



Serving the  
Australian Defence Force  
since 1940

# ON PATROL



Feb 2023

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

Dear friends and supporters,

As we face a new year, I am often reminded of how much of our life experience remains the same, irrespective of how much time is passing. I remember reading a humorous report dating back to 1942, of activities taking place in the first Everyman's Hut to the Army at Bonegilla, (now Latchford Barracks). The Everyman who wrote the report, spoke of the line of soldiers at the telephone. They were either ringing home or their sweethearts. It was the usual scenario of the bloke on the phone taking too long in the minds of the others. They were telling him to "wind up" his call so they could have their turn. You can imagine those soldiers wanting to spend an eternity speaking with their loved ones, particularly as they did not know if they were ever going to return home from the war.

In the midst of this, the Everyman doing the reporting noted a long list of expletives that began developing along the line. Finally, one of the soldiers yelled out "turn it up chaps that Everyman bloke is just standing over there." To this day, we all in Everyman's experience the same thing. It is not that we go to soldiers and demand they do not swear. We would only do that if we felt the swearing was so excessive that the other soldiers themselves were being annoyed by it. Nevertheless, it does speak to the calm and peace we do bring to the ADF in what are sometimes very challenging situations. They know we are a Christian organisation but one that seeks to serve anyone from any background. Moreover, Everyman's has made many close friendships that some would consider a most unlikely partnership. However, at the same time Everymen and Everywomen do not compromise our love for God and faith in Him. It is actually possible to do this without endangering a friendship with an atheist, agnostic or any person of a non-Christian faith. It has been this quality that has drawn most to us, and a few away from us. Nevertheless, it is consistency that people love to see these days. Someone who is not changed and compromised by the ever-shifting sands of public opinion. Someone who does not continually crave the desire to be in some kind of "in crowd" that is the flavour of that particular month. Whether it is 1942, or 2023, we know ADF members appreciate consistency, even if our consistency is not necessarily in a philosophy they agree with. Because we live in a world that is very shaken and uncertain, it is important that people can confide in individuals in whom they can see an unshakeable faith. You can be assured in this New Year, and for all the coming New Years, Everyman's will be there for the ADF. We not only provide friendship and comfort for all, but a hope for the future that cannot be shaken. If you would like to know what that future is, your Everyman and Everywoman is just an email or a phone call away. God bless you all for 2023.



*Ken Matthews  
Chief Commissioner*

*CCOMM Ken Matthews*

## **Everyman's Welfare Service**

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National Headquarters  
02 6053 5288  
admin@everymans.org.au

PO Box 8  
BANDIANA MILPO VIC 3694  
www.everymans.org.au

# Meet our New Senior Reps



*SNRREP Warren Clarke  
IRTB Kapooka NSW*



*SNRREP Leane Dabitz  
ICSR Robertson NT*



*SNRREP Christina Kemper  
ALTC Bandiana VIC*



*SNRREP Shane Lavell  
DFSS, Macleod VIC*

## • **Warren Clarke**

Warren's work has been exemplary as he has taken over the role of the Everyman at Kapooka by himself; stepping up to the mark and showing his leadership skills. He has continued to grow in this role since returning from his deployment overseas.

## • **Leane Dabitz**

Leane has demonstrated her ability and mental acuity to steer through her posting from Melbourne at the end of 2021, finding solutions to many obstacles in the process. She has shown endurance during a very difficult transition back to the NT and has established good relationships with the stakeholders at Robertson Barracks. Leane operates well and without assistance on major exercises, in Victoria, Queensland and the NT. She is adept with administration and has assisted at HQ when required.

## • **Christina Kemper**

Chris has been promoted to SNR REP for her exemplary work at Everyman's HQ, using her artistic gifts to raise the standard of Everyman's branding and publications; taking on additional tasks and roles when asked to and doing so without complaint.

## • **Shane Lavell**

Shane has a lot of EWS ministry experience from the past to share, which could potentially benefit other REPs. Used to our advantage, Shane's knowledge and experience will enhance the wider ministry. Shane was a SNR REP when he last served with Everyman's and is deserving of reinstatement to this rank.

## 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

# Our Unknown Volunteer, 1942



Little is known about the Unknown Volunteer, a RAAF airman, who lost his life as he assisted Everyman's founder, Mr Len Buck on the Empress Star, the last ship to leave Singapore as it fell to the Japanese in 1942.

From the diaries of Len Buck, reporting from Malaya, we have some knowledge of the circumstances they found themselves in. It is a far cry from the comforts of the Everyman of today, and yet there are many similarities in the work we do.

Please keep your thoughts with the Unknown Volunteer as you read on...

*On February 6th, 1942, Mr Buck reported: " The Mobile Canteen is fitted up with an oil stove and big cupboards on one side and at the driver's end. They are 2ft.6in., wide, in fact, wide enough to sleep on. We carry mattresses and a couple of sheets and mosquito nets. The side and back - in canvas - roll up. The tops of the cupboards, which are on the floor, form counters for serving tea. Mostly we make substantial fires and boil three kerosine tins of water and keep it going all day. We make the tea*

*in a bucket, hot, strong, and sweet. "The best tea in Malaya" is the verdict.*

*I have been away, preceding convoys, feeding them with biscuits and tea; and now I am stationed at a place where I will stay for perhaps a fortnight, with the exception of a day's run in to Singapore for supplies, mail, etc.*

*All day since 9am this morning my boys have been serving tea to Aussies and Englishmen, AIF, RAAF, and RAF personnel. They stay about a quarter to half an hour. Tonight, twelve of them are pulling in for the night. I have loaned my mattress and blanket. We will share our rations with them.*

*This morning I had a talk with a number of RAAF lads - a hard bitten lot - and gave them Scriptures, the Reason Why etc.,*

*The other night, at a certain place, I served tea for well over 150 and put out piles of tracts, New Testaments, and other literature. It all went. I will probably switch some gramophone music tonight into a hymn, and then an informal talk in the moonlight.*

*An incident that shows that God is working is clear by the following: I contacted an A.I.F. chap one day about six weeks ago. His wife was dying in Australia, and he was trying to get leave to go home. I told him I would pray for her and gave him a booklet with the Gospel clearly presented in it. Last week, he climbed off an AIF van and reintroduced himself, reminding me of the circumstances of our first meeting. He could not get leave, but told me his wife was up in a chair. He was quietly grateful and gave me from his own transport a bundle of illustrated magazines for the Canteen. This act was an illuminated address and meant more than appears on the surface. A handshake is sometimes as much as a man can "say" but what lies behind the handshake is often a Gibraltar of gratitude."*

Following this report a cable was received from Mr Buck indicating that his Canteen had been destroyed, but he now had another one in use.

*As the British and Australian Forces retreated down the Malayan Peninsula, Mr Buck moved with them, providing "Welfare work with a Purpose", ministering to their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. He providentially escaped on the last ship to leave Singapore. It was 'bombed', his assistant, our Unknown Volunteer was killed and the Canteen damaged. Finally, he arrived in Perth WA.*

*He was encouraged by Christian friends, and he spoke at a Public Meeting in the Perth Town Hall. His subject: - "Twilight over Singapore". He challenged those present with the urgency of the situation and invited Christians to Pray; and support the ministry of Campaigners for Christ through "Everyman's Welfare Service".*



*Similar Meetings were held in the Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney Town Halls to great effect, and Christians supported the work with their prayers and gifts.*

We don't know to what extent the Unknown Volunteer worked alongside Len, but we do know the heart he had to serve the people around him.

It is with the same heart that we serve those who serve Australia today. We operate with so many comforts in comparison: modern Brew Trucks, with comfortable rooftop campers for those who are out on exercise; gas or electric hot water on tap and excellent communication, even in remote areas. We still rely heavily on the prayer of our Christian supporters and the financial donations of servicemen and women, churches, ex-service organisations and individuals who understand the value of the listening ear of the Everyman. Thank you for your support. We look forward to reconnecting this year.

## ***REP Peter Harvie at Randwick Barracks***

REP Peter Harvie was accredited in May 2022 as the Everyman with HQ 2 Division at Randwick Barracks. This is such a good fit with his day job as a Leading Hand and Lifeguard, also at Randwick Barracks and this has opened the doors to even more opportunities, such as the ADF Water Polo Team Camp held in December last year.

Peter has attended the march out parades for the Borneo Platoon, at Singleton which included participating in a cross country run the day before and for the Kapyong Platoon, also at Singleton. Often our Everyman's REPs are invited to speak at a nearby RSL Sub-Branch, and Peter had the honour of participating in a recent meeting of the Malabar RSL Sub-Branch. His presentation was well received and much interest shown for his work with Everyman's.

Peter was also able to attend and support the Defence Recruitment Expo at the Casula Powerhouse, held in October last year.

With so much going on in the Sydney Region, it seems the opportunities to have an Everyman present at a Defence activity is limited only by the lack of man or woman power.

Peter has certainly hit the ground running in 2022, and we look forward to seeing what 2023 has in store for him!

*If you're interested in becoming an Everyman or Everywoman, please contact us via the admin email on the back page.*



*REP Peter Harvie at Malabar Sub-Branch RSL meeting*



*Defence Recruitment Expo Casula Powerhouse*

## **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

Navigators

Focus on the Family

Association for Conferences Teaching and Service (ACTS)

FOCUS

SASRA

Solid Rock

Military Christian Fellowship (MCF)

Red Shield Defence Service

The Bible Society

Naval Military and Airforce Bible Society

# Veterans Health Week 2022

## A Day on the Army Green



2022 was the third year Everyman's Veterans League had participated in the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) initiative, Veterans' Health Week (VHW). DVA offers grants to organisations to run an event for VHW and we were successful once again, in our application for financial support.

This time, we decided to do something a little different! We put on a miniature music festival. ACOMM Richard Gibson, a couple of friends - James Anderson, and Reuben Martin and I performed a number of original songs and covers of Christian songs on the day. The event name was 'A Day on the Army Green'; a play on the well known music festival, 'A Day on the Green', which highlights some of the biggest music artists performing their songs outdoors, in wineries around Australia. We created our own version, outdoors in front of the historical

Everyman's Hut in Wacol, QLD, which was once a part of the Wacol Army base (hence the inclusion of 'Army' in the festival's name). The plan to hold it outdoors, in such an ideal setting, was thwarted on the day by bad weather, so we moved things inside the Hut, which was actually nice in the end.

To go along with the music, lunch was provided by our good friend, Jamie, from Bare Knuckles BBQ, who for the third year provided a delicious smoked BBQ lunch, free of charge. We are truly blessed by his generosity. The day went really well! The lunch and the music was appreciated by all.

We are hoping to make this an annual event that will grow bigger and better, moving forward.

We recorded the music live and since then I have been releasing the songs via my YouTube and Facebook channels. You can check out those videos and other music that we have done by searching for Last Light Records on YouTube and Facebook or at the following links:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjGSt3mwl8gQEPuXJXBk1kA>

<https://www.facebook.com/LASTLIGHTR>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100072335114804>

We pray that the important work with the Veterans will continue to grow in 2023!

SNR REP Ben Ridley



*Left: Meal time at "A Day on the Army Green"*



*Right: SNRREP Ben Ridley, Jamie Day, ACOMM Richard Gibson and REP Brad Clarke*



# Abseiling in the Northern Territory



*SNR REP Leane Dabitz during recent abseiling activities with the ADF & below hanging out with the ICSR team*



*Climbing & Abseiling at Robin Falls NT*



The 2IC at 1CSR plays a critical role in Soldier Recovery and Adventure Training on Robertson Barracks. In the remaining months of 2022, a number of opportunities to support Rock Climbing and Abseiling activities for ADF and Marine Corp soldiers came about. During some extremely hot and humid days in full sun, the brew truck, packed with iced water and protein snacks, was gratefully received. In return, the 2IC encouraged my participation in the activities and debriefs,

which allowed me alongside the soldiers for some challenging activities. On one occasion, soldiers from the Soldier Recovery Centre explored healthy strategies in coping with fear and were encouraged to be aware of their fear responses during an abseil down a 12-floor hotel building. On another occasion, U.S. Marine from Camp Pendleton were treated to an abseil from the top of Robin Falls, a tourist spot located an hour and a half away from the Barracks. The U.S. Marines were especially interested in hearing of the work of Everyman's, and when they got word that there were Bibles and devotional materials available, the requests seemed to keep coming. Praise God for His continued provision.

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