



Serving the  
Australian Defence Force  
since 1940



# ON PATROL

December 2021

## *From the CCOMM's desk...*

Dear friends and supporters,

It is always a time of reflection as we come to the end of a year. It would be true to say, that this year could be defined as one of uncertainty. Seeing the end to a major role for our ADF in the Middle East has been one. When I was there, the talk was that we would remain for many years into the future. Now that has dissipated and our focus is on the Pacific. I was reminded of this watching the recent Battle of Midway movie. In our time, we know the allies won that battle. However, it was interesting noticing the uncertainty of the people at the time as to how that conflict might have affected them. If the Japanese got the upper hand, it may have meant cities like San Francisco would be raided, not to mention the loss of the whole US state of Hawaii!

Contemplating the increased tensions with China lately, I tried not to think

of what a modern war on that scale might mean for our ADF. It was not a pleasant thought, yet we are often hearing of a potential future conflict with China from our media and supposedly expert sources.

As much as it made me feel uncertainty, I reflected on how the members of our Defence Force must feel. They would be at the brunt of such a frightening conflict. Imagine the uncertainty for them, as many would like to look forward to a future with a family. Many, who have already served in gruelling campaigns on other operations, would hardly want to find themselves in the front line opposing such a belligerent super power. Whilst all this is only speculation for now, and we hope and pray such a conflict would never actually materialise, there is that fear and uncertainty remaining.

I am proud to say that our Everyman's and Everywoman's REPs have served faithfully on two major exercises this year that have included international troops. There have also been many smaller exercises where our REPs are engaged. We serve from the international ones, to faithfully encouraging our troops at a rifle range. One of our senior Everyman's REPs was highly praised by a long serving soldier this year who sought him out to tell him how highly respected a person he was on base. This is true of many of our REPs through the years, who have been there to listen to and help many an ADF member who may be suffering from uncertainty for a whole host of different reasons.

Our REPs will always be there to listen and if need be to pray for any ADF member, at any time, with whatever the need may be. Whatever our ADF may face as a potential enemy in the future, our Everywoman's and Everyman's REPs will be ready to give whatever they can, irrespective of how limited our resources may be.



*CCOMM Ken Matthews*

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## **Everyman's Welfare Service**

a company limited by guarantee

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# *Veterans' Health Week 2021*

Veterans' Health Week 2021 for Everyman's Veterans' League (EveryVets) was a huge success! With the help of a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the day began with a bush walk to 'White Rock', followed by a free lunch provided by ex-RAN submariner Jamie from 'Bare Knuckles BBQ'. Helping him out was ex-Sapper Andrew from 'Smokin' Sappers BBQ'. Big thanks to those guys who put on a great feed out of their own pockets! The lunch took place in the gardens of the historical 'Everyman's Hut' in Wacol. It has been decades since Everyman's has had anything to do with our old Rec Centre, which is now in a military museum precinct, but Lord willing, EveryVets will make a lot of use of the place in future! Finally, we had Major Scott Gayton (rtd) give a presentation on the importance of valuing the maintenance of body, mind, and spirit (especially with the current difficult times), along with a handout, so there are no excuses now! On the day, we donated a retro 'Everyman's' sign and three framed pictures of the Everyman's Hut being manned by REP Ed Bentley, and filled with many 'National Servicemen' from back in the '50' s. These were presented to the QLD National Servicemen's association's President - Alex Garland. We thank Alex and the Nashos for allowing us to host our event at Wacol!

For those in Brisbane check out Bare Knuckles BBQ, you won't be disappointed! Current serving and Veterans get a discount! (617 Toohey Rd, Salisbury)!



*Group shot at White Rock*



*SNR REP Ben Ridley and REP Mason Eagleton*



*Department of Veterans' Affairs, Veteran Health Week lunch at Wacol*

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We are so pleased that RSLs, Rotary clubs, and churches are getting behind Everyman's in increasing numbers. We can encourage certainty to our ADF members in a time of increasing uncertainty; with a talk, a prayer, or the gift of a Defence Bible to those who would like one.

Whatever a person's background, we will seek to help and be that "Philanthropic," meaning one who commits to being a true friend of their fellow human beings. As we go into our Christmas season, we encourage you to consider sending a Christmas gift to our ADF personnel by enabling Everyman's to continue encouraging certainty into 2022.

*CCOMM Ken Matthews*



# *42 for 42 Memorial*



*ACOMM Richard Gibson and REP Brad Clarke*



*Afghanistan Memorial Gardens Official Opening*

ACOMM Richard Gibson and REP Brad Clarke at the 42 for 42 memorial unveiling.

## *Ex Diamond Walk, Shoalwater Bay*



*SNR REP Ben Ridley with Troops lining up for a brew*

Despite the tragic start to the exercise with the loss of two of our 7th Brigade brothers, the recent exercise in Townsville was a memorable one. The Everyman's Brew Trucks made the big trip up from Brisbane and were in the bush dishing out big doses of much needed morale!



*ACOMM Richard Gibson and SEN REP Ben Ridley with soldiers*

## **EWS LOCATIONS**

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



# *Introducing Petri Koskelainen*

Hi all. My name is Petri Koskelainen.

I would like to begin by thanking the Everyman's team for this opportunity to tell a little about myself and my background.

I have lived a very privileged life from my perspective, even though many don't believe that or see it the same way. I was born into a missionary family on the mission fields in the jungles of Africa in Ethiopia. Most of my childhood was on mission fields in several countries like Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea, Finland, Sweden and Australia. During this time, I was able to experience many vastly different people and their cultures, whilst learning to speak their languages.

My family eventually settled here in Australia which I now call home. After completing high school, I returned to Finland, my country of origin to join the Army. After serving in the Infantry, first in a Mortar Company and then in an Anti-Tank Company, I returned to Australia and went into the residential and commercial construction industry. I soon found myself travelling again, this time throughout Australia and overseas in the building game.

As I was born into a missionary family I was raised to believe in the Christian Faith and so I lived my life believing in God and I took part in most aspects of my parents' work on the mission fields. However, in my late teens I began to think that I knew how to live my life without God and even without my family. I often refer to that time as putting Jesus on the shelf and telling Him, "Don't call me, I'll call you!" Soon my career in building mining infrastructure took off and I became a prominent figure, both as a project manager and as a consultant to some of the world's largest companies.

Then the mining sector took a serious downturn. Mines began to shut down one after the other and I soon lost the company I had started. Things continued to go from bad to worse in my professional life as well as my personal life. It wasn't long before I had lost everything and faced very serious issues in my life. So serious that I had decided that there was no way out and my life was not worth living. I had many dark and hard times in my life, but this was by far the darkest. However, something inside of me had never accepted the fact that when we die, it all just ends, and that we all came to be through a big explosion that once took place. It was at that time I came to the realisation that no matter how hard I worked and how much I tried to live my life, I just didn't know how and didn't have the answers. As a final effort, I turned to God again and asked for help. I remember having many anxious thoughts, such as, would God accept me back, had I gone too far, how would He help me, etc. These thoughts were soon left behind as my life began to change in every way. It was still a long hard road back, but where I am now overwhelmingly proves that it was worth it.

Within a few years, I was married and had started a construction company on a small scale. For nearly ten years my wife and I have been running a humanitarian project in Uganda, Africa called Kamuge Missions International (see our website at [www.kmiuganda.org](http://www.kmiuganda.org)) helping the community in many ways. We have been able to supply food, clothing, bedding, teaching and training in all aspects of life. We have been joined in the Uganda project by REP Ben Ridley and his wife, Claudia, whom we met through church, a number of years ago. I've spent many years living in Finland running numerous projects helping the community in areas like the homeless, street kids, veterans, and suicide prevention programs. Here in Australia, I am involved with several organisations, including Everyman's Veteran's League, aged care centres, and hopefully soon with the Everyman's Welfare Service as a part time Rep. With all the experience I have gained, I am able to see the world through different eyes today. I often remind myself and others of the amazing things I would have missed out on if I had left this world early. Just like in the army, we were trained to fend off the enemy and each time we did, we realised it was all worth it. Likewise in my life, each and every time I am able to help someone, I realise every day has been worth it.



*Katja & Petri Koskelainen*



*Uganda Mission*

# ***NRM at RSL Runaway Bay***

Everyman's National Relations Manager, REP Jeff Greene, recently visited the Runaway Bay RSL Sub-Branch to share with the members a little of the history of Everyman's Welfare Service, what we do, and how we continue to connect with, and care for, members of the Australian Defence Force and their families.

The Brew Trucks are a vital part of this work on exercises on military training areas and bases, where our REPs can spend days or weeks with Australian military personnel and international allies. Back at home, our REPs work in drug and alcohol-free Recreation Centres on Military Bases across Australia.

Jeff was keen to thank the Sub-Branch for their generous donation towards our BREW TRUCK REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME. The programme was established to upgrade our fleet of Brew Trucks, and ensure the fleet is well maintained, so we can continue to serve, both on and off base, the men and women of the Armed Forces.

If you would like Jeff to speak at your Sub-Branch, Club or Church, please contact him directly at [jeffgreene@everymans.org.au](mailto:jeffgreene@everymans.org.au) or 0421 013 924.



*NRM Jeff Greene speaking at  
RSL Runaway Bay*

*The Runaway Bay Sub-Branch was originally formed by soldiers returned from World War I. Their members are young and old, female and male. They have served overseas and at home, in armed conflict, peacekeeping missions and disaster recovery. What they all have in common is 'Service to their Nation.'*



## **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



# Kapooka



*Chaplain Fay Fraser with REP Warren Clarke*



*New Xbox consoles at Kapooka Rec Centre*

The Army Recruit Training Centre at Kapooka is an extremely busy place all year round, providing basic training to all new recruits entering the Army. As a result, the equipment in the Rec Centre at Kapooka takes quite a hammering as the young recruits let off a bit of steam at the weekends. Recently, REP Warren Clarke was able to draw on donations made by the Chaplains at Kapooka a number of years ago, to replace old televisions and worn-out X-Boxes, which put big smiles on the faces of the recruits. Chaplain Fay Fraser dropped in to check out the new gear and Warren was able to share with her, how much it was appreciated by everyone who came into the centre. The Kapooka Rec Centre has so much energy in it at the weekends, the place is literally rocking!

## NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR HEADQUARTERS

# 02 6053 5288

**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  
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