

ON PATROL

Camp Gregory-Founders Hall

On their way back from serving the 7th Brigade at Shoalwater Bay, SREP Ben and REP Claudia Ridley visited Camp Gregory Veterans Retreat, where we presented a picture frame on behalf of Everyman's Welfare Service commemorating the Everyman's Hut at Nui Dat during the Vietnam War.

The Nui Dat Hut served as a recreational centre where Australian soldiers could relax, enjoy refreshments, and spend time with Everyman's Representatives Milton Trotter, Stacey Kruck, Graham Bonar, Eric Trezise and Rex Finedon. The Reps also visited troops in the field using the famous "Brew Truck" mobile canteen. The original hut, built by Milton Trotter with the support of Everyman's supporters across Australia, was lost to history. The building at Camp Gregory was manufactured by the same company and is of a similar design to the original Nui Dat Hut.

Founded by Vietnam veteran Roger Dwyer, who would no doubt have been familiar with the Everyman's Hut during his own service in Vietnam, Camp Gregory Veterans Retreat continues to provide support and respite to current and ex-servicemen and women and first responders. It was great for Claudia and Ben to present the picture frame, featuring photographs from the Vietnam War, and see this part of Everyman's history displayed in a building with such a strong connection to the original Nui Dat Hut—a great way to preserve and share the story of Everyman's service to Australian troops for future generations.



Everyman's Welfare Service
a company limited by guarantee

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From the CCOM's desk

Welcome to our spring edition of On Patrol.

Spring reminds us that God is all about making things new. In the last book of the Bible, the Apostle John tells us that Jesus promised that one day everything would be made new (Revelation 21:5). In the meantime, He gives us glimpses of the coming attractions through the season of spring. Spring is also a time of growth.

In the natural world we see growth that comes from a balanced combination of sunlight and water. On a personal level, for Christians, growth comes from the right combination of time with God in His word and time in fellowship with other believers. So, let's be encouraged as we see a new season taking shape in God's great garden and take time to share and experience it with others.

Since our last edition of On Patrol, our team has been active preparing for deployments to exercise Predators Run and War Fighter within the Shoalwater Bay area, near Rockhampton, Queensland. Units deployed from areas where we currently have our staff - Robertson Barracks Darwin, Enoggera Barracks Brisbane, and the greater Sydney area - plus other units from Townsville.

The exercise assessed the ADF's capability at Brigade level to defend a portion of northern Queensland and to refine its ability to play an active role in defending our nation's interests and those of our neighbours within the Pacific region. Our enhanced Defence coastline capability was a main feature in proving our combat readiness. Tactical actions on the ground and our interoperability with international partners were also significant. A big thank you is extended to SREP Ben Ridley, Rep Claudia Ridley, Rep Peter Harvie and SREP Leane Dabitz for the support of participating units and the encouragement they provided to exercise participants and ADF Chaplains. This complemented ACOM Richards Gibson's lead-up exercise involvement earlier this year. Well done all!

We recently bid farewell to SREP Brad Clarke and his wife, Debbie, after seven years serving with Everyman's Welfare Service, supporting 23 Squadron and other units on RAAF Base Amberley (Qld). When joining Everyman's they carried on the baton of our ministry in Amberley, establishing a recreation facility on base with support from our wider Everyman's team in Brisbane. Brad developed a practical service and outreach ministry for ADF members posted to Amberley and for those visiting the Base. Local ADF community events often saw Brad turn up with his trusty Everyman's vehicle loaded with refreshments. I'm sure many will miss Brad's smiling face, gentle manner, and approachability. What will be our loss will be someone else's gain, as he takes time out to invest in his health and wellbeing in preparation for a new chapter in his life and what God might have in store for both he and Deb. Thank you, Brad and Deb, for your service.

Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to you all for your interest in the ministry of Everyman's. Thank you for your generous financial support and prayers for our ministry within the ADF, and for your regular personal support, which enables our Representatives to serve as your representatives, supporting our Defence community, and extending Christian community care to those who defend our nation and our national interests, and the Veterans who served before them.

CCOM Shane Lavell



*Shane Lavell
CCOM*

EWS LOCATIONS

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

2026 Staff Farewells

Farewell to Brad Clarke

Brad Clarke entered Everyman's service in response to seeing a need. An old friend, John Turner, was retiring after having served at Amberley, and Brad stood up, filled the gap and continued the work. During his time as a REP at Amberley, Brad diligently built up the work utilising an excellent space in the Airman's Club which was devoted to the outreach work of Everyman's. Brad

also oversaw the expansion of the ministry at Amberley with the addition of Bruce and Mercy Maher to the team, thus enabling greater work amongst our Air Force members. Brad also undertook many brew runs into training areas, among which were Greenbank and Purga rifle ranges. Deb also constantly assisted Brad and ministered to many young Air Force members in various ways. As Brad and Deb have a change of focus, we praise God for their ministry provided at Amberley. We praise God that Bruce and Mercy Maher will continue the witness in that location, keeping alive Brad's love and guidance expressed so genuinely to RAAF personnel. Please pray for Brad and Deb as they make this transition and seek God's ongoing provision and guidance in their lives.



Farewell to Frank Tottingham.

Frank Tottingham served Everyman's faithfully for many years, concurrently balancing his Everyman's ministry with pastoral ministry in Canberra. Frank came to us from the United States, having previously served with the US Marines. This meant he was ideally placed to serve in the Defence environment. Frank initially served with Everyman's at Kapooka and generated much interest in our work among the recruits. One of Frank's greatest assets was his love of the soldier, irrespective of nationality, and his great desire to support them and see them come to know the Lord. Frank spent countless hours at the back of the Brew Trucks and in Recreation Centres, serving soldiers and witnessing to the truth of Christ. While stationed at Kapooka, and later out field at Madura near Canberra, Frank looked after our young officer cadets.

He listened to them, prayed with them and served their needs. Under the Everyman's banner Frank also faithfully visited many veterans in hospital, bringing a practical expression of Christianity and knowledge of the Lord to many there also.



We wish Frank and Shelley all the richest of God's blessings for the future, express our gratitude for their faithful service on behalf of Everyman's and do the same on behalf of many service personnel.

CCOM Ken Matthews (Retd)

Supporting ARDP Adventure Week in Lithgow

REP Troy Murphy supported the Army Indigenous Development Program (AIDP) during a recent adventure week at Lithgow NSW. Activities included abseiling and canyoneering in often wet and cold conditions, a nice hot brew welcomed them back to camp at the end of the day. The AIDP is a 17 week program designed to prepare and precondition prospective Indigenous recruits for military life, focusing on education and fitness requirements in order to build individual confidence and resilience prior to commencing formal recruit training.



REP Troy Murphy

Remembering Keith Phillips

Keith Phillips always wanted to be a Welfare Representative with Everyman's Welfare Service, but it was not to be. Keith grew up in Brisbane and served in the Citizen's Military Forces, attaining the rank of Sergeant before a tragic military vehicle rollover during training. He sustained head injuries that led to his discharge from the Army.

Unable to continue his employment, he began as a Floorwalker at the Brisbane city branch of the Commonwealth Bank, delivering messages, mail, and other documents within the large bank building and to other banks around the city. Computers eventually made this line of work obsolete. Keith was made redundant and retired early.



With time on his hands, Keith volunteered at Everyman's at its newly established headquarters at Victoria Barracks, Brisbane, around 1992. Several days each week, he folded "On Patrol", labelled envelopes, and ran odd jobs. But perhaps Keith's greatest service to Everyman's was his desire to pray for the work of the Welfare Representatives across Australia and those overseas on deployment. For hours he sat in the tearoom, his list of Welfare Reps before him, quietly talking with God. He also regularly attended the weekly Military Christian Fellowship meeting at the Barracks. He became something of a fixture to anyone visiting the office.

Keith would have loved to volunteer as a Welfare Representative, but his accident injuries precluded it. However, that didn't stop him from trying to get closer to the soldiers, just to have a chat. Somehow, Keith gained permission to travel to Darwin to stand in for one of the Reps who would be away on exercise for several weeks. He suggested he could keep the Everyman's Recreation Centre at Robertson Barracks open and operating. Later, he gained permission to do the same at the Salvation Army "Hop In" Centre at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera. Keith was in his element among the soldiers, always willing to chat with them. When the Centres were quiet, Keith didn't waste his time staring at the walls. He prayed for the soldiers he had met, the Chaplains on the Barracks, and the Salvation Army and Everyman's Reps. Who knows what this regular prayer for those serving accomplished?

Keith Phillips may never have worn the uniform of a Welfare Representative, but for many years he was a vital part of the Brisbane team. In 2023 he was awarded a Certificate of Service in recognition of his years of help to Everyman's. Keith passed away on 5 July 2026.

CCOM Bob Rogers (Retd)

Join Our Ministry Team - we do have vacancies

If you would like to consider becoming an Everyman's Representative supporting Defence personnel, we invite you to explore our Everyman's Welfare Service web page: everymans.org.au - further information is available by clicking on JOIN OUR TEAM tab. Thank you for your interest.

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

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

Battle Initiative

Out in the field



Shoalwater

Everyman's Welfare Service REPs were recently on the ground at Shoalwater Bay Training Area supporting members of 7th Brigade during Exercise Diamond Run. Throughout July, SREP Ben and REP Claudia Ridley crisscrossed the roads of Shoalwater Bay Training Area in two "brew trucks" to satisfy the cravings of nearly 2000 ADF personnel.

The wet weather they also faced didn't faze the gathering of members of the 7th Brigade for a recent field church service. The chaplains led the service, which was well attended by the troops, who were delighted to enjoy some spiritual food, followed by physical food supplied by both Everyman's and Sallyman Reps from their trucks. With Ben & Claudia travelling from Adelaide and REP Peter Harvie from Sydney, the team served across several 7th Brigade units throughout the exercise, providing refreshments, a good brew and a friendly face during long and demanding days in the field.

It was another great opportunity to get alongside our servicemen and women and continue Everyman's long tradition of providing practical welfare support wherever Australian Defence Force personnel are training and serving. Everyman's - on the front line of welfare.



SREP Ben & REP Claudia Ridley



SREP Ben Ridley, REPs Peter Harvie & Claudia Ridley

Cultana

SREP Ben Ridley was recently able to serve the 9th Brigade during Exercise Austral Shield as they conducted a range of live-fire activities at the Cultana Training Area. The weather was so bad that the exercise was nearly called off, however, throughout a wet and cold week at Cultana, Everyman's was in the field supporting the Brigade. There is nothing like a hot sausage roll and a coffee to raise morale out bush! Everyman's - On the frontline of welfare





‘You’re Invited – 4th Annual Everyman’s Gala Dinner

We warmly invite you to join us for the **4th Annual Everyman’s Gala Dinner on 7 November**. This special evening is an opportunity to come together with friends and supporters of Everyman’s Welfare Service, celebrate the work being done in support of **serving Australian Defence Force members, veterans and their families**, and help us continue this important work into the future.

We would love to have you join us for a great night in support of those who serve, and those who have served.

If you’re unable to attend in person, you can still support the work of Everyman’s by making a donation. Every contribution helps us continue being there for the Defence and veteran community.’

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



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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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Address.....

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

Enclosed is our tax deductible gift of \$_____

Please use my/our donation to support:

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

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