



Serving the
Australian Defence Force
since 1940



ON PATROL

September 2024

RSL Mugs

Everyman's Welfare Service has welcomed a donation of \$68,500 from RSL NSW. Through the generous contributions of RSL sub-Branches across NSW, the donation will assist Everyman's to continue to support current and former-serving members of the Australian Defence Force, and their families.

RSL NSW is a member-based charity and is a part of Australia's oldest ex-service organisation. Over 30,000 members wear the RSL NSW badge and proudly support local veterans and their families.

The donation has bolstered the shared mission of our organisations and includes a donation of 2,000 custom enamel mugs that will be available for purchase from Everyman's Brew Trucks at Randwick, Lone Pine, and Blamey Barracks. All proceeds will directly benefit Everyman's to continue to deliver our vital work in the ADF community.

RSL NSW membership is free and takes less than five minutes to apply. Visit rslnsw.org.au



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From the CCOMM's desk...

Who can forget the amazing Australian Ski troops of World War II? These units had to be formed quickly in 1941, because the Australian command needed a mobile infantry to operate in the snow against the Nazi aligned Vichy French in the Syrian Campaign. Their AO (Area of Operations) was in the Taurus Mountains of Lebanon, in winter. Anyone with experience in skiing, like those who had frequented the slopes of Mt Hotham and other ski fields back home, were signed on. Their role was reconnaissance and patrolling in this particularly hazardous mountainous range. These soldiers went from the murderous heat of desert fighting, to having to adapt to freezing snow combat.

Today our ADF members are just as prepared to take on huge differences in climate in achieving their mission. The difference between the UAE and its stifling heat and the front line in Afghanistan in their winter is a recent example of how ADF personnel have had to adapt to trying weather conditions as they lived life in one of the most dangerous places on this planet. However, physical resilience also demands mental resilience.



*Ken Matthews
CCOMM*



Courtesy Australian War Memorial

This is where Everyman's and Everywoman's come in. The ADF do not have to make an appointment to see us. Our contact with the troops almost always starts as a serendipitous encounter at the Mess, in the Rec Centre, or around the back of the brew truck. In these contexts, Defence members feel free to open up and tell us how they are going, often when their resilience has been stretched and they feel that they have almost reached breaking point. The Everyman or Everywoman will take the time for a long chat, a word of encouragement, some helpful literature, or even a heartfelt prayer to God for them. In Everyman's we know there is no problem too big for God to fix.

Your support for us translates into support for a struggling ADF member. We do this because we are happy to stand there in that role for you. We want to help equip every one of our men and women in uniform to be the best that they can be in life. We know you also want this. Many support us because you share the same heart for the ADF.

Let us continue to share this heart with the ADF through your support, which makes what we do possible.

CCOMM Ken Matthews

Albury-Wodonga Prayer Breakfast 2024

Chief Commissioner, Ken Matthews was invited to pray for members of the ADF, Emergency Services and Judiciary at the Annual Prayer Breakfast held in Albury recently. The following is a transcript of his prayer:

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father,

We come with grateful hearts for those who are bestowed with the heavy responsibility of dispensing justice for our community. To all involved with the judiciary, we pray for a great bestowing of wisdom and insight. We pray that Godly wisdom would pervade their every deliberation. We ask that they may see clearly through the evil in society that cripples both the nation and its people. We pray that true justice, indeed Godly justice, will ultimately be dispensed throughout our region.

In this vein, we pray also for the men and women of our police force. We ask for strength as they often face the greatest of dangers on our behalf, so that we may live peaceful lives in our suburbs and on our properties. Dear Lord, please bless each one of our police officers, with steadfast resolve and courage.

For our firefighters, please empower them with speed, efficiency and both moral and physical strength. Be their protection, as they often have to deal with distressing situations both on the roads and in burning properties. We pray for all, that they will find the conviction to look to God for their guidance and strength.

For our ambulance officers and paramedics, we pray blessing every day for prompt decision-making and guidance for every casualty they treat. We pray for an open door to be made available for many more ambulance officers and paramedics to be able to join those now serving as they care for casualties and literally save lives time and time again. Be their peace and blessing O Lord.

We also pray for our Defence Force. Please Lord bless these ones who are willing to leave the safety of their homes, to go to the world's most dangerous places, in order to uphold the freedom we now enjoy in this country. In the courage and resolve of the ANZAC's before them, and the "pressing on" through the difficulties such as serious illness, like those of our heroes at Kokoda, bless this generation of soldiers, sailors and aviators. May they bring about both the powerful deterrent to, and effective resistance against, the evil that would seek to invade our communities.

To all else who give their lives in any way to standing in the breach as our emergency responders, bless them with courage, faith in their task, and we sincerely pray, faith in the Lord.

Amen.

CCOMM Ken Matthews for the ADF



LHS: CCOMM Ken Matthews prays for the ADF

RHS: EWS Staff who attended, CCOMM Ken Matthews, ACOMM Lou Lochwimmer, REP David Hodgen & Mr James Black



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

Exercise Predator's Run 2024

Exercise Predator's Run 2024 was a littoral-focused, multilateral training exercise led by the 1st Brigade in the Northern Territory. The exercise involved allies from the United Kingdom Commando Force, the Republic of the Philippines Army, the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy. Everyman's has been able to provide support with Commissioner Phil Marshall, Assistant Commissioner Richard Gibson, and Senior Rep Leane Dabitz having boots on the ground and three Brew Trucks in the field. It was an amazing time interacting with different nationalities and cultures, experiencing the reality that in the end, 'we are all the same', with different upbringings but still desiring the opportunity to share our journeys with other people. There were way too many conversations to cover in this short article, but remember, the good Lord gave us 2 ears and 1 mouth for a reason. Being that 'listening ear' for others, allowing them to off-load and be heard, is a truly incredible privilege.



*Phil Marshall
COMM*

It did not matter rank, culture or issue, being able to provide a drink/snack opened amazing doors of opportunity to share concerns and at times, provide a way to assist. One of the non ADF troops was experiencing great difficulty with missing loved ones from home and, as we had the 'Starlink' set up, they were able to call home for 10 mins. This had a hugely positive impact on their mindset. The next day their commander came over and was extremely grateful to us for providing such an amazing service to his troops.

Supporting the way we did opened many doors to share the purpose of providing the welfare that we do. Over the course of the exercise, I think we spoke to every rank present. From 04:00 to 22:30 we were able to share the Everyman's story and speak of our own faith journey. The incredible opportunity that we have been given cannot be taken lightly, it is a huge privilege to fulfill our calling, and I'm confident the days before us are even greater than those behind us.

The many sacrifices that have been made by so many over the past 84yrs have not been in vain. We will continue to press on and do whatever we can and must, ensuring the momentum from the past is carried on in our efforts into the future. We will stand tall and shine bright for HIM, even more so as we enter potentially difficult times ahead.

Can I encourage you to keep praying, keep giving and keep spreading the news of EWS. Do all you can to open opportunities for possible visits where I can share the news of Everyman's and with God's help and the continued help of others, we will continue well into the future.

Bless ya, COMM Phil "Snowy" Marshall



SNRREP Leane Dabitz at Timber Creek



Soldiers at the Exercise NT around the Brewtrucks

International Air Cadet Exchange



It was a pleasure for the Everyman's REPs RAAF Base Amberley to host a large group of members of the International Air Cadets Exchange Program visiting the Recreation Centre recently.

The group's members came from six countries, being the United States, United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands, New Zealand and Australia.

They took advantage of available refreshments and played Darts and Pool in the recreation centre as SNRREP Brad Clarke engaged in conversation with various group leaders and personnel about the purpose and history of Everyman's Welfare Service in providing welfare and spiritual support both in Base Recreation Centres and through Brew Trucks in the field.



Unit meeting in Amberley Rec Centre



Debbie Clarke & REP Mercy Maher making up gift bags

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

De-Commissioning from Service

On Sunday the 14th of July, CCOMM Ken Matthews, his wife Helen, and Senior REPs Kristian and Chris Kemper, had the real joy and privilege of attending ACOMM George Thomas's formal farewell from the Everyman's ministry. George, along with his wife Kay, were thanked at George's church, Pilgrim Uniting at Wagga Wagga. George's life and service with Everyman's was celebrated, including his special time serving the ADF during OP Bushfire Assist in 2020, as well as his deployment to the Middle East and Afghanistan on behalf of Everyman's. George was awarded his 20 Years Service Commendation from the Board of Everyman's, along with his 20 years-service stars for his Everyman's Long Service medals.

The whole Everyman's team wishes George and Kay God's richest blessings as they continue with other projects and enterprises. These projects are part of their ongoing and selfless contribution to their community in the Wagga area. We know George and Kay will remain interested and keep up with the Everyman's news both at Kapooka and nationwide.



ACOMM George Thomas (Rtd) & CCOMM Ken Matthews



Helen & CCOMM Ken Matthews, Rtd ACOMM George & Kay Thomas SNRREP Warren Clarke, PROBREP Troy Murphy, SNRREPs Christina & Kristian Kemper

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



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

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

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