



Serving the
Australian Defence Force
since 1940



ON PATROL

June 2021

From the CCOMM's desk...

It is with much gladness I am able to report that recent events have had a very positive impact on our work and outreach. Not the least of these was the recent affirmation by the CDF of the importance of Philanthropic work like ours. He has directed his staff to do as much as possible to increase support for Philanthropic work, in which Everyman's has a major part. We are thrilled to know that our service continues to be embraced at the highest levels, as a key component of the overall welfare package available to the ADF.

I was also pleased this last month to be able to sign on our very first formal EveryVets volunteer, Petri KOSKELAINEN. Petri applied for, and certainly met the criteria we have sought for this position. Whilst we have had many people assist with EveryVets informally thus far, we also had a need for endorsed volunteer staff to help with operations and administration under the overall direction of REP Ben RIDLEY. EveryVets is a subsidiary of the Everyman's work, and a vital expansion of the welfare we already offer. Look out for the article introducing Petri in the next edition of On Patrol.

Nevertheless, the challenge remains to ensure that our standard of caring welfare ministry to Defence remains high. We strive to make every effort in refining and improving what we do. The ADF's culture has been evolving, and the task before Everyman's is to remain relevant in the light of these developments. However, we also stand by the basic traditions of our service. It is our Christian faith based ethos, which demands we serve Everyman and Everywoman in the same way, irrespective of their individual backgrounds. Every day I hear reports from our REPs proving that the personal needs of veterans and serving members stay the same. They still hurt the same as they did in 1940. Whether it is loneliness, anxiety, heartache or sorrow, the REPs reports today say the same as the REPs' reports from World War II. In a changing world, it is our pledge to continue serving that basic need of being a truly caring and listening friend.

Whilst significant donations, moral support, and the prayers of many have blessed us, we still feel we are only scratching at the surface. We could place many more Everyman's /Everywoman's REPs in the field but for the inability of being able to remunerate suitably qualified people, and provide Brew Trucks and their essential accessories. We know there are many hurting people. However, we have limitations in being able to meet so many, whether they are in the community, on base, out-field, or on deployment. For this reason, we ask for your prayers and/or giving, so that we can make the greater and more substantial contribution that we know Defence would be happy to receive from us.



CCOMM Ken Matthews

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Remembering CCOMM Eric Trezise

Earlier this year, we saw our second Chief Commissioner Eric TREZISE promoted to Glory as we say in Everyman's. Eric served as CCOMM of EWS, just as the Vietnam era was in full swing. He was remembered as a big picture thinker and flamboyant. He later did an outstanding job in organizing EVERYMAN'S contribution to the massive Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Parade that was the largest gathering of Veterans to ever assemble in one place, in Sydney in 1987. During his tenure, Eric proposed a Vietnam Veterans Support Service and produced an excellent leaflet which was handed out to thousands of Vets. He also arranged Memorial Bibles to be distributed. He exhibited a flare and presence that won over several in authority.

Eric had served closely with one of the founders of Everyman's, Alex GILCHRIST in NSW in his earliest days. The Lord used Eric to help Everyman's dream big. The Adventure Bound scheme where Everyman's took soldiers and apprentices away for an adventure weekend, had its origins in Eric's mind but he did not have the opportunity to introduce it. A later Chief Commissioner Stacey KRUCK picked up this programme and ran with it. It was a most successful program and many Defence Personnel were blessed because of it. REPs like Deane STEVENSON, Gary RODHAM, Shane LAVELL (currently serving in Everymans), Bob ROGERS and Eddie ZAJC led such Adventure Weekends in later years with great effect. Eric's contemporaries comment on how he could be a fun kind of bloke. Those who knew him can relate that he was unique, and worthy to be remembered for his genuine faith and passion for introducing people to Christ. Eric has now gone to his eternal home, and all of us who remain in Everyman's today look forward to hearing his stories one day in Glory.



Remembering REP Doug Lawrence



Everyman's was sorry to hear of the recent loss of one of our past REPs, Doug LAWRENCE. Doug and his wife Marie were involved in Christian ministry for much of their lives, and Everyman's was an important part of that. Their time with us was formative, particularly Doug's time as the Everyman at Woodside Barracks in the Adelaide Hills area of South Australia at what was then 16 Air Defence Regiment. How fitting it is to Doug's memory, that Everyman's is looking to re-commence our ministry at that same barracks soon. Doug served 16 AD as the Everyman's REP from 1951 to 1959. Like many of us in Everyman's, we will never know how many lives we have touched for sure until we reach eternity. However, it was a blessing to have REPs like Doug ready to serve during those periods of National Service in the 50's. We pay tribute also to his dear wife Marie who passed away some years previously. She was a wonderful support to him always. All of us in Everyman's today say, "God bless you Doug!" All our thanks and joy at knowing that you are now with Marie again and "Promoted to Glory."

Anzac Day 2021

It was a great honour and privilege for CCOMM Ken MATTHEWS to be invited by the RSL at Crows Nest in Queensland, to be part of an unveiling ceremony. The sub-branch has placed on their memorial arch a plaque to honour the work of the Everyman's, Sallyman, and ADF Chaplains on overseas operations. The Memorial Arch is the only one of its kind on the Darling Downs, and the plaque itself is of the highest quality. The only other plaque like this that Everyman's is aware of, is the one at the eternal flame in the city of Brisbane.

Ken was able to share to the public gathered at the service at 07:30 on ANZAC morning beneath the memorial arch that the pleasure was, and continues to be all ours in having the opportunity to serve our ADF members far from home in dangerous and difficult places. Ken's memories of his own time on Op Citadel in East Timor were re-kindled as he had the privilege of meeting up to four veterans at the Crows Nest Dawn Service, with whom he had served with so long ago. We look forward to our on-going association with the Crows Nest RSL sub-branch.



CCOMM Ken Matthews at Crows Nest



Crows Nest Memorial Arch

Thanks by Bill Jardine

My Dad was a Digger
A Rat of Tobruk
He never made a movie
Or even wrote a book

He stood up for Australia
So many years ago
When her need was greatest
He shouted out I'll go

He never spoke about the war
So I guess I'll never know
But now and then His guard would slip
And reality would show

Those who go to any war
Come home Marred for life
And those who don't can never know
The cause of all their strife

I'm neither pro nor anti
But in honour I uphold
Those who stood up for Australia
Are glimpses of true gold

So whether you fought in Afghanistan Vietnam
Korea or World War Two
As a proud Aussie I'll just say
This ANZAC Day Thank You



ACOM Richard Gibson & REP Ben Ridley with cadets



ACOM Richard Gibson

Farewell REP Milton Wilson



SNR REP Kristian Kemper, REP Christina Kemper, Milton and Sandra Wilson, REP Warren Clarke, CCOMM Ken Matthews



*CCOMM Ken Matthews, Milton & Sandra Wilson.
Award presented donated by Shart Shot Images*

It is with some sadness but also praise that we bid farewell to our faithful EWS REP Milton WILSON. Milton has decided to retire from his many years of EWS service due to some on-going health challenges he is facing. But what has always inspired us about Milton, was his dedication despite his age which had never been a barrier to him. Up until recent times Milton, in his 70's, was still very fit, and capable of undertaking his role as an Everyman's REP at Kapooka. The young recruits were always stunned at his energy and strength right up until recent times often seeing him arrive in his "PT" gear. He was a "grandfather" figure to recruits and staff alike, and his service over the years has been nothing short of exemplary. Not only that, Milton would put his hands to the wheel to help out any mate. Right up until he began to have some health issues, Milton would gladly help friends harvest crops in 40 degree heat. That passion was always passed onto the ADF as he not only manned the Rec Centre constantly, he took the brew truck out in the extremes of Kapooka weather, but he also visited the hospital on base and sat with those who were unable to make it through the training. Milton was firm in sharing his Christian faith, but was never pushy, and always respected the other person. The 'Miltons' of this world are hard to find in this day and age.

We all wish Milton could serve on as a REP, but of course the restrictions of age come us all in the fullness of time. Milton has been one of the few who have served on as EWS REPs into their 70's. In fact we believe there have been fewer than 5 in our whole 81 year history who have achieved this.

We wish Milton and his wife Sandra, God's richest blessings into the future and thank them both for faithful and exemplary service to the ADF, to EWS, and ultimately in following the example of Jesus Christ to whom they are both faithfully committed.

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 Accommodation, STRATHFIELD, NSW
- Simpsons Barracks, MACLEOD, VIC

Reconnecting with our churches

Everyman's Welfare Service magazine, 'Let's Have A Service' has commenced circulating throughout Church fellowships in Australia. As a result, Pastors and Church Elders have contacted Everyman's Welfare Service requesting a visit by Everyman's, to come and share how Everyman's has continued to serve our troops and their families since the beginning of WW2.

Earlier this year, I had the honour of visiting St Martin's Lutheran Church Gladstone, Calvary Lighthouse Church, Rockhampton and Living Waters Lutheran Church, Yeppoon. Attending these churches was an absolute pleasure; the congregations were delightful, helpful, supportive and I quickly felt at home. It was lovely to spend time with Pastor Peter, from Calvary at Rockhampton, his wife and young family and I hope to revisit them again soon.

The congregations are interested to hear the history of Everyman's starting in 1939, when our first Chief Commissioner, Len Buck sought permission from the Australian Defence Minister to make an Everyman's Welfare Hut, in a building at the Melbourne Show Grounds, purchased by Campaigners for Christ, just before war broke out. Len's desire was to address both the Spiritual and Welfare needs of Australian military personnel or put another way, 'Welfare with Purpose'. The Australian Military High Command approved Len's request and at the end of 1941 with the build-up of British troops in Malaya he again requested permission to be taken, along with the 3 ton Ford truck he had brought and converted in Darwin, to a mobile canteen (our first Everyman's Brew Truck)! Len and his truck were deployed overseas to look after Australian and Allied troops in Malaya and Singapore. When Singapore fell to the Japanese, Len boarded the *Empire Star* and it escaped to the open sea, where Japanese aircraft strafed the ship for 6 hours. In the course of action, his precious Mobile Canteen was destroyed and his fellow worker killed.

On Len's return to Australia, the ADF gave the go-ahead for more Everyman's Rec Centres (Welfare Huts) to be opened on military bases throughout Australia and Tea Rooms were established in every capital city.

If you would like Jeff to visit your church, RSL, club or organization, please contact Everyman's by phone or email, so we can put you in touch with Jeff.



NRM Jeff Greene

Next Edition

- We'll introduce you to new EveryVets volunteer, Petri KOSKELAINEN
- Just who did REP Leane Dabitz of Simpson Barracks, VIC meet up with when she made a surprise visit to Exercise Diamond Walk at Shoalwater Bay, QLD?
- More photos of ACOMM Richard Gibson and REPs Ben Ridley and Leane Dabitz on exercise
- Who recently celebrated a milestone birthday??



*ACOMM Richard Gibson, REP Ben Ridley and REP Leane Dabitz
at Shoalwater Bay*

Farewell NRM Phil Marshall



Sophie Nijsken, REP Mason Eagleton, Deb & REP Brad Clarke, Phil Marshall, REP Glenn Tweedale, CCOMM Ken Matthews, REP Ben & Claudia Ridley, Petri & Katjas Koskelainen, NRM Jeff Greene, Sharon & ACOMM Richard Gibson



Rtd NRM Phil Marshall and CCOMM Ken Matthews

Recently, CCOMM Ken had the privilege of being able to farewell our former 2IC and National Relations Manager Phil MARSHALL. In attendance were all of the Queensland EWS team and some of their wives and partners. Phil for almost 10 years went door to door over the nation, building relationships with RSLs, service clubs, and churches. We remember well the phrase Phil himself used as he felt at times that he was “losing the skin off his knuckles” door knocking, state by state, and not seeing any meaningful results for a long time. However, eventually some RSLs, churches, and service clubs began to come on board assisting Everyman’s. This meant we could replace the old Brew Trucks that went out to the field with coffee making machines and fridges in them. Phil blazed a trail that made it possible for Everyman’s to move to the next level in support, and established a higher profile for our current National Relations Manager Jeff GREENE to work from.

Ken was delighted to award Phil the Chief Commissioners Commendation (the highest award in Everyman’s) in thankfulness and gratitude for all he was able to achieve for Everyman’s in those short 10 years. We wish Phil and his wife Jani all the best for the future and know that Phil will be an excellent Chaplain with the Australian Federal Police.

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:



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Title: Everymans Welfare Service
Reference: Your Name

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