

ON PATROL

March/April 2026

From the CCOM's desk

Welcome to another edition of On Patrol.

March 2026 introduces a change in the leadership within our ministry team.

As the incoming Chief Commissioner (CCOM), I would like to first thank CCOM Phil Marshal (Ret'd) for his contribution to the ministry of Everyman's in his capacity as Chief Commissioner and National Relationship Manager. We extend our congratulations to him for his efforts in advancing the profile of Everyman's and presenting our ministry's needs in such a way that we have seen the Lord bless us with some very generous responses.

As a result of the work that Phil has done, we have been able to invest in additional vehicles and undertake other improvements, allowing us to further develop our unique ministry within the Australian Defence Force (ADF). We position ourselves as an organisation to serve, because we care, following Christ's example, who first cared for us.

We wish Phil every blessing upon his life and ministry as he charts the course ahead, with the Lord at the helm leading the way.

It has been a personal privilege for me to open up another season of service with Everyman's, which commenced in 2019 after initially serving with Yvonne by my side throughout the 80's and 90's in a number of locations across Australia. Life in the meantime has focused on family and setting each of our three children on their chosen journeys: Dianne, Melissa and Russell - a Corporal in the Australian Army posted to the Defence School of Signals (DFSS) at Simpson Barracks Melbourne.

The recent period of service with Everyman's has largely focused on serving the staff and students at Defence Force School of Signals, units of the 4th Brigade and Army Cadets based within Victoria. In addition to this I will now be focusing on and supporting our national Everyman's ministry team.

As 2026 takes shape, I would like to invite you to prayerfully consider our current need for new Representatives in order to meet the challenges of a unique cross-cultural ministry environment on our own shores, amongst a special community of Australians, who are prepared to place their lives on the line to defend our liberties, democratic way of life and national interests. We are seeking those who have a strong sense of calling from the Lord upon their lives, preferably with ministry training and experience and prior military service.

If this is you, or if you know of somebody suitable, please feel free to reach out, so we can discuss the possibilities and share what God might have in store for us together – see contact details on the final page.

Finally, I invite you all to prayerfully join with me as I take up the reigns of Everyman's and harness up to what the Lord has prepared for us all, as we seek to serve the King of Kings. May you know and experience His blessing and enabling as you journey with us contributing prayerfully and financially, as we seek to live and proclaim the message of Christ to those who serve our country in a special way as members of the Australian Defence Force.

CCOM Shane Lavell



*Shane Lavell
CCOM*

Everyman's Welfare Service
a company limited by guarantee

National Headquarters
0494 391 728
admin@everymans.org.au

Box 10, Gaza Ridge Barracks
BANDIANA VIC 3691
www.everymans.org.au

Remembering Robyn Bell



Robyn Bell was one of those remarkable individuals whose quiet dedication shaped countless lives.

By her own admission, she became an Everywoman by accident. While supporting her Everyman husband Denis, Robyn saw a need among army families at Bandiana. She commenced Sunday School on a Tuesday in the neighbourhood house and put together welcome picnic hampers which she delivered to families recently relocated to the base. In the early years at Bandiana Robyn would occasionally accompany Denis as navigator on trips into the bush to visit soldiers on exercise. On one memorable trip Robyn directed them into somebody's backyard, realising that she had been reading the co-ordinates incorrectly.

That light-hearted moment was only one small part of her early service. As the needs at Bandiana grew, so too did Robyn's commitment. As a result of seeing the growing needs at Bandiana, Robyn became an accredited representative and opened the recreation centre when Denis was on exercises with the troops. After posting to Western Australia, Robyn continued her service and used an army issue land rover to support soldiers in the field, heading in one direction while Denis used the Everyman's land rover in another location. Throughout all her service as an Everywoman, Robyn worked tirelessly at connecting with service families and lived by the mantra, "If all else fails, bake a cake." At times Robyn recalls that her kitchen came to represent something akin to a biscuit factory as she prepared home cooked treats to be taken into the field.

Denis and Robyn became known as the 'Dynamic Duo' and served the Lord with Everyman's in Bandiana, Perth and in Adelaide. In 1988 Robyn was awarded the Australia Day Award for services to the community by the Albury Wodonga Military Area Commandant Colonel now Major General Ret. John Hartley. Robyn passed away in July 2025, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, service, and unwavering faith. She will be remembered within the Everyman's family as a unique and deeply valued servant of God.

From information provided by SREP Denis Bell (Ret'd)



Gala Dinner 2025

Last year saw our third annual Everyman's Gala dinner raising money for our veterans' program, bringing awareness of Everyman's work to the community and updating our supporters of recent involvements. As per usual the event took place at the historical Everyman's hut in Wacol, QLD. This being our third event, we had learned from the previous years and we were able to bring things together a lot more smoothly this time around.

This year we were delighted to have an amazing team to help us out, including our lovely friends Jeremy & Jennifer who have been a great help in all three galas. Alongside them were Jonathan & Carla from The Baker's Blessing, Codruta from Sweets by Cody, and of course our dear friend Jamie from Bare Knuckles BBQ who provided all the meat for free, something he has done many times over the years for all our EveryVet's events.

We were very blessed to have two previous chief commissioners and their wives in attendance, being Stacey & Hazel Kruck, and Bob & Leanne Rogers. Bob was also our main speaker and shared many wonderful highlights of his time with Everyman's and spoke about what motivates Everyman's reps to serve.

We were able to show our Year in Review video which is a snapshot of what Everyman's Welfare Service has been up to in 2025. This year we raised \$ 7,000, which was helped by the inclusion of items in the silent auction donated by The Baker's Blessing (hamper), On Eagle Wings Spa & Retreat (gift voucher), Hobby Sew Kings Park (quilt made by Patricia Beresford), Autobarn (generator), and a painting donated by Trish McInnes. We had approximately 100 attendees, which is our largest number to date.

The evening was filled with a sense of nostalgia established by the screening of a mini documentary which highlighted the origins of the hut going back to World War II, and having Jennifer and Reuben performing classic songs from a by gone era. The event was spoken of highly by all the guests.

SREP Ben and REP Claudia Ridley



Current EWS Staff: SREP Christina Kemper, REPs Mercy & Bruce Maher, SREP Brad Clarke, REP Claudia & SREP Ben Ridley



REP Claudia & SREP Ben Ridley, CCOM Ret'd Stacey & Hazel Kruck, Leanne & CCOM Ret'd Bob Rogers & SREP Christina Kemper



*Left: SREP Ben Ridley & CCOM Ret'd Bob Rogers
Right: CCOM Ret'd Bob Rogers*



2025 Staff Farewells



*REP Mason Eagleton
served at HQ Land Warfare
Centre, Canungra &
8th/9th Battalion, Royal
Australian Regiment
(8/9 RAR) Enoggera QLD
2019-2025*

*REP Kiel Gardoll
served at IRTB Kapooka
NSW & 16 Regiment
Royal Australian Artillery,
Woodside SA 2019-2025*

*REP James Morrissy
served at 2nd Combat
Engineer Regiment (2CER)
Enoggera QLD 2022-2025*

*REP Bjorn Larsen
served at 8th/9th Battalion,
Royal Australian Regiment
(8/9 RAR) Enoggera QLD
2024-2025*

Part-Time Admin Support Officer - Job Vacancy

Everyman's Welfare Service, would like to invite expressions of interest in the following paid part time position of **Administrative Support Officer (ASO)** for our organisation.

The successful applicant will initially be required to work 2 days per week; advancing to 3 days per week as a possible option in the future. The position is located at Gaza Ridge Barracks Bandiana, which is located adjacent to the city of Wodonga, Victoria in the NSW/Victoria Riverina border district.

Experience is using Xero, Microsoft Office & Adobe applications would be highly desirable.

The position is paid under the Clerks – Private Sector Award [MA000002]. Remuneration and hours can be negotiated, taking into account the successful candidate's training and experience.

Please enquire via our email admin@everymans.org.au or by phone on **02 6053 5288** or **0494 391 728** Tuesday to Thursday.

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

From the CCOMM's desk (Ret'd)

Although it comes a little late, let me begin by wishing everyone at Everyman's a very happy New Year for 2026. What a beginning it has been! The ADF has certainly started the year early. Normally, we aren't asked to support exercises out bush until the end of March, but this year our Brew Runs are already underway in early February. There's a sense of excitement in seeing how much can be achieved so early in the year.

Once again, opportunities have opened for us to support military bands from around the world as they gather and rehearse for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We last supported them in 2016 in Melbourne, and this year the Tattoo is being held in Brisbane. It's a privilege to serve our troops with a drink, a snack, and a friendly chat while they train. It's also a wonderful chance to showcase our Brew Trucks and demonstrate our capabilities to military representatives from other nations.



*Phil Marshall
CCOMM (Ret'd)*

We are pleased to report that work on our two newly acquired Brew Trucks (second hand, but new to us) has now been completed. One truck is already operating at Randwick Barracks in Sydney, made possible through generous donations from NSW RSL sub branches. We are incredibly grateful for their confidence in our mission and their ongoing support.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the amazing Kym Hyson, whose extraordinary generosity funded the purchase and upgrade of two Brew Trucks. One of these vehicles will be stationed in Adelaide, while the other will support SEQLD and surrounding areas as required. Kym's gracious heart also made it possible for us to hold our annual volunteer staff conference in a Brisbane motel—giving everyone a much needed opportunity to rest and recharge after training. It is because of the continued generosity of individuals and organisations that we are able to carry forward 85 years of serving those who serve our nation.

One of the fascinating things about humanity is our tendency to resist change. Yet when we look back at old photos, we see clearly that change is inevitable. The person we are today is quite different from the one we were years ago. Change happens all around us—sometimes welcome, sometimes challenging—but embracing it often reduces the discomfort it brings.

Everyman's Welfare Service is undergoing change as well. Over the past year, and continuing into this one, we've seen staff move on to new life pathways. Change is also happening within our administration and leadership. Being part of EWS's 85 year journey has given me countless memories I will cherish. However, this will be my final On Patrol article as I too embrace a new direction.

My hope and prayer is that the future brings even greater impact than the past. In the big picture, life is not just about the here and now but the there and after. Eternity is a long time—choose wisely. Embrace the Bible (Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth) and ensure your eternity is spent in His presence.

Bless ya, Phil 'Snowy' Marshall
CCOMM Phil Marshall (Ret'd)

EWS LOCATIONS

- RAAF Base, AMBERLEY, QLD
- Robertson Barracks HOLTZE, NT
- Gallipoli Barracks, ENOGGERA, QLD
- Victoria Barracks, PETRIE TERRACE, QLD
- Simpsons Barracks, MACLEOD, VIC
- Randwick Barracks, RANDWICK, NSW
- Blamey Barracks, KAPOOKA, NSW
- Gaza Ridge Barracks, BANDIANA, VIC
- Latchford Barracks, BONEGILLA, VIC

Who are you going to call?

When your car breaks down, you call a towing service. But when a heavily armoured military vehicle needs recovering in a combat zone, you call the Recovery Mechanics.

The Australian Army train their recovery mechanics at the Army School of Logistics in Bandiana and the Everyman's team is privileged to be able to support them on the field phases of their training and assessment. Finding the soldiers at work in the Yackandandah bush can be quite a challenge, but over time our team has become familiar with the nicknames for the various locations which include Kindy, Spooks, BBQ or Cliffs. Once we are on site, however, the welcome is always warm and the supervising staff gladly explain the training objectives and appreciate our encouragement of the trainees. Supporting these trainees not only lifts morale but also strengthens Everyman's long-standing partnership with the Australian Army.



David Hodgens
REP

REP David Hodgens



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



Australian
Charities and
Not-for-profits
Commission



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

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National Headquarters
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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.

Name.....Email.....

Address.....

Suburb.....State.....P/Code.....Phone.....

Enclosed is our tax deductible gift of \$ _____

Please use my/our donation to support:

General Operations Vehicle Replacement Project Personal Support for.....

I/we would like to donate: Fortnightly Monthly Quarterly Annual This is a one-time gift

Please charge my credit card: Visa MasterCard

(Last 3 digits on back)

Card Number CVV

Name on card Expiry Date:/..... Signature:

Direct Transfer BSB: 034 033 Acct: 197255 Title: Everymans Welfare Service Ref: Your Name

Cheque or money order payable to **EVERYMAN'S WELFARE SERVICE**

