



Serving the  
Australian Defence Force  
since 1940

# ON PATROL



May 2022

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

Dear friends and supporters,

Much has happened in the world since the last On Patrol. Most prominent is the war in Ukraine. It may be true that many of us would not have been able to find it on a map until recently, but we are now reminded daily of the potential long-term implications of this conflict.

As we have not long come away from ANZAC Day commemorations, it is indeed a sombre thought that our ADF could be summoned into a new conflict. I remember my late mother's reflections, who served in the RAAF during World War 2. She told me how shocked Australia was that a conflict in Poland in 1939, led to places in Australia being bombed only 3 years later. Today I reflect upon what may come of the Russian/Ukrainian conflict, and how that may impact directly upon Australia in a few years, or maybe less.

In all of this, Everyman's wants to create and maintain a readiness to serve the ADF, in whatever way we can, in whatever circumstances that may unfold. As much as we do not want to see our Defence Force drawn into another major conflict, it is true that we cannot ignore that prospect either.

Therefore, Everyman's is doing its best to upgrade our Brew Truck fleet, attract new volunteers to our work, and to have our Rec Centres ready on as many bases as possible. As we hope COVID subsides in its impact, we look forward to being out on more training areas in Australia to support the ADF. Defence personnel have continued to assure us that there is nothing like a visit out field by the Everyman. It is always in the searing heat or freezing cold! However, it is not just about "getting that brew." It is also about that quiet chat regarding anything that is affecting them personally. They know the Everyman and Everywoman will always have a listening ear, will always be ready to offer a prayer, and will do everything they can, working with ADF agencies, to help that person out.

This year we have expanded into the NT and have an experienced Everywoman there who will be a blessing to our troops out on tough Territory training areas. We also have an Everyman in South Australia, not to mention the ongoing activity of our teams in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. However, the stress on our vehicles is becoming obvious. We recently had a \$3000 repair bill for maintenance required on one of our brew trucks. Whilst Defence helps us when they can, this is not always possible. Defence have such a lot of work maintaining their own vehicles and keeping them 'battle ready' that it is not always possible to look at the Everyman's truck.

Please continue to pray for us, and consider how you may be able to assist financially with our ever-increasing repair bills. In addition, there is always the need for new Landcruisers to replace the older ones, that have done lots of hard work in rugged bush areas.

All this of course, is for both the material and spiritual support for the ADF. In the future, they may have big demands placed upon them. Please consider partnering with us in our endeavour, both materially and spiritually.



Ken Matthews  
Chief Commissioner

## Everyman's Welfare Service

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# *OP Flood Assist*

Living in Australia, means living with a wide variety of extreme conditions. As with Operation Bush Fire Assist in 2020, Everyman's was again called upon to support the ADF as they worked tirelessly to support our fellow countrymen in Operation Flood Assist 2022. The Everyman's Queensland team quickly sprang into action, initially serving the military in Gympie, QLD, and then moving through to Northern NSW, basing ourselves mainly in Pottsville. We had the opportunity to serve the Navy (something we rarely get to do) and also to visit 5 RAR, 7 RAR, 1 Armoured Regiment, and many other units from Brigades right around Australia. These natural disasters remind us of the best and worst of living in our nation. We see how fragile we humans really are, and despite the efforts to mitigate the weather, we are still subject to its powerful force. We also see how communities come together and bonds are strengthened by the shared experiences, loss and the associated grief.



*SNR REP Ben Ridley and ACOMM Richard Gibson try out the fire vehicle*



*Navy personnel enjoying being served from our brew truck by REP Brad Clarke*



*AUR James Morrissy serving Army Personnel*



*Navy personnel with SNR REP Ben Ridley and REP Mason Eagleton*

## **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



*They say that 'teamwork makes the dream work'! It was awesome to catch up with our chaplain and Sallyman counterparts, on OP Flood Assist 2022, all the way from Adelaide - 1 Armoured Regiment Chaplain Luke Skipper and 7 RAR Sallyman Peer Cathcart. An awesome time of fellowship and joint service to the 7th Battalion Task Element, in Lismore. Pictured here with SNR REP Ben Ridley and AUR James Morrissy*



*Rep Mason Eagleton also joined the Everyman's team in NSW. Things finished up in the Pottsville area with a friendly T20 cricket match between the local cricket club vs Army, with Army coming up winners at the end of the day. There was a display of Army vehicles, including the Everyman's Brew Truck.*



*Repairing a washed out road*



*Finding landfill for the amount of rubbish created by the flood was a big problem*



*REP Brad Clarke serving at the rubbish dump*



# Anzac Day

This year CCOMM Ken was privileged to be able to speak at the Dawn Service at the amphitheatre in Caloundra. Many thanks to the Caloundra RSL Sub-Branch for their kind invitation in allowing Everyman's to take part. The dawn service was very well attended, with a possible figure of 6000 there that morning. Ken spoke of his involvement over the years in Everyman's, and the many interactions he has had with veterans both still serving and retired. He was able to share the plight of many who have returned, and to encourage all assembled to do our utmost to support those who have come back with physical and emotional scars. Ken also spoke of the work of EveryVets, who had recently enjoyed a time of fellowship at their fishing camp over the Easter long weekend. Ken reflected on a young soldier he had encountered many years ago, who years later had his picture up on the wall of honour in the Middle East during his service there. It was a sombre reminder as to how we all must make the most of every moment in our interaction with members of our ADF. We must strive to be in a position to encourage, and to pray as the need arises, with anyone, irrespective of his or her individual circumstances or background. Ken also had the privilege of laying a wreath at Caloundra's memorial gardens at 10:00am. May we all continue to honour and support ANZAC Day wherever we may be. May we also engage with, and pray as much as we are able, with those who have returned home, and for those who have lost dearly loved mates.



*Left: Caloundra  
Dawn Service*



*Right: CCOMM Ken  
Matthews speaks at  
the dawn service*



*CCOMM Ken  
Matthews lays a  
wreath & salutes at  
Caloundra 10am  
service*



## 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

# *EveryVets Easter Family Camp*



*Camp setup with one of the Brewtrucks*



*Fellowship around the campfire*

Wow, what an amazing Easter weekend! Fellowship and fishing! Thanks to all who came and made the weekend special and thanks to the Gallipoli Barracks Fishing Club for hiring one of their boats. A big shout out to Jamie from Bare Knuckles BBQ for generously supplying the dinner Saturday night. It is great to see the EveryVets family expanding and spending time together! We look forward to the next adventure! The camp was held at Camp Gregory Veteran's Retreat, Woodgate QLD.



*REP Brad Clarke & Veteran Kris Walters*



*ACOMM Richard Gibson & CCOMM Ken Matthews cooking up a storm*



*CCOMM Ken Matthews & SNR REP Ben Ridley looking for the best place to fish*



*Some of the participants at the EveryVets Easter Family Camp*



# *REP Leane Dabitz at 1CSR*



REP Leane Dabitz posted to 1CSR (1st Combat Signal Regiment) at Robertson Barracks in the Northern Territory at the beginning of the year. It's been an interesting, and somewhat challenging time for Leane as she seeks to establish new networks on a new base; something she had worked hard for and secured at the School of Signals at Simpson Barracks in Melbourne, where she had worked for the last three years.

Posting to the Northern Territory was going home for Leane, and she had not been there long when the Bush Church she attends offered to hold a Line Dance fundraiser to support Leane and Everyman's. They remembered the era when Everyman's was active in the NT and were excited to have a Rep back in their midst. These pics are not wonderful quality, but it shows the fun that was had by everyone in attendance on Saturday, 19th February. The 19th February is a very significant date in Darwin's history during WW2. This was the date the first bombs were dropped on Darwin, and this year marked the 80th anniversary

of that fateful day. Leane showed an old Everyman's video and gave a short presentation about her work as an Everywoman.

Leane's start on the base has been slow, with many of her sponsor unit being deployed to Operation Flood Assist 2022, but she is now looking forward to working with them, on the base and on exercise, as they return to normal operations.



## NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR HEADQUARTERS

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