



Serving the  
Australian Defence Force  
since 1940

# ON PATROL



November 2023

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

Dear friends and supporters,

As 2023 ends, we see renewed conflict in the Middle East. This conflict has always threatened a wider war, with larger nations like Iran potentially becoming involved. It has always been a dispute that could lead to a World War.

It has given me pause to think that a place so far away from our home here in Australia, could have such a huge impact on our lives. We only have to look at how the conflict in far away Afghanistan changed the lives of so many of our service personnel along with their families and loved ones.

As much as we would like to think the entire world's problems on the other side of the globe do not have to be any of Australia's business, the fact remains we cannot escape them. Our alliances and national interests are such that we cannot afford to live in isolation and hope that an aggressor never comes to our shores. Therefore, our ADF personnel have to be ever vigilant. Who knows when they might have to be speedily deployed to some operation far from our shores?

Of course, all our ADF members are people with fears, feelings and family. They can only see the current events in the world with some foreboding as to how this could affect them personally. They have to be ready not only in formal war training, but ready mentally and emotionally as well.

It has been the job of Everyman's since 1940 to be this mental, social and spiritual support. We seek to help our men and women face what could be some of this world's most terrifying opponents.

I have only just been reminded of this in a phone call I had before I sat down to write this article. One of our retired Everyman's staff was asked to give a speech at a Vietnam Veteran's event. One old gentleman came up to him afterwards and asked if he knew another Everyman from way back as he remembered the name. This older gentleman joined the Army as a young apprentice, and told of how he was terrified in those first weeks, not knowing anyone or anything. The Everyman took him under his wing, took him to his home for a meal and introduced him to his family. Eventually this young apprentice went with the Everyman's whole family to his church, and was greatly encouraged. Thus, the young apprentice was encouraged on into his military career.

Everyman's still stands to this day, to be that kind of practical encouragement to all ADF personnel seeking support from us. As we look to 2024 and beyond, it is our pledge in Everyman's to follow this example of our forebears, as well as to stand with our ADF in our welfare role.

To all those encouraged to do so, please pray for us all in Everyman's in every setting we find ourselves. Pray we will exemplify the love and hope of Christ, as we stand prepared with the ADF for whatever 2024 and beyond may bring.



*Ken Matthews  
Chief Commissioner*

*CCOMM Ken Matthews*

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# Remembering REP Chris Wainwright



It is with great sadness for Everyman's that we announce the passing of REP Chris Wainwright. At 2am on Saturday 14th October 2023, Chris peacefully passed away at Westmead Hospital in Sydney. Chris had been suffering a decline in health over the past few years when God finally called him home to be with Him.

Almost right up until his passing, Chris was continuing to serve God and his community as an Everyman's Welfare Officer with the Australian Defence Force, and in assisting his son Timothy with Fire Support NSW, as well as serving as Chief Officer of the NGO Operation Fire Support Ltd. Chris served the community in many additional roles including professional firefighter, chaplain, lifeguard, wildfire specialist, trainer, educator and pastor.,

During the COVID lockdowns, Chris put together some "Comfort Packs" (see below) and delivered them into the mailboxes in his neighbourhood, asking if they were OK and inviting them to call him if they felt the need.

Chris lived in a suburb among many naval personnel and their families, and wanted to let them know he was there if they needed him. All this was done while adhering to the State Government restrictions in place at the time.

After serving and caring for others and looking after people so well and for such a long time on Earth, God finally called His good and faithful servant home to Heaven, to be with Him in Eternal Glory.

We pray for our heavenly Father's peace and comfort to be with the Wainwright family during their time of mourning. Chris will be sorely missed from the Everyman's ministry team.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved his appearing."

2 Timothy 4:7-8 CSB



# *What's Christmas got to do with me?*

It may well be that we wonder what a baby born 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, has to do with us today in Australia. However, at the time, the birth of Jesus had a very big impact on people who were foreigners like us. There were a somewhat mysterious group of people called the Magi or wise men. They came to visit the baby Jesus saying 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' (Matthew 2:2)

Firstly, it is believed that the Magi were most probably the magicians and wise men advisers from the revived Persian Empire. Centuries before, the Jewish people had been exiled to Babylon in the area the Magi came from. However, after 70 years of that exile, the Persian kingdom defeated the Babylonians. One of the Babylonian officials had been a Jewish man called Daniel, and the conquering Persian king made him the highest official in the empire. For this reason, the Persians knew the Old Testament part of the Bible that represents the full Jewish scriptures. It is believed in time, that Persians began to understand the Jewish scriptures and that many even became believers.

In the Psalms there is an amazing passage penned around 740 to 700bc that made a prediction.  
6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. (Isaiah 9:6-7) It is quite probable that the Magi knew this part of the Hebrew Scriptures.

When we read it, we can see why the account of Jesus' birth and the whole reason Christmas is celebrated, does indeed have an impact on us today. The Magi were non-Jews from a faraway land like us Australians, and yet we read they actually came to worship Jesus, not just to pay a visit with gifts. They came to worship because they knew the passage above which basically says the Creator of all things came to this earth in the form of a baby to become known as God the Son, and would grow up to show us all who God the Creator is. He would grow up to tell us why this world is so troubled, and how we can be saved from its sorrows forevermore. That we must look to the One who created us and gave us life.

We see the baby who grew up to be Jesus, referred to as 'Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' The Christian movement is here today because the disciples and loved ones of Jesus gave their lives for their testimony. That testimony is that after Jesus' crucifixion, they saw Him alive again from that first Easter Sunday. They gave their lives in martyrdom testifying to the end Jesus was alive. The message also is that one day Jesus is coming back to reclaim the earth from all human governments, and to rule as King forevermore. This is the meaning of Isaiah's words, of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. (Isaiah 9:7)

All of a sudden, that little baby in Bethlehem has a very real relevance to us in Australia in 2023. The Kingdom of Christ will have Australia, like everywhere else, as part of His eternal Kingdom. Take time this Christmas to open your heart to the only one who was born as a baby, lived as the One who showed us who God really is, and the only One who conquered death and rose above it. May you know His love and saving grace maybe for the first time ever, this Christmas.



# *Introducing REP Peter Harvie*



Peter Harvie became the Everyman's REP with HQ 2Div based at Randwick Barracks, Sydney. Peter has served with 2Div in this capacity since May 2022 and is supported by his dear wife, Donna.

Donna and Peter are blessed with three adult children. Peter has been studying Theology at Moore College since 2022 and is very grateful for that opportunity. Peter has been on Christian Building Mission trips in 2013, 2015 and 2017 and together with the team achieved completion of a medical centre on a remote island, as well school buildings on Santo including Big Bay Province 2015, and some in closer proximity to Luganville, Vanuatu

Prior to Peter's current role as Gym and Pool Leading Hand and Lifeguard Supervisor at Randwick Barracks, Peter has worked in many contract roles at several Army, Navy & Airforce bases in the Sydney region. Peter worked for the Government and in private enterprise in technical engineering, senior management roles and as a beach lifeguard.

Peter is very grateful for his close association with Defence Veterans and the many currently serving members. Particularly, as Peter reflects on a former boss who set his career in a very helpful direction in the late 80's and another former Vietnam Vet who has been a great mentor and friend over many years. A number of his family forebears served, in either Army, Navy or Airforce in WW1 and WW2 and he is grateful to each one for their service.

Peter says "It is a great honour to be currently serving as an Everyman's Representative with HQ 2Div with the opportunity to walk alongside Defence members and to provide encouragement in hope and salvation through Jesus Christ."



*Defence Recruitment Expo - Casula Powerhouse*



*ADF Waterpolo Team Camp at Randwick Barracks*



*Kapyong Platoon March Out*

## **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

# Introducing REPs Bruce & Mercy Maher



It's always a special delight to Everyman's when a couple feel the Lord's call into our ministry. This is how it happened for Bruce & Mercy who were accredited with Everyman's earlier this year. Both were raised in Christian families, Bruce in Queensland, and Mercy in Spain, coming into a personal relationship with the Lord at the ages of 11 and 15 respectively. At the time Mercy lived in Spain, it was ruled by a dictatorship, and it was difficult, even dangerous to be a Christian. Many were persecuted,

some disappeared, and others went to prison, as Mercy's parents did on many occasions. It was in these times, that Mercy learnt to trust the Lord for her safety and protection. By the time Mercy had entered her teenage years, her family had immigrated to Australia. Both Bruce and Mercy were actively involved in their churches during their teens and as young adults. Bruce undertook an apprenticeship in professional cookery, after which he spent 30 years in the Merchant Navy and time in the Army Reserve. Both bring a wealth of relevant life experience that our servicemen and women will relate to and they have already undertaken some brew runs to support their sponsoring unit, 2 SECFOR SQN on exercise at RAAF Base, Amberley. We look forward to the stories they will bring to *On Patrol* during their service with Everyman's.

*Mercy made this wall hanging, "Anzac Remembrance" in 2022 for the Amberley Recreational Centre. It was sewn using various materials.*

*ACOMM Richard Gibson, REPs Bruce and Mercy Maher; SNR REP Brad Clarke and SNR REP Ben Ridley*



## 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

# Christmas Appeal

It's hard to imagine at the beginning of a year, exactly how it will play out. There are the things you know will happen and those that turn up unexpectedly.

At the beginning of the year, we knew the bi-annual Talisman Sabre exercise (TS23) was going to be the biggest ever held, with more countries involved or observing, than ever before. Our REPs in Queensland were also involved in the exercises leading up to TS23, which helped them to prepare.

For the first time, we had four brew trucks at TS23, with one REP travelling from Darwin with her unit, to join the team. The Brew Trucks are a vital part of our ministry, allowing servicemen and women from all countries to grab a quick snack and share how their day is going with the Everyman or Everywoman. Like all of us, some days are better than others; and like all of us, sometimes there are worries back home, that they might not want to share with their mates, or the Defence hierarchy. They appreciate that all of our REPs are volunteers, donating their time to serve them and to be a listening ear.

Out on the exercise ground, our REPs work efficiently using one truck to carry stock and refill the others, allowing the REPs serving to continue their conversation uninterrupted. It's a costly exercise for us, but we are generously rewarded by donations from the soldiers, in the conversations held and relationships fostered. Their donations are their way of telling us just how much they appreciate our REPs being there. This helps us to keep the trucks stocked with cold drinks, chocolates, chips etc and being such a big exercise, the donations have gone a long way towards the purchase of a second Brew Truck this year. Which this could not be put off until next year.

We are very grateful to all you have contributed towards our Vehicle Replacement Program this year and want to invite you, if you feel able, to boost the fund a little further. Having bought two Toyota Landcruisers this year, they now need to be fitted out in readiness for the exercises in 2024. We hope to show you progress photos in the first *On Patrol* for 2024!

Thank you for the support you show us each and every year. Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas with the people who are dearest to you. God bless.



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



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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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**Enclosed is our tax deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please make your cheque or money order payable to EVERYMAN'S WELFARE SERVICE

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(Last 3 digits on back)

Name on Card.....Expiry Date...../..... Signature.....

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This is a one time gift      This is my/our donation:  Monthly  Quarterly  Annual

Please charge my card

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

Dog Tags @ \$15       Pen @ \$5