

# Australian Peacekeeper

SUMMER 2022

MAGAZINE



**APPVA 25TH  
ANNIVERSARY**



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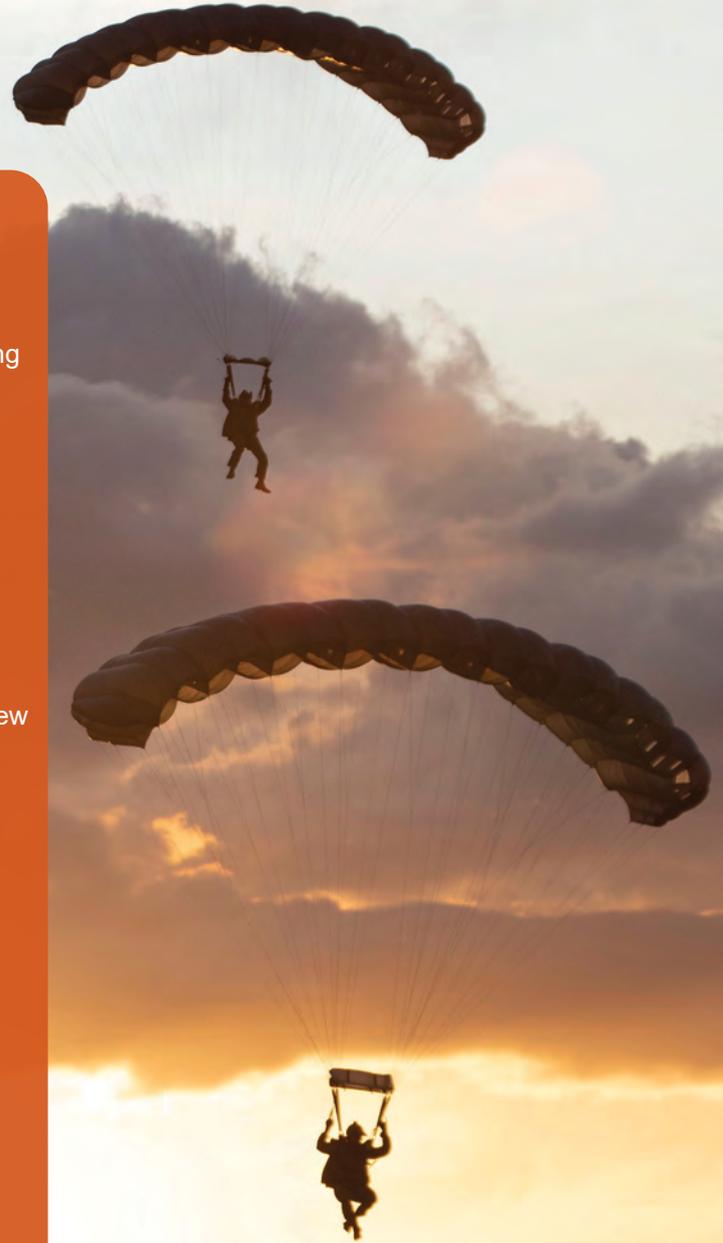
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Cover: This page A Royal Australian Air Force No. 4 Squadron Combat Controller and an Airman from United States Air Force 320th Special Tactics Squadron parachute into RAAF Base Richmond during Exercise Teak Action 2022.

Australian Peacekeepers Magazine is published quarterly by Flight Publishing Pty Ltd (ABN 66 086 424 259) for and on behalf of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (ABN 59 558 194 094) © 2018. All rights reserved. [www.peacekeepers.asn.au](http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au) 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.

# Chairperson's report



What a year 2022 has been thus far, our AGM was conducted in Canberra with a great attendance. The morning conference allowed members to participate in discussions around the work of the APPVA has been doing as well as an update on the Royal Commission into Defence & Veteran Suicide.

Australian Peacekeeper Day 2022 was held in Canberra to commemorate 75 years of Australian Peacekeepers of the Australian Defence Force, Australian Police, government, and non-government organisations being deployed around the world in support of making and keeping the peace.

This year's event was managed by DVA, I must say it was a really great day and the ceremony was well presented and received. I spoke to a number of people on the day, all stated how proud they were to be a peacekeeper and how they felt valued at the ceremony.

Our Vice Chairperson Ian Lindgren continues to work very hard in the background with the Board to improve the corporate governance practices within the veteran space and I congratulate him on his efforts.

I would like acknowledge Mr Richard Kelloway AO, who has advised the Board of his intention to retire, his work over many years of advocating for veterans' wellbeing is second to none. I also want to acknowledge Mike Romalis OAM, who has over the five years as our WA Rep has decided to step back. Mike has been a point of reference for me and has provided great support to get the APPVA to the organisation it

is today. To Richard and Mike, I wish both well with your future endeavours and I thank you for your dedicated service to the veteran community.

The APPVA on 24th October celebrated 25 years as an ESO in the veteran community, on behalf of the APPVA Board and Committee I want to thank each and every member that has contributed to getting the APPVA on the veteran community map.

I ask if you could please provide any of your stories and experiences in your peacekeeping peacemaking deployments along with any hi resolution photos to our editor so we can keep the Peacekeeper Magazine relevant with your stories and experiences.

The APPVA continues to work with government and other ex-service organisations in a positive way, building relationships to provide support to our members along with other likeminded ESO's which in turn, provides better support to the greater veteran community.

Yours sincerely,  
**Rob Woods, JP**

## Vice Chairperson's report



My work since our last magazine has been largely focussed on holding DVA accountable to the veteran and veteran family community along two themes. The first is that every veteran deserves an equal chance to lodge a successful claim, and the second has been closely monitoring

how DVA plans to approach the recommendations to change the three veteran acts.

I will be brutally honest in this column because I have been mightily unimpressed with DVA and the Board has agreed that the root cause of veteran issues is DVA and its complete comfort at misleading the veteran community. It has taken me three years to realise this, but I now quite comfortably say it, and after identifying that there was a high failure rate with claims lodged through MyService, the APPVA took it to DVA to address. I put it to the Secretary that the application needs to be improved as it should be under the software development life cycle, and I emphasised that "every veteran deserves an equal chance to lodge a successful claim." The issue was not put to the rest of the veteran community and was shut down by DVA on 14 June 2022 despite me attempting to have a timeline placed on it to determine when it will be addressed. Further questioning of DVA has identified that there is no user feed back mechanism to advice DVA how veterans experience the process. As a consequence, we have started our own survey and the outcome of question 11 indicates that veterans are not happy with MyService in terms of lodging claims through it. It has now been 153 days since DVA was advised that there were issues with lodging claims through MyService and it has taken no action. We will address this next week when parliament sits and at the next Senate Estimates.

I was also invited to work with DVA on Recommendation 1 from the Royal Commission's Interim Report that "the Australian Government should develop and implement legislation to simplify and harmonise the framework for veterans' compensation, rehabilitation and other entitlements." I did however resign from the committee because we were all required to sign non-disclosure agreements and this bothered me because as best we can tell, the veteran community seems to want:

Overall, do you feel that you had an equal opportunity to lodge a successful claim to the same degree as you would have if someone had assisted you with knowledge to relate the claim to a Statement of Principle?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	20.00%
No	80.00%

illness claims.

It would appear that DVA do not plan to consult the veteran and veteran family community until the way ahead has been determined. So, this is the next issue we are taking to all parties in parliament commencing next week for the last sitting of the year.

Other than that, it is pleasing to see so many new members and we will continue to represent you because every veteran and veteran family deserves happiness in life.

Ian Lindgren



- A single act to replace the current three dysfunctional acts, piecemeal revisions, band-aide revisions, and statements of principle to support quality of life for veterans and the institution of the family, while carrying forward all the benefits of the existing acts.
- Access to the same human rights as other Australians injured at work, while also recognising the unique nature of military service.
- Claims resolution based on transparent case management and appropriate key performance indicators to resolve injury and



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# APPVA Recollections



APPVA has come a long way from humble beginnings, when a handful of UNAMIC & UNTAC Veterans met at Pine Rivers RSL to commemorate UN Day. It was at the completion of our the service that Paul Copeland suggested we should start APPVA (now APPVA), in an effort to attain representation for Peacekeepers & Peacemakers for they were being rejected by ESO's. I supported this proposal, for my first experience from ESO's was at best poor. ANZAC Day (1993), which was our first event while on post deployment War Service Leave, was the first rejection for myself and two other recently returned UNTAC Soldiers. The ESO Sub-Branch we were a members of didn't accepted us as Veterans, so we couldn't march with the returned (War) Veterans and were to march with the Sub-Branch's non-deployed membership.

As a founding Committee Member / Member I'm humbled to see APPVA's growth over the years, and importantly the growth of support APPVA provides to ALL those who partake in Peacekeepers, Peacemakers & Veteran operations.

It was APPVA's advocating with resulted in UNAMIC & UNTAC service being awarded the AASM, and for some combatants an ICB or ACB. APPVA's representation also facilitated the 2014 awarding of a Unit Citation to ASC FCU, which Lieutenant General Sanderson AC recommended some 21+ years prior, Circa 1994.

APPVA's representation for Peacekeeping and Peacemaking operations would have continued to under-recognised by Defence / Govt, and therefore the exemplary service of our Veterans, Police and deployed civilians (eg health care workers) would not necessarily be recognisable by the general public.

Whilst I've still got my APPVA Committee Member badge as a memento of my contribution during the foundation years, each and every member has contributed towards APPVA's success over the past 25 years. Strong governance and strong membership is ensuring APPVA is well positioned to meet the needs of those who service in future Peacekeepers, Peacemakers and Veterans operations are supported.

It's the responsibility of us all to ensure that we engage with, listen to, support, and advocate for each and every person who provides devoted service for our country. For myself, this means supporting effective ESO's and ensuing that the newest of recruits know I'm here for them 24/7, just as I am for those I served.

**Congratulations on 25yrs APPVA.**

**Regards**

**Nick Hannay**

The PK memorial idea came about through a chat between Paul and Alison Creagh in Cambodia. They must have been in some swish hotel somewhere...not!

And so, once upon a time, in 2004 the APPVA committee had their meeting in Canberra. Paul and Lofty thought it'd be wonderful for us to catch up.

We did, we had dinner and a great chat, during the dinner they mentioned the Memorial idea and wondered if I'd like to be the Secretary to assist in creating the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Committee (APMPC).

My response was 'sure - I can type', whilst it was a mischievous response, we 3 have known each other for a few years by then, I think about 60 between us. And it was an opportunity for me to build my reliance after a PTSD incident after Sep 11.

The interim committee was raised and I was asked to arrange a meeting with the National Capital Authority to discuss the processes to begin the memorial build.

The call went something like this, I introduced myself and provided some background to the purpose of the meeting, the NCA staffer was quick to tell me that under no circumstances that the memorial would ever be on ANZAC Parade.

Yes, I held my comments and was very polite and diplomatic, arranged the meeting and advised Tim Ford of the discussions.

We had the meeting with the NCA CEO in a meeting room at the top of the Carilion in Canberra, where we had a view of proposed locations.

The CEO was quite determined to have the memorial in Peace Park - during this time, the Committee members were becoming quite stressed. No matter what was discussed, the CEO didn't get what Peacekeeping was really about.

I asked the Chair for a brief pause to settle things down - I had another strategy up my sleeve.

I introduced Paul to the CEO and asked Paul to describe his accounts,



experiences and other events around Peacekeeping, I encouraged Paul to talk about 'everything'.

The CEO listened and after about 15min the CEO returned, and we reconvened the meeting. Before the Chair could say anything, the CEO said, 'after listening to Paul, you can have the memorial anywhere you'd like.'

The Memorial was unveiled in 2018 – Tim, Paul and I remained as President, APPVA rep and Secretary for 14yrs.

Without Paul and Alison's chat and the APPVA there wouldn't have been a Memorial.

**Way to go team.  
With gratitude,  
Cleon**

## LEST WE FORGET



In September I was invited to attend the 7th anniversary celebrations of Australia's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations as a family member of one who served. I was very honoured to be invited and found the experience deeply moving and therapeutic.

My sister Terezija (Terri) Maric was born on the 3rd March 1963 to Grgo and Mara Maric in a little village in the mountains of Hercegovina (then known as Yugoslavia). Like many families who lived in a communist country our family struggled and our father fled the country in 1964 leaving behind a pregnant wife and two small children. Had he stayed



he most definitely would have been killed because he was unable to toe the communist party line. In 1967 we were able to join him in Australia where we hoped for a better life.

Our early years in Far North Queensland were hard with the family moving from town to town wherever work was available; from cutting sugar cane in Innisfail to picking and grading tobacco in Dimbulah and Mutchilba to small-scale tin mining on the outskirts of Herberton. These years were very hard for our family as three more children were born and we seemed to always be moving. We were ethnically Croatian and another challenge for us was the bullying and harassment we were subjected to whenever we mentioned the word 'Croatia or Croatian'. In this era these words were synonymous with terrorism.

This had a huge impact on all of us but particularly Terri who was a very sensitive child and she yearned for a world where there was no discrimination and where everyone lived in peace and harmony.

Terri always wanted to become a Police Officer and was over the moon when her application to join the AFP was successful. She served in many areas of the AFP but her greatest joy was her deployment to Cyprus with the 54th contingent and 3rd and 5th contingents to Timor. Sadly it was on her last deployment to Timor that

she contracted dengue fever and her life was never the same again. This was followed by a severe case of PTSD which was exacerbated by the bureaucracy of the AFP and Comcare. She was medically retired from the AFP in 2007 after 20 years of service.

Terri had a strong sense of social justice and she loved her eight nephews and nieces. She was also passionate about animal welfare and when she was able to she was involved in animal rescue and looked after many injured possums and birds.

PTSD is a horrendous illness and one which affects not just the person suffering but their whole family. It also impacts on every aspect of their life. Terri was experiencing horrendous pain during the last two years of her life which the doctors always dismissed as just more 'PTSD' which meant that when she was finally diagnosed with stage 4 bone cancer it was too late. She passed away on 3 November 2019 aged 56. Gone too soon, never forgotten and forever in our hearts.

My hope is that we find a way to remember all those who are suffering from PTSD as a result of their service and include their names in the roll call of those who are no longer with us..

**Lest we forget  
Sofija (Sophie) Maric Langlois**



## FORMER APPVA TASMANIA BRANCH

By Mike Romalis

The Tasmanian Branch of the APPVA was formed on the 6th of December 2008 at a meeting held in the TPI Association facilities at Remembrance House in New Town (Hobart). The Branch was formed as a Sub-Branch of the National Association to provide welfare and pension services to Veterans of Peacekeeper and Peacemaker operations in Tasmania. The initial office bearers included Phil Pyke (President), Tony Richings (Vice President and Public Officer) and Oliver Breeze (Treasurer). The first official activity was a fund-raising BBQ at an Army Reserve Careers Day at Anglesea Barracks on the 28th of March 2009.

In 2009 the Department of Defence identified that a large pine tree in the memorial precinct of Anglesea Barracks in Hobart was dying and would need to be cut down. Instead of completely removing the tree, a proposal was put forward to create a memorial out of the tree stump. A memorial committee comprising the Department of Defence, Department of Veterans Affairs, RSL Tasmania and APPVA considered proposals from three Tasmanian artists along with a fund-raising campaign. The successful design was by RAAF veteran Bernie Tarr, with work commencing and abruptly halting in 2010 when it was discovered that the pine stump had rotted. The stump had to be removed and Bernie redesigned the original proposal to accommodate a carving mounted on a large rock. The completed memorial was dedicated on UN Peacekeeping Day on the 29th of May 2011.

For Veterans Health Week (VHW) in 2012, the Tasmanian Branch organized gardening workshops around the state with the late ABC Gardening Australian guru and Korean War Veteran Peter Cundall AM. Another 2012 VHW initiative was an electronic games competition. In November a joint fund-raising activity was conducted with the



29 May 2011 - Oliver Breeze with his daughter at the dedication of the Peacekeeping Memorial in Anglesea Barracks, Hobart.

Greater Hobart RSL Sub-Branch and Partners of Veterans Association, selling BBQ breakfasts and lunches at the Midlands Military Meet and Rendezvous at Campbell Town in central Tasmania.

2013 started with a major bushfire on the Tasman peninsular south-east of Hobart. A working bee was organized in the aftermath of the fire to clear bull-dozed trees around a member's house in Forcett, with the resulting firewood donated to the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Bush Retreat in the Central Highlands. On the 1st of June a memorial service and

plaque commemorating CAPT Peter McCarthy was unveiled at the 44 Transport Squadron Depot in Devonport, followed by a dinner with the RACT/RAAASC associations at the Devonport RSL Sub-Branch. VHW in 2013 had more gardening workshops and a putt putt golf family event, with the year culminating with the Branch hosting the APPVA National Conference and AGM in Hobart on the 26th and 27th of October.

For Australian Peacekeeping Day on the 14th of September 2014, the Branch dedicated a plaque highlighting the UN service of local members at the Launceston Cenotaph. VHW in 2014 had a farm gate to plate theme with food harvested, cooked and consumed, and in 2015 VHW had a bus tour of Hobart gardens including Government House, the Hobart City Farm and the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens.



13 Feb 2013 – Forcett Bush Fire Working Bee. Left to Right: Graeme Barnett and Jan Hyde



28 Oct 2012 – VHW 'Call of Duty MW3' Games night at Prism Gaming Lounge in Hobart

## WESTERN SAHARA



01 Jun 2013 – Dedication of Captain Peter McCarthy Plaque at 44 Transport Squadron Depot in Devonport, Tasmania. Left to Right: Judy Munday, Grant Munday, Sarah McCarthy and Sue McCarthy.



22 Oct 2012 – VHW Garden Workshop at Tresca, near Exeter in northern Tasmania. Left to Right: Mike Romalis, Peter Cundall, Jason Ames-Smith, Oliver Breeze and children

I congratulate all the men and women of 1st Signal Regiment on receiving the Honour Distinction Western Sahara and Theatre Honour East Timor (1999-2003).

An Honour Distinction is recognition for an exceptional performance by a unit while deployed on both warlike and non-warlike operations, particularly when undertaking a role or tasks for which they have not been trained.

A Theatre Honour (Streamer) is recognition for a credible performance of an allocated task in a theatre of operations.

These are formal descriptions of the awards. They do not necessarily capture the commitment, hard work or the sacrifice that went into the respective operational performances.

The mission of Australian Service contingents in North Africa was to support the UN-led peacekeeping mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

The rotations of Operation CEDILLA faced many difficulties, particularly during the early rotations of the deployment.

They were operating in an isolated and uncertain environment, their presence was not wholly supported by the host nation, and they were prevented from bringing their own equipment into the country.

But they rose to the occasion — they adapted, they improvised, and they performed roles beyond their area of responsibility.

Those of us that were not posted to 1st Signal Regiment at the time, but deployed alongside its members on the five Australian Service Contingent rotations under Operation CEDILLA, made critical contributions to the success of the mission.

The MINURSO service in North Africa was not without sacrifice.

Major Susan Felsche, the Medical Officer on rotation 4, became the first Australian Army female to be killed on overseas duty since World War 2.

In fact as RSM of 5ASC it was my honour to build a memorial at Award in recognition of Major Susan Felsche

In all of this service, valour and sacrifice, we must not forget to acknowledge the families and loved ones of Australian Army members, past and present, that served in MINURSO. Their support cannot be overstated; it is critical to the ongoing health and welfare, indeed capability, of many in the Australian Defence Force.

To all the men and women of all 5 contingents, know that we can be very proud of our achievements.

Finally, I was very proud to have been the last RSM of Operation Cedilla in MINURSO, and with CO Lt Col Peter Lambert, close off our outstanding operations.

**Matt Burke OAM  
NSW State Representative  
RSM of 5ASC Operation CEDILLA**



# Commemorative Spaces

by Don Hughes

War injuries damage the flesh. War injuries also damage the spirit.

To mend the flesh, takes great nursing, medical care and compassion.

To mend the spirit, is often more complicated.

To achieve this, the soul needs to be gently awakened.

Special places are needed for this process.

It is no accident, that after the great tragedy of World War One, every Australian town erected Memorials to our fallen.

It is no accident, that Australia's great war memorials and shrines of remembrance dominate key locations around our country.

It is no accident, that generations of young Australians seek pilgrimage to some of the most far-flung corners of the globe: Gallipoli, Kokoda or Long Tan for example.

It is also no accident, that Our First Nations peoples were highly attuned to this sense of place and its great healing powers. These places of spiritual significance have been used for the healing process for thousands of years.

Contemporary Australia also needs places of spiritual healing.

One such place is the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital at Austin Health. With its rich heritage of healing warriors, its commemorative spaces allow a place for reflection to help mend the spirit and awaken the soul.

At the 2022 Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital Remembrance Observance ceremony a "Ribbon Pole" to commemorate 75 years of Australian Peacekeeping was unveiled and dedicated.

Located in the immaculate "Memorial Gardens" within the heart of the Hospital, the new pole proudly stands alongside other ribbon poles representing every war and conflict Australia has been involved in.

Volunteer Veteran liaison team member Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM, APPVA member Don Hughes and his Assistance Dog Zeus, assisted in the ceremony.

Jude is the team leader at the Repatriation Hospital manufacturing the iconic "Poppy Wreaths" whilst Don was able to express the need for "Commemorative Spaces".



Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM, APPVA member Don Hughes and his Assistance Dog Zeus

The service numbered about 150 guests and was covered by Austin Health PR teams.

# APPVA Life Memberships awarded



## Mark Horner Life Membership

It is the APPVA's pleasure to announce that at the recent AGM our Company Secretary, Mark Horner, was awarded a Life Membership by our Chairperson Rob Woods. Over the past six years Mark has acted with unquestionable integrity, and continuous and unselfish dedication to the APPVA to migrate from our former multiple branch structure to a single company limited by Guarantee.

Mark was a founding member of AWUNA (Albury Wodonga United Nations Association) and joined APPVA in Aug 2008.

Previously Victorian State Vice and President and long term APPVA member after serving in Namibia in 1989 with UNTAG 17 Construction Squadron.

Mark is now the APPVA Company Secretary since 2017.

## Matt Burke OAM Life Membership

Matt Burke has worked tirelessly for the Peacekeeper Veteran Community in a number of organisations and positions since 1995 to the present day. Matt was the RSM of ASC 5 to MINURSO (Western Sahara), which was the last ASC in that country.

Matt has sustained a meritorious presence within the APPVA (APPA) since our humble beginnings in Victoria in 2000, when I invited him to join our Inaugural State Conference at

the Greensborough RSL. From there, after acknowledging the benefits of a National and State wide Peacekeeper focussed- ESO, he has tirelessly represented Peacekeepers in Victoria, in particular Northern Victoria.

Matt was instrumental as the Inaugural President of the Albury Wodonga United Nations Association (AWUNA), which was formed as a result of rejection by the RSL in the twin Cities of the growing number of returned Peacekeeper Veterans of the early 90's and late 90's (culminating in INTERFET). Matt was determined to have our Veterans recognised, with or without the RSL's assistance.

In brief, Matt has been heavily involved in Peacekeeping Veterans in the following ways:

1. Inaugural President of the AWUNA, until AWUNA amalgamated with APPVA - Victorian Branch.
2. Matt Burke received the Centenary Medal in January 2001 for his services to Veterans in Albury-Wodonga.

2. Became the Branch President of the APPVA - Victorian Branch for over 10 years (Approx 2002-2012).

3. Vice Chairman of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project Committee (APMPC), which was hosted in Canberra for well over 6 years (Approx 2005-2012).

4. Raised through Corporate sponsorship \$250,000 toward the APMPC, through his contacts in AFL and Rotary Community Work.

5. Has been the focal POC and organiser of numerous Commemorative days for Veterans in the Albury Wodonga Area, in particular Viet Nam Veterans' Day (18 August); National Servicemen's Day (14 February); Peacekeeper's Day (14 September); and Remembrance Day (11 November).

6. Matt has been a focal POC for Peacekeeper Veterans in the Albury/Wodonga area and has represented the APPVA well. He is consistently acknowledged by Local, State and Federal Politicians for his service to the veteran community.

7. Matt is currently the NSW State Representative to the APPVA Pty Ltd, Committee of Management, as of 2022.



Rear: Paul Walker Glenn Pinnuck Ian Mansfield  
Front: Phillip Thompson OAM MP Matt Burke Life member Rob Woods Chairman

## APPVA life members

Rhonda	Copeland
Bruce	Relph
Ian	Gordon
Mark	Horner
Paul	Copeland OAM
Allan	Thomas OAM
Elizabeth	Hill
Ian	Lindgren
George	Gittoes AM
Alan	Gray
John	Pearn
Lofty	Evans
Kelly	Farrugia
David	Vinen
Mick	Phelan
Tim	Ford AO
Matt	Burke OAM
Pauline	Richards RIP

# An anecdotal history of APPVA

By Paul Copeland OAM  
Founding and Life member APPVA

The thought bubble to initiate an Association that was focussed on the camaraderie and commemoration of returned ADF Peacekeepers came after a number of approaches made to the RSL, ADF and Peacekeeper Veterans themselves.

It was evident that a good number of returned ADF Peacekeepers in the early to mid-1990s were interested in an Association that commemorated their service to recent ADF Peacekeeping Operations deployments at the time.

Unfortunately, some of the RSL Sub-Branches were not interested, in terms of not returning correspondence made to them. It was noted that to even get a place on ANZAC Day marching with other returned veterans from all wars and conflicts, was a significant difficulty in a number of States.

At the time the ADF recognised UN Day (24 October 1945) as being the commemorative date for Returned Peacekeepers, however this date did not recognise the world's first Peacekeepers to deploy into the field in the then Dutch East Indies (Modern Indonesia), which was the 14th of September 1947, which was an Australian Defence Force Contingent of four (4) Officers, under the auspices of United Nations Good Offices Commission.

Later, during the development of the Association, there was also no recognition of the Australian Government, despite supporting the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/57/129 on 11 December 2002, after lobbying by Ukrainian Peacekeeper Veterans – for an Internationally recognised United Nations International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (29 May

1948).

Up to recent times, returned Veterans from Peacekeeping Operations since 1947 were largely ignored, their service mis-understood by the Veteran Community and General Public. This unique group of Veterans (both men and women) were largely unappreciated. Their service, courage and sacrifice inadequately recognised. Their poor Mental Health not understood, nor considered, within the ADF and DVA.

I recall after I was Aero Medically Evacuated (AME) out of Cambodia, in order to save my right leg, with my Surgeon telling me "I was one lucky fellow to keep it"; I applied for the Returned Wounded Servicemen's Scheme. A Scheme endorsed and promoted by the ADF and sponsored by the RSL. The Scheme provided for a 2-week paid holiday to the Gold Coast. Apparently this Scheme was active during the Viet Nam War.

I was contacted by my Medical Sponsoring Unit (Close to my home at Clifton Springs Victoria, whilst on Convalescence Leave recovering from my operation) at Fort Queenscliff,

by the QM at the Command & Staff College; who asked me to come and see him. I turned up on my crutches and was told that I was unsuccessful in my application, because the RSL Board deemed my injuries were "... not severe enough". Not severe enough! My femur was smashed in 3 places and stuck together with a 40cm steel rod and screws, I had whiplash to my neck, teeth smashed out of my mouth, closed dislocation of the Right clavicle and a fractured L4/L5 – not to mention the PTSD! The incident nearly killed me!

The QM was a former Viet Nam Veteran, who was in disbelief himself as to the decision made by the RSL Board. He suggested that I appeal the decision. I said I would, however after returning home, I was highly disheartened by the decision and decided that no matter what I did, I would get yet another knock back. So, I canned it.

This was a critical turning point for me. I had no idea of what lay ahead for my future, I didn't know if I was going to be kicked out of the Army because of my injuries, my Special



Forces (SF) career plans were now over, no idea of the Veteran Support System; and I had just been rejected by a bunch of out of touch old codgers who had no understanding of what I went through in the circumstances of my unfortunate incident in Cambodia, whilst deployed on War Service.

Upon returning to duties, I was posted out of my Special Forces unit and sent to a Strategic Unit in Melbourne. I didn't want to be there. I was depressed yet determined to keep soldiering on. Within my Unit, there were a number of returned veterans from Cambodia, Western Sahara, Somalia and Sinai. It was the case of being deployed on a high and returning home to a low. We seemed to be the odd group out from the others and stuck together.

An "UNTAC Association" was raised with many Officers and some WOs and Senior NCOs from the Force Communications Unit (FCU) pushing the gambit. I queried what could the UNTAC Association do? It was basically to maintain the camaraderie of those who had served in Cambodia. I was sort of interested but thought we could go further than just Cambodia (UNTAC). I became a member but wanted to see something a little more in line with an active organisation. The ADF had a number of significant "firsts" in the early 1990s, in terms of Peacekeeping Operations and deployments, which included Namibia, Somalia, MFO Sinai and a little later Rwanda.

I became more aware of the poor understanding of my service from the Veteran Community and also the General Population. At ANZAC Day in 1995, I attended the Fort Queenscliff Dawn Service in my Service Dress with my parents and then girlfriend (now my wife). I stood next to the Victorian Parliament Local Member, who engaged me in discussion, before saying: "...are those your Dad's medals?" Before I could reply, my father Jim, who was a 23-year veteran of the RAAF and served in South Viet Nam and Malaysia, promptly let him know that I was wearing my own medals. I didn't



see too much of that politician after that, of which he didn't survive the State Elections a year later.

It seemed to me that we were very much of an unknown entity as veterans in our own right. In later years, I attend a dedication of an ADF Memorial in Warrnambool in South West Victoria, where some older veterans from WW2 commented that my job only consisted of "...giving out lollies to kids on a street corner with a blue beret on my head..." That is an analogy that I continue to use to this day to highlight just how misunderstood Returned Peacekeepers really are in our community.

I came up with the idea of recruiting recently returned veterans into an Association. Whilst I perhaps relied on mateship and knowing many of those who had deployed in the early to mid 1990s; I was later deployed to the MFO Sinai in 1995-1996, which affirmed my belief to attempt to establish a Peacekeeping Association, that looked after those who had served on Peacekeeping Operations (PKO).

I was posted to Toowoomba in

Queensland upon my Return to Australia (RTA) and quickly put out the word of the necessity of a collaborative Association. I made up several newsletters over time and dispatched them widely, mainly in the ADF community. Perhaps as a result of this, I was contacted by the President of the Kallangur (Pine Rivers) RSL, who invited participation of ADF Peacekeepers to the recently commissioned Peacekeeper's Memorial at that RSL in May 1995. It is believed that this is the first Memorial dedicated to Australian Peacekeepers to be built and dedicated.

I agreed to this and convinced my CO, who was also a recently Returned Peacekeeper (COMASC ASC 5 OP CEDILLA), that it was a good idea. So, on 24 October 1996 we had our first Commemorative service. It was a success. A small group of seven (7) people, including myself, gathered at a table, with the CO of then 2/3FER and discussed the merits of an Association. Many in the room that day agreed, and hence the start of the APPVA began

# A proud day for signal regiment

Two prestigious commendations were awarded to the 1st Signal Regiment during a parade at Gallipoli Barracks this week.

An Honour Distinction and Theatre Honour were awarded to the regiment for operations in the Western Sahara from 1991-1994, and East Timor from 1999-2003.

About 150 soldiers from the regiment marched in the parade on September 6 during the awards ceremony in the presence of the Governor-General, General (ret'd) Sir David Hurley.

Commanding Officer 1st Signal Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Mathew Hegarty, said the parade was an important occasion to honour the efforts of soldiers who represented the regiment in the past, and those who continue to uphold its standards.

"Receiving the Honour Distinction and Theatre Honour is very significant for the 1st Signal Regiment," Lieutenant Colonel Hegarty said.

"It is recognition of the regiment's important work during these operations.

"It is a very proud day for us and we hope our comrades past share the pride that we feel."

It is the only Australian Army unit to have been awarded the Honour Distinction 'Western Sahara', and only one of two Army units to have received an Honour Distinction since the inception of the award.

Honour Distinctions are awarded for exceptional performance by units and sub-units of any corps while deployed on warlike or non-warlike operations.

Between 1991 and 1994, members of the 1st Signal Regiment deployed to Laayoune under Operation Cedilla as part of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The regiment's primary role was the provision of combat net radio from the force headquarters in Laayoune to sector headquarters and other subordinate elements.

The Honour Distinction recognises the regiment's significant contribution to, and outstanding leadership of, all five contingents (225 personnel in total) deployed on Op Cedilla. It also acknowledges the difficult and austere conditions faced by each contingent as they sought to operate in a hostile and dangerous environment, with limited resources and support from the host nation.

In 1999, the regiment deployed to East Timor (now Timor-Leste) to provide communications and logistical support to the deployed joint force headquarters. This deployment formed a significant measure of Australia's initial contribution to Operation Stabilise and, subsequently, Operation Warden.

The regiment continued to provide individual rotations to East Timor throughout the entire campaign, and its service has been recognised with the addition of a streamer to the Princess Anne banner.





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# Presentation of Honours to 1st Signal Regiment, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, Brisbane

6 September 2022

Good morning.

It is an absolute delight for Linda and me to be back here at Enoggera after many years absence and to be part of a very special parade in the life of 1st Signal Regiment.

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to their elders, past and present, emerging leaders and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders gathered here today.

I would also like to acknowledge:

- Major General Scott Winter, Commander 1st Division, representing the Chief of the Defence Force and the Chief of Army, and senior members of the Australian Defence Force
- Veterans of MINURSO and former members of 1st Joint Support Unit
- 1st Signal Regiment, families and friends.

Congratulations to all involved in this parade. You've done well and kept

up the reputation of the Regiment.

Congratulations to the men and women of 1st Signal Regiment on your Honour Distinction Western Sahara and Theatre Honour East Timor (1999-2003).

An Honour Distinction is recognition for an exceptional performance by a unit while deployed on both warlike and non-warlike operations, particularly when undertaking a role or tasks for which they have not been trained.

A Theatre Honour (Streamer) is recognition for a creditable



His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC, (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, joins Lieutenant Colonel Mathew Hegarty as they inspect the parade during the 1st Signal Regiment Honours Parade, Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane. *Defence images.*



(right) His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC, (Retd), Governor- General of the Commonwealth of Australia, (left) Commanding Officer of the 1st Signal Regiment Lieutenant Colonel Mathew Hegarty, and Australian Army veterans, hold the certificate for the Honour Distinctions during the 1st Signal Regiment Honours Parade, Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane

performance of an allocated task in a theatre of operations.

These are formal descriptions of the awards. They do not necessarily capture the commitment, hard work or the sacrifice that went into the respective operational performances.

This gathering will be very familiar with the history and achievements of 1st Signal Regiment.

The Regiment has made — and continues to make — an outstanding contribution to ADF operations.

The mission of Australian Service contingents in North Africa was to support the UN-led peacekeeping mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

The rotations of Operation CEDILLA faced many difficulties, particularly during the early rotations of the deployment.

They were operating in an isolated and uncertain environment, their presence was not wholly supported by the host nation, and they were prevented from bringing their own equipment into the country.

But they rose to the occasion — they adapted, they improvised, and they performed roles beyond their area of responsibility.

Those not posted to 1st Signal Regiment at the time, but deployed alongside its members on the five Australian Service Contingent

rotations under Operation CEDILLA, made critical contributions to the success of the mission.

Said Colonel D. Sievwright, the British Chief Operations Officer on the first UN deployment: ‘The whole group of Australians was very good. They were definitely a force multiplier.’

I have served with the Brits and that is an understatement. I would say, in Australian terms, you did a bloody good job!

The Regiment’s service in North Africa was not without sacrifice.

Major Susan Felsche, the Medical Officer on rotation 4, became the first Australian Army female to be killed on overseas duty since World War 2.

Major Felsche’s widow, Mr Klaus Felsche, is here with us today. To you again, Klaus, we extend our condolences and thank you for your family’s service. Susan’s sacrifice and service to our nation has not been and will never be forgotten.

In March 2020 in Canberra I had the honour of presenting the Theatre Honour ‘East Timor 1999 to 2003’ to the Australian Army.

I said to the many members of the Army present at that parade that operations conducted in East Timor between 1999 and 2003 — WARDEN, STABILISE, TANAGER and CITADEL — were central to their professional development and identity.

It was a highly successful period in our Army’s history.

In 1999, the Regiment deployed to East Timor as the 1st Joint Support Unit to provide communications and logistical support to the Deployed Joint Force Headquarters.

The Regiment played a significant role in providing direct support to Australia’s initial contribution to Operation STABILISE and, subsequently, Operation WARDEN. Thereafter, the Regiment continued to provide individual rotations to East Timor throughout that entire campaign.

The result of Army’s commitment and hard work and those members of this regiment who served there was the creation of a new nation, Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste remains a good friend of Australia. Indeed, on Thursday Linda and I will have the privilege of officially welcoming His Excellency Jose Ramos-Horte, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, to Australia.

The Army’s service in Timor-Leste was also not without sacrifice.

We think particularly today of CPL Stuart Jones and LCPL Russell Eisenhuth who died during the operation and all those who bear physical or psychological scars from their service.

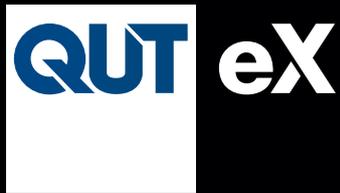
In closing, I want to acknowledge the families and loved ones of Australian Army members, past and present, and of 1st Signal Regiment. Your support cannot be overstated; it is critical to the ongoing health and welfare, indeed capability, of the Australian Defence Force.

Finally, to the men and women of 1st Signal Regiment — those serving today and those who have served throughout their distinguished history:

- enjoy this moment with colleagues and family
- celebrate your many achievements
- aspire to uphold the traditions and spirit of these honours.

You not only inherited the Anzac legacy, but you have and will continue to build upon it.

For that you can be very proud. Congratulations.



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# Indigenous veteran Paul Walker tells royal commission into defence suicide his time in the army 'tore him apart'



When Signalman Paul Walker won a running race back in his army days, fellow soldiers told him he must be "good at running from the cops" and suggested he "pretended there was a carton or goon bag" at the finish line.

It was a culture of racism the Waanyi descendent on Wednesday told the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide he faced from

peers and senior leaders from the very first days of his training.

"It was hard, and it was disheartening, because this is me," Mr Walker said.

But almost 20 years since he was medically discharged, Mr Walker said the worst impacts on him grew from a culture that dismissed mental health issues and left him isolated from his peers.

He told the commission the experience tore his life apart and left him with chronic PTSD and a major depressive disorder.

Mr Walker enlisted in 1996, after attending seven different high schools and working through several jobs as a labourer.

Despite the racism, he enjoyed the "camaraderie" of his training and felt like he was "getting his life together".

"It was tough love for the most part," he said.

The challenges started while on deployment in East Timor, when he was caught up in a "hostile incident" that left a fellow soldier wounded.

Mr Walker could not stop replaying what happened in his head, but senior officers dismissed his struggles as attention-seeking, telling him "it was nothing".

"It was a life-threatening incident and it was just completely shut down," he said.

When he returned from deployment, Mr Walker said his concerns "fell on deaf ears" and as his sleepless nights worsened he was removed from his fellow soldiers.

After finally seeing a psychiatrist, Mr Walker was discharged and told he was permanently unfit to work.

"It's ruined my life in a lot of ways," Mr Walker said.

## Discharged soldiers left to 'fight' for department's support

After he was discharged, Mr Walker said there was little support offered by the department and he struggled to hold down another job.

"I thought about suicide a lot, I'm not the confident young fella I used to be," he said.

"If it wasn't for my wife and children I probably wouldn't be here."

Mental health practitioners have told the commission the time a defence member is discharged and transitioning back to civilian life is one of the most crucial moments to support their mental health.

"I can't think of a time that is more vulnerable than that," Darwin-based psychiatrist Doctor Mary Frost told the commission this late October.

Many soldiers and mental health workers have told the commission the complex and bureaucratic Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) support system leaves many recently discharged members frustrated and at risk of worsening mental health issues.

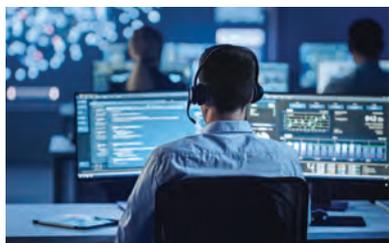
"I'm sure the commission has heard, DVA have not been particularly adept at providing that care in a timely manner," Dr Frost said.

"Leaving for, in my case, people with significant psychiatric illness whose agency, whose drive, whose motivation is compromised by psychiatric illness, having to fight."



Paul East Timor 2000.

# Cyber skills to strengthen Defence training



Defence scientists featured on an expert panel at Australia's largest gaming convention in October, discussing the use of game techniques, technologies and innovation to help

prepare Defence forces for future challenges.

The scientists, Alex Rohl and Susannah Whitney, participated in the Games Career Expo @ PAX, a three-day event within Melbourne's PAX Aus 2022 convention that showcased educational pathways and career opportunities in the interactive games and entertainment industry.

They were joined by Erica Hediger from EDGY Air Force – The Creative Element, Lieutenant-Colonel Yong Si from Army HQ's Synthetic Training Capability and Defence Intelligence analyst Adrian Webb, who moderated the panel.

Mr Rohl presented on his team's work in applying cutting-edge data-science research and machine-learning techniques to automatically determine the functional roles of military cyber assets.

"Our research is being applied to dynamic enterprise systems, as well as static bespoke systems, in a military context," he said.

He said the team used multiplayer co-op game Artemis: Spaceship Bridge Simulator as a combat management simulator analogue, with a focus on data-driven cyber situational awareness to support missions.

"Under the hood, networked games share enough similarities to real systems to enable fundamental research at the unclassified level, while also allowing universities, students and industry to participate in the work," Mr Rohl said.

Dr Whitney spoke about her work within the serious games field and human sciences. Serious games are those used for non-entertainment purposes, such as training, teaching or practising a skill (an example being Microsoft Flight Simulator).

She pointed out that while there was enthusiasm for games and gaming technology to be used in military training, especially for younger generations, this did not always mean they translated seamlessly into training tools.

"Games and games technologies may have training potential but it's important that decisions about the use of games and gaming technology are informed by evidence," Dr Whitney said.

"We need to understand if the technology works, and how best it can be employed."

Defence scientists are using and investigating games-based technologies for everything from training and simulation to research and innovation, and, in doing so, are raising Defence's profile in Australian cyber and technology-related industries. They are also opening doors for engagement with future talent, and for collaboration and partnerships at large.

Mr Rohl said video games provided "the perfect testbed" for research collaboration on simulators.

"Perhaps, in the future, Defence might sponsor the creation of video games as a platform for further research collaboration," he said.

More than 200 people attended the Defence panel session, which included audience interaction with the panellists through the #PaxDefence hashtag. For the Defence science panellists, a highlight was speaking to STEM students after the event.

Dr Whitney said she spoke to honours and doctorate students who were "excited to think that there could be an opportunity for them to work in Defence".








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# Giving voice to women

United over shared values, countries across the Indo-Pacific region welcomed ADF instructors to lead women, peace and security education and training activities.

On Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE) 2022, ADF members are learning more from their regional partners about their challenges, experiences and insights, while sharing their own.

Gender in military operations instructor SQNLDR Karyn Ey is excited to walk into work every day and speak to people across the globe about how to make the world a safer place.

“Women don’t usually speak up as they are often in the minority,” SQNLDR Ey, the Executive Officer in the Gender, Peace and Security Directorate, said.

“So for me, part of what we do is ask people to remember gender when they are working or deploying. But also being alongside these women, encouraging them, empowering them and giving them a voice.”

Recently, she and MAJ Attila Ovari deployed as a mobile training team on IPE 2022 to multiple countries including Laos, Cambodia and Thailand, delivering critical training on gender in military operations and women, peace and security.

The two of them delivered training to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces before their one-year United Nations missions to some of the most dangerous corners of the world.

“Working with the ADF has given me incredible opportunities like where



MAJGEN Kathryn Toohey at the Cambodian National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces to observe ADF-led training.

we are right now – talking in a van in the middle of Cambodia after running training with troops about to deploy with the UN,” SQNLDR Ey said.

“That’s what I love about this job; working with many countries, but we’re all working under that global agenda, we’re all talking the same language and we’re all trying to do the same thing, using the same tools.”

Head of Force Integration MAJGEN Kathryn Toohey visited the mobile training team’s classrooms at the Cambodian National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces, Mines and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance.

MAJGEN Toohey was proud to see the nations learning together on such an important topic.

“It is well known that conflict disproportionately affects women and girls and can exacerbate their pre-existing disadvantage,” MAJGEN Toohey said.

“Acknowledging and integrating the different understanding, experience and capabilities of women — and gender more broadly — into all aspects of peace operations is essential for successfully sustaining peace.”

SQNLDR Ey hopes to remain in the Gender, Peace and Security space in her career, continuing to help those in need and pursue her passion.

“I’m just happy to be here and do what I’m doing. I’m very lucky and I don’t take it for granted. Every day I walk into work, and I pinch myself that I got to do this job. I can’t believe it,” she said.

FLGOFF Lily Lancaster and CPL Brandon Grey

Left: MAJGEN Kathryn Toohey at the Cambodian National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces to observe ADF-led training.





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# Military residents find common ground at Elliot Springs

When choosing a life off base, a growing number of military couples and families are unpacking their bags at Elliot Springs, excited to be part of a vibrant, connected and like-minded community.

With two defence bases in Townsville, Lavarack Barracks and RAAF Townsville, Elliot Springs is perfectly positioned for couples and families, offering easy access to shops and a short commute to work.

Location and lifestyle are a big drawcard and after a busy day on base residents can come home to a relaxed laidback lifestyle, while connecting with other military couples in the neighbourhood.

For Elliot Springs military residents, the community has become a place of shared values and experiences, but most importantly it provides a support network, especially when a family member is away for work.

With the continued expansion of the defence industry in Townsville, Elliot Springs offers the perfect fit for military members and families, with the option to buy or build or even rent out their home when posted away.

At Elliot Springs, there are many events and projects to get involved with, that ensure everyone feels part of something bigger – a connected community.

## Elliot Springs & Surround Playgroup

Did you know there is a regular Elliot Springs Playgroup held at The Hub? It's a great opportunity to connect with other families in the area and enjoy a yummy morning tea, while the kids can revel in messy play. Follow on Facebook by searching Elliot Springs & Surrounds Playgroups.

## Elliot Springs Community Garden

The community garden is situated



Artist Impression

at Wadda Mooli Park and is run by residents. They are always looking for volunteers to get their hands dirty and help with garden maintenance. Follow on Facebook by searching Elliot Springs Community Garden.

## Community news

What better way to stay connected in our community then by following us on Facebook or keeping updated on upcoming events over on the Elliot Springs website.

## Food Trucks events

The Elliot Springs Food Truck events have been a huge success in 2022 and we are coming back bigger and better in 2023. These events offer a chance for neighbours to connect, enjoy a night off cooking, listen to live music and enjoy our great outdoors. We'll share more information on the 2023 events in the coming months.

## A future base for our defence community

Elliot Springs is growing at a rapid rate, with residents now living in two neighbourhoods; Aspect and Whites Creek, the opening of the community's first service station, The Hub café and events space plus the

district's award-winning playground, Wadda Mooli Park. There's a choice of affordable homes with big backyards, 360 degree mountain views and planned infrastructure that will set Elliot Springs up as one of the region's most popular neighbourhoods.

Elliot Springs is the perfect place to come home to after a busy day on the base and offers the ideal lifestyle for you and your family, with plenty of opportunities to make lifelong friends.

**Want to know more? Call our Sales Consultant, Meryl on 1800 881 091, visit [elliotsprings.com.au](http://elliotsprings.com.au) or follow us on Facebook. Alternatively, visit the Elliot Springs Sales Centre at Corner of Wadda Mooli Parkway and Elliot Springs Boulevard.**



# Police diplomacy what is it?

I recently retired after 33 years with the Australian Federal Police. I deployed three times: Cyprus (UNFICYP 1996); East Timor (UNAMET 1999) and Afghanistan (AFP OP Illuminate 2010-11). Prior to deployment to Afghanistan I was the Team Leader of the Afghanistan Mission Desk at the International Deployment Group. Upon return I was the Team Leader of the Papua New Guinea and Pacific Desk at IDG. Between 2008 and 2018 I completed a doctoral thesis titled 'The Australian Federal Police as an International Actor: Diplomacy by Default', with the Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy at the Australian National University. During this period I worked as AFP Adviser to the Australian Civil Military Centre and later as an AFP Liaison Officer to the ADF HQ Joint Operations Command. I can therefore write from theoretical and academic perspectives as well as an operational perspective: Cyprus, East Timor and Afghanistan Lessons learned.

Diplomacy is sometimes categorised as Track 1 and Track

2 diplomacy. Track One diplomacy was what diplomats do: formal negotiations between nations conducted by professional diplomats. Track Two diplomacy refers to conflict resolution efforts by professional non-governmental conflict resolution practitioners and theorists.

## Where do police fit?

In relation to police diplomacy it is perhaps more useful to identify not what diplomacy is but why it is done.

The primary reason for international diplomacy is to serve the national interest, however that is defined.

The secondary reason for international diplomacy is in furtherance of international good citizenship.

My contention in this paper is that good international policing, as practiced by the AFP, serves both of these ends.

## Geography and history

The AFP is unique as an international

police organisation. Australia is an English-speaking, British-based, Constitutional monarchy, practising consent-based, liberal-democratic policing. Australia is a federation of former British colonies which were practicing responsible and representative government well before federation. One of the most conspicuous elements of any government is the police. In the second half of the 19th century, the Australian colonial governments adopted and adapted their policing principles directly from the British policing models. These principles were well established at the time of federation. Australia's is a federal model and the AFP is the police entity which operates at the national level. The AFP therefore is Australia's international face of policing and applies these principles in all aspects of its duties.

Australia has developed a British-based practice of liberal-democratic, consent-based policing, adopted from Britain in Australia's 19th century colonial period and adapted to suit the local environment and local circumstances. This is a consequence of history.

Australia also exists in a volatile and diverse region in terms of geography and geopolitics. There is thus a unique regional imperative for a more prominent international policing presence than is standard for western democratic countries in Western Europe and North America. This is a consequence of geography.

## Left and right of arc

Most nations have two broad vectors for international engagement: Left of Arc: traditional diplomacy, dealing with trade and aid: soft diplomacy; Right of Arc: military engagement, including the use of force: hard diplomacy. I refer to police diplomacy as a form of firm diplomacy, as it sits between traditional, soft diplomacy and hard



Dr Martin Hess upon arrival at al Minhad Airbase in UAE on my first leave rotation out of Afghanistan (AFP Op Illuminate) in December 2010.

military force. The unique aspect of policing is that unlike traditional diplomacy and military intervention, which are usually aimed at defeating or outwitting their opposition numbers, policing is almost always enhanced through cooperative engagement with their domestic peers and international counterparts because their common challenge is crime and criminal behaviour.

## Intra-state v Inter-state conflict and instability

Recent experience demonstrates that it is internal, intra-state conflict rather than inter-state, state on state conflict which creates instability. Most security, emergency and enforcement actors in the Pacific are police rather than military. There are only three militaries in the South West Pacific: PNG, Tonga and Fiji. All have direct and strong links with both the Australian and New Zealand militaries.

## Two broad areas of AFP International Engagement

Australian police engagement at the international level falls within two broad areas:

1: police to police law enforcement and criminal engagement on areas such as Counter Terrorism (CT) Trans National and Serious Organised Crime (TSOC), child exploitation, people smuggling, narcotics importation etc. This is more akin to the serving the national interest.

2: police capacity development, training and mentoring. The latter has evolved from the AFP's long history of peacekeeping, particularly with the United Nations, commencing with UNFICYP in Cyprus in 1964 and including UN missions in Mozambique, Cambodia, the Thailand-Cambodian border and all missions in East Timor/Timor Leste between 1999 and 2012, as well as non-UN police capacity development missions in Bougainville and the Solomon Islands and other part of the Pacific. These are all more aligned to the concept of international



Dr Martin Hess at the Newsroom of the ABC Studios in Canberra of all places, when I was interviewed for the documentary 'First on the Ground'.

good citizenship.

Part of this relates to a very much under-recognised aspect international good citizenship by addressing the notion of a better social contract between the government and the governed in host nations. This encourages enhanced peace, order and good government, which are the precursors for stability and thus improved prospects for social security in these nations, and thus less fertile ground for malign foreign actors, both nation state and criminal. It also tends to reduce the potential for international military intervention, from countries like Australia. This ultimately serves Australia's national interest.

## Shared characteristics

Sir Christopher Meyer, a former British ambassador in Washington, lists insatiable curiosity about other countries and the ability to analyse information and report it accurately and quickly, including news your own government does not want to hear, as characteristics of diplomats. Most of all, a diplomat needs 'a quick mind, a hard head, a strong stomach, a warm smile and a cold eye'.

The most important diplomatic

skills can be distilled to resilience, tact, curiosity, judgement, courage and the ability to get on with anyone.

These personal characteristics of a diplomat are remarkably similar to characteristics displayed by police, particularly uniformed operational police on a daily basis 24/7, 365. I have personally been involved in circumstances overseas where all of these characteristics have been not only evident, but have resulted in some very sound outcomes. This was particularly evident during the UNAMET mission in 1999 where police negotiation and de-escalation skills were very much to the fore as unarmed police stood between predator and prey in a very volatile environment.

## Seeking Peace

We should bear in mind the notion that the reason we get involved in these interventions is to promote peace which is the precursor to stability and which underpins prosperity. It should be acknowledged that peace is not just the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice, which is the firmest pillar of good governance. The notions of peace and justice therefore

are inextricably intertwined. This is an area of international engagement in which the police and other justice sector actors can play a significant role in the promotion of sustainable peace. This is in the interests of all but a few malign actors.

## Is there a unique police approach to challenges to peace?

The AFP Commander of the RAMSI Participating Police Force (PPF), Ben McDevitt in a meeting in the very early days of RAMSI, explained... *that the military representative said in securing the strategic military points would take 32 days, and then the military would be ready to withdraw. Mr McDevitt then explained that the community had lost trust in the RSIP and the police component of the mission could take up to 10 years. He says a representative from another agency then talked at length about endemic corruption in the country. Further there was a need for significant programs in infrastructure, finance and all other departments. The assessment was it would take a generation to make the necessary changes.*' (AFP Platypus 2013).

McDevitt adopted strategy of targeting one of the last remaining militia leaders, Harold Keke, leader of Keke's Guadalcanal Liberation Front because he was seen by Solomon Islanders as 'almost like a demon'. The significance of this, was that Keke was treated not as an enemy in a military sense, but as an armed offender, in a police sense. There is a major difference, and this approach proved to be successful. Braithwaite (2010) records that 'RAMSI police commander Ben McDevitt wrote to Keke on 25 July 2003, offering to guarantee Keke's safety in custody in return for surrendering weapons and submitting to justice.

Keke replied in writing, that he wanted peace, and was willing to surrender 'as long as the first priority is to disarm the militants in Honiara and get rid of corrupt politicians'

Keke had declared a unilateral

cease-fire three weeks before McDevitt's letter, on 5 July 2003. A direct message was sent in a letter to all militants from Warner and McDevitt:

*In our talks with militia leaders, we have made it very clear that we are not here to negotiate or make deals... It is in your interest to hand in all guns. Anyone found with a gun after midnight 21 August will be breaking the law and will face up to 10 years in prison and a S\$25,000 fine... We are able to deal with any situation and track down illegal weapons. We will not be stopped by threats or intimidation.*

This approach eventually allowed McDevitt to negotiate the peaceful surrender and arrest of Keke, on 13 August, to face criminal charges. Two weeks after the arrival of RAMSI, Special Coordinator Nick Warner and PPF Commander Ben McDevitt met with Harold Keke in his own village. They told him it was time to end the conflict, and it was best to pursue matters through legal processes, where he would have an opportunity to tell his side of the story. He was informed that he had an outstanding arrest warrant and that he would have to give himself up at some stage.

Negotiations took place over three meetings, after which Keke and some of his key commanders surrendered. Breen (2017: 388-389) states that Keke was originally arrested for aggravated burglary, and the theft of an outboard motor in order to get him to agree to accompany police to RAMSI Headquarters in Honiara for further questioning. He was accompanied by his family, in special accommodation at the Guadalcanal Beach resort, which was the RAMSI Headquarters. He was also accompanied by his Chief of Operations Ronnie Cawa, who had ordered most of the murders, executions and other atrocities on the Weather Coast. He apparently boarded the helicopter because he had never been in one before.

## Harold's Day in Court

Upon the departure of Keke and Cawa it is reported that around 50 members

of Keke's GLF militia held a formal parade after Keke and his entourage had left and handed in their weapons. One man raised his arm and loudly declared, '*The war is over!*' and others joined the chant: '*The war is over! The war is over!*' As indicated by McDevitt, Keke ultimately surrendered to have his day in court. '*He wanted to tell his side of the story about what had happened to him and I think that was a pretty powerful incentive for him - one of several. He wanted to say how he had been wronged.*'

On 18 March 2005, Keke and Cawa were sentenced to life in prison for the murder of former Cabinet Minister and clergyman Father Augustine Geve at Mbiti in 2002.

If ever there was an example of the direct connection between peace and justice, and a uniquely Australian police approach, the case of McDevitt and Keke is it.

## Some of the remarkable achievements of the AFP

It needs to be borne in mind that, unlike Defence or DFAT whose sole remit is international with little or no domestic remit, the AFP is essentially a domestic crime agency with international responsibilities. This is an important difference. Nonetheless the AFP has had some significant input into enhancing the reputation of both itself and by default, the Australian Government. This sort of recognition is also a part of diplomacy.

In its relatively brief history, the AFP has:

- played a major role in paving the way for a new nation in Timor Leste: 1999-present

- resolved serious inter-communal violence in the Solomon Islands: 2003-present

- restored a largely broken relationship with Indonesia created by Australian involvement in East Timor in 1999, by the response to the Bali bombings in 2002 and the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004

- played a major role in the Australian Government's bid for a Non-Permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

2013-14, based largely on efforts in Timor and the Solomon Islands

-similarly whilst on the UNSC played an instrumental role in two resolutions which were passed with much input from Australia, based in large part on the efforts of the AFP: UNSCR 2151 Security Sector Reform and UNSCR 2185 Police as an integral part of UN missions. The roles police played esp in East Timor and the Solomon Islands were influential in both of these resolutions

-responded rapidly to the downing of Malaysian Airlines MH17, a mass casualty event in an active conflict zone in Eastern Ukraine in 2014 and continues to be part of an effort to prosecute representatives of a former super-power: prosecutions led by the Netherlands authorities continue

-provided a rapid response to an emergency situation in some caves in Thailand in 2018 where a junior boys soccer team was trapped by flood waters

-continues to provide close personal protection to Australian High Office Holders, Diplomats and visiting dignitaries

## The Future

Presently there is global strategic competition between authoritarianism and liberal-democracy. This includes Australia's near region, South East Asia and the South West Pacific. The social contract between the government the governed, particularly in the way policing is done, is at the epicentre of this, particularly in the SW Pacific. This has global and regional implications and decisions need to be made now as to what future policing looks like in Australia's near region. This involves active consideration of the 'globalisation paradox', of both needing and fearing, global governance simultaneously. In its considerations and deliberations, the world could do worse that considering the approach taken globally and regionally by the AFP as a template for effective international policing.

In all of its international endeavours, AFP members have demonstrated the characteristics of diplomats. They

have communicated and negotiated in some very challenging circumstances and they are representatives of the Australian Government and its humanitarian values. The AFP, as part of broader efforts with institutions such as the UN, have provided a supplement to international society, by effective networking and joined-up government.

The AFP has credibly demonstrated how international diplomacy, while generally conducted with perceived national interests as its primary goal, has a secondary benefit, good international citizenship.

The AFP is well positioned within government, law and intelligence and security circles, in the Australian and international contexts, through an extensive network in South-East Asia, the South-West Pacific as well as more broadly. The AFP has shown itself as capable and ready to respond effectively to extant and emerging challenges, and as such, has earned a place in foreign policy discussions and considerations at the highest diplomatic levels, including the UN.

At present the AFP has an

International Network consisting of 33 posts in 29 countries not counting missions and has Missions in Timor Leste; Papua New Guinea; Solomon Islands; Vanuatu; Nauru; Tonga; Samoa. Some of these missions have seen a continuous AFP presence for more than two decades.

The AFP provides a distinctive and direct link between the global, the regional, and the domestic, which matches the globalised and networked Australian community it represents. International policing, as practiced by the AFP, acts as a distinctive aspect of Australian 'firm' diplomacy, and supplements the more traditional elements of international engagement, between 'soft' traditional diplomacy, and 'hard' military intervention. It does not seek to replace either of these but it should be acknowledged that this aspect of police diplomacy is increasingly important in striving for peace and justice-based solutions in a period of strategic uncertainty in international affairs at the dawn of the Third Millennium.

Dr Martin Hess



Australian Army soldiers from Joint Task Group 637.3 with officers from the Australian Federal Police contingent and the Royal Solomon Island Police Force at the Port of Honiara, Solomon Islands on 15 December 2021. *Defence image.*



## Troops show true grit on combined exercise

In the harsh humidity of Far North Queensland's jungles, soldiers from the 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (8/9RAR), and the French Armed Forces in New Caledonia (FANC) battled tough conditions.

Exercise True Grit was a test of courage and resolve, using the jungle of Tully training area to test each soldier.

The Australian Army has a history of jungle fighting alongside allied forces.

8/9RAR's Major Jared Slansky watched his soldiers contend with harsh terrain and arduous conditions, which hardened as their time in Tully continued. He said jungle warfare was complex.

"The jungle is different to other

operating environments because of the climatic conditions, be it the humidity, the heat, or the rain," Major Slansky said.

"It demands more resilience from the soldiers and greater tactical acumen of the commanders to be able to manoeuvre, identify, and close with the enemy.

"We need to understand the impacts of the jungle, particularly non-battle related threats like malaria, dysentery, wildlife, or just the heat."

Major Slansky said tenets bestowed by the Jungle Training Wing had been used as a framework for operating in the jungle for generations.

"The four tenets to thrive in the jungle are discipline, leadership, teamwork and resilience," he said.

"You need discipline to do your drills correctly, you need grit to persevere, the smarts to adapt, while understanding the impacts of fatigue and the limitations of your men and women.

"Instilling good practices and being human is important for building teamwork, so you can come together collaboratively.

"With the four-tenet framework, we get out in the hard terrain, learn from our mistakes, continue to adapt, and refine our procedures.

"If you follow the procedures, take the kit you're supposed to, and do the drills correctly, then the soldiers don't just survive, but thrive, and can conduct sustained warfighting operations in the jungle."

8/9RAR were supported by a professional contingent from the FANC, who slotted seamlessly into 8/9RAR's Alpha Coy.

FANC's Lieutenant Hervé said the French and Australian soldiers had similar skillsets and character, allowing them to bond quickly and tackle challenges together.

"We have the same skills and drills, so we haven't had any problems understanding the Australian soldiers in tactical situations; from this point of view we are very close," Lieutenant Hervé said.

"It's hard training in the jungle. The fight is very hard, the environment is very hard, and gathering people in a hard environment with a common struggle, and common goal, brought us together."

Lieutenant Hervé said the experience of training in the Far North Queensland jungle was valuable for his contingent.

He said despite the harsh conditions, his team had come to enjoy Australia.

"Other than three soldiers who have done special jungle training before, this has been the first time training in the jungle for many of my men," he said.

"The Australian 8th/9th Battalion have really welcomed us; during our breaks at night we speak a lot; they're a very cool bunch of people."

With callused hands, feet, and minds, the French and Australian soldiers left Exercise True Grit better prepared for future operations.

Major Slansky stressed the importance of jungle warfare training, and its evolution as urban population centres continued to expand into vegetated terrain.

"An enemy force could transition between urban and jungle terrain, and we need the flexibility to operate in a range of environments," Major Slansky said.

"We don't compartmentalise our training into jungle or urban environments, it's about understanding how to transition seamlessly between both. "Jungle training will always be relevant as long as there is a jungle."



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# Vale Major Richard Bradshaw



Major Richard A. Bradshaw RA Sigs (Rtd). OCS Class December 1983.

Richard died on 24 January 2022 with family by his side.

Richard was Tp Comd 660 Sig Tp 1985-1986.

He was OC 126 Sig Sqn mid-1994 to 1996.

A good officer and friend of many.

Vale Richard.

1983	OCS	PORTSEA GRADUATED CLASS OF 1983	
1984	2 SIG REGT		
1985 - 1986	126 SIG SQN	TROOP COMMANDER 660 SIGNAL TROOP	
1987 - 1988	I SIG REGT		
1989	NAMIBIA / SASR	UNTAG - NAMIBIA	
1990	SASR		
1991 -1992	HQ 3 BDE SO3 PERS		
	HQ 3 BDE SO3 PERS		
1993	SHRIVENHAM UK	MASTER OF ARTS - MILITARY SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT. CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY	
1994	FIRST HALF AT EDE SECOND HALF OC 126 SIGSSQN		
1995 - 1996	OC 126 SIGSQN		
1997	STAFF COLLEGE		
1998	ARMY HQ	DIRECTORATE OF MANPOWER PLANNING	
1998 - 1999	IRAQ	UNSCOM AND UN HQ NEW YORK	
1999 - 2000	ARMY HQ	PROJECT DIRECTOR - COMMUNICATIONS, COMMAND & CONTROL ADF PROCUREMENT PROGRAM	
2000 - 2003	CONTROL RISKS	GENERAL MANAGER - SYDNEY	
		PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPPORT OPERATIONS FOR SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC GAMES	
		LED CONTROL RISKS COMMERCIAL BID FOR SUPPORT TO THE 2004 ATHENS OLYMPIC GAMES	
2003 - 2004	IRAQ	HEAD HUNTED BY UN/US FROM CONTROL RISKS	
2004 - 2008	BOARTES CONSULTING	SENIOR ADVISER FOR COMMUNICATIONS, COMMAND & CONTROL - ATHENS 2004 OLYMPICS	
		SENIOR OPERATIONS CONSULTANT - 2006 ASIAN GAMES ORGANISING COMMITTEE & QATARI GOVT.	
		SENIOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL	
2009 - 2010	CONTROL RISKS	CRISIS MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS CONSULTANT	
2010 - 2012	NOBLE ENERGY INC	GLOBAL SECURITY MANAGER	
2012 - 2013	CHEVRON CORPORATION	SITE SERVICES MANAGER - CHEVRON CORPORATION	
2014 - 2019	CHEVRON CORPORATION	ON-SHORE DELIVERY MANAGER - INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER - FUTURE GROWTH PROJECT. TENGIZCHEVROIL, KAZAKHSTAN	
2019 - 2022		RETURNED TO AUSTRALIA	

# Peacekeeping and the power of humanity

As a Peacekeeper, it is important to remind yourself of the service you have provided in difficult circumstances and to humanity. The humble nature of those who serve can create people who are under recognised for what they do. It is true that most Peacekeepers don't want to be given any special credit for what they did or do while it's important to appreciate yourself knowing that your service to humanity has impacted the lives of many.

It was my childhood dream to work with the United Nations and to serve my country. I achieved this by the age of 23 and then went on to chair a committee for United Nations Women in Australia. It is an honour to have done this, been a Peacekeeper and to know many others who have served in the same way. What I know is that like war, peacekeeping comes with seeing things you can't unsee, dealing with devastation that impacts the lives of those who we serve or served and seeing the world through different eyes. The once innocent person who may have only seen the devastation of war and terror on television then is faced with the impact in reality. This isn't normal for most people but may seem to be for you and those around you.

When considering your service, do you shy away from the credit given to those who have sacrificed as I did for many years, or are you proud and know that your service although as one person has had a ripple effect across the nation or nations you served in and in the lives of many good people. There are lives saved for what you have done, there are people flourishing for your hard work and sacrifice while also there are nations free for your contribution as a part of the free world.

I don't know your age or which deployment you served on but what I do know is that there is something inside you that wanted or wants to



Anna Maria Lang East Timor UN Medal awarded

serve. There is something that drove or drives you to make a difference in the lives of others in an act of sacrifice toward the power of humanity. I'm not saying here that you need to be overtly vocal about your service, what I am saying that it's important for you to internally give yourself a sense of gratitude for what you have done. So easily people because of the nature of war and the way that people may want to shrink or hide their service Peacekeepers can become lost in the crowd when they must begin to stand out, inspire the next generations toward making a difference impacting the ripple effect I talked about.

I've been through a lot to be here to share with you these insights and if I could impart anything upon those who are willing to listen, it is to utilise your service as a way to bring more gratitude into your life. To remember

how lucky, we are for the safety and security we do have and that you played a role in providing that for others in less fortunate environments. Peacekeeping and the power of humanity go hand in hand. Never give up on your dreams and always stay true to the fact that you have made your mark on the world, your legacy includes humility and shaping humanity in some way. I have had to remember that as it feels like we are a grain of sand in a sand dune when it comes to the number of people who served or serve but know that no matter what you did or do, your role is or was imperative to the outcomes and your impact lasting in the lives of many.

**Anna Maria Lang**  
Airborne, RACT & Peacekeeper  
CEO & Founder  
EnVision Life Solutions  
[www.envisionlifesolutions.com.au](http://www.envisionlifesolutions.com.au)

# Top award for technician

An Avionics technician has scored one of the highest engineering prizes in Air Force, as well as a Gold Commendation.

CPL Myles Fenoglio from 35SQN was the latest recipient of the Rolls-Royce Eagle Trophy 2022.

Awarded by CAF AIRMSHL Robert Chipman, the Rolls-Royce Eagle Trophy recognises exceptional achievement in engineering by a junior officer or enlisted aviator.

CPL Fenoglio said it was quite a shock to not only be nominated but to win such a prestigious trophy.

“It took a while for it to sink in,” CPL Fenoglio said.

“I remember being quite relaxed on the day with my partner and friends, but once CAF started his speech and I realised I was on next, it hit me all at once.”

CPL Fenoglio was nominated for his superior technical mastery as 35SQN’s integrated activity planning cell (IAPC) coordinator. His work comprised of analysing, identifying and providing solutions to inefficiencies and inconsistencies with the aircraft maintenance program.

CPL Fenoglio has shown initiative and courage by challenging fleet programs and his personal



L to R: WOFF-AF Fiona Grasby, CPL Myles Fenoglio, CAF AIRMSHL Robert Chipman, and Executive Vice President Business Development and Future Programmes, UK and International, Rolls-Royce Alex Zino. *Defence images.*

endeavours have significantly contributed to Defence air mobility capability. He was at the forefront of change by developing numerous outcomes based on strategies to manage significant workforce, engineering and logistics projects.

His work has maximised C-27J fleet availability in support of Defence operational requirements.

“It’s reassuring knowing that my hard work has been noticed,” CPL Fenoglio said.

“It stems from the culture at 35SQN, where everyone is heard and they consistently take good ideas on board.

“It’s a good feeling being able to influence and make positive change, to know the chain of command is supportive and listening.”

CPL Fenoglio said his role has taken him out of his comfort zone, improved his professional mastery and contributed to his personal development.

His advice is to jump at opportunities that present themselves.

“You might not think you’ll like it, but you might end up loving it. Don’t dismiss opportunities as they may be the best thing for you.”

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Air Force Proficiency and Leadership awards.

Send your submission to the award sponsor no later than January, 27 2023. More information is on the intranet at: [drnet/raaf/AirForce/awards/AirForceAwards/pages/Air%20Force%20Awards.aspx](http://drnet/raaf/AirForce/awards/AirForceAwards/pages/Air%20Force%20Awards.aspx)  
**Defence news.**



CAF AIRMSHL Robert Chipman (R) presenting a Gold Level Commendation to CPL Myles Fenoglio.

# Half a century, full circle

Trevor Wallace spends his days working on Caribous, as he had during the Vietnam conflict, writes SQNLDR Michael Veitch.

After five years of poking around under the bonnets of Fords and Holdens, Trevor Wallace had had enough. After all, his first love was not even cars but aircraft, and if he didn't start chasing his dream soon it would be too late.

At age 24, Trevor farewelled the suburban Sydney garage where he worked to become an airframe fitter at Qantas. The flying kangaroo, however, didn't suit Trevor, so after 16 months he decided to join that other great Australian aviation institution: the RAAF.

After being sent back and forth between RAAF Bases Wagga, Edinburgh and Richmond for various training stints, Trevor qualified with a deep knowledge of both engines and airframes, before being posted to 38SQN.

Five years later, the now-corporal answered the call for personnel to serve in the conflict in Vietnam. Not knowing what to expect, Trevor thought the experience would at least be an interesting one and was philosophical about the dangers of operating in a conflict zone.

"I was separated at the time," he explained, "and thought to myself, 'if I don't come home, well, tough luck'."

Thankfully, Trevor survived to spend a year in the steamy climate at the combined United States and Australian air base at Vung Tau, near Saigon, where from the middle of 1969, his job was keeping the Caribous in the air.

The Canadian-built Caribou was famed for its remarkable short takeoff and landing capabilities, allowing it to land and take off from even the smallest of jungle airstrips and clearings. Hence the Caribous were valued as a highly efficient 'tactical transport', often flying in supplies and troops to the very heart of battle, as well as extricating the wounded.

Trevor formed part of a team of airmen looking after up to seven aircraft at a time.

"They flew out just on daylight, and wouldn't come back till dusk," he recalled.

Anything that could be hauled up the ramp and into the Caribou's cavernous hold was carried – from medical supplies and ammunition to livestock: "Sometimes they took off with a load of cows and pigs, being taken goodness only knows where."

During the day, the aircraft needing servicing or repairs were toiled on in the heat of the hangar, which was shared with the Huey helicopters of 9SQN. The men worked six days a week, rarely in anything more than shorts and boots, only resting on Sunday if conditions permitted.

"A couple of times I worked 24 hours straight," Trevor said. "After all, you had to keep them flying."

On occasions, the aircraft would return with a little damage from small arms fire, but only once did Trevor send an aircraft out that never returned. Having just landed with a load of aviation fuel, in March 1970 Caribou A4-193 was surprised by accurate enemy mortar fire and set ablaze, its crew of four being lucky enough to escape into a nearby bunker.

"We never saw that one again," Trevor said. While Trevor worked primarily on the airframes, Vung Tau's spare parts department was somewhat unusual.

"On the far side of the airfield was a dump with a whole lot of crashed American Caribous piled on top of each other," he said.

"It was just as easy to go out there with a spanner and help yourself to whatever you were looking for."

After his return from Vietnam, Trevor worked on the Mirage jet fighters of 77SQN at RAAF Base Williamtown, eventually leaving the RAAF after nine years of service, followed by 14 years in the Reserves.

Today, despite having been "retired" for 20 years, Trevor is as



busy as ever, with his working life with aircraft having come full circle.

As part of the team at the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society at Shellharbour Airport on the Central Coast of New South Wales, Trevor is still using his skills in making sure one of those very same aircraft he sweated over at Vung Tau remains in the air: the venerable A4-234, one of the world's last flying Caribous.

These days, as well as checking her over before each flight, Trevor is usually invited to come along for the ride at events such as Anzac Day flyovers. Such occasions are a particular thrill, not only for Trevor, but for the many Vietnam vets on the ground who look up in remembrance at the familiar 'chop' of the Caribou's Twin Wasp engines.

"It's taken a few decades," Trevor said with pride, "but they finally let me go up in her."

Defence News. Defence image.

# Australia's defence spending must reflect worsening strategic outlook

In 1946, US President Harry Truman, addressing Congress on the state of the Lend-Lease program, observed: 'On balance, the contribution made by Australia, a country having a population of about 7 million, approximately equalled that of the United States to Australia.' Actually, that's not quite right. Our contribution exceeded that of the US. We forgave the Lend-Lease debt at the end of the war.

In my lifetime in politics, American presidents have frequently praised us. They do it well. But of all the quotes I have seen, that one made me most proud. It means during that war in which we perceived an existential threat, we handled it and reliably assisted our ally. Usefully, Peter Dean, one of the writers on the current defence strategic review team, has written heavily on the period.

It has to be remembered that, particularly at the outset, we were not popular in Washington. Supreme allied commander General Douglas MacArthur was widely disliked. Our message of focus on the Pacific was not well regarded by those of the 'beat Hitler first' orientation. Australia's fighting qualities evident in the Middle East weren't comprehended, our industrial capability was unknown and our new embassy in Washington's struggle for shipping allocation annoying. The South West Pacific Area struggled for priority in the Pacific theatre.

But in early 1941 Australia had been at war for 18 months. A comprehensive war production industry, often confronted by British industrialists' hostility, had been built up since 1919. By 1941 it was coming up to speed. It was close to fully equipping six divisions with heavy equipment for a Middle Eastern battlefield but switched rapidly to concentrate on production we needed for jungle fighting in the Pacific.



Rough seas; HMAS Parramatta underway in rough sea state during a regional presence deployment. *Defence images.*

By 1945, we were supplying almost all the war production needs of our principal ally in the region for food and clothing, ammunition and other war goods. This production effort was backed up by a major scientific industry collaboration for every facet of jungle and island warfare. With single women conscripted for the civilian workforce, and married women pressured, Australia was the most mobilised belligerent of World War II. Speaking to America on 14 March 1942, Prime Minister John Curtin said, 'On the one hand we are ruthlessly cutting out unessential expenditure so as to free men and women for war work, and on the other, mobilising womanpower to the utmost to supplement the men ... We have no limit.'

By 1942–43, Curtin and Treasurer Ben Chifley had lifted defence expenditure to 34% of GDP. Around 70% of the federal budget was devoted to defence. This mountainous effort appears in our minds as sepia tinged. If we are to sustain a grip on the continent, we have to understand

the dimensions of it. However, in day-to-day public discourse on spending issues, defence spending rarely makes it into the mix.

Most of what we now concentrate on is a product of a massive shift of funding burdens—many of which were previously state responsibilities—on to the federal government that followed the centralisation of tax collection during the war and a demonstrated potency of the national character of federal government capabilities.

When I was ambassador to the US, I was constantly nagged to lift Australia's defence spending to 2% of GDP. In our defence, I would point out that our governments basically received around the same public-sector-to-GDP ratio—about 25%—as American governments did. Their 25% funded defence, social security (pensions), Medicare and Medicaid. Other spending tended to be either of an emergency character or leveraged the states and private sector.

Our federal public sector funded pensions, universal healthcare, the 35% of school students in the private



An Australian Army M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carrier drops soldiers from the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, into an attack during Exercise Predators Run 2022 at Mount Bunday Training Area.

sector and a considerable amount to state schools, universities, supporting parents' benefits, unemployment benefits, an array of other social spending to which I could now add the National Disability Insurance Scheme, as well as the type of leveraging the Americans do with their state government programs, particularly in infrastructure.

That list is not exhaustive, but it leaves a lot of ministers unfriendly to Australia's small defence budget (around 5.5% of total outlays), unlike the US where national security is a preoccupation.

Of all constraints on the defence strategic review team, financial resourcing is the most difficult to deal with.

Australians are not aware how comparatively straitened our public sector is. Even in the wake of Covid-19 it amounts to 27% of GDP. That figure in austerity Britain is 43%; in Germany, 48%; in France 52%; and in the Scandinavian nations, around the mid-60%*s*. Yet when it comes to social spending, they are our models.

If our defence spending were to receive around the US figure of 3.5%, it would be transformative.

It is unlikely to happen, but some movement towards it is essential. If we were at our defence spending level achieved in the 1980*s*—2.3% of GDP—that would amount to \$4 billion extra a year.

We now have a more impressive and better resourced military than we had in 1939. Our equipment is vastly more sophisticated and complex, and has much longer time impacts on production. More to the point, our capable and professional services look to our allies with whom they train and integrate. Yet circumstances demand the Australian Defence Force look to different equipment and in large numbers: missiles, smart mines, cyber capabilities, drones and uncrewed equipment in all domains. And we need to consider innovative locations and deployments.

Outside defence we need to build national resilience involving other federal departments, the states and territories, and the private sector. We have many innovative defence capabilities invented and deployed in other industries. We also have to resolve our fuel storage capacities. We need a bigger merchant shipping fleet.

If the review team does this properly, we are going to have to expect the bulk of the report to be classified. Publicly it is likely to be quite bland, pointing at directions rather than details. Given the accepted end of the concept of 10 years' warning time ahead of a major conflict, we need to be increasingly restrained with information about capabilities.

Above all, we need to develop our old defence consciousness. When I was a youngster in the 1950*s* our family moved into the house we were brought up in. It had an air-raid shelter in the backyard. It was beautifully constructed with deep stairs down to the shelter, which contained useful bunk beds. Of course, we never used it at night. It could have taken everything but a direct hit.

Remember that we federated in 1901 to defend ourselves. Defence's current share of 5.5–6% of today's federal budget doesn't cut it.

**Kim Beazley**

[www.aspistrategist.org.au](http://www.aspistrategist.org.au)

Kim Beazley is a distinguished senior fellow at ASPI. He served as defence minister from 1984 to 1990 and was Australia's ambassador to the United States from 2010 to 2016. A version of this article was published in *The Australian*.

# Rugby union team breaks 50-year drought

In front of almost 1000 raucous fans at North Brisbane Rugby Club, the Australian Defence Force Men's team (ADFRU) broke a 50-year drought by defeating the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Defence Blacks for the first time.

The two teams have met eight times since 1970, with NZ emerging as victors on six occasions and the teams drawing twice.

However, on a beautiful Saturday afternoon in Brisbane, the ADFRU team rose to the occasion and defeated their Anzac counterparts 27-22 in a highly entertaining match.

The ADF started strongly, dominating their Kiwi opponents in contact, and sending Sapper Jack Arrowsmith over for a try within the first five minutes.

Aussie forwards laid a strong platform for their backline, as debutants Lieutenant Calum Marr and Craftsman Shaun Coel sent their opponents flying with strong defence while constantly threatening with ball in hand.

Craftsman Coel said the game had very fast pace and incredibly high intensity.

"They definitely didn't want us to win, but that's too bad for them," Craftsman Coel said.

"We didn't know about the 50-year drought going into the game which might've been a good thing.

"To find out afterwards what it means to the teams before us is an honour."

They were complemented by team stalwarts Craftsman Jack Kent and Signaller Sam Fermor, with the latter scoring a blistering 60-metre try that lifted the crowd to its feet.

From this strong platform, the Aussie backline were clinical with internationally capped halfback Corporal Kyle Galloway and debuting five-eighth, Flying Officer Dominic Chamberlain controlling their talented



Sapper Jack Arrowsmith carries the ball in attack with Corporal Joshua Allen and Lance Corporal Siaka King in support, during ADF v NZDF rugby union test, Brisbane. *Defence image.*

backs with precision passing and kicking.

Despite the ADF carrying a 12-3 lead into half-time, NZDF came back in the second half, scoring 3 tries in quick succession to level the scores 22-22 with five minutes to play.

"It was the longest five minutes of my life," Flying Officer Chamberlain said.

"We knew it was close the whole game so getting the last try, we knew we had to hold out for the rest of the match."

With their backs against the wall and an unrelenting NZDF side pouring on pressure, Aussie hooker Corporal Joshua Allen dug deep to power over in the corner and secure the match in the 78th minute.

Corporal Allen was subsequently awarded man of the match for a stellar 80-minute effort capped off by his final try.

ADF Coach Lieutenant Commander Dave Carter was extremely pleased with his team's performance.

"Early in the week we established an attacking game plan that would enable us to maintain possession, be patient, and take opportunities only when we had multiple options," he said.

"In defence we practiced a fast-paced pressuring system, and the team were brutal in contact, our second efforts to be in place to do it again were outstanding, I could not be prouder of that commitment and effort.

"Overall, we have established a solid platform on and off the field in preparation of touring in 2023".

While victorious, this year's test match represents the final milestone for the ADFRU team in their preparations for next year's International Defence Rugby Competition in France.

The quadrennial tournament sees the world's premier Defence rugby teams congregate to crown a champion, with ADFRU looking to overcome stiff opposition from British and Fijian forces.

By Lieutenant Kirsti Welling-Burtenshaw

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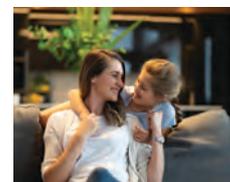
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# Veterans a key focus of budget

Support for veterans was highlighted in the latest Federal Budget, handed down on October 25.

Responding to recommendations by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, the government has marked \$233.9 million over the next four years to hire an extra 500 DVA staff to speed up veteran compensation claims and processing.

This should be aided by a further \$87 million to modernise IT systems, such as myGov and myService.

Further investments in Defence personnel and veterans include almost \$47 million for 10 new Veterans' and Families' Hubs to connect veterans and their families to health, housing and employment services.

\$24 million has been allocated to deliver the Veteran Employment Program, supporting transition to civilian life by recognising veterans' skills and experience.

The Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme will also be expanded by reducing the minimum service period for subsidised mortgage payments and allowing veterans to access the scheme any time after leaving Defence.

Minister for Defence Personnel Matt Keogh said the government was

committed to growing the ADF with improved conditions for personnel to enhance retention.

"Our greatest Defence capability is our people and this budget delivers on the Albanese Government's commitment to delivering a better future for defence personnel, veterans and their families," Mr Keogh said.

Focusing on investment in Defence's priorities, the government has provided \$32.2 million for the North Queensland Spark training facility in Townsville. The technology hub will be built between James Cook University and Lavarack Barracks to provide a space for environmental simulations and industry collaboration.

Looking overseas, a new Australia Pacific Defence School to train regional partners' defence and security forces was part of a \$900 million investment in the Pacific.

The new school is set to build on existing programs, such as the Defence Cooperation Program, Pacific Support Team, Pacific Mobile Training Teams and Defence International Training School.

More than \$213 million will be set aside over the next five years for additional assistance to Ukraine.

Defence Minister Richard Marles

said the budget reinforced Defence readiness and capability to promote regional prosperity.

"The 2022-23 Budget will strengthen our regional partnerships and build our shared resilience to meet future challenges, delivering the capability needed to keep Australians safe," Mr Marles said.

## AT A GLANCE

- \$233.9 million over four years for 500 DVA staff
- Almost \$47 million for 10 Veterans' and Families' Hubs
- \$24 million for the Veteran Employment Program
- Defence Home Ownership Scheme to be expanded
- Improved conditions for ADF personnel to enhance retention
- \$32.2 million for the North Queensland Spark training facility
- \$900 million investment in the Pacific, including an Australian Pacific Defence School
- \$213 million over five years for assistance to Ukraine

Cpl Jacob Joseph



# Ships and subs form up for International Fleet Review



HMAS Hobart prepares to sail past the reviewing ship, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force helicopter carrier JS Izumo, during the International Fleet Review 2022 off the coast of Yokosuka, Japan. Photos: Leading Seaman Daniel Goodman

Australian vessels have joined about 40 ships and submarines that sailed in formation near Tokyo on November 6 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).

HMA Ships Hobart, Stalwart and Arunta, and HMA Submarine Farncomb, led the foreign warship divisions for the International Fleet Review 2022, staged in Sagami Bay, in the shadow of a snow-capped Mount Fuji.

Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mark Hammond joined the reviewing officer, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, on board the JMSDF helicopter carrier JS Izumo.

Vice Admiral Hammond said it was good to return to Japan for a significant and historic event.

"The JMSDF is one of the most capable navies in the Indo-Pacific. We work closely together to advance peace and prosperity around the region," Vice Admiral Hammond said.

"I am proud to join 700 Royal Australian Navy sailors and officers to commemorate the JMSDF's rich history and the Japan-Australian strategic relationship."

The international fleet in Sagami Bay ranged from the US Navy aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan to the Royal New Zealand Navy sustainment ship HMNZS Aotearoa and the Royal Thai Navy frigate HTMS Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Leading Seaman Corey Mumberson stood on Hobart's flight deck for the main review and said it

was an impressive collection.

"It was awesome. There were plenty of ships here and a couple of subs too," Leading Seaman Mumberson said.

Leading Seaman Amanda Smider watched from the sharp end of the destroyer.

"It was great to see all the ships with us," Leading Seaman Smider said.

"Japan is amazing and I will definitely go back for a visit."

The main review was the signature event of the International Fleet Review program, which also included maritime exercises, cultural and sporting activities and a parade through the streets of Yokosuka, where the JMSDF has its headquarters.

By Lieutenant Brendan Trembath

# Night training sharpens landing skills

Landing an MH-60 Romeo helicopter on a pitching and rolling warship at night requires regular intensive training and teamwork.

To keep their skills sharp, the crew of HMAS Hobart's embarked MH-60R Carnage conducted deck landing practice in the North Pacific Ocean during a regional presence deployment.

Navy pilot Lieutenant Rhiannon Thompson said it was a very dark night with no moon and strong winds.

"It was extremely challenging," Lieutenant Thompson said.

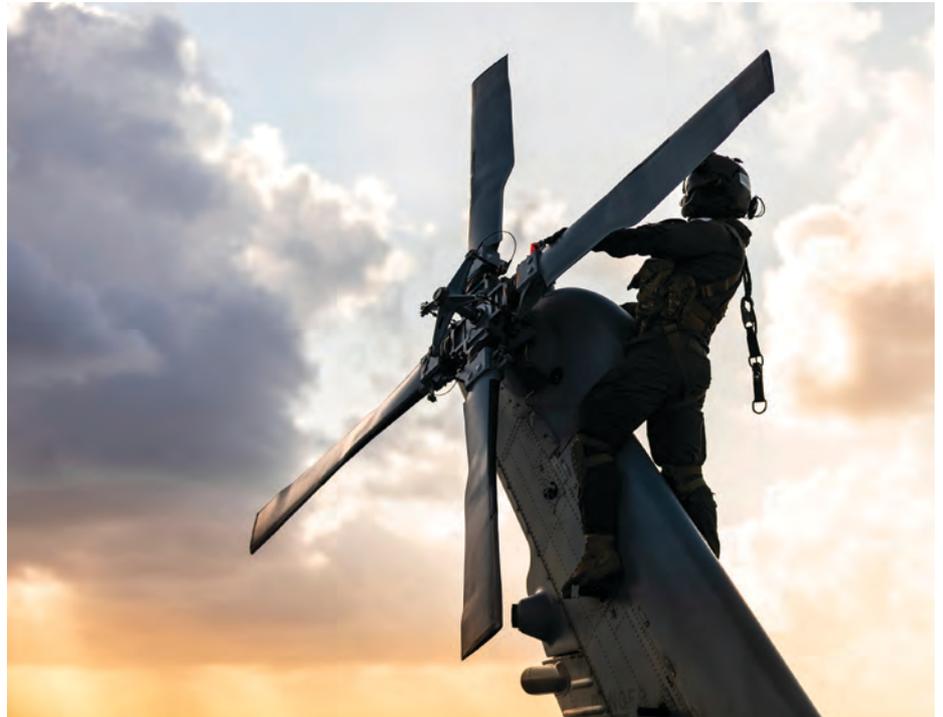
"You quickly start to see why it is so important for pilots to maintain and refine those fundamental skills."

The crew wore night vision goggles for the activity.

In the left hand seat was aviation warfare officer Sub-Lieutenant Alexander McLauchlan.

On the approach to the warship, the pair scanned a bank of instruments to monitor information such as height, speed, heading and rate of descent, while also looking outside the aircraft.

"You need to be scanning physically with your eyes very quickly through all of those things to get that information into your head to digest it,



Leading Seaman Corey Mumberson conducts pre-flight checks on Carnage during flying operations.

to then translate that into your hands and feet to move the helicopter," Lieutenant Thompson said.

Sub-Lieutenant McLauchlan's main role involves mission command for surface and sub-surface warfare,

however, equally important are the co-pilot duties to keep the aircraft safe.

"It's satisfying when you get to do it," Sub-Lieutenant McLauchlan said.

"I have to monitor the mission and make sure we achieve what we need to do, whether that is finding and deterring a submarine or surface vessel."

Hobart's embarked helicopter is maintained and marshalled by a team of 13 men and women.

During the recent deck landing practice session, aviation technician aircraft Leading Seaman Julijan Pavin was training as a flight deck marshaller, directing the aircrew where to land.

"It's a good feeling when the aircraft comes into land because you are right in the centre of it," Leading Seaman Pavin said.

**By Lieutenant Brendan Trembath**

Left: Aviation technician Leading Seaman Julijan Pavin marshals Carnage.

*Defence images.*



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# Why consider veterans?

The job market is consistently highly competitive, with potential employees with various skillsets and experiences competing for what can be, at any given time, a fluctuating level of job availability.

This has meant that employers are in the unusual position of being able to be more selective in their hiring practices, and as the world slowly recovers from the effects of the economic slowdown, both government and corporate sectors will be looking to increase their talent pools in order to open up for business again.

There is one cohort of job seekers that employers from all industries can continue to benefit from as they continue to open up again: military veterans.

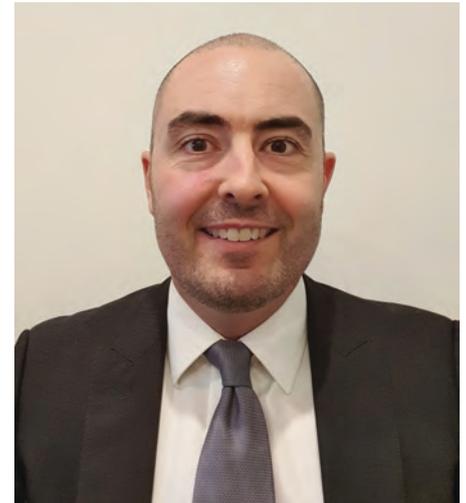
Military veterans bring a unique attribute which is embedded strongly into them from the first day they

attend their respective recruit training schools, and one which can make the difference between a successful workplace and a failing one. That attribute is attitude.

The very nature of the profession of arms encompasses an approach to the job that requires complete focus, a meticulous attention to detail, and a level of professionalism that is not readily required, or even expected, in most other organisations. The military operates in an environment where mediocrity, laziness, and failure can have lethal consequences.

As such, veterans are instilled with not only the required skills and knowledge to do their job, but also the required attitudes. This means that a strong work ethic and an unsurpassed will to win are common practices which are considered 'business as usual' within the military.

The ongoing benefit to any entity that employees a veteran is that they



get a no nonsense, team oriented, and positive minded worker, whose main focus is achieving success in an as efficient manner as possible, regardless of the task at hand.

Josh Francis is the Director of Green Door, an Australian intelligence and security consultancy firm that conducts specialist recruitment.



## Peacekeeper Figurine

\$200.00

Availability : In stock (86)

Under the Joint Venture will produce a limited edition of 250 serially numbered, 30cm cold cast bronze figurines.

The Figurine is based on the Trooper Jonathan Church photograph taken by George Gittoes AM (APPVA Life member).



## Peacekeeper Commemorative Coin 1

\$22.00

Availability : In stock (209)

These are 46mm in diameter metal based with enamel 3d coins with on the main side being the image of Trooper Jonathan Church carrying a child in Rwanda and on the observe the APPVA logo.

Comes in a clean plastic PVC pouch



## Peacekeeper Commemorative Coin 2

\$22.00

Availability : In stock (220)

These are 46mm in diameter metal based with enamel 3d coins with on the main side being the image of Australian Veterans assisting locals on operations and on the observe the APPVA logo.

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PICAA aims to promote the hobby of law enforcement and emergency services insignia collecting in Australasia by;

- encouraging the research, collation & collecting of historical facts & insignia;
- collecting and disseminating information of interest to members;
- liaising with other interested bodies who may be of assistance to the members of the association;
- promoting and maintaining contact with police, law enforcement and emergency services insignia collectors throughout the world, and;
- encouraging the display of collections by members.
- PICAA produces a quarterly magazine, which is provided via email or direct download from the PICAA site at [www.picaa.org.au](http://www.picaa.org.au).

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### CONTACT AND MEMBER APPLICATIONS

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Rob Brown - PICAA President

Michael Austin - PICAA Secretary

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Australia



# “Invest in women’s transformative leadership, even if society says no.”

*Women’s meaningful participation in peace and political processes and dedicated funding to ensure that is a key condition to achieving sustainable peace. But when conflicts and humanitarian crises intensify, gender equality commitments are often pushed aside, when in fact, –they need to be implemented and reinforced. This became evident during a high-level dialogue where women leaders and UN representatives discussed the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in peacekeeping and humanitarian contexts.*

On 24 October, the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) hosted a high-level dialogue to strengthen accountability in the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in peacekeeping and humanitarian contexts. The Permanent Representatives of Canada, Ecuador, Germany, South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States to the UN, and the Georgetown Institute for Women,

Peace and Security supported the event, which followed the UN Security Council’s annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security.

Twenty-two years since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, women still remain at the margins of decision-making in many conflict and post-conflict contexts. While progress has been made, much more needs to be done to ensure that concerted leadership and accountability is leveraged to strengthen the participation of women in conflict and humanitarian settings, participants acknowledged.

## Funding to women’s organizations needed urgently

Under-Secretary-General of Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, highlighted how peacekeeping missions can expand the political space for women by working together with host-countries and communities, as well as women civil society,

peacebuilders, and leaders. “The ultimate objective of UN Peacekeeping is to create the conditions for political solutions and sustainable peace. We can only achieve this when women are meaningfully engaged, and when we advance gender equality.” Coordinated approaches within UN Country Teams on the ground ensured that these efforts can be long-lasting, as humanitarian crises have a direct impact on security and therefore, stability.

However, according to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), in 32% of humanitarian crises, local women’s organizations are not consulted during the planning and formulation of crisis responses. This is detrimental for the sustainability or success of peace, because women leaders and their grassroots networks are universally recognized for their crucial role in effective humanitarian action and peacebuilding. Speaking at the event, Heli Uusikyla, OCHA’s Acting Director of Humanitarian Financing and Resource Mobilization, called for “*dedicated funding to ensure local women’s organizations are given a chance to meaningfully participate.*”

Challenges still remain in delivering quality humanitarian and development action in conflict settings and the UN “must continue to invest in women’s transformative leadership even if society says no” added UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, joining the conversation remotely from South Sudan’s capital, Juba.

With more than 25 years of experience of working on women’s rights in Mali, Mama Koité, the President of Mali’s Women’s Platform, shared powerful examples of her work and the importance of women’s participation in the peace process and political life in Mali. “When the armed



High-level Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Leadership Dialogue held at the Permanent Mission of Germany

groups refused to talk to one another, it was the women who came knocking on the door and ensured that they sat together.”

“The Malian people are thirsty for peace,” she added, and leveraging the power of women leaders and their grassroots networks as catalysts for dialogue and mediation was the best way forward.

“There is no peace without women’s rights,” said Congolese women’s rights activist Anny Modi, who highlighted the low number of women parliamentarians and their virtual absence from the ‘Nairobi Process’, a regional platform to discuss solutions to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). “We don’t have women sitting around the table [and] this is making it very difficult for the women’s perspective of peace resolution to be integrated and reach an agreement for sustainable peace,” she noted.

Modi, who herself survived displacement and violence in her country in the early 2000’s, has now become ‘the voice of the voiceless’. She shares valuable perspectives on how to ensure women’s participation with the President of the DRC and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the DRC. “Through this space that has been created for women, we are able to contribute to the peace process,” she said, and also relay the updates and information to the communities on the ground.

### Interested in knowing more? Listen to our podcast “Seeking Peace”

‘Seeking Peace’, a new podcast series featuring compelling stories of women peacekeepers and peacebuilders in conflict settings was also launched during the high-level event.

Hosted by former US Ambassador for Global Women’s Issues and Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, Melanne Verveer, “Seeking Peace” explores the role of women



Mama Koite, President of Mali's Women's Platform. *UN images.*

around the world in bringing lasting peace to their communities, as politicians, grassroots activists, journalists or uniformed peacekeepers.

This five-episode weekly series features Anny Modi and many other women leaders who are, against

all odds, breaking gender norms and pushing the needle to advance women’s participation everywhere, on the ground and at the United Nations. The podcast is now available on popular podcast platforms.

### Peacekeeping News United Nations



The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in The Republic of Mali Headquarters

# 80 years spent protecting the nation

1 Security Forces Squadron (1SECFOR) recently celebrated its 80th anniversary at RAAF Base Williamtown and reflected on its 80 year journey.

It started as Air Force's Security Guard Unit tasked with providing guards to defend Air Force bases and assets across Northern Australia and the South Pacific in 1942, and has developed into a squadron that is ready to secure air and Space Command assets across the globe at any time.

Commanding Officer 1SECFOR Wing Commander Craig Montgomery said it was amazing to see how the unit has changed and evolved as part of Air Force's journey.

"The unit's ability to adapt to counter threats to Air Force, both ground and air, as well as its ability to be able to expand or contract depending on strategic need has required aviators then, as now, to be able to learn, adapt and evolve," Wing Commander Montgomery said.

"As always, regardless of time, it remains the aviators of the unit that make the unit successful whether it's defending a Radar Post in 1945, protecting an airbase in Afghanistan in 2012, or just the ongoing security we provide to air and space assets on a daily basis across the globe."

Celebrations began with a display of the unit's current capabilities and concluded with a cocktail party at the Williamtown officer's mess which was



1 Security Forces Squadron logistic section celebrating their squadron's 80th anniversary. *Defence image.*

attended by local dignitaries, former unit members, including previous commanding officers and squadron warrant officers, and current unit personnel.

Current Squadron Warrant Officer Dax Moore said these experiences allowed previous generations of the unit to bond with the current generation through shared experiences, stories and the odd bit of banter.

"Connecting with past serving members has been a really satisfying experience," Warrant Officer Moore said.

"They provided great insight on how the unit was, how it has changed and how very proud they were in being associated with the unit by having the opportunity to be part of

the celebration and engage with the current serving aviators by sharing their experiences."

While the unit has undergone many changes since 1942 its mission to defend airfields, assets and personnel have remained steadfast.

In 2022, as in 1942, the squadron is continuing to change and evolve to meet the demands of Air Force, Defence and Australia.

By 2024, 1SECFOR will have further transformed, focusing on supporting deployed air and Space Command assets and personnel as opposed to its previous role where it focused on securing the National Airbase Network in addition to deployed forces.

## Springtime Grow and Shine fundraiser

Life was more colourful and a little hairier than usual at RAAF Base Edinburgh this spring as Air Force Surveillance and Response Group participated in Anglicare South Australia's 'Grow n Shine' fundraiser.

Over 230 aviators spent five weeks growing beards and painting their nails to help AnglicareSA support vulnerable South Australians in need – raising an incredible \$9,200 for the charity.

92 Wing maintenance aviation safety officer Flight Sergeant Kane Langmaid, who was the driving force of the fundraiser, wanted to expand on previous efforts and link with Defence values to demonstrate their achievements, both inside and outside of Air Force.

"This fundraiser embodies our Air Force values," said Flight Sergeant Langmaid.

"By doing something different and a little amusing we were able to serve our community and highlight these values."

92 Wing personnel capability specialist Leading Aircraftwoman Tasmin McGill took part knowing the impact the money raised would have on AnglicareSA's programs.

"I was excited to wear colourful nails to work and I absolutely loved it,"

Leading Aircraftwoman McGill said.

92 Wing acoustic warfare analyst Sergeant Richard Wren said he really wanted to support a charity that for over 160 years has been supporting South Australians in need.

“Having a family member with a disability made [participating in] this fundraiser all the more satisfying,” said Sergeant Wren.

“I often grow a beard on leave, so growing one in work time felt strange but very welcome!”

For Air Force aviators, the ability to have a beard at work or wear colourful nails was more than just a novelty: their change in appearance provided a new level of camaraderie and generated banter. This created interest with friends and family wanting to participate in next year’s fundraiser.

AnglicareSA fundraising engage-



ment coordinator Ms Tammy Rees said the funds Air Force raised would go a long way in the local community, and that emergency assistance teams have seen a rise in the number of South Australians engaging the services of the charity.

“With the ever-increasing cost of food and housing, people who would normally not need support are

now seeking assistance through our donor-funded programs Emergency Assistance, Turning Point, Thread Together, Youth Leaving Care and Star Bear,” said Ms Rees.

“We are so grateful for your efforts and this kind of support is critical to ensuring we can continue to provide much needed services to South Australians in need.”

## Enlightening first overseas deployment

Flig0ht Lieutenant Jayden Hasemann, an engineer from 35 Squadron, recently found himself deployed on operation almost 4000 kilometres from home.

Visiting the Federated States of Micronesia for his first ever overseas deployment, Flight Lieutenant Hasemann was responsible for the aircraft maintenance and support to the C-27J Spartan flying operations as part of Operation Solania (Kuru Kuru).

Flight Lieutenant Hasemann said he found it a special trip, visiting a country few people know exist.

“Being based out of Pohnpei, in the Federated States of Micronesia, has been an absolutely wonderful experience,” he said.

“I’ve particularly enjoyed the community engagement aspect of the operation and the locals have welcomed us into their country with open arms – they are just the nicest people I have ever met.”



Growing up in Brisbane, his great grandfather served in World War 2 and Flight Lieutenant Hasemann proudly wore his medals every Anzac Day.

Inspired by his great grandfather’s service and with a keen interest in power supply and electrical distribution, he found his calling as an electronics engineer in the Air Force during a visit to a career expo.

Flight Lieutenant Hasemann joined the Air Force in 2014 looking for a job where he could see the world

and get paid at the same time.

“I have a desire to solve problems and being an electrical engineer allows me to be a part of a team and sometimes leading the team to work together to find innovative solutions to problems,” he said.

Being deployed on Operation Solania has been a career highlight for Flight Lieutenant Hasemann.

“I’m proud to be here in the Federated States of Micronesia with the team and representing Australia.”

# History unit puts 'fear weapon' on display

Described as a terror weapon, the Soviet-made LPO-50 flamethrower had a range of 100m in good weather.

With the wind behind the user, the range increased.

The captured Viet Cong flamethrower was among a multitude of weapons and equipment displayed by the Australian Army History Unit (AAHU) at Russell, Canberra, on November 3.

Designed by the Russians to look like a machine gun from the front, the flamethrower had three cylinders filled with a thick fuel and a bipod-mounted flame gun.

Paul Mitrovich, a curator with the Australian Army Infantry Museum, described it as a fear weapon.

"No one has ever won a Victoria Cross from charging a flamethrower," Mr Mitrovich said.

"The .50 cal has that boom, which gives you the terror effect.

"This is the flame effect; you see the flame and go 'I don't want to be anywhere near that thing'."

Among the equipment on display was an AK-47 captured during the Battle of Long Tan and gifted to AAHU by 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

Having enemy weapons available provides a storyline of warfighting and shows how Army adapts to threats and conditions, according to Mr Mitrovich.



Captain Damien Freeman talks about captured enemy weapons during a display by the Australian Army History Unit at Russell Offices, Canberra. Photo: Sergeant Matthew Bickerton

The World War 2 display included arms from the Pacific and North Africa theatres of war, with the Australian-designed and manufactured Owen sub-machine gun as its centrepiece.

Corporal Garth O'Connell, a reservist with AAHU and an Australian War Memorial curator, said the Owen had a strong tie to Army history.

It was invented by Private Evelyn Owen, of the Second Australian Imperial Force.

"During prototype testing it proved to be the simplest, cheapest and

toughest of sub-machine guns," Corporal O'Connell said.

More than 45,000 Owen guns were produced during WW2. They were also used in the Korean War, Malayan Emergency and the early years of the Vietnam War.

Royal Australian Infantry Corps personnel, as a part of their initial employment training, attend AAHU museums to gain an understanding of historical friendly and enemy weapons systems.

*Defence News. Defence images.*

# Gunner proud to continue tradition of Royal Colours

The last time the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA) consecrated its Royal Colours in 1971, Gunner Alexander Valiente's grandfather escorted the retired King's Banner off the parade ground at Victoria Barracks.

During early November, Gunner Valiente walked the same path at a

parade to present and consecrate a new Queen's Banner to the regiment.

He escorted the ageing Colours, having been in service since his grandfather's parade, one last time before a new banner was uncased.

"It's a point of pride in the family, considering we were both in A Battery," Gunner Valiente said.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime parade and an honour to do something so prestigious."

To mark the regiment's 100th birthday in 1971, the King's Banner was replaced by the Queen's Banner.

In 2019, the Representative Colonel Commandant for the RAA, Brigadier Simon Roach, wrote to Her Majesty

the Queen requesting a replacement because of wear and tear.

Representatives from all the units of the RAA welcomed the new colours, marking a belated 150th anniversary of the regiment, postponed because of COVID-19 restrictions.

They were joined by the reviewing officer, the Governor-General Gen (ret'd) David Hurley, and Chief of Army Lieutenant-General Simon Stuart, who watched the gunners reaffirm their allegiance to the King before chaplains performed a multi-denominational consecration.

Following a tradition of the monarch being the captain general of the RAA, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was commander in chief.

Regimental Master Gunner Warrant Officer - Class 1 Anthony Hortle hoped the position would now pass to His Majesty The King.

However, Warrant Officer - Class 1 Hortle said this didn't mean the colours would change to the King's Banner next year when the King is consecrated.

"The Queen's coronation was in 1953 but we still had the King's Banner until 1971," Warrant Officer - Class 1 Hortle said.



(L-R) Escort to the Queen's Banner Australian Army Sergeant Daniel Stevens, Queen's Banner Ensign Lieutenant Frederic Carter and Escort Sergeant Sean Bellert parade the Queen's Banner at Victoria Barracks, Sydney. *Defence images.*

"The current Queen's Banner is brand new so we probably won't see a new banner for about another 20 years, depending on wear and tear."

When this happens, the colours will be temporarily laid to rest at Victoria Barracks, the first home

of A Battery, Australia's oldest, continuous-permanent military unit, before moving to the Armour and Artillery Heritage Learning Centre in Puckapunyal, when construction is complete in 2024.

## Bushmasters prove versatility in floods

As part of the Victorian Government's request for assistance, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) deployed four Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles (PMVs) on Operation Flood Assist 2022-2.

The versatile vehicles were used to conduct reconnaissance missions and to support evacuations and movements.

With a high clearance enabling the vehicles to traverse flood-affected roads up to 1.2 metres deep, they supported communities heavily affected, such as Shepparton, Echuca, Kerang and Swan Hill.

Bushmaster PMV driver Corporal Kaelym O'Flaherty, of the 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, said it had been a rewarding experience to see the impact he and his team made in the community.



"We've seen some hardship suffered within the local communities and it's great to see my team and vehicles making a real difference," Corporal O'Flaherty said.

"The best thing about the Bushmaster PMVs on flood operations is the high clearance,

allowing them to get to locations that the State Emergency Services and civilian vehicles can't.

"During this operation a reconnaissance task can quickly turn into an evacuation of community members, and a PMV can quickly adjust from one to the other."

# Navigating life after serving: options for your transition from the ADF



Transition Coaches work with members and their families to develop a post-transition plan.

Deciding to transition from service into civilian life is a significant move in your career.

Your transition journey might include moving from the ADF into paid civilian employment, joining the reserves, retirement, undertaking further study, volunteering or stepping back from Continuous Full Time Service.

Early engagement with the transition process is crucial to understand your options and set you up for success.

You can access programs at any time throughout your career and up to 24 months after your transition is complete.

Moving through your transition and managing change can be challenging. ADF members and their families are our most important capability for the defence of Australia and its national interests. If you are looking to maintain connectivity with the ADF, you could volunteer or transfer into a Reservist role.

ADF members and their families can contact the Defence Member and Family Support Helpline on 1800 624 608 for information and advice to support their member through Transition and understand how this change will impact on their family.

When you are ready to begin exploring what transition might look like, reach out to an ADF Transition Centre (ADFTC).

Through an ADFTC, you are connected to a Transition Coach. Coaches work with you and your family to design and develop a *Game Plan*. This individual Transition Plan is tailored to your circumstances and post-transition goals.

Defence encourages all members to engage with a Transition Coach during their career and attend an ADF Member and Family Transition Seminar.

## ADF Member and Family Transition Seminars

Ready to start the ball rolling? It is recommended you attend a transition seminar within 12 months of your intended transition date to help you be as prepared as possible.

You do not need to be actively transitioning to attend a seminar.

All members and their families are encouraged to educate themselves and consider transition preparation by learning about the supports available. Family members are welcome to attend seminars and are encouraged to do so.

Seminars ensure that you and your family are well-equipped to navigate your move to civilian life. They provide practical information on programs and services from:

- Transition coaches (coaching aligned with your needs, including career transition)
- Joint Health Command (JHC)
- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)
- Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) (military superannuation)
- ADF Financial Consumer Services Centre
- Education institutions
- External Service Organisations (ESOs).

There are also Navy, Army and Air Force information sessions focused on increasing your understanding of how to work flexibly across the ADF Service spectrum through the ADF Total Workforce System.

ADF Member and Family Transition seminars are accessible throughout the year in both face-to-face and virtual formats.

For more information about transition seminars (including how to register), download the ADF Member and Family Transition Guide or visit Defence's website at [www.defence.gov.au/dmfstransition](http://www.defence.gov.au/dmfstransition)



## Snapshot of the Defence Force Transition Programs available

Defence provides an extensive range of programs to assist you to prepare for and navigate this journey depending on the needs of yourself and your family. Your Transition Coach can help you determine which program is right for you.

Program	What does it offer
Defence Member and Family Support	Defence Member and Family Support provides services and support to ADF members and families to manage all stages of military life, including transition.  To access our support services contact the all-hours Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.
Job Search Preparation Workshop (JSP)	A face-to-face or virtual workshop including how to build your resume skills and apply for jobs. The workshop provides ongoing access to a library of resources.
Career Transition Training (CTT)	Financial assistance for education and vocational training to support your post-transition goals.
Career Transition Coaching (CTC)	Intensive individualised specialist coaching to help identify motivators, skills and career options and develop the tools to pursue these goals.
Personalised Career and Employment Program (PCEP)	Provides up to 3 months of career development and job placement support. PCEP includes six individual coaching sessions with an employment specialist.
Transition for Employment (T4E)	T4E supports ADF members who require additional supports through their transition journey.
On the Job Experience (OJE)	Provides opportunities for members to undertake work experience in their chosen post-transition field.
Funding for financial advisory services	A financial contribution of up to \$1000 for professional financial advice to assist ADF members and their families plan for financial security after transitioning.
Partner Employment Assistance Program (PEAP)	Provides funding to assist ADF partners with finding employment, or re-establishing professional licences, after relocating.
Approved Absence (AA)	Permanent members can apply for Approved Absence leave for transition-related activities such as time to search for accommodation, job interviews, appointments and more.



# St Joseph's Nudgee College

BOYS DAY & BOARDING YEARS 5-12



Scan QR Code  
to request Boarding  
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A Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition | CRICOS Provider No. 00572G.  



ST JOSEPH'S  
**NUDGEE**  
COLLEGE

# Why choose a boarding school?

Happy, resilient and self-confident students achieve well in school and ultimately in life.

*- Richard Stokes, chief executive officer, Australian Boarding Schools Association*

There are many reasons parents consider sending their children to boarding school.

High on the list of priorities is a desire to provide a sound academic education and learn life skills.

Boarding schools are residential private schools where students live during the academic year, usually in dorms or residence halls, with their fellow students and possibly teachers or administrators.

Some boarding schools also have day students who attend the institution by day and return off-campus to their families in the evenings.

“The structure of boarding school life helps students get into good study routines,” Stokes said.

“They learn the value of homework and enjoy access to help with their homework from the school, boarding house staff and fellow boarders.

“They develop time management and study skills that work for them and also learn the importance of communication with staff, home and other boarders.

“Being socially connected is an essential skill for boarding life.”

Boarding life also allows your child to be more fully involved in the myriad of co-curricular opportunities on offer at the school and hence become fully engaged in all of the many benefits that the school can offer.

“Students develop leadership skills through these opportunities, as well as resilience - a key issue for their lives now and into the future,” Stokes said.

“They learn the skills of living with

others and themselves - the importance of good sleep patterns, for example, dealing with homesickness, and learning ways to handle missing home.

“They also learn to master a variety of hygiene and health issues, including the basics of washing clothes, changing bed sheets and the importance of keeping their bedroom area tidy.”

The Australian Boarding Schools Association represents over 200 boarding schools across Australia, including state, Catholic and independent boarding schools, local country hostels and international schools.

Its primary roles are to enhance the well-being of boarders, facilitate staff professional development, and advance best practices among schools.

Boarding school allowance You may choose to have your child attend boarding school, so they do not have to relocate with you and disrupt their education. In this instance, where the child is in the critical years of schooling (Years 9-12), you can access financial assistance for the compulsory tuition fees and accommodation costs of the school.

For more information, visit the website [boarding.org.au](http://boarding.org.au).

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A range of financial support is available to help minimise disruption to education caused by posting within Australia. The aim is to provide the student with limited interim assistance to help overcome any immediate difficulties with their education occurring as a direct result of posting.

Terms and conditions apply.

## Boarding school

You may be entitled to financial assistance for compulsory tuition and accommodation costs in situations where the child attends boarding school, rather than relocating and disrupting their education.

## Tutoring

Defence may reimburse fees for tutoring required to overcome immediate difficulties caused by changing schools. This applies to primary and secondary students, within the first 18 months of starting at the new school.

## Tertiary student accommodation

Financial assistance may be available to assist with accommodation costs if your dependant is studying at a tertiary institution, and their chosen course is not available in the new posting location, or it would be disruptive to change institutions.

## Students with special needs

Practical assistance is available for dependants with special needs. This includes special needs education assessments, therapy services, or tutoring. Dependants with special needs may also be entitled to reimbursement of private schooling costs, if a special program is only available at a private school and it is considered critical for the child's educational progress.

## Scholarship loss

If a student has to give up an education scholarship or bursary due to posting, Defence may reimburse their educational costs to the value of that scholarship.

## Reunion travel

If the dependant is studying away from your posted location, you may access funds towards the child's travel expenses to come to your location for reunion purposes.

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information on education support, email [education.supportprograms@defence.gov.au](mailto:education.supportprograms@defence.gov.au).



VISIT THE  
BGS WEBSITE



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

*In Pursuit of*  
**Excellence**

## Exciting time to be a boarder at Brisbane Grammar School

Brisbane Grammar School has been in pursuit of excellence since 1868 and aspires to be the best school for boys in Australia.

The 2021 BGS median ATAR of 95.30 rivals any boys' school in Australia. The School's innovative education program will be advanced in 2023 with the opening of the BGS Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths (STEAM) Precinct, which encourages a whole-of-brain approach to problem solving.

The recent boarding redevelopment provides world-class accommodation that complements Brisbane Grammar School's leading education. Every boarder has a private, modern room, allowing him space to recharge so he can seize every opportunity at BGS.

Boys pursue their interests with 15 sports, 34 music groups, three dramatic productions and more than 45 clubs and activities at their fingertips. Boarders also have access to more than 400 hours of additional academic support each year, balanced with an array of weekend activities that foster lifelong friendships.

**Learn more at [brisbanegrammar.com](http://brisbanegrammar.com).**

CRICOS Provider Number 00489C

# Moving schools - advice for parents

Defence Member and Family Support provides a range of assistance for families with school-aged children when they post to a new location.

## CHOOSING A NEW SCHOOL

Gather as much information as possible about potential schools in your new location. Visit school websites or ask them for an information pack.

Sometimes there are schools in areas where Defence Housing Australia properties are located. Some of these schools may also employ a Defence school mentor (DSM). To see which schools in your new location have a mentor, visit <https://defence.gov.au/members-families/Family/Kids/Education.asp>

We have Education Liaison Officers (EDLOs) at a number of our area offices around Australia who can help you with information about local school enrolment, zoning, and general education enquiries about the state or territory you are moving to. To get in touch with an EDLO contact the Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 or email [MemberAndFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au](mailto:MemberAndFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au).

## NEW SCHOOL INFORMATION

Talk to your child and ask what they would like to know about their new school. Parents and children can often have very different ideas of what is important to them when selecting a school.

Including your child in this process can help them settle into their new school and reassure them of the similarities they are familiar with.

Information you may find helpful includes:

- school handbook
- school start and finish times, term dates and curriculum days
- student placement procedures
- how the school communicates with parents, how to make

appointments with school staff and the school expectations of parents

- homework, assignments and assessment requirements
- availability of before and after school care
- school curriculum and specialist subjects available, languages other than English, sports, or religious instruction
- school canteen and other school facilities
- elective subjects (secondary), excursions and extra-curricular activities available
- student welfare services
- school rules and behaviours
- fees and contributions
- uniform requirements
- support for new students
- school bus routes and timetables.

## APPROACHING THE NEW SCHOOL

When you have selected a new school, complete the enrolment process, ask for any additional information relevant to your child and advise the school of your estimated start date.

Arrange an interview with the principal to discuss any issues or concerns and to provide or update any information that is relevant to your child.

If appropriate, it's useful to involve your child in the interview, and be honest about any difficulties your child may have experienced at their previous school. Also advise the principal of your child's talents and achievements. Take copies of assessments, reports and work samples to the school interview.

Give consent for the new school to make contact with the previous school to transfer your child's student records

It is good to arrange for your child to visit the school prior to commencing class if possible, so they can familiarise themselves with the school environment and teachers.

Make sure your child knows how to get to and from school and nominate

where they will be collected from, or find out the school bus number and where it departs from.

## TIPS WHEN MOVING

Talk to your child about the planned move and include them in the plans as much as possible.

Talk regularly as a family about the move and encourage your child to discuss their feelings about moving and leaving friends. Take care not to oversimplify any anxieties, as these are real to your child.

Discuss the positives that come with relocating and encourage your child to keep in touch with their old friends, while making new friends at their new school.

Encourage them to take photos or keepsakes from their old school and friends, and perhaps use some time to create a time capsule or scrapbook.

If time permits, allow your child to attend final classes, sporting activities, graduations and farewells.

Try not to make too many changes to your family's routine or rituals during and following the move. Reassure your child during these times and try to attend similar activities in the new location, as well as exploring new activities and adventures as a family. [defence.gov.au/members-families](https://defence.gov.au/members-families)



Sally Lawler, Defence School Mentor, Mt Maria College Mitchelton with Defence students.



We are a community inspired by St Thomas Aquinas to deepen our faith, to seek knowledge and to flourish.

In partnership with families and the community, students are encouraged to be: **Compassionate, Resilient, Inclusive and Engaged.**

**Feeder Preschool to Parish Schools  
St Thomas Aquinas; St John the Apostle, Florey; St Matthew's, Page; St Monica's Evatt**

We still have places available from Preschool to Year 6 for 2023. Please contact the school to have a chat with the Principal and organise a tour.

We look forward to meeting you.

Tel: 02-6258 4077

E: [office.staquinas@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office.staquinas@cg.catholic.edu.au)

W: [www.staquinas.act.edu.au](http://www.staquinas.act.edu.au)

25 Lhotsky Street Charnwood ACT 2615

ST  
THOMAS  
AQUINAS

# St Thomas Aquinas Primary School

St Thomas Aquinas Primary School is a Catholic co-educational Parish school that is committed to the development of each individual child, academically, socially and spiritually.

At the heart of West Belconnen, St Thomas Aquinas is a warm and welcoming small school, where students are known individually. When you enrol at St Thomas Aquinas the whole family is enrolled, not just the child. Our active School Community Council organises a number of events throughout the school year so families can get to know each other over a cuppa or a sausage sandwich.

Our vibrant classrooms are well resourced with all classrooms having access to interactive LED boards, as well as iPads or Chromebooks. The school also has extensive STEM resources, including, 3-D printers, robots and drones.

Our recently opened Early Learning Centre is a state of the art facility built to cater for pre-school students. The centre offers a variety of flexible programs for families including school hours care and long day care.



Students from K-6 can access OSHClub for before and after school care between the hours of 7am to 8.45 am and 3pm to 6pm. OSHClub also offers holiday care during term breaks.

St Thomas Aquinas is a school at the forefront of the Science of Learning and is quickly becoming an exemplar school for Catholic schools across Canberra and beyond. Our dedicated teaching staff have regular coaching and mentoring meetings with one of three Instructional Coaches to continually improve practice and support the needs of students. The school prioritises learning, ensuring that classrooms and hallways are calm and quiet so teachers can teach and students can learn.

Here at St Thomas Aquinas, we recognise that students are on varying journeys with regard to their learning. Our Diverse Learning Team are all trained in the latest reading and mathematics support programs, including Macqlit and Reading Tutor.

Our student leadership program supports students to become the leaders of tomorrow. Students in Year 6 belong to one of four leadership teams which include Faith and Justice,

Environment, Hospitality, and Sport. Student leaders have an opportunity to run events, lead assemblies, run social groups and support younger students through a buddy program.

Part of Harvard University's Caring Schools Network, the school's mission 'To Care' is at the heart of all we do. At the end of every break, a handful of students are invited to spotlight occasions where other students demonstrated the school rules, to care for themselves, to care for each other, to care for the environment and to practise gratitude. These 'shout-outs' are a popular event each day with well over a quarter of all students wanting to share their shout-outs at the end of each break.

The school enjoys large and newly refurbished playing ovals and play equipment as well as basketball courts and portable tennis nets set up each break time.

If you would like to learn more about our school, book an appointment with our Principal today.

**Tel:** 02 62584077

**E:** [office.staquinas@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office.staquinas@cg.catholic.edu.au)

**W:** [www.staquinas.act.edu.au](http://www.staquinas.act.edu.au)





P: 02 6260 9400 | E: [enrolments@stcc.act.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@stcc.act.edu.au) | [www.stcc.act.edu.au](http://www.stcc.act.edu.au)

At St Clare's College, we are always looking forward with the intent to prepare students for twenty-first century citizenship and employment. Our strategic intent – Seek Wisdom frames our commitment to becoming a Visible Learning School. Facilitating the use of researched based teaching practices in all classrooms helps to ensure that every student is engaged, challenged and experiences at least one year's growth as a learner each year.

St Clare's College provides outstanding pastoral support for students through their Pastoral Care (PC) teachers. The College is comprised of outstanding educators from an array of learning areas who are committed to supporting students.

Defence Service families have the added support of our Defence School Mentor who provides programs and services to support the individual needs of Defence students. These include:

- Welcoming new families and students to our College and supporting their integration into the College community.
- Providing support to students during parental absences.
- Organising regular social events for students.
- Excursions for students that encourage leadership, initiative and teamwork. These excursions are often combined with other ACT schools which run a Defence School Mentor program this allows students to socialise across the broader ACT Defence community.
- Coordinating the whole school ANZAC Day Ceremony and Remembrance Day activities. Also providing opportunities for students to represent the College at local external ceremonies.
- Providing the Pastoral Care team and teachers support and information to assist defence students.



Enrol today to secure your daughter's future in a secondary College that offers excellent academic results; a partnership between students, parents and teachers; support in navigating the teenage years. Enrolments are now open via our online application form on our website [www.stcc.act.edu.au](http://www.stcc.act.edu.au)

# Practical Posting Season Moving Tips

As if things weren't already hectic enough, the start of the new year also marks peak posting season. If you're anything like us, you're probably tired just thinking about it.

Whether it's your first move as a Defence family, or your 15th, there's always something to do which can help make your up- or downlift smoother and less stressful.

Here are some posting season hacks from our team to help smooth the way. With almost 50 moves between us as Defence families, we know what we're talking about!

## 1. Meet your new best friend

There is a heap of available and accessible information about relocations as a Defence family. The Toll Transitions relocation guide will be your new best friend. Download the Defence Relocation Guide and refer to it frequently. The ADF pay and conditions manual (PACMAN) is an equally important source of information as Toll administers policy in accordance with PACMAN.

## 2. Use your connections

Manage your entire posting through PostingConnect, a Defence platform supporting ADF members and their families through domestic postings that include a removal. The ADF member must sign up and add a nominee (partner or other family member) who can access the platform and complete tasks. A huge benefit of using PostingConnect is that all relocation services are all accessible from the site, so only one log in required to access Toll and DHA services.

## 3. Think of the (fur) children

If you have pets, make sure to look into relocation arrangements and costs for them (including quarantine requirements, if applicable) early in the process. Read the section on pet relocation allowances in PACMAN.

## 4. Do your homework

Do your research ahead of time to reduce the anxiety of moving to a new area. Reach out to any family and friends in the new area – search Facebook for the Defence community and/or local area family groups. This can be a good starting point for recommendations on child care providers, medical practitioners, utility providers, or seeing what events/activities are being held to connect with the Defence community.

## 5. Downsize, donate, declutter, make a quick buck on Marketplace

Use the lead-up time to your move to fully declutter your existing home so you're only taking items you want to keep. Donate, gift, and use hard rubbish in the weeks before the pack. If you have time, you can also make some quick cash on Facebook Marketplace.

## 6. Stick with it

Use different-coloured stickers as part of your own pre-packing to identify which room the boxed items will need to be placed at your new place. For example, all red for the kitchen, all green for the master bedroom, etc. Keep a note of this system for downlift day, so you have it on hand and can direct the removals team.

## 7. Keep your essentials together

Start a stash of important items like TV remotes, anchor bolts, the keys to your antique sideboard, a kettle, plastic cups and some coffee/tea bags, dry snacks, etc in an easily-identifiable box. This will be your priority box for the day of the move.

## 8. Be present

It may sound fairly obvious, but try to be at your new residence on downlift day. One of our team members once had to be in another state on downlift day and engaged the professional team to unpack and set up the new

service residence for her...and couldn't find things for months.

## 9. Be clear on responsibilities

Check with your removals case manager on team responsibilities while packing and unpacking. If your removals team takes an item like a standard bed apart for the move, it is their responsibility to reassemble it in your new residence. However, they are not responsible for cots or bunk-beds or non-standard beds (with electronic lifting devices, etc).

## 10. Get your gear

If you want (or need) to do a quick clean after the removalists have gone, remember to set aside any cleaning products, rubbish bags, vacuum, etc you may need. If you're going to be there a while, make sure you also have a drink bottle for yourself, a small snack for a burst of energy, and Bluetooth speakers or headphones to play some housework hits.

## 11. Check your dates

If you're in the same town and go to look at your new place prior to the date you get the keys, remember that it may not yet have had a final house clean or yard tidy. If that happens, please wait, and if you are not happy with the state of the house or yard on the day you move in, then let Defence Housing Australia know ASAP.

## 12. Orange you glad we suggested this?

Grab a little bottle of orange oil from the supermarkets to remove sticky labels from wooden furniture or glass. It is excellent at removing sticky residue, smells great, and is gentle on your furniture.

All the best with your next posting!  
<https://dfa.org.au/practical-posting-season-moving-tips/>



# St Thomas More's Primary School



## Centred in faith and learning

St Thomas More's puts students and their families at the heart of everything we do. We ensure our students from Kindergarten through to Year 6 grow through our values of Wisdom, Courage and Peace.

## Enrol now for 2023

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# Guided by St Thomas More to Inspire Minds and Nurture Hearts: St Thomas More's – The perfect school for families on the move

Some Catholic schools have a particularly high number of defence families, like St Thomas More's Primary School in Campbell, where around half of their students are from defence families.

St Thomas More's Principal Luke Donnelly said the school had a long and proud association with the defence forces and even has two dedicated Defence School Mentors (DSM's), who support families who are transitioning into or out of the school and throughout their time at the school.

"We know for our defence kids are more likely to attend different schools throughout their education compared to other kids, so we offer additional support to those children through our DSM's, programs in social skills and in partnership with our before and after-school care provider TeamKids to ensure families can access tutoring that can be necessary when moving schools." Mr Donnelly said.

"It is important to engage our defence families immediately through virtual meetings over MS Teams where families can meet familiar faces and receive a tour of the school. We then involve our families in school events like Kindergarten Orientation and our Step-up Afternoons online."

The school is guided by the St Thomas More's School Creed:

As a Catholic School, we believe to be Centred in Faith and Learning;

We Think More to grow in Wisdom,

We Encourage More to grow in Courage,

We Respect More to grow in Peace.

Guided by St Thomas More to Inspire Minds and Nurture Hearts.

The school creed helps to inform the teaching and learning in each classroom with teachers being recognised



nationally in leading the way in the Science of Learning and High Impact teaching Practices through Catholic Education's educational initiative Catalyst. In 2022 the school has experienced significant increases in academic achievement as a result of this.

The school follows the MultiLit program for literacy instruction in Kindergarten to Year Two and for students requiring intervention. They use the most up to date resources for learning such as Maths Seeds, Essential Assessment and Maths Olympiad. St Thomas More's also has dedicated specialist teachers and external providers who teach students PE skills, various sports, visual arts, dance, drama, music, digital technologies, AUSLAN and Italian.

"Being Principal of St Thomas More's is like winning the golden ticket. We are a small, welcoming community with students who Think More, Encourage More and Respect More. This results in an environment that is Centred in Faith and Learning where all students achieve to the greatest of their abilities."

"One sign that we are a good school for defence families is the fact that many families leave us but then return to St Thomas More's when they complete a posting. That's something that we are really proud of."

For more information about enrolment visit [stm.more.act.edu.au](http://stm.more.act.edu.au)



# Discovering hidden strength



Former Army Major Nicole Bradley discovered her strength was working with people.

On April 25, 2020 the former Australian Army logistics officer registered Nicole Bradley Counselling, something she couldn't have imagined when she discharged from the military in 2015.

Nicole joined the Australian Defence Force in 1993 and during her 22-year career deployed to East Timor and the Middle East, posted to seven different locations and spent six months on Palm Island as part of the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Programme (AACAP).

But despite the skills and experience gained through two decades of service, being a mum of two and supporting her husband in his Army career, Nicole doubted her ability to find professional success outside of the ADF.

"I didn't know I actually had anything to offer," she said.

"As a logistics officer I didn't have a clue about what my skillsets were (because) I was a general service officer. I didn't specialise in anything."

The former Army Major gravitated towards counselling post-service, as she found her best results while in the ADF came from her work with people.

One career highlight was as a troop commander on AACAP in 2003 where she was able to help her soldiers through their personal struggles.

"I felt I was really able to help them bridge some of their challenges and I ended up having a big welfare role in amongst those people," she said.

"Even in the later parts of my career, as a 2IC of the Army School of

Health, my office was like a revolving door where I'd have people just coming in to tell me their problems.

"(Becoming a counsellor) just seemed to be a natural fit."

Nicole completed a graduate diploma in counselling and was undertaking a placement at a community service organisation when Covid hit.

Thanks to the pandemic, she couldn't return to her placement and the thought of applying for jobs was overwhelming.

"I was searching for something else where I could forge my own path in a sense, but I didn't have any plans for a business," she said.

"There are very few people I know that have a business of their own and the concept of it was incredibly daunting."

A friend told Nicole about Prince's Trust Australia's free Enterprise programme, designed to help veterans and military spouses start and grow small businesses, and she decided to check it out.

Nicole went into the programme with a "vague idea" of what she could do, and a hope Prince's Trust could prove her self-doubt wrong.

"I found there was a real encouragement in that group," she said.

"I got to thinking about things which I hadn't really considered, and I felt like (starting a business) wasn't that complicated in the end.

"It was just that you don't know what you don't know. I didn't know how I could apply my skills.

"But what I found in Prince's Trust is they draw this thread around all these skills you have in Defence that are usable outside - skills I hadn't

thought of because you just live it, you don't see it - and that woke me up to what I could offer others."

While completing the programme Nicole also found training for offering counselling online and the idea for her business was born.

Today Nicole Bradley Counselling provides one-on-one counselling to clients throughout Australia and New Zealand.

"I'm chugging along quietly," Nicole said.

"I'm very aware that I don't want to end up in a place where I'm either strained and I can't give my clients the best of me, or I don't have time to prepare."

But she does have plans to expand her offerings.

"I want to do more for people who don't necessarily want to do one-on-one work, but they want develop themselves," she said.

Nicole has herself found strength in self-development can happen at any age.

At 42, Nicole was introduced to powerlifting which led to three masters bench press records, a Gold medal in the US Department of Defense Warrior Games, a Silver medal in the Invictus Games 2018 and serving as Co-Captain of the Australian team at the Invictus Games.

"I'm now really strong and I'm being recognised as being valuable for being strong".

And she happily recommends the Enterprise programme to other veterans and Defence spouses.

"The thing Prince's Trust does, once you leave the Defence Force, is give you this sense that you can still be important when you're not in the service," she said.

"Very often the sense of who you are is so tied to the uniform that being reminded you're still important and you're still a value to the community outside of uniform is really comforting."

Article written by Courtney Snowden, ADF partner and Programme alumna of Prince's Trust Australia.





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