



Serving the
Australian Defence Force
since 1940



ON PATROL

March 2022

From the CCOMM's desk...

Dear friends and supporters,

It is great to welcome you to 2022, and to the 82nd year of Everyman's Welfare Service's work with the ADF. With the hope that the worst of COVID is behind us, we look forward to a Defence training tempo that will be increased this year and so too, our opportunities to provide care and welfare for them.

Towards the end of last year, the National Serviceman's Association was happy to allow EveryVets, (the veterans care arm of Everyman's), to utilise even more fulsomely, the old Wacol Army base. EveryVets took some veterans, both retired and still serving, on a bush walk and then a BBQ at the old Wacol site. It was an exciting time for all concerned, particularly the retired veterans.

The camaraderie and lunch together, on the old Army site where everything was familiar, was such a time of blessing. Veterans felt noticed, cared for, and

respected. Our EveryVets team are fundraising for a custom made trailer with equipment to mow the lawns of veterans who are unable to do this for themselves. It is the heart of Everyman's for veterans, to meet these and other needs for them. EveryVets opens the opportunity for this and also for that "quiet chat with the Everyman" at the back of the truck that they were used to when serving. The mental health benefits for the team of veterans helping their mates is immeasurable. It is a win win for all!

However, we are mindful that the veteran's appreciation of that care and service is only because an Everyman or Everywoman sat with them when they were young ADF members. We indeed have a whole new generation of Defence marching in to serve this great country of ours. We seek to extend the same service, love, and care to them that we have offered for the last 82 years. Getting out to see them, not only in training establishments, but also, in some of the toughest areas in Australia, is what motivates our team.

Recently, I had the joy of picking up one of our newest Brew Trucks, just after it had a donated canopy installed onto the back of it. (A big shout out to Calbah Industries in Melbourne for this very kind donation). It was a pleasure to drive and it had a ton of power under it. I reflected on the many ADF members in tough, remote locations who will be overjoyed as they see this truck full of goodies come over some rugged hill, with the kind Everyman/Everywoman in it, who they know they can talk to and confide in. Whilst the "tea and bikkies", and many other good things are enjoyed, we know it is the comfort, the chat, and sometimes the prayers that are the real benefit of our visits. True positive morale can be difficult to attain in trying circumstances. Yet morale is imperative in order to enable our ADF members to give their best. Everyman's has been, and always will be, the agency that will strive to deliver that precious commodity called morale.

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CCOMM Ken Matthews

Everyman's Welfare Service

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'Backyard Blitz' Fundraiser

Everyman's Veterans League would like to thank Theresa and Hannah from Bunnings, West Ipswich for arranging the donation of some really useful hand tools for the EveryVets 'Backyard Blitz' style program. EveryVets has been fundraising for a custom-built trailer and tools that we can use to serve the community in the future. We are still a long way off raising the funds needed, but if you would like to know more or donate visit www.everyvets.org.au/trailer



*Left: SNRREP
Ben Ridley*

*Right: Donated tools
from Bunnings*



Introducing James Morrissy



Left: James Morrissy

*Right: Morrissy
family taken in 2017*



I served in the Australian Army from 1990-1995 as a Sapper with the Royal Australian Engineers, 21 Construction Sqn. '91-'93 and as carpenter at the School of Army Health '93-'95. Discharged because of a serious back injury I was at a loss as to what life was really about - the search had begun! Born again in 1999, God has had me in His hands to be His minister to others from that time. In 2004 I took on a role of Building Studies teacher in a Bible training college in Fiji. My wife Leanne and three children (now six) spent 9 months in Fiji.

It was while I was in my 3rd year of Bible college in 2020 that I really felt God had something special and particular for me. So, I went bush and spent some time discussing possibilities with the Father. It was at this time I felt drawn to minister to soldiers. I also met an ex-soldier whose wife had been with Everyman's whilst he was serving overseas. With their encouragement and much prayer, I contacted an Everyman's Rep in Brisbane and met with Richard Gibson and Ben Ridley. I will now be joining Richard at 2 CER. Back to the Sappers!

ASEME Commemoration Service



*Paul Bond, Ken Matthews and Alex Wolf at
Commemoration Service Bandiana*



*Statue at the Commemoration Service
Bandiana*

Recently, I had the real joy and privilege of being invited to take the Brew Truck to the RAEME (Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) Association, Bandiana Chapter commemorative service. It is held to remember those RAEME soldiers who have fallen. We have the RAEME Craftsman Memorial in our location and it was great to see many veterans sitting with our own proud ADF members of ASEME (Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers). No matter how long I have been in Everyman's it is still a joy to serve soldiers around the Brew Truck. I love this because of the many meaningful conversations I end up having with serving ADF members and veterans. I reflected on the wonderful work my Everyman's forebears have done to have the privilege of so many veterans who remembered Everyman's favourably during their service. They reminisced about how much they appreciated the Everyman's service out in the heat and the cold. "Keep it up," was the constant encouragement. However, as I spoke with them, I became even more convinced of our need to support our Veterans, and to see how Everyman's can play a role in that. I realised how important it is to pull up the Brew Truck at Veterans events like we do with the ADF, because the Veterans there find old friendships and acceptance under the Brew Truck awning. We serve veterans as we serve the ADF. One veteran came and told me how he was given a small Army Bible when he was at Kapooka. Inside he found a list of verses that helped people in various situations in life like being depressed, anxious, lonely and heart broken. He went on to tell me he had given his small Bible away many years ago. Of course being an Everyman, I offered him one from my truck! The Veteran was overjoyed and gave me the very real honour of asking me to date and sign it from the Everyman in the front cover!

Everyman's has our EveryVets division up in Queensland, and we hope we can find the people with the calling to join Everyman's and start new chapters of EveryVets in other parts of the country. Our veterans need our support and honour for putting their lives on the line for us. We hope there will be more avenues to do that under the Everyman's banner in coming years.

*Ken Matthews
Chief Commissioner*

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
- Robertson Barracks HOLTZE, NT

Back to Basics

2022 began like any other year in Defence, with something every soldier loves and looks forward to (or dreads) called 'Mandatory Training'! Every serving member (including Everyman's Reps) is required to participate in annual lectures, lasting a couple days in a classroom, covering WHS, Drugs and Alcohol, Security, and a range of other topics. Even though it might not be the most exciting thing for the average soldier, this is all done to ensure that each member is up-to-date and refreshed in the fundamentals of Defence life for the coming year. The other typical approach that most Army units take is a 'Back to Basics' training of their core skills, and this year was no different. This usually involves sharpening (or resharpening) the basic individual soldier's skills. For the Infantry Corps battalions, such as my unit 8/9 RAR, this usually involves revision of skills like first aid, radio operating, navigation and shooting at the rifle range. The latter, of course, gives us as Everyman's Reps, the opportunity to get ourselves back to our own basics - being out and about and seeing the soldiers in their element! ACOMM Richard Gibson and I, took the opportunity to jump in the brew truck and headed out to Greenbank range to serve the troops. We were delighted to pull up to one shooting range, and rather than seeing the usual green camouflage uniforms, were met by bright blue camouflage ones! Our friends from the RAAF Security Forces were also sharpening their shooting skills, and they were more than happy to see an Everyman's truck pulling up! Some commented about the great service they experienced and fond memories from their time doing their basic training in Wagga (well done Team Kapooka!) and some of the older serving members had never crossed paths with us before! Some great conversations were had over a cold drink, and we were grateful to be able to get around and not only serve the RAAF, but various other Army soldiers from the 7th Brigade.



ACOMM Richard Gibson and SNRREP Ben Ridley at Greenbank. QLD with RAAF Security Forces personnel

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Of course, we need more of these fine trucks to continue this work. We need resources to purchase and kit out our EveryVets trailer with the required equipment. I sincerely thank those who have already helped us to attain vehicles and equipment, and look forward to a long and enduring association. We would also invite individuals and organisations to become new partners and supporters with us in 2022, and to join us on this most worthy journey of supporting our Defence Force personnel. For all who are praying for us, I also thank you. We have seen what we consider amazing answered prayer in 2021. For anyone who would like to be a praying partner, we also extend our invitation. Thank you to you all, and may we together witness a year of blessing in which we are evermore enabled, to extend our care to the ADF.

If you would like to make a donation or become a prayer partner, please contact Chris or Lou at HQ.

Relocation of Amberley Centre



The Everyman's and Everywoman's Recreation Centre at RAAF Base Amberley relocated on 7 December 2021 from the hot and noisy Lancaster Bar near the main AAFCAN'S (canteen) in the town centre to the air-conditioned and much quieter Airman's Club next to Airman's Mess.

The first function held in the new centre was the annual Combat Support Division Social Club Melbourne Cup Lunch where about 30 members gathered and watched the race via large screen after lunch. They enjoyed the new and more comfortable environment at the Airman's Club. Everyman's also hosted a training day for another Unit in December before we officially moved in.

The Airman's Club Manager Jennifer Hyland and the team have warmly welcomed Everyman's Welfare Service into sharing their space and have been very gracious with allowing us to spread out into the open area between the Airman's Club and the Combined Mess with a Table Tennis table and two Pool Tables and with extra dining tables and chairs.

Everyman's Welfare Service is now located on the western end of the Combined Mess where we are central to the Live-In and Transit Accommodation on base.

We hope to introduce two new volunteers early in 2022 so we can extend our opening hours into the evenings. This will open further opportunities to engage in meaningful ways with members in their down time on base. The Military Christian Fellowship meeting on Wednesday's at 1130hrs and the Women's Maternity Group with Chaplain Michelle meeting every other Thursday at 1300hrs will continue this year in these more comfortable surrounds!

2022 is shaping up to be a great year of opportunities to serve the Defence members in new and exciting ways as we have been very well supported by the Base SADFO (Senior ADF Officer), Base Manager as well as my sponsoring 23 Squadron Commanding Officer, to whom we are very grateful.

We also thank the 23 Squadron Chaplaincy for their much-appreciated support and wish Chaplain Dan and Chaplain Nathan all the best with their new roles this year. We also welcome the new Co-ordinating Chaplain Wayne back to Amberley in 2022.

REP Brad Clarke

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

Ben Ridley's Promotion to SNR REP



*ACOMM Richard Gibson congratulating
REP Ben Ridley with his promotion to
SENIOR REP during our National Staff
Conference 2021*

Last year we had the unique and first time occurrence in our history of experiencing a virtual Everyman's National Conference on Zoom. One of the highlights was the promotion of REP Ben RIDLEY to SNRREP (Senior Representative). The elevation to SNRREP comes to those REPs who show outstanding vision and ability in various realms. Ben is the founder and current leader of our first EveryVets chapter in Queensland. Veterans have already been greatly blessed through EveryVets and the Queensland chapter is the nucleus of future EveryVets chapters around Australia. In addition to that, Ben has been instrumental in assisting the modernisation and re-design of our Brew Trucks. As a response to Ben's hard work, the Board of Everyman's was pleased to promote Ben. It would have been much nicer for all the Everyman's REPs to be there in person. Nevertheless, it was still a joy to see Ben promoted by our Queensland team leader ACOMM (Assistant Commissioner) Richard GIBSON.

At the same time, Richard also presented Ben with his ADF Long Service Medal on behalf of the ADF. This incorporates Ben's previous service as a soldier and now as an Everyman. We all wish you and wife Claudia all the best Ben, and pray you will have a fulfilling and long service in Everyman's in the years ahead.

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
Account : 197255
Title: Everymans Welfare Service
Reference: Your Name



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

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Yes Everyman's! We want to support the great work you do supporting the servicemen and women of the Australian Defence Force.

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