



Serving the
Australian Defence Force
since 1940



ON PATROL

November 2024

Farewell to CCOMM Ken Matthews

As I contemplate my retirement at the end of this year, I find it hard to believe the way the last 26 years (almost) in Everyman's has flown by.

There have been many highlights.

I have had the privilege of serving the ADF overseas on two separate operations, first in East Timor and then in the Middle East. My best times, however, were when I felt my "hit and miss" efforts actually did help an ADF member and I saw their appreciation as a result. I found myself doing all sorts of things I thought an Everyman would never do, things like being "Santa" on more than one occasion for ADF kids or driving a young soldier who had no car around the suburbs of Darwin and Palmerston, to help him pick a Service Residence.

I also remember being encouraged by the reality that the ADF and I share some very important values. Two of those are these, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends",

John 15:13, and "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31. I remember back in the early 2000's seeing General Cosgrove command the latter as an order! It was to some of the toughest and non-religious soldiers I ever knew, however, those same soldiers did take on that ethic, and lived it out successfully on operations.

For me, the "outsider looking in," these two ethics among others, define the ADF. In some ways this is perhaps why the ADF largely warms to the Everyman around the brew truck, or in the rec centre.

We share some values with the ADF that really matter. It was an encouragement to me over the years, to find out that my understanding of how God reaches out to us was also an encouragement to many a soldier, aviator, or sailor. This reality was very important in some of the personal struggles they were having at the time.

Today we have a dedicated group of Everymen and Everywomen who are very happy to do all they can to care for the ADF. I am proud to see Everyman's positioned ready to continue into the coming years. Your donations and/or prayers have propelled it to this point. Such on-going support will propel the organisation well into the future.

My big thank you to the ADF, who have enabled me to support many of your members over the years.

Last but certainly not least, is my sincere thank you to all the EWS REPs who today are sacrificing finances and time with family and pushing through many personal challenges to serve the ADF. As Christians, we also do serve a higher purpose. That purpose is to share with anyone who is interested in our walk with Christ and what motivates this. Many a time this reality has brought about lively conversations which have contributed to the help and support of many in need. I am happy to say I leave you in good hands with the current generation of EWS REPs.

Have a great day, God bless, and farewell,

CCOMM Ken Matthews



*Ken Matthews
CCOMM*

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From the CCOMM's desk...FCMM

In these sombre days where the ADF is reflecting on the recently released Royal Commission Defence and Veteran Suicide Report, it was timely that Everyman's had its turn to host an association called the Forum of Christian Ministries Military (FCMM), in Wodonga, Victoria, on the 5th of September.

Like Everyman's, each of these organisations are Christian faith based, but serve and reach out to any ADF members, irrespective of their background or belief. The organisations represented this year along with Everyman's were Military Christian Fellowship, Red Shield Defence Services, Focus ministries, Navigators, and Solid Rock. We also acknowledge the Bible Society of Australia who were not able to be present this year but bring immense value to the FCMM with its expertise and resources. The Association for Conferences, Teaching and Service (ACTS) also had to be an apology for this year's meeting.

According to protocol ADF Chaplains stand outside the FCMM, however, as we are an association of civilian organisations serving Defence, each of our ministries consistently work alongside chaplains on the selected bases of operation. At each FCMM, one of the Director Generals of ADF Chaplaincy visits and gives an overall report on how Chaplaincy is currently situated. This year the DG Army spoke to us. Our takeaway from what he shared was that the FCMM organisation's role complementary to Chaplaincy was becoming increasingly recognised and sought after and the need for support was becoming ever more acute within the ADF.

CCOMM Ken of Everyman's shared how each of the FCMM's organisations are slightly different in the welfare and support they offer to the ADF. Like the old colonial buildings made up of many river rocks of different shapes, the FCCM together, forms a "building" of welfare and refuge into which any ADF members can enter. Of course, like Chaplaincy, it is difficult for the FCMM to quantify numerically the value they provide to the ADF as our support and counsel is done confidentially person to person. But CCOMM Ken Matthews of Everyman's states that he has no doubt that lives have literally been saved because of the encouragement and strength the FCMM member organisations have given to ADF members and their families over many years.

In the wake of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, the FCMM stands ready to do whatever they can to assist Defence in the most challenging task of reaching out and touching the hearts of any who is distressed and looking for hope and answers. Please take the time to look into each of the ministries of the FCMM, to appreciate in detail the essential work each one does for Defence.



*Ken Matthews
CCOMM*

CCOMM Ken Matthews



Back row: Sybille Bouzanquet (Coordinator Solid Rock Ministries), Thomas Bielenberg (Ministry Lead Navigators Ministry), Pete Ritchie (Ministry Lead Focus Military Ministry)

Front Row: Brett Gallagher (Chief Commissioner Red Shield Defence Services), Ken Matthews (Chief Commissioner Everyman's Welfare Service), David Coleman (Secretary Military Christian Fellowship Australia) not physically present but Zoomed into the meeting, Julie Jaensch (National Staff Worker/Administrator Military Christian Fellowship Australia)

REP Peter Harvie at Singleton

REP Peter Harvie supported the NSW Army Cadet Annual Field Exercise at Singleton SOI Barracks accompanied by Chaplain Tim Baxter.

Coincidentally, he met SNRREP Ben Ridley, who attended the exercise in his other capacity as an Army Cadet Chaplain. The presence of the Brew Truck was a great boost to the morale of the cadets and support staff of the Binh Ba Platoon at Singleton.

The Brew Truck was a very welcome sight for those in the Binh Ba platoon, and Peter appreciated the opportunity to speak with several individuals in the platoon.

REP Peter Harvie



Chaplain Tim Baxter, SNRREP Ben Ridley and REP Peter Harvie



REP Peter Harvie serving troops



REP Peter Harvie & SNRREP Ben Ridley

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 Diamond Run

In August 2024, more than 1,500 troops descended on the Shoalwater Bay Training Area, putting their skills to the test for Exercise Diamond Run. Diamond Run was the 7th Brigade's major warfighting activity, with the focus being on 6 RAR and other Brigade attachments preparing to become the Ready Battle Group (RBG). A company of New Zealand soldiers also participated, along with support from some of our international military partners. The activity ensured that the RBG will be ready for any short-notice deployments.

It was also a fantastic opportunity for Everyman's to be deployed into the field once again. This exercise was the first large one for my wife, Claudia. Since joining Everyman's as a representative late last year, she had only accompanied me on short activities and days at the barracks. This time, however, was her first chance to see a large scale activity and experience army life in the field. After hearing many stories and accounts of my time with Everyman's over the last decade, she finally had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and a better understanding of the things she had previously only seen in pictures.

Joining us on this mission were Reps. Mason Eagleton and James Morrissy. We were able to have three brew trucks in the field. The team worked well together and during the quieter periods of the activity we carried out valuable training on how we, as Everyman's personnel, conduct ourselves in the field environment during large exercises.

Despite the extreme weather—from a deluge of rain that lasted days, to unusually hot temperatures that pushed the soldiers to their limits—the RBG persevered and achieved their training outcomes. As Everyman's reps, we were also able to achieve our goal and live up to the motto we have held to from the beginning in the 1940's: "Welfare with a purpose." By the end of the exercise, we had had many great conversations and distributed all the Bibles we had brought with us—a good problem to have!

Thank you for your continued support! Let us keep soldiering on for Christ!

SNRREP Ben Ridley



*REP James Morrissy, PROBREP Claudia
& SNRREP Ben Ridley and REP Mason
Eagleton*

Walking off the War Within

With 1st Brigade's major exercises complete for the year, SNR REP Leane Dabitz has had a change of scenery with coverage of two public events. The first was a locally organised event called "Walking off the War Within". Participants could choose to walk a 5km, 10km or 20km distance in support of the Veteran community. Some current serving members chose to pack march the 20km. The Everyman's truck awaiting them at the finish was a welcome sight.

Following this, at the end of October, Robertson Barracks held their 2024 Open Day. Over 3000 people registered to attend and Leane, side-by-side with Sallyma'am Sue, spent the day providing the public much needed cold drinks. Free icy poles were also a big hit with the families and Leane gave away many Army Bibles, pocket scriptures and daily devotionals to those who visited the truck. Praise to God for a wonderful day.

SNRREP Leane Dabitz



SNRREP Leane Dabitz serving



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 Giving

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to Christmas, and the reason for the season: the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Many of us like to purchase gifts for our loved ones but find it difficult to find something meaningful.

If you are wanting to give a more meaningful gift, you might like to follow this thoughtful idea, that is taking hold.

Last year, I received a Christmas card from a friend, with a little note written inside to let me know they had made a donation to a charity close to my heart, in lieu of giving a present.

This is such a great idea, and one you might like to consider. Your donation to Everyman's will have our Brew Trucks and Recreation Centres stocked and ready for the start-of-year activities with the ADF.

It's a WIN WIN, simple as one, two, three!

1. Make your donation using any of the methods listed below
2. Write in your loved ones Christmas card, letting them know of your donation on their behalf
3. Relax and celebrate Christmas!

On behalf of us all at Everyman's, we wish you a joyful Christmas and a very happy New Year!

ACOMM Lou Hochwimmer



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.

Everyman's Welfare Service
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National Headquarters
02 6053 5288
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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**

