and the UN, along with my collaborative approach at the enterprise level, priority on good governance and better understanding of the committee system, which are all essential skills at the senior level of both Defence and the UN.

*MAJGEN Pearce focused on...*

# Women in Peacekeeping

*Your role with the United Nations involves overseeing peacekeeping operations globally. How do you envision the inclusion of women in peacekeeping forces evolving during your tenure?*

Women are essential in all peacekeeping operations, whether as contingent members or individual officers deployed as UNMO's (UN Military Observers) or individual Staff Officers.

Women contribute to more diverse peacekeeping and help our missions better represent the communities they serve, either directly or indirectly.

Peacekeeping has achieved significant gains thus far under the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy, especially in the individual deployments, however we are starting to plateau after the quick wins over the last five years and need to remain focused.

I have identified both organizational and cultural bias that will be prioritized during my tenure. I will also work with the great initiatives already in place like the Elsie Initiative Fund (EIF) that has shifted the dial on female representation and continues to do great work with Member States and Troop Contributing Countries (TCC's).

Additionally, I will be focused on both education and training for our senior officers and on creating the inclusive environment where women can succeed, and for some, who volunteer to deploy as senior officers in peacekeeping missions. Nurturing and investing in the many women peacekeepers who have deployed or have the desire to deploy (across all ranks) will be key to investing in the future. Working with TCC's on increasing the numbers of females in national military forces is a longer-term goal that is complex and requires political buy-in.

**What unique contributions do you think women bring to peacekeeping missions that might differ from their male counterparts?**

Women bring a gendered perspective to the planning and discussion at the operational level as well as reflect the communities in which they support at the tactical level. This is particularly relevant in missions where there is a Protection of Civilians mandate and where there is an opportunity to engage with civil society in our diverse mandates.

Women are qualified across many trades and have skills equal to their male counterparts as operational planners, intelligence analysts, logisticians and much more. They have mainly been trained to think and operate like a male and can additionally add a female perspective across the full spectrum of peacekeeping operations.

*Visiting units in the UNFICYP (UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus) Buffer Zone Cyprus - 2019*



# Leadership at the United Nations



***In your new position as Deputy Military Adviser, what are your primary goals and priorities? How do you plan to address the current challenges facing UN peacekeeping operations?***

I have been very fortunate that only three weeks into my new role as Deputy Military Adviser I stepped up as Acting Military Adviser on the departure of the current incumbent at short notice. In the last three and for approximately the next six months my priorities are and will continue to be focused on supporting the 11 peacekeeping missions containing a military component. This is a significant body of work as the mission mandates are diverse and challenging in nature with some of the missions having significant security threats.

I also work closely with the Head of Peacekeeping Operations on engagement with member states, in particular, the Troop Contributing Countries (TCC's), as well as addressing the strategic issues across the UN Secretariat.

Additionally, another priority is the contribution and discourse on the 'Future of Peacekeeping' which is currently being considered as part of the broader UN General Assembly (UNGA) 'Summit of the Future' discussion. There is great strength in what peacekeeping offers and can contribute to going forward, however there is a narrative currently trending on peacekeeping failures and validity of its relevance.

**The role of the Deputy Military Adviser involves significant collaboration with international counterparts. How do you navigate the complexities of coordinating among diverse military cultures and national policies?**

Whether as Acting Military Adviser or as Deputy Military Adviser, the environment in which I operate is complex with a lot of 'grey'. Relationships, knowing and understanding the political

landscape, engagement and active listening are key requirements of collaborating across the strategic and political environment.

Understanding national culture and beliefs with a sense of confident humility enables respect when discussing difficult issues. Language and communicating with understanding are also key, and I learnt whilst a Force Commander that Australian English is difficult to understand both on speed and slang/vernacular.

My previous experiences in the UN, Department of Home Affairs and Australian Defence Headquarters all prepared me to operate effectively and successfully within the UN system as well as engaging with member states and the missions.

**Given your extensive experience, what do you see as the future of UN Peacekeeping, particularly in the context of increasing global conflicts and geopolitical tensions?**

The future of peacekeeping is currently a key topic of discussion within the UN and the supporting academic think tanks, especially in

the lead-up to the 'Summit of the Future'. As indicated above, I assess there is a role and a requirement for peacekeeping going forward.

Peacekeeping missions will adjust from being big missions with complex mandates to more nuanced commitments in either a lead or supporting role. The shape and design will vary to support the outcomes directed through the UN Security Council (UNSC) however will remain aligned to the principles of peacekeeping.

Support to the African Union (AU) under UNSC resolution 2719 will remain a significant component of what 'next' looks like. The current political climate within the Security Council has made it difficult to unlock some of the key issues facing peacekeeping operations and I assess there will be a narrative by Member States on Security Council reform.

It is a real privilege to be in my current role at this time and I look forward to being actively involved in the future of peacekeeping discussion.



**MAJGEN Pearce on priorities and...**

# Broader Reflections

*Briefing with the MONUSCO Force Commander (UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) Major General Diouf and Land Forces Commander Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) Major General Sylvain Buki.*



**Looking back at your career, what are you most proud of? Are there any particular missions or projects that stand out as defining moments?**

I am most proud of my determination and self-belief in an organization that for over 40 years didn't always value my specialty or gender. I never thought about it at the time, but when you're a Military Police (MP) officer and a woman, I was at the bottom of the totem pole without any real power.

A positive outcome of the negative environment in my earlier years, was that in addition to creating the requirement for a level of self-belief, it developed my emotional intelligence and influenced how I

led, listened and influenced. This is key to my success as a senior officer where relationships and influence are essential.

I am also very appreciative of three individuals at critical points in my career, who told me I mattered and that they believed in me when I wobbled and was thinking of leaving. Without them, I wouldn't be here today.

Regarding missions or projects, there wasn't a particular one that stood out – each was special in different ways and contributed to my sense of purpose. What I am most proud of are the people I have met and worked with, and where I could, influenced in some way.

**What advice would you give to young women aspiring to enter the military or pursue leadership roles in international peacekeeping?**

I have a saying which I often speak to which is 'be yourself, know yourself, back yourself and look after yourself'. Whilst these actions are hard especially earlier in one's career, it is invaluable, and on reflection I wish I had done it more. Early in my career, I was so focused on supporting everyone else and wanting to fit in that I didn't use my voice or deviate from the norm as often as I wanted or should have.

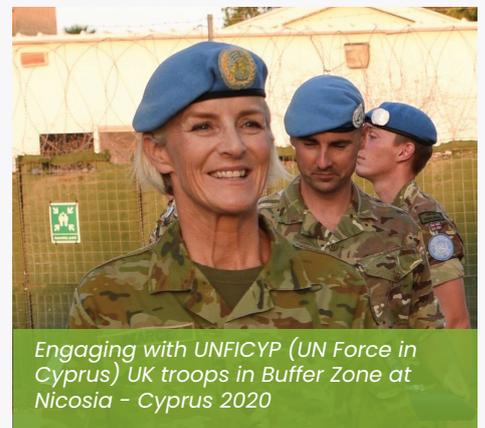
Equally important is the work environment that our young women step into, whether it being



Meeting with the previous Military Advisor General Diop on commencement of Deputy Military Advisor appointment – March 2024



Visit of UN delegation led by Under-Secretary-General Department of Peace Operations, Mr Jean-Pierre Lacroix, with South African President Ramaphosa – April 2024



Engaging with UNFICYP (UN Force in Cyprus) UK troops in Buffer Zone at Nicosia – Cyprus 2020

in their own national military or as part of a multinational peacekeeping force. High risk and harsh living conditions are generally not a deterrent, however an environment that is not inclusive and welcoming will see women walking away to find alternate careers or not volunteering for a second deployment with the UN.

This responsibility is on everyone to ensure we create the environment in which our next generation has

the opportunity to thrive and to generate our future leaders.

**Finally, how do you balance the demanding responsibilities of your role with personal life and self-care? What strategies have you found effective in maintaining this balance?**

Balance is hard and although I try to get it right, I pull up short on occasions. Family, friends and mental/physical health are essential for my wellbeing and

self-care. I enjoy running, albeit slowly, and the mindfulness this provides me is good for both my physical and mental wellbeing. A couple of close friends are essential for my balance, and they fill my soul. My family are my number one supporter and without them I wouldn't be where I am today. They ground me on what's important and where my priorities lie. They also bring me much joy and I love supporting them as they pursue their dreams and goals.

# APPVA Board Of Directors

The Board of Directors at the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association comprises members from all walks of life making it relevant to all in the veteran community. Peacekeeper Magazine asked each Director to document their background and what they want to achieve for the APPVA.



## Chris Moss - Executive Director & Chair of Strategy Sub-Committee



APPVA will continue to embark on positive representation of all Veterans in getting a fair go from DVA, and from other ESOs (Ex-Service Organisations) who should be doing as much as possible with the funding they receive from Government and our wider Veteran community to improve conditions

in service and post service for Veterans, regardless of any membership affiliation.

We are committed to delivering for Veterans and make a point of being outspoken when it comes to using our place on the DVA ESO Round Table (the Veteran voice to DVA that not many Veterans or ESOs know about) to advocate for the Veteran community, both for individual complex cases that no other ESO has been able to resolve and collectively for broader matters of importance to Veterans especially in underrepresented cohorts.

## Pauline Ryan



Pauline joined the local Naval Cadet Unit as a 12-year-old and discovered a passion for sailing and being on the water. After finishing High School, she joined the Royal Australian Navy and served for over 11 years, primarily at the submarine base HMAS Platypus.

During that service, Pauline had the privilege of working at Kirribilli and Government House, serving some of Australia's most distinguished Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers. After being discharged, she was contracted to work for Defence Services, serving the ADF at various establishments, the last being Victoria Barracks in Sydney.

However, it wasn't until relocating to Queensland that Pauline truly discovered her calling through NLP,

Transformational Coaching and breathwork to help others find their self-worth and place in the world.

*My goal with APPVA is to advocate for those who feel unheard, unseen, or have no fight left in them because I know what that feels like. Veteran welfare is at the heart of everything I do. With expertise in mental health, suicide prevention, trauma, domestic violence, and homelessness, I am equipped to address and support the unique needs of veterans using a variety of modalities.*

*As a female veteran, veteran spouse and mother, I understand the complexities of raising children while serving and the importance of family support during and after service. I am committed to advocating for the well-being of the veteran and defence families, ensuring they receive the best life possible and advocating for what they're entitled to.*

## Andrew Jenkins



Andrew enlisted into the Australian Army in 1995 and joined the Infantry Corp with postings to the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), 4th/3rd Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment (4/3RNSWR) and HQ 5 BDE.

During his service, he has deployed to both Warlike service and Peacekeeping operations on

INTERFET, UNTAET/UNMISSET, OP ANODE and OP CATALYST.

In 2007, on return from his last deployment in Iraq, Andrew transferred to the Army Reserve and has concurrently taken up a career within the NSW State Government Public Service. He held the position of CSM Delta Company with 4/3 RNSWR for numerous years before being commissioned and held postings as 2IC Bravo Coy 4/3 RNSWR, S7 Staff

Officer in HQ 5 BDE and currently now as the unit XO for 4/3 RNSWR.

*Being successfully appointed as a Director for the APPVA means a great deal and an excellent opportunity for myself, to utilise the skills and experience I have been able to draw from both my military and civilian roles and give something back to the veteran community.*

*Over the past 100 plus years of ongoing return service support, acknowledgement and recognition of service and duty cannot be taken lightly and needs to continually build on the past history into ongoing and future commitments to ensure we look after our own and the broadening reach and expansion of veterans' and their families.*

# Mischa Damon



As the wife of a veteran my journey is one of lived experience. Witnessing the challenges many veterans face returning home and transitioning from the defence force ignited a fierce determination to help make a difference.

Joining the Board was a natural choice, to volunteer my skills, capabilities and time, and my heartfelt commitment to

ensure that all veterans receive the support they need, and to advocate passionately for improved mental health services and resources, aiming to reduce the distressing rates of veteran suicides.

I firmly believe in increasing awareness, expanding access to evidence-based support, and bolstering community outreach efforts, to ensure Veterans and first responders and their families have access to the support they need.

# Nathan Bradney



From January 2007 to February 2024, Nathan served as an Australian Intelligence Corps officer focusing on combat intelligence. He held various positions within Forces Command and Special Operations Command, as well as time in strategic agencies in Canberra, including a tenure in the Pentagon

as a liaison officer for Military Strategic Commitments. Nathan's service included multiple combat, peacekeeping, and disaster relief deployments within Australian territory and abroad to Afghanistan, the Philippines, South Sudan, and the Middle East. After retiring from active duty, Nathan

continues to support the veteran community through various initiatives to improve service members' well-being and recognition.

*As an APPVA director, Nathan aims to enhance support systems for veterans, focusing on mental health, career transition, and family support. He is dedicated to raising awareness of veterans' issues, advocating for policy changes, and fostering a sense of camaraderie within the veteran community. He aims to ensure that every veteran receives the respect, recognition, and assistance they deserve, empowering them to thrive in civilian life.*

# Jess Sullivan



Jess is a recently-transitioned ADF veteran of more than twenty years with a broad career profile including health roles as a RAAF Nursing Officer, four operational deployments to the Middle East, and non-health roles including a diplomatic posting as Assistant Defence Attaché to the United

Nations Headquarters New York conducting multilateral peacekeeping negotiations.

Jess became a member of the APPVA because, in an environment where there are reportedly around 10,000 Ex-

Service Organisations nationwide, she feels APPVA stands out as a not-for-profit which is well-governed and making good progress to facilitate improved support to veterans and veteran families.

Completing the Australian Institute of Company Directors Foundations of Directorship course has set her in good stead as an Executive Director of APPVA. She's also a volunteer Non-Executive Director and yoga teacher with Frontline Yoga, which provides frontline personnel (including veterans) with free trauma-aware yoga.

*As I transitioned out of Defence, it was important to me to move from national service to community service, so I'm excited to be contributing to the APPVA Board. I am passionate about purposeful work that benefits the health and wellbeing of veterans and families, and I feel I am achieving this at APPVA via authentic stakeholder engagement - in particular at meetings and working groups with DVA (which I am well-placed here in Canberra to undertake) in conjunction with Chairperson Ian Lindgren.*

*Effective ongoing liaison with DVA is crucial to continual improvement of their service and support to veterans and*

*their families, well beyond the final recommendations of the Royal Commission. Thus far, I have been actively involved in supporting APPVA through Veteran Issues Forums with DVA, drafting and reviewing documents for the Board, and liaising with fellow Board members.*

*I look forward to representing you, your challenges and successes as veterans. Please feel free to reach out to chat, have a look at the APPVA website, and perhaps consider joining the Association.*

## Ian Lindgren - Chairperson



I enjoyed a 21-year Army career, spending 11 years with the Royal Australian Engineers and 10 years with the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. My service ended with an injury in Sinai in late 2000. My wife and I currently own three businesses and since I became Totally and Permanently Incapacitated in 2015, Maria now runs all while I serve as Chair.

I now dedicate most of my free time to the veteran community and assisting DVA in providing quality,

repeatable, and continuously improving services to veterans and their families. I make no excuses for being outspoken in our community because in my opinion most of our previous senior leaders did little to improve conditions for veterans.

The APPVA has always been outspoken, and we find it the best way to draw attention to key issues, then we work as a team to resolve items. The APPVA supports all veterans, their families and anyone who supports our community.

## Mark Horner - Company Secretary



*I joined the Australian Regular Army in 1980 as an Army Apprentice and served 14 years in uniform reaching the rank of Sergeant. In that service I completed two trades, carpentry/joiner and Architectural drafting via Long Term Schooling and had postings to 17 Construction Sqn including to Namibia (UNTAG) in 1989, 19 Chief Engineer Works,*

*198 Works Section, HQ 2MD, HQ5MD (facilities) and was in the initial three-person team to Army Presence in the North (APIN) project management team detached DG AW Canberra.*

*I elected discharged in 1994 and continued my Defence service as a Technical Officer (facilities) with the Australian Public Service in the Albury Wodonga Military Area. I was involved with the Victorian SES for 5 years.*

*I will continue my role as Company Secretary to manage governance and set the standard for other ESOs to follow. In addition, to assist all veterans in their entitlements and support by providing positive, quality and timely information and developing succession plans to enable APPVA to continue long after I have stepped aside.*

# #CheckYourMates

## Why check your mates?



Checking in with your mates will connect you with what is going on in their lives and if they are having a tough time, your simple act of calling can make a difference.



The Defence community can sometimes make up more than 10% of the local community.



We challenge you to check on five mates. Those going well, challenge them to check on five more mates. Those who are not, encourage and support them to see help.

[nt.gov.au/operation-thrive](http://nt.gov.au/operation-thrive)

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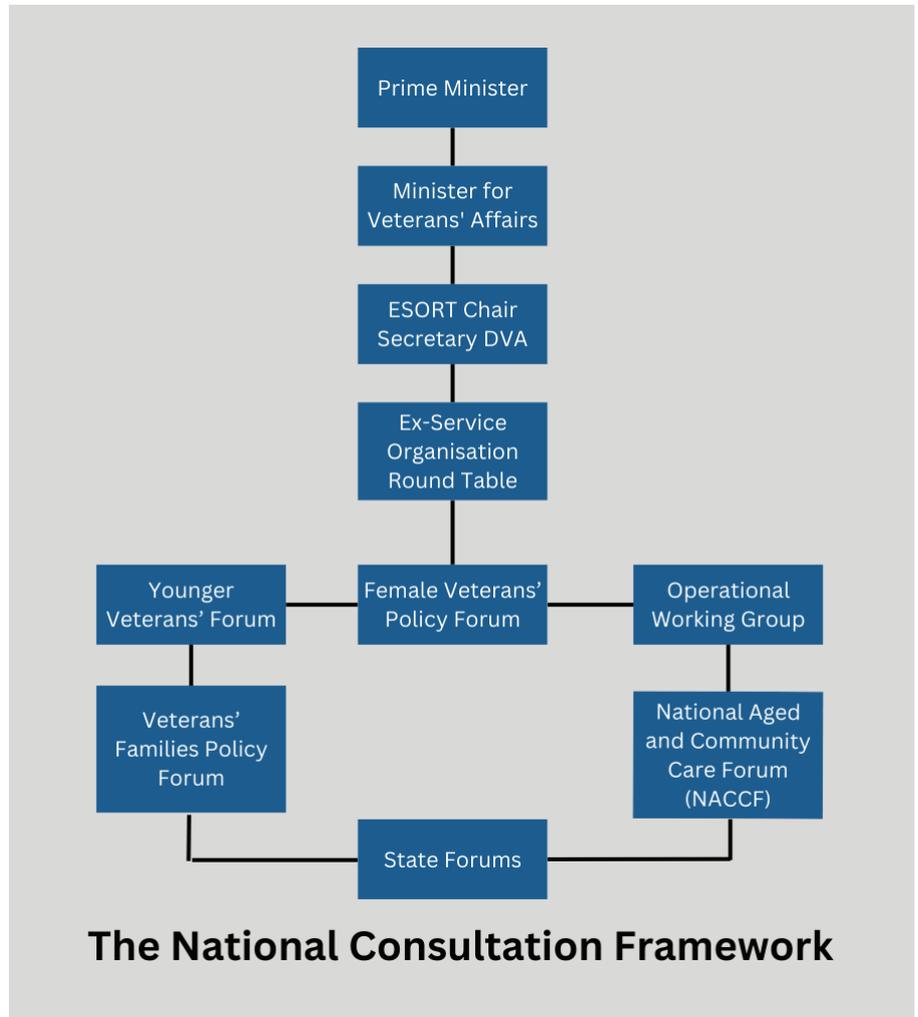
# Good Governance and the need for A Strategic Plan

By Chris Moss - Executive Director and Chair of the Strategy Sub-Committee

The APPVA strategy has been built to deliver on the following Lines of Effort:

- 1. Advocacy:** Provision of advocacy and support to Peacekeepers, Peacemakers and their families focussed more on complicated and complex cases.
- 2. Representation:** Wide representation of Peacekeeper and Peacemaker voices from Veterans, Veteran families, Veteran businesses and collegiate Veteran ESOs.
- 3. Communication:** Trusted source of information to Peacekeepers, Peacemakers, their families and the broader Veteran community.
- 4. Governance:** Excellence in Governance & Compliance in the NFP sector and pragmatic support to other Veteran ESOs.
- 5. Accountability:** Seeking honest and open accountability from Government and ESOs/NFPs on issues important to Peacekeepers, Peacemakers, their families and the broader Veteran community.
- 6. Fundraising:** Conducting meaningful events, activities and membership growth to support the raising of funds to enable the other five lines of effort to flourish sustainably.

We intend to deliver on these Lines of Effort. Stay tuned as we continue to provide updates to our members and activate our affiliate organisation



membership to give many more Veterans and underrepresented ESOs a stronger voice to DVA through the APPVA.

To deliver on this we need good governance within the APPVA and across the veteran, veteran family community and all ex-service organisations (ESOs). Ultimately, veteran community governance engages with the Commonwealth through the National Consultation Framework and this is explained in the next section.

### The National Consultation Framework

Many in the veteran community may be unaware of the National Consultation Framework (NCF) or its existence. The NCF aims to facilitate communication between the veteran and ex-service community, the Repatriation and Military

Rehabilitation and Compensation Commissions, government, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

While the NCF is expected to undergo a review by the end of the year, its current structure is illustrated in the diagram below.

**Tactical**

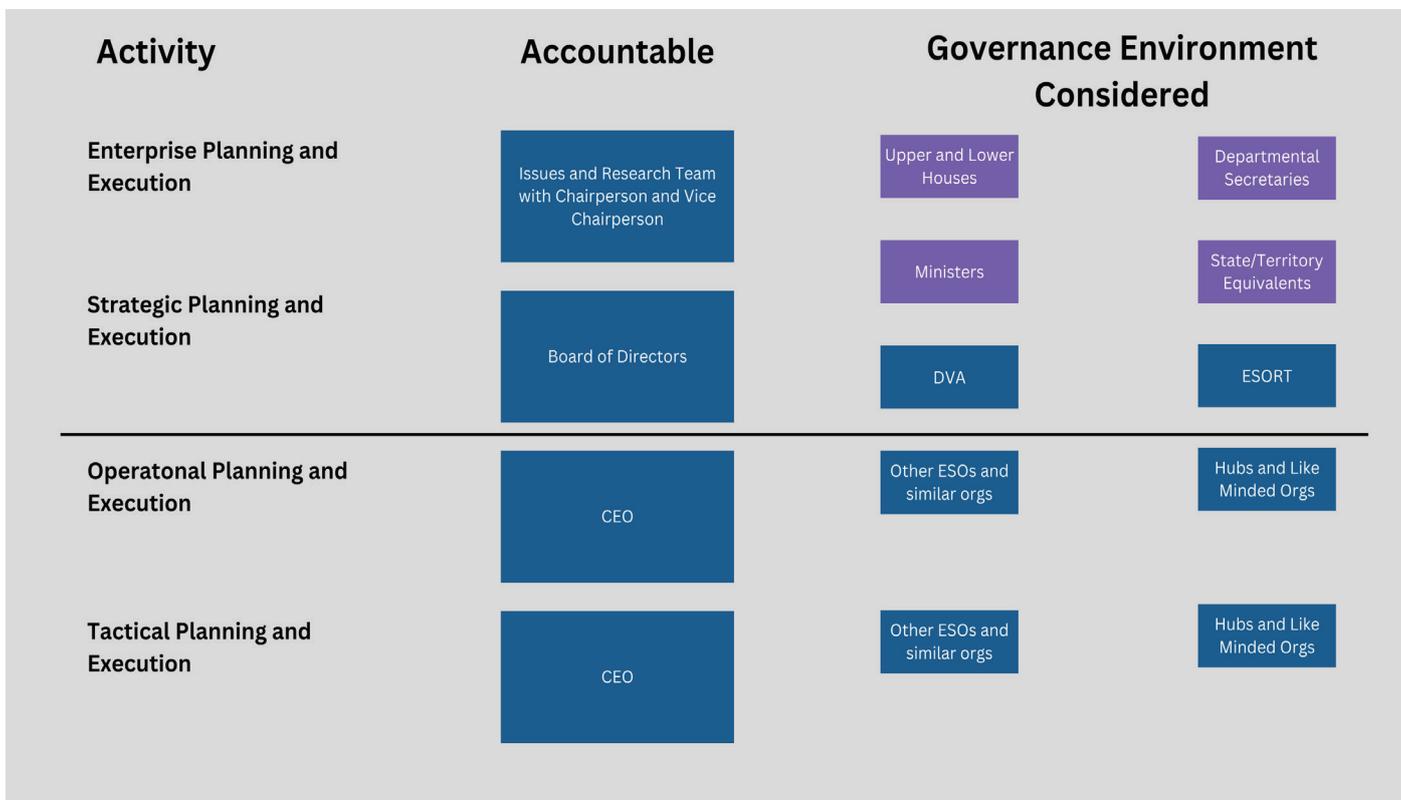
Tactical Planning is the most detailed level of planning and involves day-to-day decision-making and activities. This is the responsibility of the CEO and the Management Committee

**5. Volunteer Input Collection:**

Continuous solicitation of feedback from volunteers and employees helps identify obstacles and opportunities.

**6. Customer Feedback Analysis:**

Regular collection and analysis of customer feedback data are essential



**The APPVA Approach**

**Enterprise**

Enterprise planning involves situational awareness and interaction between whole of Government. It looks one level up from the National Consultation Framework. This allows us to be aware of the interactions between ministers, departmental secretaries and whole or part of government initiatives. Enterprise Planning is the responsibility of the Board.

**Strategic**

This level of planning is about the APPVA. It involves setting the overall direction and goals for the organisation. Strategic planning looks at the big picture, defining the company's purpose, values, and long-term objectives. Strategic Planning is the responsibility of the Board.

**Operational**

Operational Planning occurs at a more detailed level than strategic planning. It involves translating the strategic goals into specific actions and plans that various departments or teams within the organisation will execute. This is the responsibility of the current executive committee and will become the responsibility of the CEO when we appoint a CEO.

**Enterprise Planning Environment**

The Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) uses the Rockefeller Habits as the basis for tactical to strategic planning. The one characteristic that makes them so relevant to a veteran mind is that they align with perhaps the greatest characteristic of military life; Routine.

By adopting simple routine, "routine will set you free" and position us for success.

At the core of the Rockefeller Habits lie ten key principles that serve as guiding lights for Association in operational excellence:

**1. Establishing a Meeting Rhythm:**

Regular meetings play a crucial role in fostering collaboration and sharing insights.

**2. Alignment on Top Priorities:** Ensuring alignment with the most critical goal for each quarter helps focus efforts and resources towards achieving strategic objectives.

**3. Communication Rhythm:**

Establishing a structured communication rhythm facilitates the seamless flow of information.

**4. Accountability Assignment:** Clearly defining and assigning accountability for goals and tasks ensures ownership and drives.

for understanding customer satisfaction.

**7. Core Values and Purpose Alignment:**

Keeping the organisation's core values and purpose at the forefront nurtures a strong cultural identity.

**8. Strategic Articulation:** Ensuring all volunteers can accurately articulate the Association's strategy instils clarity, purpose, and direction.

**9. Performance Assessment:**

Providing mechanisms for the team to quantitatively assess their performance promotes transparency, self-improvement, and goal attainment.

**10. Encouraging Debate and Education:**

Cultivating an environment that encourages constructive debates fosters intellectual growth, and informed decision-making within the team.

In addition to embracing these ten habits, we address any dysfunctions within the executive team proactively. By focusing on clear communication, fostering accountability, and ensuring alignment, the association can create an efficient operational environment for sustained growth and success.

*Strategy Execution Plans follow on Pages 28 & 29.*

# One Page Strategic Plan on a Page

## Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG) ®

To be the trusted source of truth and support for veterans, their families and all in the Australian community who support them, with the most active and engaged membership of any like organisation in Australia.



## Built to Last

The one page strategic plan a Rockefeller Habits concept. Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG) ® Copyright Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies is a book written by Jim Collins and Jerry I. Porras.

## Themes of Effort

**Advocacy:** Provision of wellbeing, advocacy and compensation support with a focus on the more complex and complicated cases.

**Representation:** Wide representation from Veterans, Veteran families, businesses and collegiate Veteran ESOs.

**Communication:** Be the trusted source of information to veterans, their families and the broader Veteran support community.

**Governance:** Excellence in Governance & Compliance in the NFP sector and pragmatic support to other ESOs.

**Accountability:** Seeking honest and open accountability from Government and ESOs.



## Core Foundation

### Core Purpose

Our purpose is to actively support Veterans and their families in transitioning, achieving well-being, and integrating into society, empowering them to feel valued and attain stability post-service. Simultaneously, we advocate for the veteran support network's recognition as stakeholders, acknowledging their pivotal role as stakeholders in sustaining the veteran community and ensuring they receive fair remuneration for their services.

### Potential to be the Best in the World

**Strategic Advocacy.** Championing the cause of veterans, their families, and individuals in the veteran support network who provide stability in life.

### Financial Driver / Profit/X

Growth in Membership, attainment of Government Grants and Corporate sponsorship.

### Core Values

Engage

Respect

Connect

### Core Competencies

To be authentic

Provision of advocacy and support to all veterans.

Wide representation.

Trusted source of information to the community

Excellence in Governance & Compliance in the NFP

## One Page Strategic Plan on a Page

### Year 1 – The Main Thing (Theme)

To be well governed, well-funded and have established national networks Completed

#### Annual Plan Goals

Have a well-established board with equal gender mix Partial

To Fully establish the medical, wellbeing, advocacy and networks Completed

To staff the Management Committee and appoint CEO. Completed less CEO

Run monthly issues meetings and assist the community Completed

### Year 2 – The Main Thing (Theme)

To gain AICD qualifications at director level and assist other small ESOs Started

#### Annual Plan Goals

All directors with AICD NFP Qualifications Partial

Assist in develop ESOMAP to offer education, support and direction others Started

To develop state presences and regular state communications. Started

Enhance the monthly issues meetings Started

## Customer

### Core Customer Persona

1. Already has DVA support.
2. Injured or ill veterans needing support with wellbeing, advocacy and compensation.
3. Business owners needing support to be recognised as stakeholders and to be remunerated at worth.

### Core Customer Needs

1. To belong and to be respected
2. To be heard and to have a voice
3. To be supported when it is needed
4. To be informed on veteran and association issues

### Brand Promise Key Activities

Access to funded professional advocacy when you need it. Representation of your voice at the ESORT. Provision of informed analysis of key Veteran issues.

### Brand Promise

1. To represent all veterans and their families fairly and equally.
2. To represent all members of the veteran support network fairly and equally.
3. Provide feedback and communications on advice and issues.

### Brand Promise Guarantee

To advocate for the veteran community collegially with the Commonwealth in a way that is uncompromisingly authentic and gains results within days.

### Brand Promise KPIs

1 x funded advocate  
Effectiveness of monthly issues meetings  
Measure social media mentions

REPs **Ben Ridley** (back-row, far-right) & **Leane Dabitz** (front-row, second from right) with **ACOM Richard Gibson** (front-row, far right) in a Group shot at Townsville



# Everyman's Welfare Service



**Everyman's has experienced one of our most effective years ever starting in July 2023 when we were able to join the ADF on the biggest military exercise ever held in Australia.**

We fielded four brew trucks during that exercise near Townsville dispensing our welfare to not only Australian Defence members but also to French, German, Malaysian and American personnel.

There next to the Everyman's brew truck during those months, and around an assortment of brews, we built many lasting relationships via normal greetings and natural conversation. On our trucks, we also carry some self-help reading materials for anyone going through hard times.

This includes ADF Bibles, or just some good comic books or magazines to while away long

eventless hours on the VCP when there is no coverage. Just like we have always done since 1940.

Everymen and Everywomen (Everymaams) love being right at the coalface, fostering quality welfare relationships to all serving members irrespective of background or belief.

One of our Everywomen's REP's Leane came over from her sponsor



*Everyman's Diamond Dagger*

unit in Darwin in her brew truck to help at High Range. She also had the joy of being awarded the Australian Defence Medal there by the then CO of 8/9 RAR.

In this last twelve months, we have brought three new people into the work to assist in our welfare outreach, two gentlemen, and one lady.

At Kapooka near Wagga Wagga in NSW, the Army is building a new huge state-of-the-art Recreation Centre for Everyman's. Such is their keenness for our welfare service, however, this may not be completed for another five years.

The Rec Centre is in the very epicentre of the base, right next to the regular March Outs parade-ground where large crowds of family and friends of soldiers will attend graduating events.

That will help us in our outreach to ADF families, as well as to serving members. Our welfare potential at IRTB is enormous, with the on-base Rec Centres being another major

arm of our interaction with the ADF of all ranks and at all levels.

On top of this, our current two-man team at Kapooka has also been invited more and more to do welfare with the truck by senior training NCO's at the RAAF Base at Forest Hill. Just recently, our Everymen in the Forest Hill-Kapooka region pulled up the brew truck at a parade at RAAF Base Wagga Wagga.

It was a day of freezing wind and rain but our men - Warren and Troy - didn't flinch in the rain, continuing to dispense hot brews to the appreciative crowd. The CDF attended that day and from that parade, we were encouraged to get the following email from the Warrant Officer (WOFF), Senior Enlisted Advisor to CDF.

*Dear Everyman's Welfare Service. Just a short note to recognise the Everyman's team which worked the graduation parade of 08/24 Recruit Course from 1 Recruit Training Unit (RAAF Wagga) earlier this week.*

*On behalf of CDF and myself who were both in attendance at the parade, thank-you for what you do and for the service you provide our ADF personnel. Everyman's is making a positive difference in the lives of our people and their families.*

Thanks to many of you who donate to us as a Not for Profit organisation. Our big ongoing expense is the trucks. As many of you know, Everyman's has to supply our own trucks to do our work with Defence, as well as keeping up the maintenance.

All the trucks we use have to be purchased and maintained. If you would like to make a donation to Everyman's to help us keep up our work, please go to the donate page at <https://www.everymans.org.au>

*As we say in Everyman's, every blessing to you all.*

**Everymans Chief Commissioner  
Ken Matthews**



*A night in the Rec Centre at Kapooka*

# Independent Oversight Commission

This document proposes the establishment of an independent oversight commission to ensure the effective implementation of recommendations from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. This idea aligns with the Australian Institute of Company Directors' Guiding Principles of Good Governance, which emphasize oversight, accountability, and creating value for stakeholders. It also follows the Department of Finance's guidelines on governance structures for Australian Government bodies.

The concept of such an oversight entity is not new. Significant efforts have already been made to explore different models. For example, the Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) Collaboration Project led by Sir Angus Houston in 2017/18 identified the need for a Peak Body, a recommendation supported by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) Commissioner.

This document argues for a simple yet radically different approach from the existing governance models, which have led to systemic failures and necessitated the Royal Commission.

Central to this proposal is the recent acknowledgment by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) that it is accountable for the governance of the business processes it outsources to ESOs and similar organisations, all of which contribute to DVA's outcomes to the government. The contention has always been a "long bow" because it had defined wellbeing, advocacy and compensation as

*The Royal Commissioners appear to agree with this approach.*



*Commissioner Nick Kaldas APM "This is a complex, multilayered problem that will take many years to try and grapple with. "We have*

*to look for something dramatically different to try and change the trajectory on which these (suicide) figures are on.*



*Commissioner Peggy Brown reflected on a level of cynicism in the Defence and veteran community about Defence's ability and willingness to*

*change without independent oversight. "I think it just serves to underscore that we want to see the change, we need the culture, we need the leadership, we need the governance, we need the accountability.*



*Commissioner James Douglas said a powerful new oversight body set up to monitor implementation of the Royal Commission's*

*recommendations could maintain a "relentless focus" on the issues and help drive cultural and systemic reforms.*

'mates helping mates' and not something which is currently governed by any one party or entity." Thankfully this policy was overturned by Deputy Secretary Andrew Kefford PSM in December 2023.

The work that ESOs and similar entities do contributes in a significant way to Outcomes 1 and 2 and to a lesser extent to Outcome 3.

**Outcome 1:** Maintain and enhance the financial well-being and self-sufficiency of eligible persons and their dependents through access to income support, compensation, and other support services, including advice and information about entitlements.

**Outcome 2:** Maintain and enhance the physical well-being and quality of life of eligible persons and their dependents through health and care services that promote early intervention, prevention, and treatment, including advice and information about health service entitlements.

**Outcome 3:** Acknowledge and commemorate those who served Australia and its allies in wars, conflicts, and peace operations by promoting recognition of service and sacrifice, preserving Australia's wartime heritage, and conducting official commemorations.

## THE INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT COMMISSION FROM THE TOP DOWN

**Governance:** The commission would have a small governing board with no representatives from the veteran or veteran family community. Members

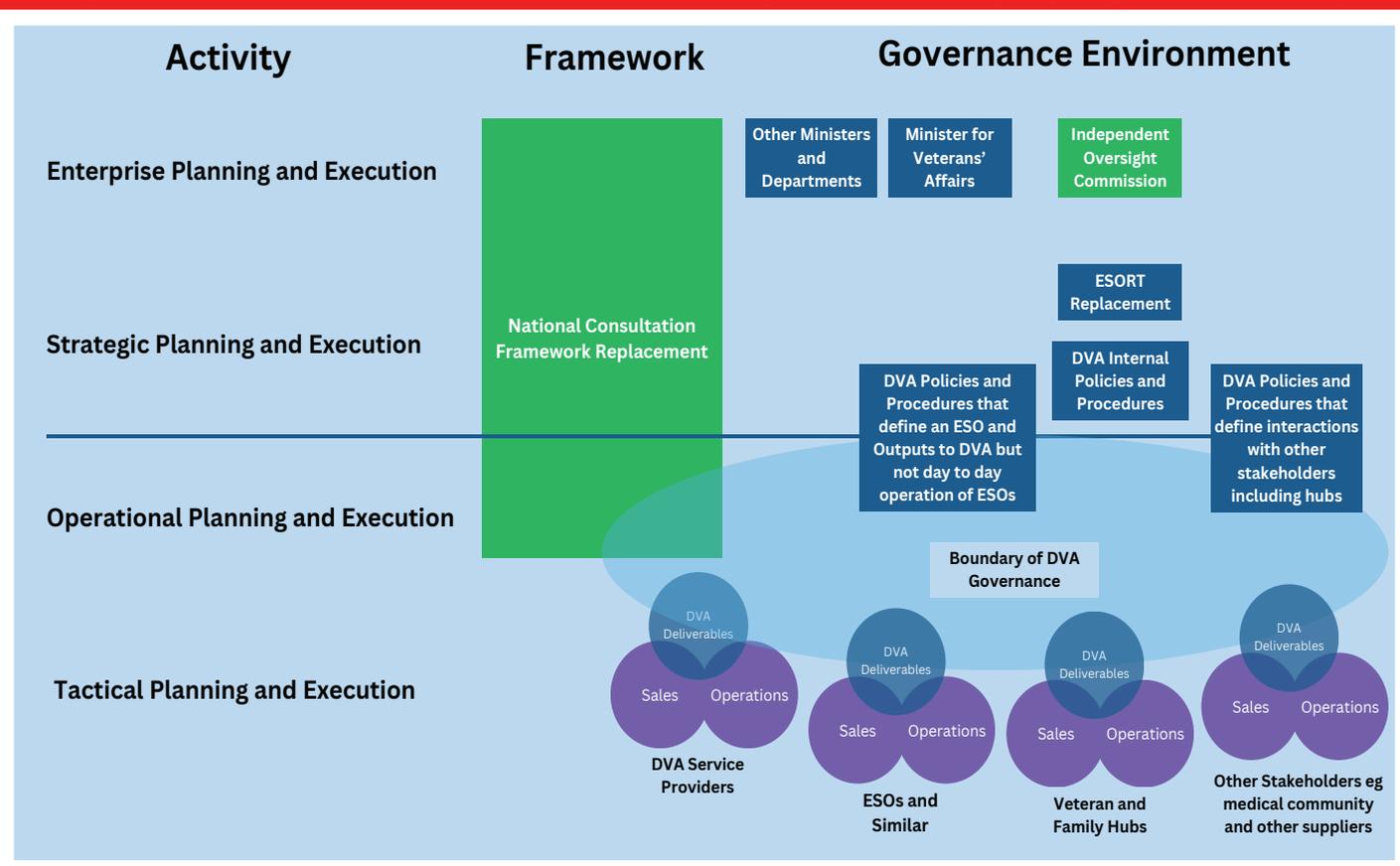


Diagram 1

would possess skills appropriate for working at the enterprise level with the government and understanding veteran and community issues. The board would provide strategic direction, ensure accountability, and oversee the commission's operations.

**The Commission would rely of expert advisory groups that are not permanent staff.** To incorporate a diverse range of perspectives, lived experiences, and expertise, the commission could establish several advisory groups focusing on specific areas such as mental health, employment, housing, and family support. These groups would include subject matter experts, researchers, and individuals with lived experience.

**Secretariat:** A dedicated secretariat would support the governing board and advisory groups by providing administrative, research, and operational assistance. This team would also manage communications, coordinate

activities, and facilitate collaboration across the sector.

### OTHER KEY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

ESO Governance: Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) would be

responsible for their own governance, except for aspects that contribute to DVA's outcomes as shown within the boundary of DVA Governance. No ESO Peak Body is needed as ESOs form such a small element of this environment and outnumbered by the tens of thousands to other stakeholder groups. An ESO Peak Body would be just as dysfunctional as it is in the ESORT today.

**DVA Oversight:** The DVA should govern all contributions to its outcomes, including accreditation, centres of excellence, and similar initiatives.

National Consultation Framework: This framework should be redefined

to facilitate communication between the veteran and veteran family community, regional hubs, the Repatriation and Military

Rehabilitation and Compensation Commissions, state and local governments, the Commonwealth Government, and the DVA.

**Independent Oversight Commission:** An independent oversight commission should be established by an act of parliament. This commission would not consist of any ESOs or an ESO representative. It may include veterans, but only if they won a position through the normal recruitment process.

### STOP PIECEMEAL INITIATIVES

All piecemeal initiatives in this area need to stop until it is defined from the ground up and the top down to a degree that is can be conceptualised.

# The Last Post visits Vietnam

**The Last Post is a highly-acclaimed national magazine that was founded by Greg T Ross in 2011. The Last Post Radio Show podcast has also made an impact with interviews outstanding for their honesty and intimacy.**

**The Australian Peacekeeper Magazine has aligned with The Last Post in a reciprocal arrangement to publish articles of interest to veterans and the wider community. Our first feature is an abridged version of The Last Post's Anzac Day edition when Ross relived a recent visit to Vietnam with his partner Claire in an interview with TLP Radio Show co-host Gary Mac.**

**For Australia, the Vietnam War began in a small way. It started in 1962 with the arrival in Saigon of 30 Australian army jungle warfare and counterinsurgency experts to help train the South Vietnamese.**

They were known as the Team. Three years later, as the situation worsened and the Americans began committing large ground forces, an Australian infantry battalion was sent there. Over 10 years, 60,000 Australians, Navy, Army, and Air Force were to see service in Vietnam, and a third of the troops were conscripted national servicemen.

By 1966, two Australian infantry battalions were in Vietnam, along with the artillery, including New Zealand gunners, Armoured Corp, engineers, logistics, and an SAS unit operating from their own base in Nui Dat, southeast of Saigon, and responsible for the security of a major part of PhuocTuy province.

It was a very small force to carry out major operations, constant patrols always within sight and even earshot of communist Viet Cong guerrillas. Vietnam was unlike any war Australia had ever fought.

There were no front lines or safe areas. The whole countryside was

the front line, riddled with Viet Cong who fought with toughness and dedication. In August 1966, just two months after the Australians were established in Nui Dat, a company of the 6th Battalion just 108 men made contact with the enemy only four kilometres east of the base in the Long Tan rubber plantation.

They fought an epic three-hour battle of survival, suffering more than 40 killed and wounded, but killing more than 200 of the enemy.

Long Tan was a victory but victories were few in Vietnam when it seemed the communists had been out-fought the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese army launched the savage Tet Offensive early in 1968, showing that victory was still a long way off, if not impossible to achieve.

The Australian war in Vietnam dragged on until 1972 and was the cause of massive social and political dissent in Australia. 523 soldiers died as a result of the war and almost 2,400 were wounded.

Many draft resisters, conscientious objectors, and protestors were fined or jailed, while soldiers met a hostile reception upon their return home. Australia's participation in the war was formally declared at an end when the Governor General issued a proclamation on 11 January, 1973.

**Gary: What did you say when you got off the aircraft at Da Nang.**

**Greg:** Good morning, Vietnam! And funnily enough, that movie was on the plane flying up to Vietnam. We were picked up by a delightful young man named Bin Bin and he drove us the 40 minutes to Hoi An.

**Gary: What were your first impressions of Vietnam.**

**Greg:** There's a hell of a lot of motorbikes and scooters around and somehow they seem to manage. There's very few traffic lights with seemingly very few rules and regulations. Hoi An is a



beautiful, bustling city. It's been a World Heritage Site since 1999 and the name translates as 'peaceful meeting place'. Normally, it's home to about 120,000 people, however, during the Tet celebrations that probably quadrupled.

**Gary: Your first visit was to My Lai which is an infamous part of the world for having been the place where US troops massacred an entire village.**

**Greg:** Both sides were responsible for the killing of people in horrendous ways and that's the tragedy of warfare. But My Lai did leave a mark on the world and it also help turn the tide against the Vietnamese War.

I've spoken to a number of vets who saw action in Vietnam and I understand perhaps why many of them don't really want to talk about it because it brings back those memories.

It's a poignant thing to be in an environment like that and there's an air of sadness about it all. It was a silent, very silent drive back to Hoi An.

But the country has moved on. We've all moved on. The Vietnamese are a very embracing, inclusive and forgiving people, and the warmth of their friendship and willingness and wish for us to understand what they'd been through was quite incredible. So bless them for that.

**Gary: On a brighter side, Hoi An is well known for its restaurants.**

**Greg:** If you're going to Vietnam, make sure you do go to Hoi An because if you like good food, you've come to the right spot.

There's a place called Morning Glory where the food was glorious. We went there a second time and received a 10% discount for being

a regular! One night we were walking down a laneway and came across a beautiful, authentic Indian restaurant called the Spice Route. It was some of the best Indian food that we've ever tasted. It's quite amazing what you will find quite by chance along those alleyways.

**Gary: You were there during what they call Tet, which is the Lunar New Year in Asian countries so it must have been pretty busy.**

**Greg:** It's probably the most significant festival in Vietnam and they basically shut down for four days, but in the lead-up and directly afterwards, it's go, go, go. It's a nationwide celebration and it typically falls between mid-January and late February.

There's the colour, the noise, the singing, and, of course, the selling. Everyone's trying to flog something, so you can hardly walk two steps without someone suggesting you should buy something. You have to learn to either ignore it or politely say 'No, thank you'.

**Gary: You also drove to Hue which is an imperial city and the former capital of Vietnam**

**Greg:** We went there with an American couple, Bruce and Rhoda, from Washington State. On the way, we stopped at a cafe and this Vietnamese guy who was serving the coffee came up to me, and asked, "Are you Australian?" I said, "Yeah." And he looked like

he was just about to collapse with happiness. He said, "My brother lives in Melbourne. I'm just trying to save up money to get there."

We also went to Saigon to see some of the areas and events that were significant during the Vietnam War. Of course, Saigon is now known as Ho Chi Minh City but a lot of the locals still call it Saigon.

The South Vietnamese made it very clear to us that they preferred Saigon. They also said a lot of the North Vietnamese people considered the South Vietnamese people to be losers because they lost the Civil War. And that feeling still continues, believe it or not.

I would recommend a visit the Rex Hotel and Continental Hotel. The fifth floor at the Rex was called the Five O'Clock Follies. That where the US military would tell the press about how they were winning the Vietnam War.

**Gary: Tell us about the War Remnants Museum.**

**Greg:** It's incredible. Out the front there are the old Huey helicopters, an F-5A fighter and Daisy Cutter bombs that were made by the Viet Cong for a dollar but could destroy a \$1 million tank.

There was an M48 Patton tank out front, too and a Dragonfly attack bomber. Incredibly, they're still in remarkable condition. I would also recommend the Requiem on

the second-floor. It takes about three hours for a solid look. It's just an amazing place where you're immersed in history and the photographic display.

**Gary: Part of the Viet Cong's success was their labyrinth or their warrens of tunnels, which were everywhere around Saigon**

**Greg:** We went underground in the Cu Chi tunnels and I felt claustrophobic. I lasted 30 metres and had to get out. The locals have actually widened these tunnels for Western tourists who are bigger than their Asians counterparts.

The Viet Cong were small enough to fit but the Americans had no way of getting down there. It was an immense network, really. And they actually came up in the US Embassy which gave the Yanks a bit of a scare during the Tet Offensive.

Underneath these tunnels, there were hospitals, food, and weapon, cachets and living quarters for the fighters, and they ran into a river, which is where they would escape when the Americans came.

They would also redirect cooking smoke so that it would come out in a hole up to 60 metres away. So the Americans, until they tweaked, would start dropping bombs down those holes but it was nowhere near where the Viet Cong actually were.

They're very, very smart people. I'm still in awe. There's a natural



M-48 tank with 90mm gun firing during a road sweep south-west of Phu Bai





*The Cham Islands are a group of 8 Islands in the South China Sea. There's a big military presence because of intruding Chinese vessels*

**Gary: It was almost like a bittersweet trip for you though, wasn't it Greg?**

**Greg:** So many young men and women lost their lives in a war that could have been avoided. The South and North Vietnamese people both spoke to me about the war as being a civil war. And when you look at it that way, it was a needless loss of life and energy and money and beautiful people.

**Gary: Australia has lots of tributes to do with the Vietnam War but one of the best things is the National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Phillip Island in Victoria,**

**Greg:** It's run by volunteers and is dedicated to the heritage and legacy of the vets. They're a great mob down there and it's a great museum.

intellect there, which obviously helped during the war.

**Gary: Part of your work and trip to Vietnam was to also visit the Mekong Delta.**

**Greg:** It was a major part of the Vietnam War where the Viet Cong hid and often would use bamboo breathers to hide under the water to ambush the Americans. All these years later, I felt for the American troops. It would have been frightening.

I've fallen in love with the Mekong Delta with its boats, houses and markets floating on the amazing river with numerous tributaries. The people, the food, the villages that we walked through where they share and they grow food for each other.

To go through the Mekong Delta and to experience this beautiful part of the country was just a treasure trove.



# Peacekeeping in Warlike Environments



**On 16 July 2024, the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association, facilitated two working groups focusing on the retrospective reclassification of service and the recognition of service.**

**The key outcome has been the clear indication that a peacekeeper can be two states at one time; participating in peacekeeping service and warlike service.**

**When a veteran is serving this presents few issues because it is part of the job, however, post transition if you find yourself with one leg instead of two, you might assume that you would receive the same entitlements to healthcare as every other veteran.**

However, this assumption is incorrect. It is crucial to understand that your entitlements depend on what type of service the ADF classified your operation as. If it was warlike service you are entitled to the following, whereas anything other than warlike service means you are not entitled to:

- The War Service Pension,

- Gold Card eligibility at age 70,
- A beneficial approach for automatic acceptance of claims of Mental Illnesses,
- Benefits for the family of a loved one killed, and
- A beneficial approach for basis of evidence as the Reasonable Hypothesis, with the Statement of Principles (SOP) and we will stop there because that is entering the complex nature of things.

This puts the peacekeeper at a disadvantage because it is unlikely to have been considered when the legislation was written, and when applications for retrospective recognition of service are made.

If we take Operation Paladin as an example; 1000 rounds a month have been falling in the area of operations around the Golan Heights and this has been occurring since October 2023. In addition, because Hezbollah are firing rockets at Israel outside the fences of UN observation posts, counter battery fire in the form of white phosphorus is falling on the UN observation posts.

Both munitions and other dangers are keeping peacekeepers underground for a month at a time.

*The Lebanese Civil War / Photo: Ramzi Haidar*



Counter battery fire in the form of white phosphorus falls on the UN observation posts



*The USS New Jersey fires a salvo from its 16"/50 guns during a deployment off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon in January 1984. Photo: US Navy / Ron Garrison*

## **UNTSO/Op Paladin Observation Post**

We have requested that the CDF review the conditions of service and discuss with the Minister for Defence and consider upgrading this to warlike service. The previous CDF initiated a review.

Operation Paladin has always been considered non-warlike service there have been a number of times where Australian Peacekeepers experienced warlike service and those injured received care that was not appropriate to the experience they undertook.

During the period April 1983 to March 1984 during the period the escalation of violence and civil unrest between belligerent group the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and Druze militia elements escalated sharply.

A Civil War commenced and denigrated into a lawless state from early January to late February 1984. Australian Peacekeepers were caught in the crossfire of this significant State of Disturbance, with inadvertent and unintentional peril to their lives. Bombing of the Barracks that killed over 300 US Marines, soldiers and French Paratroopers occurred during this timeframe.

During the period April 1983 to March 1984, violence and civil unrest between belligerent group the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and Druze militia elements escalated sharply.

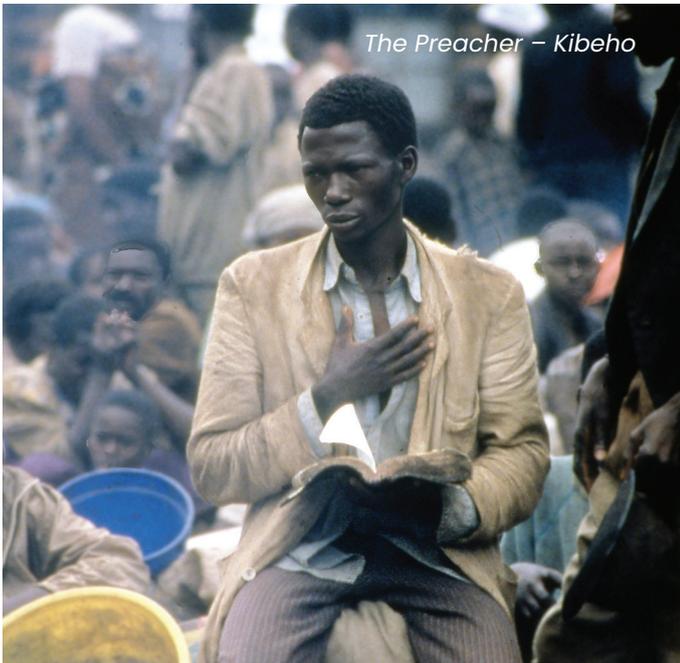


*An Australian Army soldier from the 2/4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment alongside Rhodesian Security Forces members observe the body of a guerrilla fighter in Southern Rhodesia, 1980.*



# Land mine victim

*Roads in Southern Rhodesia became a dangerous place for vehicles*



*The Preacher – Kibeho*

## OP TAMAR

Another example of peacekeepers operating in a warlike situation occurred on 19 April 1995 when a contingent of 32 soldiers and medical personnel was dispatched to a refugee camp in Kibeho to support the ongoing activities of a humanitarian mission. The conditions within the camp were dire, characterised by severe shortages of food and water. The refugees, primarily from a specific ethnic group, the Hutus, that had been involved in prior conflicts, faced harassment from the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF).

Between April 20 and 23, the RPF initiated the closure and evacuation of the camp. The already volatile situation escalated into a horrific massacre, resulting in approximately 4,000 fatalities and over 600 injuries. The medical team on site struggled to manage the overwhelming number of casualties, with many requiring urgent evacuation.

Although authorized to intervene under their mandate, the Australian Infantry were significantly outnumbered and faced the grave risk of becoming casualties themselves. Additionally, any armed response would have posed a threat to the lives of the refugees. The soldiers did not engage in defensive fire, which added to their distress regarding the unfolding events. In the aftermath, a counselling team was sent to provide support to those who witnessed the tragedy. It was later contended that the presence of international forces at the camp may have prevented even greater loss of life and further atrocities.

## Future Activity

There are many other contemporary examples and given that the majority of applications for reclassification of service are rejected we are attempting alternative approach with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and the CDF.

## Operation Damon – Rhodesia

The ADF deployed a 152 person contingent to Rhodesia between 25 December 1979 to 6 March 1980 called Operation (OP) Damon. OP Damon members faced significant risk of harm from both the Rhodesian Military Forces (RMF) and the Patriotic Front (PF) who had been fighting against each other for around 15 years in a brutal civil war.

The Australian Commander was advised before his deployment that he should plan for casualties, at a minimum six killed in action, due to the nature and uncertainty of the operation. The contingent sustained one injured by a land mine and were continually mortared and sustained artillery fire. The ADF forces were withdrawn from areas sustaining this level of activity.



*Kibeho, Rwanda in 1995*

# In the Service of Peace

***“Experienced Australian police officers are an invaluable asset to any international peacekeeping endeavour. They are volunteers who bring with them a problem-solving mindset, derived from an action-oriented culture which values pragmatism and the art of the achievable.”***



**BOOK REVIEW**

***Jason Byrnes: Author / In the Service of Peace:***

**In May 1964, 40 Australian police officers boarded a chartered Qantas jet and flew to Nicosia, the capital of the Mediterranean Island of Cyprus. This group formed the first 'Australian Police Element' of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.**

Entering a country few had heard of just weeks before, they proved to be the first of over 3,000 Australian police who have undertaken international peacekeeping and similar duties across the globe in the last six decades.

In the Service of Peace tells the amazing story of Australian police peacekeepers who volunteered to serve with the United Nations in some of the harshest conditions imaginable; in Cambodia, Cyprus, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand and Timor-Leste (East Timor).

The book contains stories of bravery, sacrifice, kindness, and devotion to duty. The stories are told using 60 photographs – symbolising the 60th anniversary of Australian police contributions to UN peacekeeping

operations – accompanied by text and the recollections of police peacekeepers and other officials.

Written with the support and cooperation of all Australian police forces and scores of peacekeepers, this is the first-ever book to focus on Australian police activities in all the above missions. It is a fascinating and little understood aspect of Australian policing.

In the Service of Peace is written and presented in an engaging style and would be enjoyed by former peacekeepers, their families and anyone with an interest in policing, police history and/or international peacekeeping. The 132-page book would make a great present.

In the Service of Peace is available for purchase from 15 September 2024 and will be able to be ordered online at either:

AFP Legacy\* – [www.policelegacyafp.org.au/shop/](http://www.policelegacyafp.org.au/shop/)

Australian War Memorial shop (including online) – <https://shop.awm.gov.au/collections/books>



\*AFP Legacy is a not-for-profit organisation which provides support and financial assistance to the families of Australian Federal Police employees who have died. AFP Legacy also cooperates with state police Legacy charities. A portion of each book sale will be used by AFP Legacy for its support work.

*“The helicopters were better maintained than the ones I had previously flown in but they were still basic. Flying wasn’t for the faint-hearted.” Robin Wheeler UNMIS*



# Considered a novated lease for your family car? Alliance Leasing, has no management fees for veterans with APOD Membership.

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 1300 225 582

 [alliance-leasing-australia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/alliance-leasing-australia)



# Peacekeepers expanding in Top End

**The Northern Territory is poised to expand its peacekeeping community in the Top End, with significant developments on the horizon.**

Ray Martin, a recent volunteer and the new coordinator for the NT chapter of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (AAPVA), has been reaching out to members and the broader veteran community. This effort is particularly timely as the nation prepares to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Australian service in Timor-Leste.

To honour this milestone, a memorial service will be conducted in Darwin at the Esplanade on Friday, 20 September 2024, starting at 1800 hours. This commemorative event will be followed by a dinner for East Timor veterans, celebrating their contributions and sacrifices.

The commemoration aims to not only honour the past but also to secure the future by conducting a

recruitment drive for the AAPVA, with the ambitious goal of doubling its NT membership.

For many of the thousands of veterans who served in East Timor, Darwin was a pivotal staging or transit point. These commemorative events are a chance to reconnect with old comrades and to integrate new members into the veteran community.

The Northern Territory Government is backing these efforts through OPERATION THRIVE, an action plan under the Northern Territory Veteran Strategy, ensuring that these events receive the support and recognition they deserve.

The Top End has a small but vibrant veteran community. As the NT chapter of the AAPVA grows, it is poised to become an even more vital support network for peacekeepers and their families, fostering camaraderie and ensuring that their service is remembered and honoured.



*Vibrant veteran community in Top End*

# Welcome....



RAY MARTIN

**The Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Ltd is pleased to announce Ray Martin has volunteered and been accepted as our Northern Territory Representative and a member of our Management Committee.**

Ray Martin is currently the Director of Defence Veterans Engagement,

Northern Territory. He is an experienced peacekeeper, and his appointments included Commanding The 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, leading an Australian Service Contingent in the Middle East, OPERATION PALADIN, and serving as a Staff Officer in OPERATION WARDEN during the initial ADF deployment to East Timor in 1999.

Following his retirement from full time service the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in 2000, Ray has held various roles in the public and private sectors, including Football Operations Manager of the North Queensland Cowboys, Director of City Campus Townsville - TAFE Qld

and General Manager of the Australian College of Kuwait.

Ray has also been actively involved in supporting veterans and families for the past two decades as a member, committee member or adviser to various veteran organisations (RSL, RAR, ADSO, DFWA, CAV).

Noteworthy major projects he has directed include Operation Compass, the ex-ADF and families National Suicide Prevention Trial in Townsville, 2017-2022, that looked specifically at the veteran cohort and he was one of the inaugural employees and adviser to The Oasis - Townsville, one of the first of the Veteran and Family Hubs.

He also co-founded Redsocks Pty Ltd, a veteran led mentoring business that employed 50 veterans supporting the Army Combat Training Centre in Townsville for six years.

Since July 2023, he has been serving as the Director of Defence & Veterans Engagement, Defence NT, Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet where he continues his dedicated efforts to uplift and empower veterans and their families to thrive in the Northern Territory and beyond.

**Ian Lindgren  
Chairperson**

**OUR PURPOSE** To support the transition, health, wellbeing, and integration into society of all participants in past and present operations, and their families, so that they are valued and can attain happiness after service.



The Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association's purpose is to support the integration into society of all participants in past and present operations, and their families, so that they are valued and can attain happiness after service.

Our strategic focus is to:

- hold the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Commonwealth accountable to care for every veteran and veteran family member,
- be the trusted source of information for all veterans and our fastest membership growth is in the 24 to 36 year age group, both men and women.

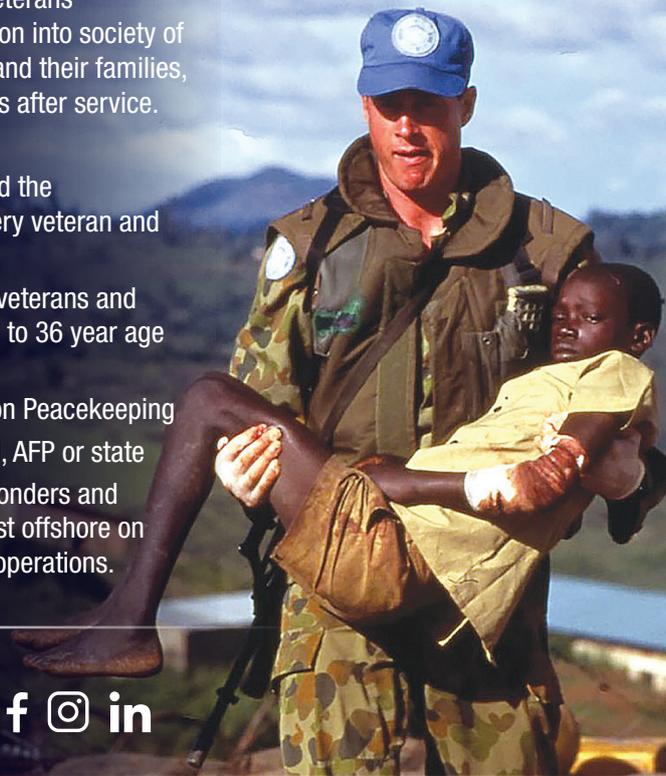
We care for all Australians who have deployed on Peacekeeping operations be they ADF veterans, DFAT personal, AFP or state police, AEC and we extend our care to first responders and anyone who has deployed in the national interest offshore on operations or onshore to support humanitarian operations.

We have fun socially and support families.

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*Brave Diggers changed*

# The course of Korean War

By Tom Gilling

Published by Allen & Unwin

**Of the handful of fierce battles fought by the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment during the Korean War, none was more crucial to the conflict's outcome than the Battle of Kapyong in 1951.**

Those who served in World War II, and were lucky enough to survive, came home to a hero's welcome. But the reception was markedly different for those returning from the Korean War only a few years later.

After being wounded in Korea, evacuated to Japan then sent back to rejoin the fight, Signals Sergeant Jack Gallaway returned to Australia for good in February 1952. The war had been raging for more than 18 months and had more than a year to run.

Gallaway, a 25-year-old from Brisbane, had served with the Royal Australian Navy in World War II. He had lied about his age and volunteered while still at school "I was struck by people's indifference to the new war raging in the Far East," he recalled.

"When I walked into a hotel to meet old friends they wanted to know where I had been? I told them Korea and said what the hell was I was doing over there?"

Other Korean War veterans remembered being rebuffed by RSL clubs because they were told "It wasn't a proper war".

Overshadowed by the two world wars that preceded it, the Korean War was one of the landmark events of the 20th century, a product of Cold War machinations whose outcome remains bitterly contested to this day.

In January this year, more than 70 years after the war ended, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un

declared South Korea a primary foe and invariable principal enemy. He addressed the Supreme People's Assembly declaring North Korea would no longer pursue reconciliation with South Korea, putting an end to the decades-long pursuit of a peaceful unification.

It was Kim Jong Un's grandfather, Kim Il Sung, who started the war, sending North Korean troops and tanks across the 38th parallel – the post-war demarcation line that separated the Soviet-aligned north from the US-aligned south – on 25 June, 1950.

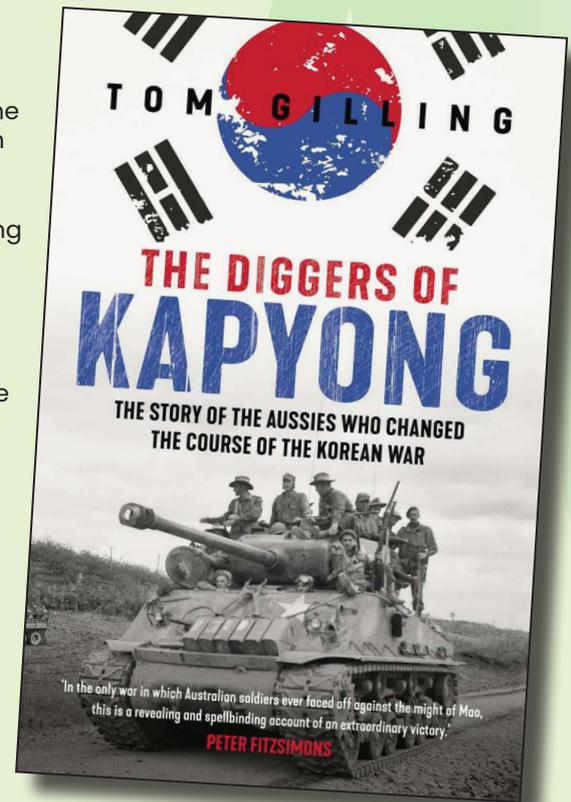
Within hours it was clear that the badly-trained and poorly-equipped South Korean army was facing catastrophe.

With the Soviets boycotting the United Nations, North Korea ignored a UN resolution calling for an end to the fighting and the immediate withdrawal of its troops. When the UN called for contributions to a US-led multinational force to repel the communist invaders, Australia was among the first nations to respond.

Jack Gallaway witnessed the widespread disdain for communism in Australia after taking on a role training new recruits at the army's Puckapunyal camp in Victoria. "We were doing what you might call a pub crawl, walking up Collins Streets in Melbourne from one hotel to another.

"A friend of mine walked up to a chap selling the communist newspaper Tribune. He snatched the bundle of newspapers, threw them in the gutter and gave him a backhander. We strolled on as if nothing had happened.

"I suppose the communist who was selling the newspapers



was accustomed to that sort of treatment. He didn't call the coppers anyway."

Like many of his mates, Gallaway thought of the war was a sideshow to what seemed like an unavoidable confrontation with the Soviet Union. He was right about Australians going into battle against a communist superpower but wrong about the adversary.

China had warned that if UN forces invaded North Korea, it would enter the war on the communist side. After US General Douglas MacArthur pushed his troops all the way to the Chinese border, Mao acted on his threat, sending more than two million Chinese soldiers into Korea.

The Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force both played significant roles in the Korean War, most of the hard



*A mortar crew in action during an Australian attack on a North Korean position with an American Sherman tank in support. Photo: SLV*

fighting was done on the ground by soldiers of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, known as 3RAR.

Of the handful of fierce battles fought by 3RAR during the Korean War, none was more intense than the Battle of Kapyong in 1951. It was here, in a rugged valley north of Seoul, that 3RAR and a battalion of Canadian infantry, supported by New Zealand artillery and American

tanks - perhaps 3,000 men in all - had the job of halting the Chinese Spring offensive.

For the Diggers, it was the defining battle of the war and the ultimate expression of Australian military skill, determination and courage. That it happened on the eve of Anzac Day only added to its significance.

After the Battle of Kapyong 3RAR would be awarded the rare honour

of a Presidential Unit Citation by US President Harry Truman in recognition of its extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance.

But the battle's importance went far beyond the bravery and skill of the Diggers who fought it. The 7km-wide Kapyong Valley was a traditional invasion route for armies marching towards Seoul.



*They were vastly outnumbered by the communist enemy but the Diggers' courage and tenacity swayed a decisive battle in the Korean War. Photo: SLV*



*Diggers rest in a shallow trench they have just captured from the Chinese on Hill Salmon.*

the Diggers would never have been called upon to make a stand at Kapyong. As terrified South Korean soldiers poured south to escape the communist army, the Australians were ordered to occupy high ground overlooking the valley's main road. Pursuing the South Koreans were 10,000 Chinese soldiers belonging to the 60th Infantry Division.

Two companies, a few hundred men in total, were posted astride the road, with Major Ben O'Dowd's A Company on Hill 504 commanding the road from the east and Captain Darcy Laughlin's B Company on a ridge dominating it from the west.

Two more companies were in position further back on Hill 504. Holding the summit of Hill 504 was crucial, since losing it would enable the Chinese to fire down on the Australians occupying its western slope and jeopardise the Diggers ability to control the road.

While the ground held by B Company was suitable for digging, other areas were too rocky. Some men were able to squeeze into crevices or take cover between rock formations. O'Dowd's company had to make do with piling up loose stones for protection from enemy fire. The low heather scrub covering the slope was tinder-dry from the bitter Korean winter.

"It would have been difficult for a brigade to hold, which is three battalions," Gallaway recalled. "If the Chinese had poured through Kapyong they would have been behind the capital Seoul...behind all of the major headquarters

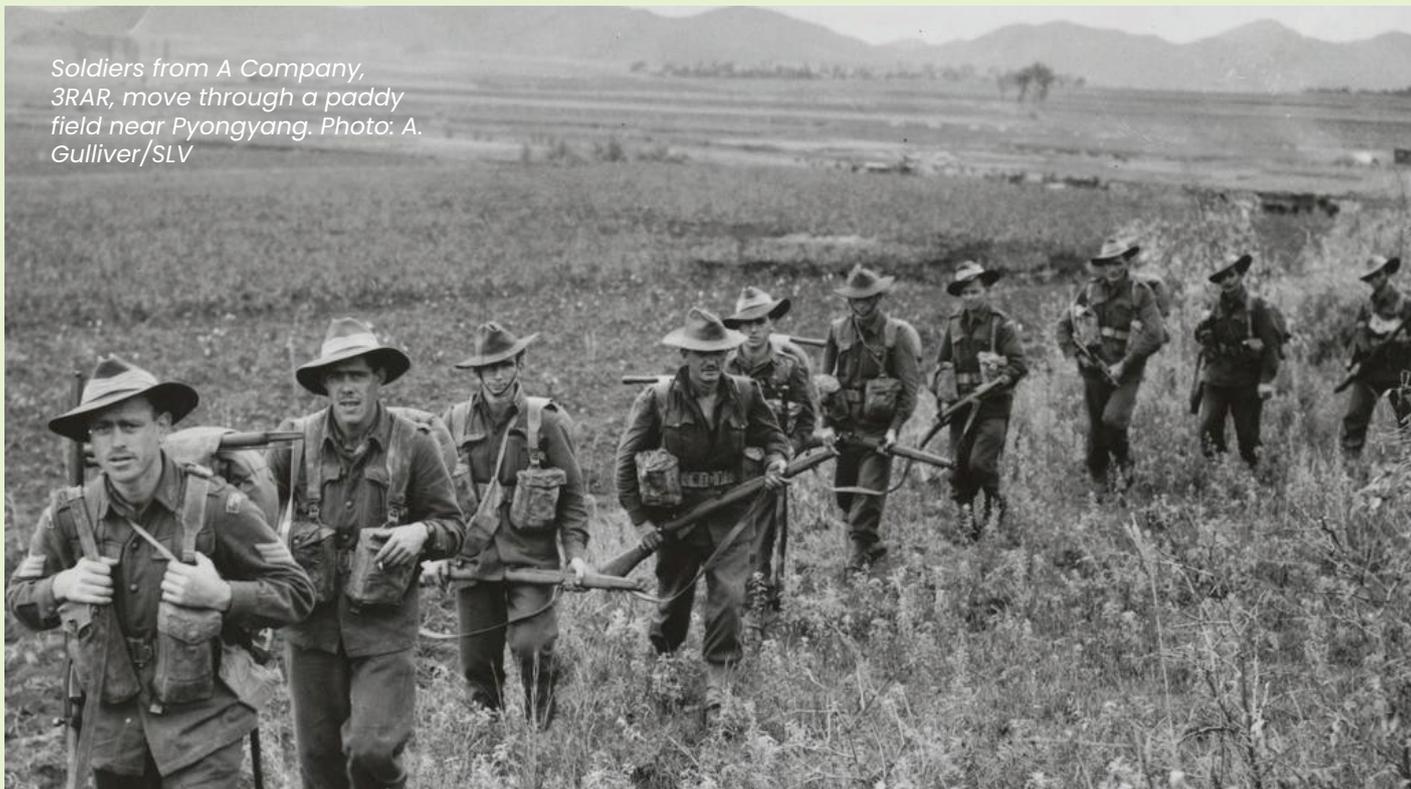
of the United Nations army. The result probably would have been a withdrawal of the United Nations army from Korea."

If it weren't for the disintegration of the 6th South Korean Division,



*Australian soldiers patrolling in deep snow 20km into enemy territory. Many returned from patrols suffering from acute snow glare. Photo: A. Gulliver/SLV*

*Soldiers from A Company, 3RAR, move through a paddy field near Pyongyang. Photo: A. Gulliver/SLV*



There was little sense of urgency among the Diggers as they took up their positions on the evening of April 23. The information they had received from their commanders was that they should settle in for a quiet night before either developing defensive positions where they were, or moving forward. They had done this many times before without firing a shot.

Private John Beresford, a 23-year-old from Murwillumbah in NSW, recalled being told: "There's nothing to worry about. We will be moving first thing in the morning so just dig your pit and have tea and that will be it."

One of those missing from the battalion was Jack Gallaway who had been injured while travelling in the back of a truck that overturned. Evacuated to a hospital in Japan, Gallaway would miss the Battle of Kapyong – but not its aftermath.

As darkness fell, the road through the Kapyong Valley was crowded with fleeing South Korean troops, refugees and a growing number of Chinese infiltrators. Their aim was to isolate the Diggers on the western side of the road from the three companies on Hill 504 before circling behind to attack the battalion HQ.

The sight of a South Korean division in head-long retreat, casting off

brand new American weapons, clothing and equipment as it went, was nothing new to the Diggers. They had seen the same thing happen on New Year's Day in response to an earlier Chinese offensive.

Following a well-practised routine, the Australians checked their weapons then laid out spare ammunition and grenades. And waited. Before long, a full moon rose in the sky, flooding the valley with white light that enabled the Diggers to see for hundreds of metres.

At around 9.30pm the Chinese launched their first attack against five American tanks on the valley floor. Despite the lack of infantry protection, the tanks beat off their attackers before withdrawing to prearranged positions in front of Laughlin's company.

By now heavy fighting had broken out in the battalion HQ area. This coincided with a second and much more determined Chinese attack against the American tanks. Once again, tank commanders had to direct fire from open hatches with their heads and upper bodies exposed to sniper fire.

Within minutes the commander of each tank was hit by rifle fire; the platoon leader was shot between the eyes and killed. The only way

to get the Chinese infantry off the tanks was for the tanks to close their hatches and hose each other with machine-gun fire.

An initial assault on Laughlin's position was driven off with heavy losses to the enemy. The Diggers were able to pick off targets easily in the bright moonlight.

These encounters were clearly the prelude to a full-scale attack aimed at throwing the Australians off the high ground on both sides of the road. Failure to achieve this before daylight would leave the Chinese troops on the valley floor exposed not only to a deadly barrage by US tanks and artillery, Australian mortars and Kiwi gunners, but also to bomb, rocket and napalm attacks from aircraft.

The attack on O'Dowd's company followed a pattern the Australians recognised all too well after their ten months in Korea: A flurry of bugles and whistles as enemy commanders assembled and organised their men, followed by silence as the Chinese soldiers crept up the hill in their noiseless rubber shoes; the clatter of grenades hitting the rocky ground before exploding, and finally the infantry assault as Chinese soldiers rose up in the moonlight, machine-guns blazing.

After each attack wounded Diggers were removed to the reverse slope,



*Koreans employed as porters trudge uphill with rations for Australian troops.  
Photo: Phillip Oliver Hobson/AWM*

where medic Corporal Nobby Clark and his stretcher-bearers did what they could for them, while fit men rushed to occupy the vacant weapon pits. Casualties did not seem to concern the Chinese who surged forward over the bodies of their own dead and wounded.

A steady Chinese mortar barrage of both high explosive and incendiary bombs continued throughout the night, the latter setting fire to the dry heather. The combination of thick smoke, burning heather and exploding ammunition caused further misery for the wounded Australian soldiers lying out in the open.

The next attack against Laughlin's company came at 3.30am, when Chinese soldiers struck from three sides. Despite the presence of two Sherman tanks, the Chinese succeeded in penetrating the company's perimeter and attacking the company headquarters with rifle and machine-gun fire before being driven off with the loss of as many as half their strength killed.

O'Dowd's position on the eastern side of the road remained precarious. His company suffered 50 casualties that night holding its ground against wave after wave of Chinese attackers. As he did the rounds of the hill, Corporal Pat Knowles was amazed at the drag marks, blood, cotton wool and bandages where the Chinese had dragged their dead and wounded away during the night.

The Chinese commanders failed in their efforts to push the Australians off the ridge, but they realised that if the Diggers could be dislodged from the summit of Hill 504, O'Dowd's depleted troops would be unable to hold. This time they would not wait for darkness. Every Digger on that hill knew what was coming.

"It was my 24th birthday on the 24th of April," Sergeant Ron Perkins recalled. "It was the second day of Kapyong and I didn't think I would see another one."

At around 7am the Chinese launched their first assault against the summit of Hill 504. The same pattern of attack was repeated every 30 minutes until 10.30am with each one beaten off at heavy cost to the enemy.

With dozens of wounded soldiers awaiting evacuation, 3RAR's New Zealand-born commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Ferguson called the medic Captain Don Beard. "He had arranged with an American tank regiment for a squadron of tanks," Beard recalled. "He said we will go up there with ammunition and see if we can get the casualties out.

"I didn't want to go because I had only just got out of the battle. But, of course, I said, 'Yes, sir.' Then the Chinese started firing as soon as they spotted the tanks moving up the valley."

Inside the tanks, Ferguson and Beard listened to the clatter of bullets striking the turret as they

trundled towards the battalion's position. But on the return trip a remarkable thing happened - the Chinese guns fell silent. The tanks made several trips with wounded Diggers strapped to their sides and each time the Chinese held their fire.

O'Dowd's men had been hoping the tanks would bring grenades and ammunition for their Owen submachine-guns. What they received instead was high-velocity ammunition designed for heavy machine-guns, which soon stripped the rifling from the barrels of their weapons, rendering them useless.

As for food, water and medical supplies, the Diggers on the hill would have to do without.

Only the promised arrival of the American 5th Cavalry Regiment convinced O'Dowd that his men could hang on, but by early afternoon on April 24, news reached Brigade HQ that they would not be coming after all.

The Diggers had been abandoned to their fate. Convinced that 3RAR would not be able to survive another night of Chinese attacks, the commander of the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade, Brigadier Brian Burke, decided to withdraw the Australian battalion.

"Sometime after midday the commanding officer advised me that there was no relief coming our way," O'Dowd recalled. "I had approval to take a shot at getting the rifle companies out."

While D Company clung to its position on the summit, O'Dowd got to work planning a fighting withdrawal along a route that - for all he knew - might already have been blocked by the Chinese.

Timing was critical. The enemy had had all day to observe the battalion's actions and O'Dowd considered it an absolute certainty they would renew their assault after dark.

The likelihood of being pursued along the ridge by the Chinese led O'Dowd to adopt a leapfrog-style withdrawal, in which one company stood its ground while another prepared to fall back and the third moved.

New Zealand gunners kept the Chinese at bay with a barrage of

*Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Ferguson. Photo: Claude Rudolph Holzheimer/ AWM*



smoke and high explosive shells while some landed no more than 150m from the Australians.

Some of the Diggers were reluctant to abandon their positions. A few members of D Company felt they were holding on alright and demanded to know why they were being ordered to pull out. But with ammunition running low, staying on was impossible.

By 11.30pm, the withdrawal - described in the official history as "difficult and brilliantly executed" - had been completed at a cost of just one man captured. Australian casualties for the two-day battle were 32 men killed and 59 wounded.

The text of the Presidential Unit Citation made clear the significance of 3RAR's achievement: "The seriousness of the breakthrough on the central front had been changed from defeat to victory by the gallant stand of these heroic and courageous soldiers."

The Australian defence at Kapyong blunted the Chinese Spring offensive and bought time for the UN forces to establish a new defensive line.

Jack Gallaway rejoined the battalion in time to bury the dead at Kapyong and after the war wrote a history of 3RAR's Korean campaign. Although he had missed the battle, Gallaway knew how it had been fought.

"It wasn't a battle where influence could have been brought to bear by great tactics or by brilliant officers," he said years later. "It was a matter of digging in, holding on by your teeth and fighting to the last man

and the last round. And that's what they did."

After Kapyong the Korean War lapsed into a stalemate that would last until the armistice on July 27, 1953. The war left behind a legacy of distrust between North Korea and South Korea marked by periodic border skirmishes, kidnappings, espionage and other provocations that continue to this day.

Kim Jong Un's recent assertion of perpetual enmity with South Korea was a stark reminder that while North Korea signed an armistice with its neighbour, it has never made peace.

Anna Fifield, Asia-Pacific editor at The Washington Post and author of *The Great Successor*, argues the latest comments by Kim Jong Un are more than the usual bluster. "We should all be concerned by the legacy of an unfinished war that has led to the creation of an impoverished totalitarian state with a nuclear weapons program.

"His calculations seem to have changed and he's taken a whole bunch of unprecedented steps - not just changing the constitution but destroying monuments to unification and testing new nuclear-capable weapons."

With the US distracted by the Ukraine and Gaza conflicts, Fifield warns that Kim Jong Un could sense an opportunity to launch some kind of attack. "That might be shelling outer South Korean Islands or something more provocative. He appears to almost be girding for a fight."

# Heraldry of Australian University Regiments

By **Martin Hess**

This is the second in a series about the heraldic link between the coats of arms of Australia's six 'Sandstone' Universities and their affiliated Regiments.

## Sydney University

The University of Sydney is Australia's oldest university. It pre-dates the University of Melbourne by three years. It was not until half a century later, however, that an associated regiment was established.

The University Volunteer Rifle Corps (UVRC) was raised on the 17th of November 1900, as part of the colonial Military Forces of New South Wales. In 1903, the UVRC changed its name to the Sydney University Scouts (SUS) and the establishment had by then doubled to two rifle companies.

When universal conscription was introduced in 1911, the Scouts numbers increased and it became a militia battalion. At this time, it also became responsible for the training of boy soldiers, the forerunner of today's Australian Cadet Corps, during their attendance at camps. On the outbreak of the Great War, over 60% of the Scouts enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).

Members of the Scouts served widely within the AIF. In 1918 a University Company was recruited from students at the University of Sydney for active service in the AIF. The war ended before it mobilised for service. In 1927 the Scouts were renamed the Sydney University Regiment (SUR).

In 1929, His Majesty King George V approved SUR's affiliation with the 60th Regiment, The King's Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC) and consequently the regiment's embellishments and badges of rank became black with



*Sydney University Regiment*

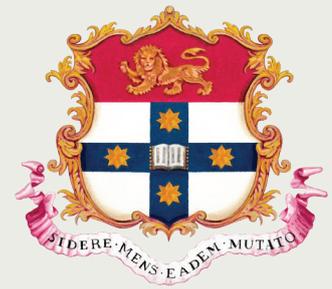
a red felt backing in similar fashion to the badge of the KRRC.

This was a Maltese Cross with a hunting horn at its centre. These distinctive arrangements continue and are unique in the Australian Army. This alliance was maintained with The Royal Green Jackets of the British Army, the successor regiment to the KRRC. The Royal Green Jackets badge also featured a hunting horn at its centre. This has carried on to the successor regiment, The Rifles, which is the hunting horn surmounted by the Crown. The hunting horn, fairly common in Germanic and Scandinavian heraldry symbolizes enthusiasm and warrior spirit.

The lion is a common charge in heraldry. It traditionally symbolises courage, nobility, royalty, strength, stateliness and valour. This is common to both the university and regimental designs.

The Latin motto of NSW 'Orta recens quam pura nites' translates as 'Newly risen how brightly you shine.'

In 2002, the regiment raised two new detachments: The Charles Sturt University Detachment at Bathurst,



*Sydney University Crest*

and the Riverina Detachment at Wagga Wagga with the aim of placing 10 SCDTs in training at each location in 2003. The New England University Company was transferred to the University of New South Wales Regiment in November 2001, ending a half-century association with the Sydney University Regiment.

The blue cross with stars likely originates from the popular yet unofficial early 19th century symbol for New South Wales.

The flag of New South Wales is a British Blue Ensign defaced with the state badge, which is the cross of St. George in red on a white disc. At the extremity of each arm of the cross is an eight pointed gold star, and in the centre of the cross is a golden lion passant guardant, representing the royal authority of the Governor.

The badge is thought to be based on an unofficial local flag used from 1832, combining the English red St. George's Cross on a white background with stars, representing the Southern Cross. The flag was adopted on 18 February 1876 because the previous design was too similar to the design of the Victorian flag.

# Order of Precedence

There are six University Regiments, of which five are affiliated with the six 'Sandstone' Universities. One, UNSWR, is not a 'Sandstone' university, but UNSW is a member of the Group of Eight.

## The accepted order of precedence of university regiments is:

- Sydney University Regiment (SUR)
- Queensland University Regiment (QR)
- Melbourne University Regiment (MUR)
- Western Australia University Regiment (WAUR)
- Adelaide Universities Regiment (AUR)
- University of New South Wales Regiment (UNSWR)

## Melbourne University

Melbourne University Regiment has a long history dating back to 1884 when it began as D Company, 4th Battalion of the Victorian Rifles, also known as the Mount Alexander Rifles founded in Bendigo in 1858. It was also known as the University Company. In 1910, the unit became the Melbourne University Rifles. It provided military training for Melbourne University members and the public schools of Melbourne and Geelong.

As a University Regiment the unit did not deploy with the AIF in either of the world wars and as such, it carries no Battle Honours on its Colours. However, many officers and soldiers of AIF units had received their initial military training or commissions with the University Rifles. In 1927, the regiment adopted the motto of *Postera crescama laude* (I will grow by the praise of posterity or We shall grow in the Esteem of Future Generations), which is the same motto as the University itself.

During the Second World War the regiment was disbanded; this occurred in 1942. In the post-war structure of the Australian Army the University Rifles was reformed as the present Melbourne University Regiment, officially raised on 1 April 1948. In 1953, the regimental march – The Thin Red Line – was approved.



Melbourne University Regiment

### Goddess of Victory

The centre design displays Nike was the Ancient Greek winged goddess of victory who personified victory in any field including art, music, war, and athletics. Her Roman equivalent was Vittoria (Victoria). She was often associated with Jupiter, Mars, and other deities and was especially worshipped by the army.

She eventually came to symbolise Rome's eventual hegemony and right to rule. She is often portrayed in the attitude of a winged woman who steps forwards, supported on a globe, and holding aloft, or offering a wreath or a palm-branch. These are not symbols of war but of triumph, and a peace that was consequent to victory. As a



Melbourne University Crest

reflection of Europe's Roman legacy, the Victoria symbols and statues are located throughout many, if not most, Western European cities and capitals. They stylised symbol of Victoria was adopted by the Colony of Victoria upon separation from the Colony of New South Wales in 1850 and was similarly adopted by the University of Melbourne and then Melbourne University Regiment by virtue of its association with the university itself.

The MUR hat badge is backed by green felt, symbolising affiliation with the Royal Green Jackets and its predecessor The Rifle Brigade. The Royal Green Jackets was subsumed into The Rifles in 2007.

## Adelaide Universities

Adelaide Universities Regiment was originally called Adelaide University Regiment. Concerns during the post 1945 period spurred the Australian Government to reform the old 'Militia' (renamed CMF).

Approval to raise Adelaide University Regiment was given on 17 September 1947 following the many good leaders trained from Sydney and Melbourne University Regiments for the 2nd AIF for World War II. The rationale of having AUR on the Order of Battle was that in war, many university graduates would become officers in the Army and by having had a sound infantry training they would be better officers.

The Regiment was organised based on the Commonwealth Military Forces (CMF) Infantry Battalion of three companies. The unit had a rifle company consisting of one rifle

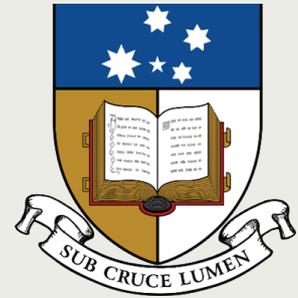


Adelaide University Regiment

platoon and a support company with transport, antitank, mortar, signals, and intelligence sections; and a headquarters company. Machine gun and assault pioneer sections were added later.

In 1991-92 the Australian Defence Force underwent a Force Structure Review (FSR). As a special part of the FSR, University Regiments were also reviewed. The review had wide implications on the future of AUR:

(a) AUR secondary role of providing



Adelaide University Crest

military training to tertiary students was removed; and

(b) AUR became the only Officer Training Unit in South Australia.

On 1 July 2008 AUR joined the 2nd Division under the direct command of 9 Brigade. This capability has been established within 2nd Division by reinforcing the University Regiments with additional Regular, Reserve and Australian Public Service personnel.

## WA University

The Western Australian University Regiment was first raised as the Perth University Regiment on 22 April 1949, with two platoons. The role of the Regiment at its inception was to provide military training to undergraduates.

The title Perth University Regiment did not correctly represent the Unit and in August 1949, following complaints from The University of Western Australia, the Unit's name changed to the Western Australian University Regiment (WAUR).

In July 1951 a third platoon was raised at the Claremont Teachers College and by October of that year, WAUR commenced training officers for the CMF. In 1955 HM Queen Elizabeth II approved the affiliation of WAUR with the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Regiment, which became the Royal Green Jackets, which then became The Rifles.

The re-introduction of compulsory national service in the 1960s was unlike the national service of the 1950's. The new conscription was selective and offered conscripts a



WA University Regiment

choice of two year's full time service in the Australian Regular Army (ARA) or five years in the CMF. With this conscription came a major influx of personnel into WAUR.

By 1972 anti-war feeling against Australia's involvement in Vietnam was extremely high both in the media and on campuses around the country. In that year national service was ended and the obligations of conscripts waived. As a result of this and the strong anti-military feeling in the community the units' strength dropped significantly. The Regiments' numbers fell so low that in 1974 there was a serious



WA University Crest

consideration to close it down and merge with the Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU).

1974 was also the year of the Millary Committee Report on the CMF, which recommended that both the part-time and regular armies be brought closer together. Following this report, the CMF came to be known as the Australian Army Reserve (A Res), and such things as pay conditions of service and equipment were bought parallel with the ARA. In September 1991 WAUR assumed sole responsibility for Army Reserve Officer training in the Western Region, a task it has carried through until this present time.

## Queensland University

Queensland University Regiment was originally a University Detachment formed in 1932 by two graduates who were then officers of the 15th Battalion (Oxley Regiment). Prior to 1928, university graduates had to undertake compulsory training in the Civilian Military Forces (CMF). That form of training however did not consider the competing requirements of those students undergoing university study and examinations and that of the CMF.

The University of Queensland could not raise enough men to form a complete unit, as the total enrolment of the university was only several hundred. In 1933 the Army gave approval for the inclusion, within existing militia units, of university sub-units which could retain their own identity, undertake their own training and be commanded by university men.

Thus the first university platoon was attached to the 9th/15th Battalion (Moreton and Oxley Regiment). It is interesting to note that although that they were the University Detachment they wore the colour patch of the parent unit.

In May 1948 Queensland University Regiment was formed, initially as an independent company sized unit and then in 1950 as an infantry battalion. It was not until 1962 that the Regiment commenced officer training for



*Qld University Regiment*

other CMF units in the South-East Queensland area. This dual role remained in place for 30 years when in 1992 the Unit's role became solely officer training.

At the time of writing the Queensland University Regiment (QUR) is an officer training unit of the Australian Army Reserve, based on the campus of the University of Queensland at St Lucia, Brisbane. North Queensland Company (NQC) is a sub-unit of the regiment and is based at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville.

There are two broad opinions concerning the origins of the distinctive Maltese Cross on the Queensland flag and coat of arms. The first relates to the fact that the Colony of Queensland, named in honour of Queen Victoria, separated from the Colony of New South Wales in 1859 and that the first Victoria Cross was bestowed by Queen Victoria in 1857, thus forming a natural association.

The Victoria Cross is itself of similar design. The other relates to the



*Qld University Crest*

difficulty of portraying an image of Queen Victoria on items such as flags. The Maltese Cross was gazetted in 1876 as the official emblem of the Government of the Colony of Queensland.

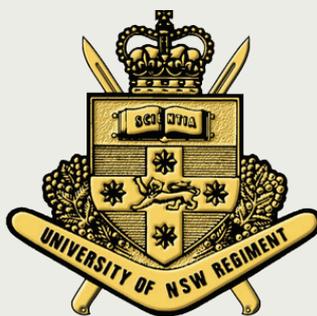
Subsequently, the design was incorporated as part of the Queensland Coat of Arms when the Royal Warrant authorising the present design for the Queensland Coat of Arms was issued to the Colony of Queensland on 29 April 1893. The Maltese Cross can be seen at the crest of the Coat of Arms of Queensland. This design naturally carried over upon federation in 1901.

This design was incorporated into the Coat of Arms of the University of Queensland upon foundation in 1909 and this Coat of Arms was replicated faithfully into the Queensland University Regiment badge when QUR was established in 1932. The shared Latin motto: *Scientia ac Labore*: translates as 'by means of knowledge and hard work'.

## University of NSW

Following closely after the establishment of the New South Wales University of Technology, The University of New South Wales Regiment was founded as the New South Wales University of Technology Regiment in 1952.

The regiment was renamed the University of New South Wales Regiment (UNSWR) when the university changed its name in 1958. The initial structure of UNSWR reflected an infantry battalion. The regiment affiliated with the university to attract candidates, who having served as privates, lance corporals, corporals and sergeants could be subsequently



*University of NSW Regiment*

commissioned in the Army Reserve.

UNSWR became allied to a British Army regiment in 1964, through amalgamations this affiliation is now with the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires). On 18



*University of NSW Crest*

November 1977 UNSWR affiliated with the Canterbury, and Nelson-Marlborough and West Coast Regiment, a Territorial Force unit based on the South Island for soldiers serving part-time in the New Zealand Army.

## A Mission Born from Personal Experience

In a landmark collaboration designed to uplift and transform the quality of healthcare services provided to veterans at home, Harwell Home Care recently became the latest member of our National Network of Healthcare Providers.

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CEO Joseph Hardy (pictured) witnessed first-hand the challenges faced by his own father, a Vietnam Veteran, as he navigated the complexities of DVA home health care. Determined to ensure that no veteran would have to endure less-than-dignified care, Hardy embarked on a mission.

His goal? To uphold the independence and respect of veterans across Australia, providing them with the compassion and care they deserve.

Harwell Home Care is not just another healthcare provider; it is a sanctuary where veterans can receive the specialised care they need. Providing services through the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Home Nursing Care program, they offer services exclusively



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Harwell Home Care stands out for its holistic approach to home healthcare, ensuring veterans can lead a fulfilling life within the comfort of their own homes. Their services are meticulously designed to cater to a broad spectrum of needs:

By joining the Peacekeeper Network of Healthcare Providers, Harwell Home Care not only amplifies its capabilities but also joins a wider community dedicated to veteran care. This collaboration signifies a unified aim: to provide unparalleled, dignified healthcare to those who've served Australia and all in the network can be found here on this page.

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