



Serving the  
Australian Defence Force  
since 1940



# ON PATROL

February 2024

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

Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to 2024! At the beginning of each year, we think ahead and wonder what the year will bring. Conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine could have effects on the world that drastically influence the lives of our ADF personnel. We hope and pray for peace always. How elusive such a peace seems to be. Since WW2, many of the conflicts we have had, could have ignited into something much worse than how they played out in the end. We have avoided a WW2 scale conflict since that time. However, it sadly seems we are falling into another uncertain "Cold War" era. To that end, our Defence force has to be ready at all times, to go forward and defend our nation's interest. Their morale must be preserved and enhanced as much as possible in these trying days.

Though Everyman's may form just a small part of that overall morale provided for Defence, it is nonetheless a critical component of it. As 2023 drew to a close, the ADF wanted to know if we would be ready to serve them, if another bushfire emergency ignited over the summer. Of course, we said "yes." We are proud to say 11 of our Everyman's team were awarded the National Emergency Medal for their hard work in supporting Defence in the 2019-2020 bushfires. Defence has made it known that they greatly appreciated our support and seek it again if faced with another crisis.

If a major conflict befalls this nation, we know that the ADF will call upon us to reinforce their welfare needs. As all our Everyman's and Everywoman's REPs in the field are unpaid volunteers, the ADF is hopeful despite that, we will still be able to step up for them, as we have done in years gone by. This may even mean deploying on overseas operations with Defence into dangerous areas, as we did on the Malay Peninsula in 1942, and through many other conflicts since.

We in Everyman's reach out to you, our supporters, so that you may continue to stand with us in partnership. We pray for the best outcomes but prepare for the worst ones. This means we too must be well equipped and ready to support our Defence personnel with robust brew trucks, well stocked Rec Centres on bases, and even financial support for those who may be called overseas away from friends, regular income, and family.

Our trucks remain our biggest financial challenge. Whether it is acquiring new ones, maintaining our existing fleet, or acquiring good trailers to deliver goods to remote places, it remains a most demanding issue.

More than ever, we need to be that kind, understanding, and listening ear in 2024. The same as we have been since 1940. In a hard and difficult world, this is so critical, and something that Defence cannot reproduce for themselves as we do.

Please partner with us today in support of our welfare outreach to Defence. Your donation makes it possible for Everyman's to be fully equipped for what could be a difficult future.

For our Christian friends and supporters, please pray for us all. Pray that God would protect and enable us to deliver our welfare. Pray that all would see the heart of Christ in all that we do. Pray for new workers to rise up and become Everymen and Everywomen in 2024. All of us, irrespective of our backgrounds, can help provide the trailers, the welfare products, and vehicles we need in these troubled times.

*CCOMM Ken Matthews*



*Ken Matthews  
Chief Commissioner*

## **Everyman's Welfare Service**

a company limited by guarantee

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# Remembering Cameron Baird VC



*Doug Baird with SNRREP Warren Clarke*



Those of us in Everyman's who served in the Middle East will remember well Camp Baird in the UAE. There we read the story of one of our bravest soldiers Cameron Baird VC, who gave his all for Australia. It was a real joy and honour for SNRREP Warren Clarke, Everyman at 1RTB Kapooka, to have opportunity to meet up with Cameron's father Doug Baird OAM. Doug was at Kapooka to talk to the new privates about his son's achievements, and was able to present the Most Outstanding Soldier award, named after his son on the Parade that day.

After the Parade Doug approached Warren and made comment on what a great effort Everyman's puts into the Recruits and other Defence personnel. Doug said that Cameron spoke highly of Everyman's. Warren at Kapooka remains there for all ADF personnel as one of our REPs was once also there for Cameron. It is our prayer that Warren and indeed all our REPs, will continue to minister to Everyman and Everywoman who seek our help and counsel.

Please remember Warren as he has a big job being the only full time Everyman's REP on base. We indeed need more Everyman's and Everywoman's REPs for Kapooka to help Warren, and encourage emerging young soldiers like Cameron Baird.

## 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



# EVERYMAN'S FUNDRAISING GALA



*Cutting Cake CCOMM (Retd) Stacey Kruck and PROBREP  
Claudia Ridley*

## EWS LOCATIONS

- RAAF Base, AMBERLEY, QLD
- Kokoda Barracks, CANUNGRA, QLD
- Gallipoli Barracks, ENOGGERA, QLD
- Victoria Barracks, PETRIE TERRACE, QLD
- RMC DUNTROON, ACT
- Woodside Barracks, INVERBRACKIE, SA
- Randwick Barracks, RANDWICK, NSW
- Blamey Barracks, KAPOOKA, NSW
- Gaza Ridge Barracks, BANDIANA, VIC
- Latchford Barracks, BONEGILLA, VIC
- Simpsons Barracks, MACLEOD, VIC
- Robertson Barracks HOLTZE, NT



*CCOMM Ken Matthews, CCOMM Stacey Kruck (Retd),  
SNRREP Ben Ridley, Hazel Kruck*

# *Commissioning of Claudia, Mercy & Bruce*



*PROBREP Claudia Ridley, REPs Mercy and Bruce Maher*

On the evening of Saturday the 9th of December 2023, we had the inaugural EveryVets (Everyman's Veterans League) Gala Dinner held in the commemorative Everyman's building at the Wacol Historical Precinct near Brisbane. It was a wonderfully successful event and a big thank you goes out to SNRREP Ben RIDLEY for heading up the planning and organisation of the dinner. Thanks also to the Everyman's and EveryVets staff, for working hard to bring everything together under Ben's guidance. Present were representatives of the veteran community, and key Christian folk in the Brisbane/Ipswich area, who have and are continuing to support EveryVets.

A highlight of the programme was to have CCOMM Stacey Kruck OAM (rtd) give the keynote address at the dinner as to the passion and ethos of Everyman's since 1940. This has flowed onto EveryVets today. What Stacey related about the work, and our love for the ADF and veterans, has remained our focus. It is no different today than it was in Stacey's time when he served in the Vietnam War as an Everyman. The fact we had the dinner in a building where Everyman's REPs served the ADF in the 1950's, is emblematic of that ongoing commitment.

We also had the very real joy of commissioning into Everyman's service new and almost new REPs Bruce and Mercy Maher, and Ben's wife PROBREP Claudia Ridley. CCOMM Ken Matthews attended to take the Commissioning Service for the new candidates, and present their Certificates of Accreditation. We also had some very professionally produced videos made by Ben, which included the history of the Wacol Everyman's Hut with vintage Everyman's footage, and a 2023 Everyman's Year In Review. We hope to have these videos on our Everyman's website soon for all to enjoy.

The finale was the cutting of the cake by our oldest present Everymans' worker Stacey Kruck, and our newest Everywoman Claudia Ridley.

Thank you for all who attended and we hope this will be just the first of many EveryVets Gala dinners at Wacol. We value your prayers and support for our veterans work in Queensland.

# *Introducing Prob REP Claudia Ridley*



I was born in Brazil in a family where my father followed Spiritism and my mother was an atheist.

By the age of 13 my social life began and when I was about 18 I was already tired of partying, drinking and all that follows with them, and I started asking questions about life such as “what is the meaning of life?” and “is anything else in life or is that all we get?” So, I started studying Spiritism and taking it seriously, I was truly just looking for peace in my soul.

In October 2011 I came to Australia with the purpose of studying English and then later to do my master’s in actuarial science.

In my second week in Brisbane, I met Ben. After seeing each other for about a month, he left for Afghanistan with the Army for 6 months deployment, but we kept in contact.

At some point, Ben mentioned with me that he had an encounter with God and that had changed his life completely. When he came back to Australia in July 2012, the only thing he wanted to talk about was Jesus, God and the Bible.

After a few months, one night Ben shared the gospel with me and challenged my belief in Spiritism. I was amazed by what I heard. I never heard something so beautiful and so logical. I started reading the Bible the next day and I fell in love with the Word of God and the person of Jesus. After 4 days, I was born-again in my room, and there by myself, by the grace of God and the help of the Holy Spirit, I decided to follow Jesus.

Within 4 months of my conversion, Ben and I got married, and together we started the most exciting journey ever: to follow Jesus and serve Him all the days of our lives.

After supporting Ben as a Rep for Everyman’s for the last 8 years, I felt the call to become a part time Rep myself. Now we can serve the ADF and Veteran community as a “husband and wife” team!”

## **More ways to give.....**

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