



Serving the
Australian Defence Force
since 1940

ON PATROL

April 2020

From the CCOMM's desk...

The beginning of our new decade unfortunately brought with it an historically significant bushfire crisis. I am however pleased to say that Everyman's and Everywoman's REPs rose to the challenge to support the ADF, in a most selfless and committed way. Many cut short holidays to support the military and people who had been evacuated from their homes in the fire zones. Latchford Barracks, near Everyman's HQ, was opened up as an evacuation centre. At its peak, up to 400 people stayed there; many fleeing the fires and not knowing if their homes were still standing, or in ruins. Still others despaired because they had not been able to get all their animals away. My wife, Helen, advertised for feed for one man who was distressed about the state of his horses.



CCOMM Ken Matthews

The Wodonga community responded generously and we were able to pass on the feed donated. A local business kindly loaned a coffee machine, which became a daily gathering point for many, and the location of many conversations and opportunities for our REPs to assist, encourage and pray for this very vulnerable group of people. We watched those who had declared their lack of faith take Bibles and other Christian literature freely available to them. It was indeed our privilege to be included in their lives at this time and we quickly became the "go to" people for both the evacuees and the Army Reserve personnel, who were not local to this area.

Further north, our REPs based in Queensland also returned early from their holidays to prepare Brew Trucks and head out to the fire zones to support the ADF members engaged. Assistant Commissioner Richard GIBSON was with his unit, 2 CER. The unit was given a "hurry up and wait" order, stalling at Latchford for a few days before deploying to the Corryong area. Richard remained with them in his Brew Truck boosting morale and supporting all concerned for the duration of their time in the clean-up operation. REP Ben RIDLEY also travelled down from Brisbane to relieve REP Leane DABITZ in East Gippsland. REP Chris Wainwright and ACOMM George Thomas were based at Nowra and supported the ADF working on the south coast of NSW and REP Kristian Kemper deployed into the Ovens Valley.

In each of these places, the ADF cleared roads and farms, buried dead livestock, rebuilt kilometres of fencing and engaged with the communities they were living in. In each place, Everyman's was there with a soothing beverage, cold drink, and a friendly encouraging word. Everyman's worked closely with ADF Chaplains in the field, and their morale was lifted. Our Defence members knew the Everyman and Everywoman was there to care for them and support them in these very confronting and upsetting circumstances.

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Everyman's Welfare Service
a company limited by guarantee

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What Price Your Freedom?

At this time of year our world stops to remember, people from different walks of life around the globe pause for a time of reflection, giving thanks for the many lives that paid the ultimate sacrifice for a cause greater than themselves; greater than one single person could accomplish! Each year in Australia at Anzac Day services, we are seeing increasing numbers of individuals of different ages, different cultures and with different upbringings, uniting for a time of reflection and respect for the many that fought on different war fronts, for the united cause of freedom.

RSL Motto - "The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance" is one that is so true, it must be personally embraced to ensure our hard-fought freedom is maintained and not lost over time. This year, they will

gather in unity of spirit, since they cannot stand shoulder to shoulder.

Australia, which was founded upon a Christian heritage, has been united around the desire for everyone to be truly free! I am often asked by troops out field, why I do the 'Everyman Brew Truck thing' and my reply is always the same, "I do it because eternity is a hell of a long time to be separated from God".

The message of Easter clearly reveals how every living individual can experience real freedom from our past short-fallings that will cause an eternal separation from God.

Can I encourage and challenge you this Easter to set time aside to discover for yourself the real freedom that is experienced by entering into a personal relationship with God through His son Jesus Christ?

I'm not talking about having a religious encounter in a church building. I'm not talking about signing up and joining a particular religious group. I am challenging/encouraging you to explore a personal relationship with God!

The Easter story is not a man made thought-bubble to get 'bums on seats' in church every week, the Easter story is the pivotal part of God's plan for man! It is the act that sets Jesus apart from ALL other religious leaders throughout history. Christ/God came and lived amongst us for 33 years, showing us His commitment to reality. He lived a sinless life, He died and paid the ultimate price for ALL humanity and He rose again conquering death, displaying himself to be the Way, the Truth and the Life for eternity! Please give deep consideration to this historical event this year!

Do not hesitate to contact Everyman's HQ if you would like any more information or encouragement to make Easter 2020, the most memorable Easter EVER!



*National Relations Manager
COMM Phil Marshall*

EWS LOCATIONS

- RAAF Base, AMBERLEY, QLD
- Kokoda Barracks, CANUNGRA, QLD
- Gallipoli Barracks, ENOGGERA, QLD
- Victoria Barracks, PETRIE TERRACE, QLD
- HMAS Kuttabul, HOMEBUSH, NSW
- Navy Accommodation, STRATHFIELD, NSW
- 17 Brigade, RANDWICK, NSW
- Blamey Barracks, KAPOOKA, NSW
- Gaza Ridge Barracks, BANDIANA, VIC
- Latchford Barracks, BONEGILLA, VIC
- Simpsons Barracks, MACLEOD, VIC
- RMC DUNTROON, ACT

Operation Bushfire Assist



Above, Everyman's volunteer Helen Matthews, had a queue all day long waiting a freshly brewed coffee



SNR REP Kristian Kemper supported soldiers door knocking residents in the Ovens Valley



Like so many others in many parts of Australia, our annual leave came to an abrupt end with the bushfire emergency that indiscriminately ravaged town and country alike, taking all that stood in its path, which sadly included some courageous firefighters and others who had stayed to defend their homes and property. When the Government called in the Army Reserve and Regular Army to help, the Army Chaplains quickly contacted Chief Commissioner Ken Matthews to ask for Everyman's support for the deployed Defence Force personnel. At the peak of the emergency near our Headquarters, Latchford Barracks was home to 400 civilians displaced by the fires in North East Victoria and South Eastern Riverina and Snowy Valleys. We quickly opened the Everyman's Rec Centre at Latchford where evacuees could escape their rooms, have a cuppa or a cold drink and something to nibble on in between Mess hours. We appealed to you for financial support to help us keep the Rec Centre stocked and had a wonderful response to that appeal. **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!** 400 Military personnel who had travelled from QLD to help in the post fire clean-up, particularly on farmland in the Corryong area were supported by ACOM Richard Gibson.

Right, ACOM Richard Gibson met the Brigadier during a visit to Corryong



Above, Evacuees were updated with regular briefs while staying at Latchford Barracks



Above, the new Howell Swanton Trust Vehicle



Above, the Howell Swanton Trust Vehicle was put to the test when deployed to the South Coast of NSW with ACOM George Thomas





Above, General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC Chief of the Defence Force with REP Ben Ridley and members of the Australian and PNG Defence Forces



Above REPs Ben Ridley and Shane Lavell were a welcome sight whenever they caught up with the road clearing crews working in East Gippsland.

SNR REP Kristian Kemper was in the Ovens Valley supporting soldiers going door to door to check that houses had been evacuated, while in East Gippsland REPs Ben Ridley and Leane Dabitz supported soldiers from countries far and wide who had come to help their Aussie neighbours and friends, clearing thousands of kilometres of roads of fallen and dangerous trees. REPs Shane Lavell and Neil McGinn provided some assistance for Ben and Leane as the weeks rolled on.

ACOM George Thomas and REP Chris Wainwright were based at HMAS Albatross at Nowra, NSW. George supported military personnel as far south as Batemans Bay and into the Southern Highlands, while Chris remained on base visiting each of the units daily.

In Canberra, surrounded by fire on three sides, REP Frank Tottingham supported military personnel directly affected by the bushfires, and others who were door knocking suburbs on alert with ACT Police and SES workers.

This joint effort by so many workers and volunteers is the snapshot of being Australian – when we need each other, we drop everything to help. We hold on tight to what we

believe, and what we believe above all else is that greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Yes, the pictures get posted, the stories get told, and they are all important, but at the end of the day it's taking that person's hand and saying, "I'm here to help, tell me what to do" or saying "Thank you for helping", because that's exactly what Christ does for us. We are so blessed to serve with so many... **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

Below, REP Ben Ridley stands out among the soldiers from PNG in East Gippsland



Below, REP Ben Ridley with soldiers from The Republic of Fijian Military Forces



Below, REP Leane Dabitz at St James Anglican Church Hall in Orbost



Above, REPs Leane Dabitz and Neil McGinn were quick to offer a warm brew after good rain in East Gippsland

Introducing REP Brad Clarke “Jesus IS Better”



Brad applied to Everyman’s after hearing his friend, former Rep John Turner RAAF Base Amberley, was no longer able to serve because of his ill health. John had brought his son to see Brad in 2009 as his High School Chaplain. A prayer partnership began where Brad received the Everyman’s On Patrol Newsletter and Monthly Prayer Notes and supported the ministry of Everyman’s over the following 10 years.

Another twist was presented when Brad informed his mother, Jane, of his accepted application to join Everyman’s Welfare Service. Surprised, she explained that her husband soldier to be, who was a Rat of Tobruk, and Brad’s father, was led to faith in Christ one night in Brisbane in 1944. Gordon Sadler, a Rep for Everyman’s, accompanied a drunk George Clarke to his hotel room and shared the gospel with him. George accepted Jesus and his life was transformed from a womanising, swearing drunk to an evangelist Bible teacher. George knew, “Jesus is BETTER”.

After Brad completed his bricklayer apprenticeship he became a Timber Estimator. Brad completed Bible College training and served as Church Pastor and Elder for ten years and Growing Families Ministry Coordinator for six years.

Brad then studied a Bachelor of Business CQU (Majoring in Human Resource Management and Occupational Health and Safety), Brad served four years as a Health and Safety Coordinator before spending three years serving as a P-12 College Chaplain.

Brad became a Christ Follower at age 10 and was baptised at age 15. He married his beautiful wife Debbie in 1986 and they have three adult sons Benjamin, Lemuel and Jeberson.

Brad feels the call of God upon his life to use his skills and life experience to share with defence personnel that “Jesus IS Better” through the work of Everyman’s at RAAF Base Amberley.

Brad is grateful for his family and church support and the encouragement of Phil Marshall and Richard Gibson in this new adventure.

CO-LABOURERS

At Everyman’s we realise we can make a small impact on the ADF, but in conjunction with fellow ministries, the results are magnified. We gratefully acknowledge these like-minded ministries with whom we work to serve the ADF:

Chaplains	FOCUS	Military Christian Fellowship (MCF)
Navigators	SASRA	Red Shield Defence Service
Focus on the Family	Solid Rock	The Bible Society
Association for Conferences Teaching and Service (ACTS)		Naval Military and Airforce Bible Society

(continued from the CCOMM’s desk on page 1)

It was a privilege that within days of the Prime Minister announcing the ADF support that we in turn were asked to assist by Defence. The response of our REPs and willingness to sacrifice time and energy was exemplary, and I am certainly proud of those making up the EWS team as we enter this new decade. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all who have prayed and continue to pray for us, and also for all who contributed financially to stocking up our Rec Centre at Latchford and to keeping us out in the field. Please consider giving to us financially when you can. Please consider writing letters of support to our REPs, so they are encouraged to serve more effectively in 2020.

CCOMM Ken Matthews

Everyman's 80th Anniversary Memorabilia

As Everyman's enters its 80th year, we have produced a number of items of memorabilia to commemorate this very special anniversary. The quantities we have are limited, so please get in early to order your keepsakes. All prices include postage and handling.



Don't miss out!



Clockwise from left: Dog Tags, unique to Everyman's, front and reverse sides shown, metallic silver in colour.; Pen, easy grip



***Suggested donation
(includes postage & handling)***

***Dog Tags \$15
Easy Grip Pen \$5***

More ways to give..... It's now possible to set up regular (or one-off) Direct Giving from your own bank account straight into ours! The details you need are:



BSB: 034-033
Account : 197255
Title: Everymans Welfare Service
Reference: Your Name

Phone or email us at Headquarters if you'd like a tax deductible receipt.

Giving has never been easier!

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PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE TO CARE FOR OUR AUSTRALIAN ARMED FORCES.....



Yes! I wish to partner with *EVERYMANS WELFARE SERVICE* to support the great work they do with servicemen and women of the Australian Defence Force in Australian and Overseas!

Name

Email Address.....Phone No

Home Address.....

My donation amount (Please circle your amount) **\$25** **\$50** **\$100** Other \$_____ (Please send me a receipt for my tax deduction, all donations over \$2 are tax deductible)

HOW TO DONATE

A) Donate on line using our secure payment system by going to our website:
everymans.org.au

B) Donate with a regular or one- off gift from your bank account to:
BSB: 034-033 Title: Everyman's Welfare Service
Account: 197255 Reference: Your Name

C) Donate by sending a cheque to: Everyman's Welfare Service
PO Box 8
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D) Donate via Credit or Debit Card Please circle your choice → **Visa** or **Mastercard**

Card Number _____

Expiry Date __/__/__ CVV ___ (Last three digits on back)

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Charge my card (circle your choice) **Once Only** **Monthly** **Quarterly** **Annually**

Please place your order in the boxes below for our Dog Tags / Calendars / Pens

Please send me the following memorabilia (enter quantity in box):

Dog Tags @ \$15

Pen @ \$5

You can also scan this form and email it to us at: admin@everymans.org.au OR by Post
Everyman's Welfare Service PO Box 8 BANDIANA MILPO VIC 3694