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Australian Defence Force
since 1940



ON PATROL

December 2020

From the CCOMM's desk...

Dear friends and supporters

As 2020 draws to a close, I have had time to reflect on our role alongside soldiers deployed in Peacekeeping Operations and the great honour for Everyman's to have been able to serve alongside ADF Peacekeepers in the course of our 80-year history. Everyman's REPs down through time have been able to see Peacekeeping firsthand in places like Cambodia and East Timor.

I will never forget a time in East Timor when one of our Rifle Companies returned from a long backbreaking patrol in insufferable heat.

They changed down to their PT gear and grabbed a cold drink to watch some TV.

But true to form as Peacekeeping operations go, the urgent call at that moment came to mount up and head out yet again to grapple with some emergency. Without one complaint, I saw those Peacekeepers kit up and get on with their job. Such was their dedication and their efforts for our nation.

When Everyman's REPs have gone to accompany the ADF on overseas operations, it is hard also for us to say goodbye to our families as we get on the plane. Nevertheless, we have always done so because we recognise the need to support Defence wherever they are.

This year has indeed been a challenge. Everyman's have had to close some Rec Centres during this time, and at our National HQ in Victoria, staff were asked to vacate the bases for 6 weeks. Nonetheless, we had opportunity to serve the troops and members of the NSW police at various checkpoints on the NSW/Victoria border. Our welfare support was certainly appreciated. Our Everywomen's REPs have not only headed out themselves on the iconic "Brew Runs" but have also been able to get alongside Defence wives to encourage them in their time of need. Our EveryVets organisation headed up by Everyman's REP Ben Ridley in the Brisbane area, has continued to meet on Zoom and encourage veterans both serving and retired.

COVID or not, our Everyman welfare support continues. Though we would have wished for a much better 80th Anniversary year, we nonetheless thank Defence for the excellent opportunities we have had to serve them. This is not only for COVID, but also extensively on Op Bushfire Assist earlier this year. We look forward to collaborating with the Peacekeepers so that together we can work to provide the welfare so needed and so deserved by our veterans.



CCOMM Ken Matthews

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Operation COVID-19 Assist

On a beautiful day in early spring, ACOMM Lou Hochwimmer took the brew truck through Corryong to the border crossings at Bringenbrong, Tintaldra and Jingellic. The Snowy Mountains still had a good cover of snow on them. The breathtaking scene belied the devastation of the bushfires at the beginning of the year. The community is still working hard to clean up, repair and rebuild after the extensive damage caused by the fires tore through with unrelenting ferocity.

The border crossing checkpoints in these locations are quite remote. Lou was greeted like an old friend at Jingellic, by a soldier she had met downriver at Mulwala a couple of months beforehand. Both the soldiers and the police appreciated the visit as much as Lou enjoyed going out there.

A week later, the brew truck was taken down the river once more, as far as Echuca Moama. The country was different in every way from the week before, with the picturesque mountains giving way to country that was a patchwork of vividly green paddocks and golden canola. The soldiers from 8/9 RAR had returned to Queensland and been replaced by their comrades at 3 RAR Townsville.

At each of these checkpoints, whether upstream or downstream of Albury Wodonga, the soldiers and the police were being well looked after by the people of the community they were deployed to, nevertheless they were still pleased to see the Everyman's brew truck arrive and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

As this is going to print, the soldiers have already returned home, and the police will be on their way too as the checkpoints are dismantled and the people of NSW and Victoria cross the border with a new sense of freedom and a return to normality.



Masked Man form Snowy River



Snowy Mountains looking back towards Tintaldra



ACOMM Lou Hochwimmer serving NSW Police at Hume Weir Border Control

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*
- *17 Brigade, RANDWICK, NSW*
- *Blamey Barracks, KAPOOKA, NSW*
- *Gaza Ridge Barracks, BANDIANA, VIC*
- *Latchford Barracks, BONEGILLA, VIC*
- *Navy ACCOMMmodation, STRATHFIELD, NSW*
- *Simpsons Barracks, MACLEOD, VIC*

Shoalwater Bay

2020



ACOMM Richard Gibson at Shoalwater Bay

A global pandemic, like we have experienced this year, reaches into every part of our lives, and the military is no exception. In 2020 they have had to rethink everything they do, including the exercises that are carried out in the course of each year. ACOMM Richard Gibson, has in recent weeks supported the servicemen and women of the ADF out at Shoalwater Bay. Being later in the year, it has been much warmer, including some real scorchers of 35°C.

Richard was given access to a large freezer so was able to freeze all the Gatorade drinks for the troops. Once out of the freezer, they turn into Slushies after about 5 to 10 minutes in the heat and were very popular with the guys, who told Richard they were going down a treat!

These exercises are normally held earlier in the year when it's much cooler so it's a challenge for all, including the Everyman, but having said that, Richard wouldn't miss being out there, no matter the time of year, or the weather. He lives to share the love of Christ to the Service men and women of the Australian Defence Force. His presence out there is appreciated by the troops, and just one comment we received back in HQ in relation to this latest exercise, which I'm sure reflects the thoughts of many, "Cheers also for coming out to the position, best day we have had in a while!"

ARTC & RAAF Base Wagga



REP Milton Wilson at RAAF Base Wagga

REPs Warren Clarke & Milton Wilson have had a busy year supporting new recruits coming into the Army Recruit Training Centre (ARTC) and leaving as soldiers, well equipped to move on to the next phase of their training. This process has not slowed at all despite COVID-19, although, like everywhere else, additional measures have been put in place to keep everyone safe on the base.

Warren and Milton have also been called upon to support the new RAAF recruits out at the field training location at RAAF Base, Forrest Hill. Whether RAAF or Army, the new recruits, without exception, are all happy to see the arrival of the Brew Truck and the Everyman, who not only brings refreshment with a warm brew, and something more attractive than the contents of a ration pack to enjoy; they also have a kind and encouraging word for all.

Warren and Milton will enjoy a short and well deserved break over the Christmas and New Year period.

EveryVets & 8/9 RAR

In the Army we often used a phrase when faced with a challenging situation, “Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome”. Despite the seemingly never-ending COVID restrictions, I have been determined that our meetings for our Everyman’s Veterans League should go ahead. We have just had to implement this motto in our situation too. Rather than retreating and having less meetings, we decided to go on the offensive. Instead of having just our monthly meetings we are now having additional weekly meetings, and this is something that we will continue when the restrictions are eased. We have called the meetings the ‘EveryVet’s Connect Group’ which is meeting in my home every Wednesday evening on the south side of Brisbane. We usually have a time of catching up, study of the word and once a month we share a meal together. We also have the capacity for people to join us online through the wonders of video conferencing technology. This means that no matter where people are in Australia (or the world, for that matter) they can login and join in with the fellowship. It also means that when I am away out bush on exercise, I am still able to participate in the meetings (as long as I have phone reception)! So far, we are having Veterans and Everyman’s Reps logging in from as far away as Melbourne and we have all been blessed by meeting regularly and the bonds of unity are always growing stronger. I am reminded of what we are commanded in Hebrews 10:25 that we are not to forsake the gathering together, and especially during these difficult times we must be united together more than ever, remembering that God is always with us and blesses us when we meet, whether it is in person or over the internet!

If you have not checked out our dedicated EveryVet’s website, you can find it at www.everyvets.org.au Much of the 8th/9th Battalion have been down in Victoria helping with OP COVID Assist. This is the second time the unit has deployed to Victoria this year (the first being during the bush fire emergency in January & February). Despite this, the training and courses resumed for most of the Battalion upon their return. This was another opportunity for me to support the various activities at Wide Bay training area. Every soldier’s spirit is lifted when the Brew Truck shows up and it’s a moment to pause from the arduous activities and have a nice cold (or hot, weather dependent!) drink and a snack.



REP Ben Ridley plays guitar at EveryVets's Connect Group



REP Ben Ridley serving a soldier from 8/9 RAR on exercise

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

Christmas Message

How can Christmas heal a difficult year?

In many ways I am sure we wish we could all look back on a better 2020. In Everyman's we have seen the disaster and sorrow of the bushfires earlier this year as we went out to support the Defence force in clearing and rebuilding operations. We were often in dangerous areas sealed off from the public, and our REPs themselves were under the potential threat of falling trees in the devastated areas. I am proud of the work our REPs did, both out field and in the Defence managed evacuation centres, where Everyman's also served.

Added to that was the COVID issue which impacted Everyman's in that we were not able to get out to see the ADF as much as we normally would. But even in this time, our REPs have made great contacts, on one occasion hosting an Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) screened in the Recreation Centre at Simpson Barracks where many personnel were unable to leave the base during the Victoria lockdown.

On other occasions, we took the Brew Truck to the ADF members doing long hours supporting the police on state borders. The camaraderie we have been able to encourage has indeed lifted the spirits of many in our Defence Force.

With all that in mind, I think of the Christmas season where we usually hope for a little more mirth and joy than what we would usually experience during the normal cycle of life. This year that will seem hard for many, for some maybe even impossible as they have experienced great loss on many levels. For some, loved ones have been lost due to COVID.

However, the message of Christmas, when we take it to its essence, is one of the greatest hopes of all. It is assured hope that our eternal souls can have a place in heaven forever, if only we reach out and accept it.

To think that baby Jesus was in fact the human incarnation of the Creator of all things; God Himself, still finds me awestruck. The ultimate gift of Christmas is the gift of God Himself taking the punishment for all humanity's ills on that cross that first Easter (the fulfilment of Christmas), so that all of us can receive the opportunity to find the Lord and heaven forevermore. Despite all the ills of this year, or life in general, this can give us the greatest hope that is not just a shot-in-the-dark, but an assured future reality if we take the ultimate gift God offers us all.

Matthew 2: 1-2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "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."



ALTC Bandiana

The smile on SNR REP Kristian Kemper's face says it all! Kristian loves the opportunity to support the servicemen and women at the Army Logistics Training Centre, Bandiana when they are on exercise.

Although the number of exercises this year has been reduced due to the COVID restrictions, they had a lot of ground to cover when they went out, to make up for lost time. Typical for spring, the weather was changeable, and the soldiers were very happy to see the Brew Truck turn up, and Kristian's happy face.

A warm brew and some words of encouragement were very welcome.



SNR REP Kristian Kemper on brew run

Everyman's 80th Anniversary Memorabilia

To celebrate Everyman's 80th year, we have produced a number of items of memorabilia to commemorate this very special anniversary. The suggested donation includes postage and handling.



Don't miss out!



Clockwise from left: Dog Tags, unique to Everyman's, front and reverse sides shown, metallic silver in colour.; Pen, easy grip



***Suggested donation
(includes postage & handling)***

Dog Tags \$15

Easy Grip Pen \$5

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