

The Last Post Story

Through bloodlines, The Last Post magazine started at Gallipoli. Its acorn then fought with the 2/10th in Milne Bay, Buna and Balikpapan and trekked the Kokoda in WW2. By the late-sixties, The Last Post magazine was ready to be born.

Raymond Thorsby Ross, who had fought in PNG and the son of Joseph Thorsby Ross, who had fought at Gallipoli, leased a small office in George Street, Sydney. Raymond had decided that a small magazine, designed to help RSLs and their members, should be introduced in New South Wales. To do this he would need advertising to help pay printing and distribution costs. Daily, Raymond would take the train from suburban Chatswood to the city and phone local businesses and sporting clubs, asking for their support. This ex-digger and RSL member worked long hours to get each edition out and was effectively the magazine's editor, graphic designer and distributor.

In 1974, Raymond and his partner moved to Scarborough in suburban Perth and continued The Last Post in Western Australia until his death in 1983.

Twenty-eight years later, Raymond's son and Joseph's grandson, Gregory Thorsby Ross brought his father's magazine back to life. Greg had lived with his father as a 15-year old, when he started working as a copy-boy and cadet journalist at The Sydney Morning Herald. The teenager became a first-hand observer of the early days of the ex-servicemen and women's publication. By 2011 he had put everything in place to re-introduce The Last Post to a public in desperate need of a modern, quality magazine to assist the veteran community. Only this time it would be a national. And this time, it would be for all Australians.

With this humble background, and from a history steeped in the Anzac tradition, the new national TLP was born and is now respected and read by not only Australian veterans but the wider global community.

Featuring profiles on contemporary and historical veteran issues as well as honourable Australians, organisations, institutions and companies, TLP has matured to be Australia's most recognised independent online and print veteran magazine.

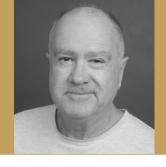
Acclaimed for its quality and journalism The Last Post is unlike any veteran's magazine seen before.

The reason?

It speaks to all Australians as a reminder that the legacy of the Anzac Spirit is relevant to us all.

With editor Greg T Ross' up-close interviews with famous Australians, stunning layout and production and input from great writers covering relevant topics in history, music, arts, entertainment, sport, travel, gardening, this magazine is so well received by a wide audience that reaches far beyond the veteran community.

Pte Raymond Thorsby Ross, founder of the original The Last Post, left, during his time with the 2/10th in Papua New Guinea during WW2.



GREG T ROSS Diary of an independent publisher

Anzac Day eve is traditionally I night where I am denied the pleasures of a good night's sleep. It is then that everything we have for that edition is put into place. It's been that way since 2011.

Originally, Kirstie and I had done this together, in Adelaide but for the last couple of years, it's been a virtual event, with me in NSW.

It involves lots of emails and lots of texts and coffee and me grabbing half-anhours sleep whenever I can.

And so it has been for this, the 30th edition of The Last Post.

Some of the material we'd been working on for a long time, like the First Responders feature. Some things, like the deaths of Yunupingu, Father Bob Maguire and Barry Humphries, came very recently. But I wanted to fit all of this stuff in, to reflect its importance and where we're at, as a nation, in April, 2023. For us being able to acknowledge the passing of these three principal players, heartfelt thanks to Tony Wright, The Maguire Foundation and, in regards to the expressions of sorrow following the death of Barry Humphries, thanks for images from Barry Crocker and Greg Noakes and to the list of people who provided quotes on what the artist meant to them.

Again, there's a whole lot of good stuff within the 104 pages. You can have a look at it on the Contents page. As well as a new Legal section, with Donaldson Law.

I'm going to try and grab some sleep now. When the magazine started 13-years ago, it all seemed a bit easier. But no-less loving...

#thelastpostmagazine #diaryofanindependentpublisher



Photo courtesy Australian War Memorial and published in The Battle of Long Tan by Peter FitzSimons. Published by Hachette Australia.

> In this edition, A look at the Battle of Long Tan through the eyes of Peter FitzSimons in an interview with TLP editor Greg T Ross.

foreword

Greg Melick RSL Australia President

The of The RSL Today

RSL Australia provides advocacy, welfare, support and camaraderie for current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members. In addition, we lead the nation in commemorative services to acknowledge the invaluable contribution those who have served have made and sacrificed on our behalf.

Our role as advocates

Australian veterans and their families count on the RSL to advocate on their behalf on issues and policies supporting their welfare. We have taken this role seriously since our inception in 1916 and take it just as seriously today.

In our advocacy role, we continue to challenge the legislative complexity and budgetary constraints at a Federal Government level, lobbying for sustainable demand-driven funding of the services most in need.

We've seen the demand for veteran services rise dramatically, and it is the responsibility of the Australian Government to meet this demand. The federated model of the League supports our efforts in engaging at all levels of Government. We have established relationships with elected representatives across all states and territories, making us uniquely positioned to lobby for positive change effectively. Through the Royal Commission and a new Government, we see an opportunity to change the face of veterans' affairs in Australia. With a united RSL working in collaboration with other ESOs, we can hold the Government accountable and help implement the change recommended and needed to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

In our Pre-Budget Submission to the Treasury, we repeated our call to consolidate the three Acts covering veterans' entitlements into a single piece of legislation to simplify claims for veterans and their families. Something we have been advocating for many years. It would reduce the backlog of DVA claims to ensure veterans and their families are not left waiting for entitlements. We were pleased with the Government's announcement in February that they plan to undertake this work.

In our submission, we also called for the Government to make provisions in the 2023-24 Budget for:

- Implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, including funding for establishing an independent body to oversee this, led by a National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Wellbeing.
- The immediate extension of non-liability healthcare for mental health treatment to ADF reservists on completion of the enlistment process.
- Funding to enable DVA to enhance its Advocacy Training and Development Program for volunteer and paid advocates to help veterans navigate the DVA claims process.
- The removal of significant barriers currently faced by veterans when accessing timely and appropriate healthcare, particularly by reviewing and increasing the DVA fee schedule to better align it to the actual cost of healthcare.
- A tangible reduction in the administrative burden placed on healthcare providers in accessing DVA remuneration.
- Provisions that enable harmonisation of the funeral benefits payable by DVA under the VEA, MRCA and DRCA so that all payments are aligned at the current highest maximum rate.

To stay informed about what we are lobbying for, visit: www.rslaustralia.org/representation



Supporting the wellbeing of veterans

RSL Australia offers national services such as the RSL Veterans' Employment Program, which helps veterans and their family members find rewarding work and RSL Active, which offers fun recreation opportunities. The RSL State branches also offer services tailored to their communities.

However, we realise we can't provide everything for everyone, and there are plenty of other wonderful organisations out there that also offer excellent services for veterans. That's why RSL Australia has partnered with veteran-owned technology provider, Servulink, to develop the Veterans' Catalogue. Veterans' Catalogue is an innovative web application designed to alleviate the complexities of finding the right services or support, anywhere in Australia. It has smart search features and geo-located search results so that veterans and their families are empowered to find and connect with the services they need when and where they need them.

Veterans' Catalogue is free to access. I encourage you to try it today!

www.rslaustralia.org/veterans-catalogue

Leading the nation in commemoration

The RSL is committed to leading the nation in commemorative services, and we invite all Australians to honour the contribution of our service personnel by participating in ANZAC Day commemorations on Tuesday, 25 April 2023.

On 25 April 1915, Australian and New Zealand soldiers faced their first major battle of World War I. They fought with endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour, and mateship – values we've come to know as the ANZAC spirit and values that live on in us.

There's no greater way to honour our ANZACs – and all who followed in their footsteps – than by attending an ANZAC Day service and keeping the ANZAC spirit alive.

While initially, ANZAC Day commemorated those who served and sacrificed their lives in the Great War, the date has become a national day to recognise the contribution of the 1.5 million service personnel who have served our country in all conflicts, wars and peacekeeping operations.

You can honour our veterans by:

- Attending a service or march
- Buying RSL ANZAC Biscuits or a Badge
- Donating to the ANZAC Appeal: www.anzacappeal.com

Find a service near you by visiting our website: www.rslaustralia.org/anzac-day

We'll see you there.

contents

FEATURES

- 2 RSL Australia Including Foreword from RSL Australia President, Greg Melick AO.
- Interview with Peter FitzSimons, The Battle of Long Tan
- 38 Commodore Peter Scott interview
- **42** Yunupingu's hope for a treaty Tony Wright
- 44 The Susan Chuck interview -Inspirational Australian Women
- 50 Veterans: more than just defenders
- **52** Acknowledging our first responders
- 58 Thanks to our overlooked heroes Dr Dan Pronk
- 59 Inspirational Australian Women - Heather Hawkins
- 60 Veteran and veteran family change makers
- 65 Father Bob Maguire
- 67 Homelessness in Australia

ARTS

- 14 Vale Barry Humphries
- 16 Ten Songs Ahmad Jamal, Poinciana
- Whatever Happened To... The Atlantics
- 18 Dog Trumpet interview
- 22 Joe South, Walk A Mile In His Shoes by Michael MacDonald
- 25 Serving Country Exhibition, National Maritime Museum
- 26 The Journal of Beatles Studies. An interview with Prof. Paul Long
- 30 Glenalta Rail Corridor transformed
- 33 NFSA The Skin of Others
- **36** What Facebook has done for an oldie like me Frank Sebastyan

HEALTH

- 70 Resolute Ready
- 79 HSU Supporting our veterans
- 80 The rescheduling of TGA + MDMA
- The Elephant in the aged care room. Change the model or nothing changes

LEGAL

- 90 If you or a loved one serves in the Defence Forces and is facing family breakdown, you may be dreading, or trying to avoid, getting lawyers involved
- 92 Could you be eligible for military superannuation invalidity benefits?

TRAVEL

- **94** A (nearly) White Christmas by Stan Wilson
- 96 Discover New Caledonia
- 98 Bay of Fires, Tasmania Heath Smith + Jackie Heap

'The Last Post' magazine is owned and published by GTR Publishing, a subsidiary of B4E Pty Ltd, 42b Broomfield Crescent Long Beach, NSW 2536

MANAGING DIRECTOR & PUBLISHING EDITOR

Greg T Ross

ART DIRECTOR & GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Kirstie Wyatt 0419 035 000 kirstie@wyattcreative.com.au

ADVERTISING

www.thelastpostmagazine.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

www.thelastpostmagazine.com www.isubscribe.com.au www.magshop.com.au

ENQUIRIES

GTR Publishing 42 Broomfield Crescent Long Beach 2536 NSW 0419 165 856 www.thelastpostmagazine.com

FRONT COVER:

Image from the book The Battle of Long Tan by Peter FitzSimons.

Photo courtesy Australian War Memorial and published in The Battle of Long Tan by Peter FitzSimons. Published by Hachette Australia.



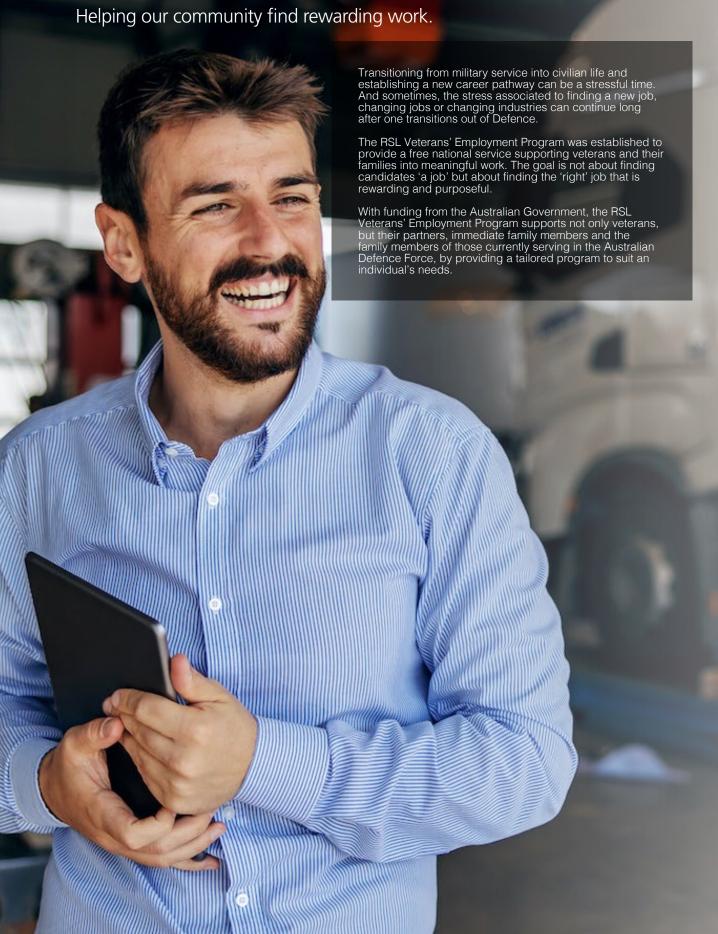
designer / art director KIRSTIE WYATT

The Last Post Magazine has been praised nationally and internationally since it was launched in 2011 and is designed by Kirstie Wyatt from Wyatt Creative. Kirstie is a freelance graphic and web designer and can enhance your marketing to get the results you want in your business.



0419 035 000 wyattcreative.com.au kirstie@wyattcreative.com.au





The RSL Veterans' Employment Program can help if you are:

- Looking to change roles or find a role that suits a new life stage
- Have been out of work for some time and are unsure of what direction to take next
- Planning to relocate and looking for work in a new area
- Looking for a different work structure (ie full-time, part time, flexi or volunteer type roles)
- Looking to upskill or retrain into a new field of interest.

The RSL Veterans' Employment Program offers:

- Career counselling and guidance to help work out the next steps to finding a rewarding role.
- Connections through our employer network: We partner with employers who are interested in employing veterans. Often our partners are veterans themselves and truly understand the value and skills a fellow veteran brings to a company – or they are eager to support the families of those who've served.
- Help in the preparation of CVs and Cover Letters: Best practice in the format, language and approach to CVs and Cover Letters evolves, so it is important to keep a CV up to date and to get it reviewed by a professional periodically. The Program can also assist in translating military qualifications and skills into civilian terminology that will resonate with your next employer.
- Interview preparation and training: Our program assists candidates in their preparation to ensure they shine on the day and have the best chance at landing the role.
- Pathways programs for upskilling and retraining are available for candidates who need to develop or improve a base skill-level to pursue a career pathway. These are assessed case by case.

How to get involved?

- 1. Register your interest online via: rslaustralia.org/employment
- 2. We'll get in touch to confirm your eligibility
- 3. You'll be connected to a Case Navigator who will assess your needs and start the journey with you. In some cases, we partner with employment specialists to ensure you get the best support for your specific needs.

If you're ready to make your move, register today!





Empowering veterans and their families



- Featuring 1500+ Australian service providers
- 12 Search categories
- Geo-located search results on an interactive map
- Easy to use on any device or browser
- Free to use, free to register

Sponsored by RSL Australia. Powered by Servulink

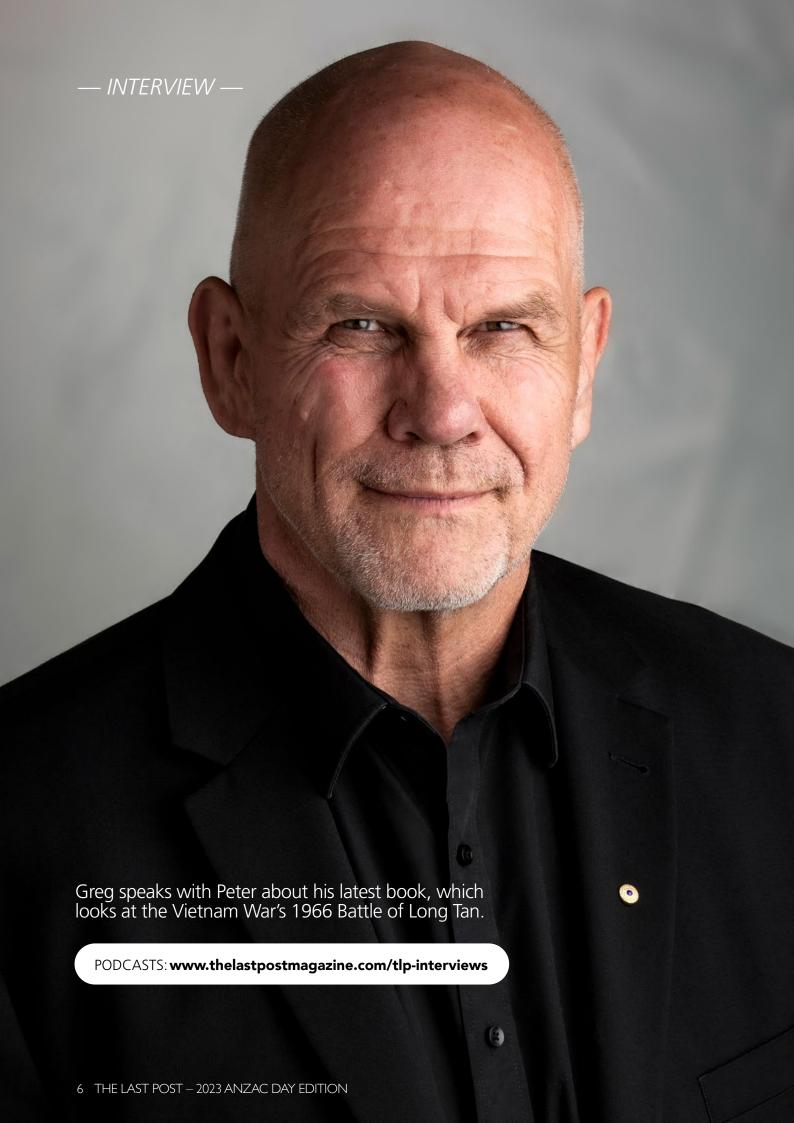




TRY IT TODAY!

rslaustralia.org/veterans-catalogue







Greg T Ross: Peter FitzSimons, the Battle of Long Tan. It's August, 1966, Vietnam near Long Tan, D Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regimen. Four kilometers east of their base in Nui Dat. The previous day, they had come under mortar attack, and on this day, August 18th, they were on patrol looking for Viet Cong soldiers, and then they found them. It became the deadliest battle for Australian forces in Vietnam, but it was more than that, wasn't it? Peter, welcome to The Last Post. What combination of things led you to write this book, this comprehensive, brilliant book, which was a look at this battle, this event in 1966?

Peter FitzSimons: Thank you. Thank you for that kind introduction. The genesis of writing the book, I suppose, was all the other war books that I've done. So I had done was all the other was books that I've dolle. So I had dolle sports books, I'd done biographies of Nick Farr-Jones, I'd done biography of, well I did Collected Sports Works, Everyone But Phar Lap, and then I did Everyone And Phar Lap. I did travel stories, Basking in Beirut. Then I did the biography of Kim Beasley. And then out of pure happenstance, I wrote a book on Nancy Wake, the White Mouse. And of all the books I've ever done, that one was the purest of intent in that I wasn't out for royalty checks, I was out for honoring the spirit of my late parents who'd served in the Second World War. I never thought it would sell, but it just took off, and that was the first time I think, well first time I and I think my publishers realized there was a real market for Australian stories told in the Australian vernacular and war stories by their very nature are so compelling. And then Kokoda...Well Kokoda, I mean it's pushing towards 350,000 sold. I mean that was just like, I had no idea. So I did Tobruk. And so I'd done the Second World War books, and so then I moved into the First World War because you get into those stories.

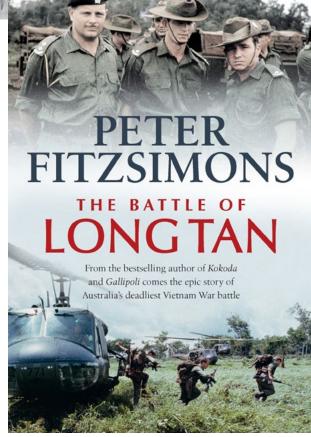
GTR: How do you feel about all of this?

PF: I mean I can't talk about the Battle of Fromelles without getting angry and teary. I mean 7,000 Australian soldiers sent in searing daylight straight at German guns across swampy ground with no cover. Am I allowed to say what the fuck, on your pod?

GTR: Why not?

PF: Okay, I'll tell you, what the fuck? Just outrageous. 7,000 men go forward, five and a half thousand go down.

GTR: Abominable.



PF: Abominable, 1,900 killed. So all across the country you're getting death knocks 1,900 times. Outrageous. So I did those sort of First World and Monash I came to be an enormous admirer of, I did Gallipoli, Victory at Villers-Bretonneux. And so then I did, two years ago, I did Breaker Morant. The war criminal, Breaker Morant. And so a lot of people, through doing these stories said to me, "Well, you've got to do Vietnam." And I knew I would get to Vietnam, and I always wanted to do Vietnam in context and to explain why and to understand, myself. And none of these books do I go in as an expert. I go in knowing nothing, just about nothing. And then I suppose I've always used my ignorance as a tool in telling the story because I assume, I start with, "Well, if I don't know what Long Tan-"



GTR: You've done a good job of letting the reader know because it goes back, and then you talk about, it's the historical angle from this. It's the personal story and historical. For starters, Peter, what was Ho Chi Minh doing in a cave in 1941?

PF: Yes, that's right. I mean the story of Ho Chi Minh, I mean every time you say Ho Chi Minh, everybody says, "Gunga Din", as in the Billy, the Ho Chi Minh, Gunga Din, the famous Billy Joel song.

GTR: Yeah, We Didn't Start the Fire.

PF: We Didn't Start the Fire. That's right. So Ho Chi Minh, basically the revolutionary of his age, Vietnamese, had been all over the world and-

GTR: What a life, he led.

PF: And what a life. And known by the name of Ho Chi Minh, I think he had 20 other code names, had been all through Europe and had become a communist and used communism as-

GTR: The bringer of light.

PF: That's right. And as a tool to liberate Vietnam. And I want, in my books, in war books, I don't want goodies and baddies. I want to understand, apart from, well I must say Second World War, Jesus wept, the baddies were the Hitler, the Nazis- Although I might say that, this is an aside, when I went to the reunion of the Afrika Korps-

GTR: Rommel was probably-

PF: Well, he was the most decent of the lot-

GTR: My father told me that, he'd been in the Second World

PF: Well, Rommel, when I went to Germany, the only unit, military unit in Germany from the Second World War that is allowed to have reunions and commemorate is the

Afrika Korps. Why? Because they had no atrocities on their record. And I talked to a 95-year-old officer under Rommel in Manheim, in Germany, I think is where I found him and he said to me, he was there when they'd captured 30 Jews in the desert. And Hitler had given orders for them to be shot. And Rommel tore it up and said, "We never got this. We never got this cable.

So in the case of Ho Chi Minh and the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong, I wanted to try to understand, I mean the unifying theme of all of them was, "We want to liberate Vietnam from foreigners." And they'd been trying-

GTR: And of course the French, the Chinese.

PF: Well, the Chinese for 900 years. And then the French, then the Japanese after the Second World War, and then came the Americans. And I hope you're interested in my JFK stuff because-

GTR: I'll get onto that in a minute. I think that was, actually that's going to be one of the next questions. That was so interesting. But go on.

PF: Well, so the context of what was happening was that Ho Chi Minh led the forces, his guerilla forces against occupying power. So he'd led them against, he wanted the French out, he wanted the Chinese out, he wanted the Japanese out. And then growing strength till he takes over the forces of north Vietnam.

GTR: Great thinkers in battle. They're incredible.

PF: Yes. And the Americans, well they've developed the domino theory, which is if we don't stop communism in Vietnam, it'll go all over the world. But particularly Southeast Asia, it'll threaten Australia. And one of my favorite things in the book is the JFK stuff. The JFK in what later entrapped, research caught Watergate, caught Nixon. JFK established- ... and you can see in real time the slide to Vietnam as these discussions take place. But the thing that most fascinated me was in '61, he goes to Paris famously with Jackie Kennedy. And de Gaulle takes him aside at the Palace of Versailles and says to him, "Monsoir De President, Whatever happens, trust me, we know. We French, we know. We've been there. We were there for over 100 years. We fought a furious rearguard action to try to stop them. It doesn't matter how many men you put on the ground, they'll have more, you will lose this war." Six weeks later, Kennedy is there when Douglas MacArthur ,General Douglas MacArthur visits him at the Oval Office and he says, "Mr. President, whatever happens, don't go to Indo-China. We will never win that war." And again, a man of deep experience in Asian warfare, and Kennedy took it on board, but then was assassinated. LBJ takes over and then the slide accelerates. And Menzies, Menzies desperate for Australia to be a part of it. And then they establish conscription. And I mean conscription, I'm the youngest of seven children and my brothers were of conscription age. None of them had their marbles pulled out, their dates pulled out, and in any case, they were at university, so could have had a deferment, whatever. But when you go into it, the idea that a 19 or 20 year old could suddenly go get the knock on the door, "Here's the-

GTR: Of course they couldn't vote back then.

PF: No. And so Menzies was desperate for Australia to be a part of it. It's still the actual detail of begging South Vietnam, 'Can you-

GTR: We didn't even, we weren't asked.

PF: That's right. We begged to be asked and we begged to be a part of it with the Americans. And so you suddenly had these men, these conscripts combining with Army professionals. And I was very blessed in this book to, so when I'm doing Breaker Morant, I work researchers, my researchers very hard and you're dealing in diaries and letters, and diaries and letters of dead people. And in this one, it was a great thing to be able to have living, breathing veterans who were experts who were there, none more than Dave Sabin who led 12 Platoon.



GTR: Yeah. He was brilliant.

PF: Well for me, Dave Sabin is the world expert on the subject because he went through that training. He was there at Long Tan, he led 12 Platoon when 11 Platoon got ambushed and he was constantly, and I was constantly on the blower to him and visiting him, but let me just set it up for your listen..

GTR No, I was just going to say, did things really start, I mean things started to get a bit out of control when Diệm was assassinated?

That's right.

GTR: That was really beyond what America expected, and yet they wanted him gone.

PF: I think from memory, Diệm was assassinated within three weeks of Kennedy.

GTR: Right. Three weeks later, Kennedy was dead.

PF: Yeah. And so you had the two leaders, Diệm was the corrupt president of South Vietnam, and by this point-

GTR: Things were getting out of hand.

PF: Things were getting out of control. The North Vietnamese are sending their own cadres south. And they've established the Ho Chi Minh trail. I think they established that in the 50s. And so you had a nation, a South Vietnam teetering on the brink of being totally out of control, overrun by the communists. And so then you've got this extraordinary situation where Australia, as I say, establishes conscription. And you've got this amazing scene where you've got, like out of the movies, I mean every war movie you've ever seen of fat conscripts with long hair going in. And the thing about Delta Company of 6RAR, they were led by Harry Smith.

GTR: That's right, the Rat Catcher.

PF: The Rat Catcher-

GTR: Harry the rat.

PF: Harry the Rat Catcher who was a professional army man, commanding officer. When I was writing it, I was thinking, this is a bit like a war movie because all the accounts, and Dave Sabin and everybody I talked to, said this guy whipped us. He trained us hard, he hardened us up, he toughened us up, and it was like a war movie. And I was thinking, this sounds a bit like a cliche, but that's what happened. And so Delta Company of 6RAR-

GTR: Didn't he catch the guy with the Italian shoes on?

PF: That's right. That's Dave Sabin. That's Dave Sabin. So Dave Sabin turns up with beautifully cut Italian shoes. And the other one was Gordon Sharp that was a standout character because he was a conscript and he spoke out against it, but he turned up for training and he was so good that he became the Lieutenant Gordon Sharp from Tamworth who was commanding 11 Platoon. So what then happens is, the other thing that was fascinating for me is that the Australians are in an alliance with the Americans,

and initially they're fighting alongside the Americans. And then they look at the way the Americans are fighting...The Americans don't want to blend in with the jungle, they want to napalm the jungle. They don't want-

GTR: They want the radios on and they're General Harkins, Colonel Ted Sarong, wasn't it? What did Sarong think of-

PF: Well, they looked at the way the Americans were doing it, which was very loud and very, "Let's napalm the jungle and be out of here by Christmas," and the Australians were, "Listen, we don't fight wars like that. We want to win hearts and minds." We want, in the end I mean, I mentioned to you Fromelles, the lesson of Fromelles and the lesson of Gallipoli was, we have very fine soldiers. They cannot be under the command of foreign officers. We need to be independent. I'm doing the Last Charge at Beersheba at the moment and Chauvel, and Chauvel was very strong on that of, "We're Australians. We don't answer to you. We are interested in what you'd like us to do-

GTR: It bemused the Americans a bit, didn't it?

PF: Yes. And so the Australians said, "We'll take over a province independently." I was having a Vietnamese person teach me how to say it. Anyway, they take over the province. There's a hill called Nui Dat. They establish their base on Nui Dat. They put their artillery on Nui Dat. There are New Zealanders there with them. There are Americans there with them.

GTR: Stanley.

PF: Not many. Yeah, yeah. Morrie Stanley from New Zealand. And so they build this base. And as you mentioned in your intro, you'll note in, you use kilometers, I use miles because that's what they used at the time. So what I want with my books, I want it to feel like a novel, but to be backed by 1,500 footnotes pointing to interviews and original documentation to say, "This is what happened." And to build it so you understand the characters. And were you fascinated by the Little Pattie and Cole Joy story?

GTR: So much so, and of course I interviewed Little Pattie, Patricia some years ago.

PF: Patricia Arquette I think is her full name.

GTR: Yeah. That's right. And-

PF: Wonderful woman. So Little Pattie was a 17-year-old schoolgirl and so Little Pattie was at Sydney Girls High. And one day in, I think it was May '66, she comes back from Sydney Girls High. Her mother picks up the telephone while she just comes through the door and she hears her mother say, and Little Pattie was a favorable property and she was known bight to a green hand she was known to be shed she was knee high to a grasshopper. And she'd done this song, Stompie Wompie Surfer Boy, which was the huge hit across Australia. And her mother picks up the phone and says, "What? Yes, yes. Little Pattie. Yes. Touring Vietnam to entertain. Yes. August. I will ask my husband when he comes home." So next thing you know, Little Pattie, I mean her husband was close to an anti-war activist, did not believe in it, but anyway, he was convinced to allow Little Pattie to go. So Little Pattie heads off with Cole Joy and the Joy Boys, who I must say-

GTR: Didn't Cole Joy approach the father?

PF: Well, Cole Joy was our answer to Elvis at that point in the mid 60s. And it's wonderful to see those two. I mean Little Pattie is 75, Cole Joy is about 88, they're best of friends all these years on. I had a wonderful afternoon with them at the Joy Household with Cole Joy's wonderful wife. And the friendship, they're like a big brother and a little sister, but almost closer.

And so the story that I love is Little Pattie flies, so on the 17th of August, 1966-

GTR: The day before the ...

PF: There is the Viet Cong, possibly with the North Vietnamese. I mean again, it's shrouded in mystery as



to actually who absolutely it was because they don't hand over the detail. But what happens is they launch, the enemy launches a major mortar attack on Nui Dat base. And...

GTR: It's funny you say that, Peter, sorry to interrupt. When researching, and I was looking for the right word regarding this attack, and I didn't know whether to say VC enemy because, as you say ...

PF: Well, I put serious researchers on it and it's not locked down. Certainly, the North Vietnamese were there with the VC, but the figures aren't just, we had 2,300 here, we had 500 there. But anyway, what happens is Little Pattie, amazingly the day after this, so they send out, they send out Bravo Company, Alpha Company at 6RAR goes out, Bravo Company goes out, Delta goes out to relieve them the next day, but led by Harry Smith. And Dave Sabin's there, Gordon Sharp's there with 108 Australian soldiers. And it's just amazing to me that a 17-yearold school girl, the day after a major mortar attack, flies in and they've set up the concert platform on the back of the lorry.

They're singing, and while they're singing, five miles away in the middle of the Long Tan plantation, rubber plantation, 11 Platoon is pushing ports, getting darker and deeper, and they're deep in the plantation, and suddenly it explodes on them. It explodes. They are ambushed. They come to a clearing, first of all they cross a road and they see six enemy soldiers and they fire, two of them go down and they're following them. And those enemy soldiers had no idea that the Australians were there. And they pursue them, and then they come to a clearing, and they're just on the edge of the clearing when they are hit and they are hit hard. And of those 30 soldiers of 11 Platoon that are there,

I think in the first flurry, I think from memory they lost half a dozen, I mean

And so then there's Gordon Sharp's on the radio, "Men down. Contact, contact. We need artillery. We need it on zone 3512952." And then the artillery starts from Nui Dat, and that keeps them back for the moment, but then Harry Smith is saying to 12 Platoon, "I need you to come at them from..." And 10 Platoon, under Kendall, tries to get through to them. It's 12 Platoon that gets close enough to them that they are able to bring down covering fire and get, extricate, if you like 11 Platoon with their wounded and get back. They get back with 10 Platoon. And so that, I'm just doing the memory. So they get back by about, from memory, I think 10 Platoon gets back at 1720 hours and it's by 1800 hours that they've got, just after 1800 hours, they've got all of them, the survivors have formed a perimeter. And they're under heavy, heavy attack.

Meantime, back at Nui Dat, they've got the call, "We're running out of ammo. And I mean I love the story and I was privileged to be able to speak to Flight Lieutenant Bob Grandon, who was there at the time for the detail of the choppers. And so there's this extraordinary scene that takes place when everybody knows the Delta Company is under major attack. Bravo Company, half of Bravo Company had come back, but Bravo Company's told to get to them, but then they have to pause again for reasons that are not absolutely certain, whether there was a mistake that was made that not getting Bravo Company back to them to reinforce them. The APCs, the armored personnel carriers are sent out under Adrian Roberts, another wonderful man.

And so, all these attempts are being made to relieve them, to help them, but the one that I love, and I document them all, but the one that I love most is the story of the choppers. And so they're in the command tent, the HQ, and they've got Colonel Townsend there who's running the whole show. And there is the discussion of, "Well, And there is the discussion of, Well, we're going to send in the choppers." And Frank Riley was this wild colonial boy, hard drinking, hard bastard, and he was in the command tent with Flight Lieutenant Bob Grandon, and there is a discussion, "We send in the choppers," and the answer is, "No we can't send in the choppers. "No, we can't send in the choppers because the protocol is you can't send unarmed choppers into a battle zone unless you've cleared it from Canberra."

At this point, Frank Riley, God bless his cotton socks, Flight Lieutenant Frank Riley steps up and says, "I am the captain of my chopper. The protocol I'll tell you about," I'm extemporizing the words but it's in the book because Bob Grandon was there so I've got it as near as exact as I can. But he says, "I'm the captain of my ship. I'm the captain of my chopper. I'm on a mission. My base is Vung

Tàu. I'm here at Nui Dat on a mission. You can tell me after my mission is completed what you want me to do for the next mission. But I'm in command of the chopper. Load me up and I'm

And they get out of the tent and they go, "Well, this is a pretty good solution. It's high risk. But he's asserting his own protocol," and they get out and Bob Grandon says to him, as you would, "What the fuck are you doing? You're going to get us killed." Frank Riley says, "You don't have to go. I'll go on my own." But of course Bob Grandon can't leave him to do it. So they load them up with ammo. The second chopper, I think it was under the Flight Lieutenant Bob Lane and his co-pilot, and I talked to Bob Lane as well from Canberra, another privilege.

And they take off and as they get up, and they can only just get off the ground because they're groaning with the weight of the other men that they've got. They've got gunners on and they're loaded to the gills with ammo. And as they lift off Nui Dat, rotors straining into this howling gale and the rain, and they head off towards Long Tan, I mean the drama of the moment, and they did what they called, Bob Grandon explained it to me, and it's too difficult to explain here, but they called it a split-arse turn. And a split-arse turn was a chopper maneuver where one goes high, the other comes in very low, and the one that's very high talks the low one in, sees where you've got to go, and they're letting off flares.

So they're saying to Harry Smith, "Flares now. Flares now. Orange flare, yellow flare. Mistake." And there was a mistake. "No, not that." And they're working it out where they are. "Found them. Located, come in." And there's this drama of they go in and the choppers come in right over the top, drop the ammo to those within the perimeter. By this point, this is mana from heaven. And again, when I do these books, people leap from the page at you. And there was-

GTR: This is one of the great things about it, is that you've been able to detail the men and their background so you feel like you're part of Delta because you know these people. And then when Harry Smith says "Spray and you'll pay and serve and preserve.

PF: And what about when he says, "Shrink the perimeter. Shrink the perimeter." It reminded me of the Mel Gibson film, "Broken Arrow. Broken Arrow." And they'd called in napalm from Phantom Jets and the Phantom Jets couldn't do it.

GTR: Yeah, yeah. No. It was one of those things, I mean there was some turning points. And you detail of course to the reader in the book, the Battle of Long Tan, you detail to the reader, obviously there was opposition from the start. I think the mayday rallies, was it '65 or something? When we had I think-

PF: And they burnt the draft cards. There were guys burning draft cards at Central Station. And there was an assassination and Arthur Calwell-

GTR: Arthur Calwell got shot.

PF: Well, yes, the shotgun blast. And Peter Kocan shot him and Peter Kocan was tackled by a peace protestor, Wayne J, I believe name's not coming to me off the tip of my tongue, but just a fantastic story. And the fantastic thing is Peter Kocan, the would-be assassin, is visited in what is then known as Morrison Mental Hospital by Arthur Calwell, the opposition letter who's face he splattered with shotgun pellets. And Peter Kocan went on to become, he did his time, came out and became a highly regarded writer. And I reached out, contacted, well, I tried to, when I say I reached out to Mr. Kocan to say, "Look, this is such a stunning story of redemption. I'd love to talk to you." And a very politic prover came back via an intermedia answer came back via an intermediary saying, "Thank you, but not talking, but good luck.'

But there's so many strands to it, but I'll tell you the one I wanted to, when I talked about people leaping from the page,. The Company Sergeant Major from Delta Company, his name was Jack Kirby. And he was an army veteran, very pugnacious. I think he was mid 30s, overweight. But when you talk about that final battle, the Battle of Long Tan, and you talk to the veterans and you see the diaries and you see the letters, there must have been 10 Jack Kirbys there on the day, because there was one Jack Kirby that was carrying the wounded back to the ditch. And there were 22 of them at the height of the battle, grievously wounded, and one guy keeping them alive. There was Jack Kirby that was calling in the ammo. There was Jack Kirby that was shooting machine gun, enemy machine gun-

GTR: Jack Kirby seemed to be everywhere.

PF: He was everywhere.

GTR: How the hell did he get away with that?

PF: Well, he was just one of those men that was universally loved by the men and he was an army veteran that really knew what he was doing And in terms of when I write these books, the greatest pleasure for me is, I won't say the pleasure, the honor, the privilege is to say there's a guy, Jack Kirby survived Long Tan, but he was killed the next year, or yeah, time afterwards. But for me, this bloke, and he was honored by those that served with him at the time and remembered. But people should know more of those stories, those stories of, and the chopper pilots and those that fell. You mentioned Paul Large, Gordon Sharp. There's a guy called John O'Halloran-

GTR: Yes, I was about to say O'Halloran. He went on to become a lieutenant, didn't he?

PF: Yeah, he was Bravo Company, and he was a friend of Gordon Sharp's. And he'd written a book. a wonderful book called Platoon Commander. And he, because we share a publisher, and I read Platoon Commander, and I go, "Wow, this is filling in many of the gaps of the night." So I called him and he couldn't have been more helpful, more wonderful. And he-

GTR: Oh, that's lovely.

PF: He sent me the unedited manuscript because I didn't want to lose any of his pearls because he was there. And that's the terrific man. And the story of John O'Halloran that broke my heart, he was best mates with Gordon Sharp.

GTR: That's right. Yeah.

PF: And when the war was over, he goes back to Tamworth and goes to see Mr. and Mrs. Sharp who he'd grown up with. He'd grown up side by side with Gordon. Gordon had not come back from the war, he had, and this terrible story, when I get chills telling this story, that when Sharp was killed, Sharp would've been killed just after 1600 hours on the 18th of August. And it took two days for the cable to come through to the Tamworth home. And what they did back then was the local army commander, with a priest and I think a policeman, went to visit the home of the Sharps. And there are Mr. and Mrs. Sharp just come home from church and the army man was the father of Sir Peter Cosgrove, our erstwhile former Governor-General and General Commander of the Australian Defense Forces. And I was talking to Sir Peter about it the other day, and he remembers it because what happened was that they turn up and Mr. and Mrs. Sharp see them and, "No, no, no, no." And then they get the news and then turn, not nasty, nasty's not the right word, get angry. "Get out of here. He was conscripted. Just go." And Sir Peter's father, I think Major Cosgrove came back guite shaken by this Port then back quite shaken by this. But then the same thing happened when John O'Halloran-

GTR: That's right.

PF: ... goes back to Tamworth, goes to visit the parents of his best mate that have died. And again, and I was about to say you can forgive them, it's not a forgiving thing, you can understand the loss of a son to a war they didn't believe in. And he didn't, the son didn't believe-

GTR: Losing his son.

PF: ... and they turned very, very angry at John O'Halloran saying, "Get out of here." And that effectively, I think in John's account to me, and certainly in the book, not blamed him for the death of their son, but, "You wanted to go, he didn't."

GTR: That's what they said. That's right. Yeah. And then you understandPF: And the other, I know, I'm not rambling on, but I know I'm sort of-

GTR: No, no, no.

PF: I'll say the story that I loved too, well when I say I loved it, the story that moved me profoundly, the Phil Norris story. Now, Phil Norris in that attack, he'd married I think his wife-

GTR: Was he the postie?

PF: Yeah, yeah. From Grandville. And he'd married Mary-anne, love of his life, and she was pregnant. And he goes away and he's there. And when the mortar attack comes, he takes a sliver of shrapnel into his skull.

GTR: That's right.

PF: And they bring the lantern to him, and they can see the cerebral fluid and he's flown to Vũng Tàu at first light and the other blokes get the message, "Phil's died." And it was, I think 25 years later, they all mourn him, but they're on with the battle, the battle takes place the next day. They go back to Vũng Tàu, there's no time, the war goes on. They've lost their mate. He's gone. And so they're very sad that he's gone, but then the extraordinary story, and Kate McGregor helped me with this, she wrote a wonderful piece about it for the Australia magazine, and the story is 25 years later, one of his mates is at the War Memorial, and there's the honor board of those who fell. And he looks, and he goes down, his finger traces down, Norris, Norris, hang on, hang on. There's no Norris here. Where's my mate, Phil Norris? And he writes furious letters to the Veteran Affairs Department, to the War Memorial. "How dare you? My mate gave his life in battle, and he's not up there and I want to know the reason why." And the reason comes back, "Well, we'll tell you why. He's not dead."

And so it had been a complete mix up that he'd been in a severe way, somebody there had got word that he died, they told the others. And so he'd been flown back to Australia with severe brain damage. And the records show that his wife had, I think, visited him with her daughter for the first two or three years, and then the visits had stopped. And the only people visiting him was his mother and his brother, but then the mother had died, so it was only the brother. And then the brother died and his mates from Vietnam didn't know that he was alive. And I think he was at Rozelle Psychiatric Hospital.

And then this fantastic thing, this bloke realizes he's alive, and it's the Grandville Vietnam Veterans Association that they go, they find him, and they start to look after him. And then they realize his daughter's alive. So they track down the daughter living in Maitland, and they call her, she didn't know anything about it. And she comes out and she had three fine sons and a fine husband, and they go to visit him. And for the last few years of his life, he's surrounded by family

that loves him and he did remember things from Vietnam, but he could feel, the key thing is he could feel love. He could love and be loved, but it's just the most amazing story.

GTR: Yes. That's incredible too. And I'll tell you what, Peter, this is one of the things that you've been able to do with the book is, as much as it's about the battle, it's about the building up to the Vietnam experience. And then of course, post Vietnam too, with a lot of the soldiers that went there and their families-

PF: And the tragedy of the deaths.

GTR: The tragedy of the deaths of-

PF: Both sides.

GTR: That's right. And of course, and then of course we go back to the slip sliding into Vietnam in the first instance, and then the inability to get out because the Americans had a-

And I just want to say something, well I know I've been over talking, but the thing where on the 19th of August, Delta Company goes back in with Bravo, with Charlie Company, Alpha, they go back in force. And the Americans, General Westmoreland himself, the American commander, flies in by chopper because in a year of shocking news out of Vietnam, he cannot believe the story- The Australians have...

PF: Yeah. The Australians have won a victory, but the hundreds of enemy dead against only 18 Australian dead. But the story that I found very moving was when one of the men, you've got the remains of the Viet Cong soldiers and North Vietnamese soldiers, and they're burying them and they're calling for choppers to come in to dig the pits to bury them. And there's one guy that, they find two survivors that have made it through the night. And-

GTR: Oh, what was his name? The guy that was so badly injured and he wasn't-

PF: He survived. Both of them survived. But the story that I'm getting to is that as they're burying them, you can see the human remains of an enemy soldier, and they're taught to check their pockets to see any papers that they have. And then there starts to be a pile of these wallets and photos. In this particular story, I just remember this guy pulling out the photo and realizing, this is an enemy soldier and I may have been one of the ones that killed him. Oh God, here's his family. Here's his girlfriend. And those moments of realizing the humanity of your enemy and weeping for them. And what I want from the book is, as I say, not goodies and baddies-

GTR: No, no. This is the brilliance of it. Yeah, Í know what you're saying. Because of course we understand, we don't understand because we haven't fought in a war, but our fathers, the experience must be devastatingly intense. And of course, your book

looks at that. It looks at a lot of things that are involved with war, the politics of it, the humanity of it, the price that you pay for it. And I guess, Peter, the VC or the Viet Cong learned that they didn't, after Long Tan, they weren't too keen to get-

PF: No, they were, that's right. There was, yes, not an all points bulletin saying, "Look, whatever happens, steer clear of the Australians," but certainly the respect with which to be wary of Australian soldiers and don't pick a fight with them necessarily. And there was one guy, again, I was so thankful for the help of people like Dave Sabin and Bob Grandon, and I met Harry Smith and Bob Buick.

GTR: Oh, you met Harry?

PF: I met Harry. Geez.

GTR: So what's he like?

PF: Oh, I think he's 87 years old now. But I was up on the Sunshine Coast and I'd arranged to go, well, once I'd arranged to meet him and it didn't work, so I flew back. And it was one of those things where, again it's like a scene out of a movie. All the veterans and the accounts of Harry Smith are hard bastard, but he saved our arse, that kind of thing. And when I met him, I sat with him for an hour, hour and a half talking to him. And it wasn't a formal interview by any means, but I just really wanted to shake his hand and meet him. And it was a thing of, well, I often talk about being in the presence of Sir Edmond Hillary once, I interviewed him, and I thought, "I'm in the presence of greatness." And greatness, it's too much bandaid around, but I felt to myself, "I am in the presence of a seriously strong human being, a brilliant leader of men." And he's 87 years old, but it's like his spine was solid steel. You could see the rigidity, the force of personality. And even at 87, I wouldn't want to cross him. And Bob took a photo of us outside and I'm 6'6, and I suspect he's 5'10, but probably now in his dotage, maybe 5'8, don't know, but I tower over him but his presence...And he thought...

GTR: Yeah. He was short, wasn't he?

PF: Yeah. And he looked after his men that day superbly and thereafter, fighting for them to be properly recognized.

GTR: Oh, look, you detail the story of Harry so well in the book, and his not getting along terribly well with the commanding officer-

PF: Townsend.

GTR: ... Townsend. Yes. No, that was an incredible thing. But Peter, I tell you what, it's an amazing book. It deserves to be made into a movie. I know we've already had a movie about Long Tan, however this is something that's quite extraordinary The readers will be taken into a world with explanation of why Vietnam happened, or at least a look at it, and also the characters involved in it.

SUPPORT VETERAN CAREERS





Help veterans establish new careers in the rapidly growing film and TV industry!

Film and television production is facing unprecedented demand in Australia, with shortages of behind-the-scenes crew in many areas nationally. Our charity-run training and recruitment program Screen Warriors is a vital new initiative for ex-Defence members, those who are transitioning and their families.

Established in collaboration with the Australian Film Television & Radio School, we present courses throughout the year, provide veterans with mentorship and placements on productions. Your donation will directly influence the number of veterans we can train and mentor in 2023.



Alee is a Navy veteran of 22 years - now she's making strides in the film and TV industry, as part of the groundbreaking Screen Warriors initiative.

WATCH VIDEO





MAKE A DONATION

Consider making a tax-deductible donation today at: www.veteransfilmfestival.com/donate

Screen Warriors AFTRS

Screen Warriors is an initiative of the Veterans Film Festival Ltd, ABN 37 653 160 895 - an ACNC Registered charity with DGR status.

All donations of \$2 or greater are tax-deductible.



Photo: Greg Noakes.

BARRY HUMPHRIES

The death of Barry Humphries has left a giant void.

At 89, on April 22, at St Vincent's Hospital in Darlinghurst, Barry farewelled us. Through the characters he created, from Dame Edna, Les Patterson and Sandy Stone, Barry entertained us in a way so unique, he has been called, "the greatest." The comic, painter and writer possessed an iconic wit that allowed him to say things most of us felt too scared to utter. By remaining true to himself, he sometimes courted controversy. And he would have it no other way. In 1981, a workmate gifted me with a tape of Barry at the National Press Club. It remains a treasured possession. His 'Farewell Possums' may be heard no more but his reminder of us to be true to ourselves remains a valuable lesson.



Vale Barry Humphries. Author, actor, actress, librettist, poet, singer, commentator, interviewer, bibliophile, painter, dandy, iconoclast. The sharpest and quickest of wits, he made a career out of inventing characters, most notably Dane Edna, that lampooned the middle Australia of the 1950's and forced us to laugh at our smaller minded selves. Unlike Gary McDonald, whose Norman Gunston character was a vulnerable, Chaplinesque, tramp like figure who was naive, pathetic and deeply empathetic, Humphries' characters were often imperious and slightly cruel, turning their nose at their subjects. I always loved the visceral, lascivious, drooling diplomat Sir Les Patterson, with his food stains and the not too subtle outline of his huge penis. Famously anti-sport, at school, when forced to attend a football match, he turned his back to the game and knitted.

- Callum Morton

I am so deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Barry.

We were all hoping that with the return of our comedic genius, he may have been able to lift us, as he'd done in the past, out of this Politically correct society that seems to have taken over our lives.

I have been blessed to have shared your spotlight, the world has been robbed of your presence, VALE dear friend, the other, Baz.

- Barry Crocker

We've lost such a giant tonight. His characters like Dame Edna, Sir Les and Sandy Stone have made me laugh so much. He was the consummate performer, writer and artist. I'm watching a bit of Barry Mckenzie tonight. "I hope your chooks turn into emus and kick your dunny down ". Vale Barry.

– Jules Schiller

Goodbye Possums... Vale one of Australia's greatest performers loved both at home and over the world . Barry Humphries loved Adelaide and in particular his favourite Australian Theatre 'Her Majesty's Theatre in Grote Street . Quick witted with an amazing ability to read the room and throw an interviewer off course, Barry was a powerhouse in both live theatre and TV and took his unique Australian characters around the world. RIP.

– Paul Sharman

Unfortunately no more. Such a huge figure in our lives. I remember as a small child playing an EP that my brothers had bought. Very early introduction to words like 'chunder', 'point Percy at the porcelain' and the 'technicolour yawn'. Later in my early teens going to the Bonythan Gallery in Paddington ee his surrealist work on exhibition. Like so many of us we saw him on stage, excruciatingly wonderful, as he exposed our raw truths. We will miss him. I may re-read the book. Vale Barry Humphries.

_ Christine Webb

Barry Humphries in 1972, around the one time I saw him in person. Word went out across the UQ campus at lunchtime that he was on stage in the Schonell Theatre. By the time I got there it was standing room only as he riffed, ranted and raconteured off the top of his head for an hour or more until some of the audience started to drift off to 2pm lectures, still laughing. A brush with genius.

- Chris Stafford

I'm completely gutted at the passing of Barry Humphries who was a god to me and my friend of nearly 40 years. I owe him everything. This is a moment of national grief as we've lost our greatest performing artist. He loved us and we loved him

Let's put flowers outside Her Maiesty's Theatre where Humphries almost always performed and he loved that theatre and was so crucial to its redevelopment even though he never saw it completed. Vale.

Peter Busby Goers

The greatest improv comic Australia has ever produced has passed away tonight. A God of comedy. What a massive loss. Vale Barry Humphries.

- Marty Field

My Braidwood visual diary has paused for this VIP news break ... darling Dame Edna has transitioned into that fabulously, politically-incorrect, celestial box office in the sky... she chose the master vibration no. 22 to add rocket fuel to her Ascension as she knew John Olsen had popped the kettle on & got her hot water bottle ready for her arrival .. God bless him.

- Alison Jane Rice

Neither my words, nor my picture, but both are as good as it gets to thank Mr Humphries, Dame Edna, Sir Les, Sandy and Bazza for decades of cutting wisdom wrapped in fun:"Barry Humphries has died. What a talent. What a life. A great thespian. A comedy pioneer. Treader of boards. Erudite on paper. Crusher of hypocrites. Hilarious. Biting. Witty. Bitchy. Sweet. Political. Inciteful. Game changingly funny. A legend. Thanks for so, so many laughs. Cracking jokes to the end. Bye bye Barry. Vale.'

-Valdis Dunis

Barry Humphries as one of his alter egos, Dame Edna or Les Patterson was ferocious and forensic giving us the huge gift of being able to laugh at ourselves, but the offstage Barry that Kristin and I knew was gracious, modest, kind and generous. When the QTC was raising funds for its new Bille Browne theatre he agreed to come and be interviewed by me in front of potential donors in the midst of an exhausting performance tour. I was terrified. This is the guy who demolished Parkinson one of the great interviewers - what would he do to me? He was surprisingly nervous. He told me he'd usually been interviewed as one of his alter egos but seldom as himself. Needless to say he was brilliant and had the audience spellbound and they donated very generously after, so next time you go to the splendid Bille Browne theatre give a thought to Barry who helped make it possible.

David Williamson

The final curtain has come down on Barry Humphries and the world is poorer for it. Over a seven-decade career, Barry was a performer, a writer, a painter, a raconteur and an intellect with a unique wit. Genuine talent, sophistication and a mischievous twinkle in his eye were characteristics that seem rare on today's comedy scene. Barry engendered recognisably Australian caricatures: the wistfully nostalgic pensioner Sandy Stone, the uncouth foreign diplomat Sir Les Patterson

and of course the outrageous socialite Dame Edna Everage to name just a few. Barry was also a passionate crusader against destruction and over-development of his beloved Melbourne, especially Camberwell where he grew up. My only face-to-face encounter with Barry was at a protest rally. His trademark charm and dry wit was evident. I personally thanked him for his involvement. He looked directly at me and smiled warmly. That was enough for me. Seeing him onstage was an equal treat for me. Barry laughed both at us and with us. No-one has surpassed him and I doubt that anyone ever will.

- Matt Caterson

TEN SONGS

Ahmad Jamal, Poinciana

In the dying years of vinyl, record label Blue Note released a triplealbum featuring a collection of some of the greatest songs from their greatest artists. A collection taken, spanning their releases since their beginning in 1939.

There was so much to appreciate and so much to enjoy. This release came in the 90's, from memory.

A song that reached out and grabbed me from this imposing list, was a live version of Ahmad Jamal doing Poinciana. It was taken from his 1958 album, At The Pershing.

So, this version remains one of my all-time favourites. It's gratifying solace comforts, whether listening at midnight under the stars, after a couple of Smokehead scotch's, or on a summer's day spent lazing in the garden.

As I researched Amad, I was taken by his uniqueness of his music. He leapt boundaries and produced the beautiful.

If I look back now, to that time of discovery of a great artist and his music, it all seems artistic in its ambience. The Blue Note vinyl playing on warm afternoons and/or at nights, in the beachside apartment I lived in at the time. The sounds of Ahmad and Poinciana massaging the senses.

This great man and his take on great songs became an important part of my musical education and appreciation. But it was this live version of Poinciana that first alerted me to his brilliance.

As Miles Davis once said, "All my inspiration comes from Ahmad Jamal."

JACK P KELLERMAN





In 1963 Australia's radio waves and early black & white television music shows were filled with a new phenomenon – surf music with its thundering drums and screeching guitars. A vital, energetic sound that totally captured our beach-loving nation.

At the forefront, leading the pack of local and international surf bands. was The Atlantics - four freshfaced teenagers with their smash hit instrumental Bombora. It was the second release for these firstgeneration migrants who had met a few years earlier at Maroubra High.

Written by guitarist Jim Skiathitis and drummer Peter Hood, Bombora surfed its way to number one in Australia and made chart impact around the world. To this day, it sits comfortably in the top ten best-ever surf instrumentals.

Interestingly, Bombora was also the first song written by and recorded by an Australian band that hit number one on the Australian charts.

Believe it or not, sixty years on, The Atlantics have just released their latest album of all newly written songs, appropriately titled "Still Making

But back to the beginning.

"It all started with Peter, Bosco, Theo and Eddie forming the early band while still at school. I was a schoolmate and joined a little later after Eddie left the band.

"It was fun. It was exciting. We had the songs and the sound of the time.

"We were writing, recording, touring relentlessly. In particular, Peter and I just had this spontaneous way of creating songs together.

"Naturally we evolved a little over time. Like all bands. And in the late 1990s, we were lucky enough to have Martin Cilia join the band.

"In some ways, at the time, he was more Atlantics than we were. He brought a new energy and a new era for us.

From the mid-1990s to 2013, The Atlantics toured Australia with The Beach Boys and Chris Isaack, joined Kylie Minogue and other Australian music icons in the closing ceremony of the Sydney Olympics, featured in the national tour of "Long Way To The Top", kicked off the television documentary and CD "Delightful Rain: a celebration of Australian surf music", showcased their string of hits in the DVD "The Atlantics Live At Freshwater" and toured Italy, Finland and Greece.

They also released a number of new CDs including Flight of the Surf Guitar, Next Generation, Point Zero -The Best Of and Collectibles.

Sadly in 2021, after a long-term debilitating disease, drummer Peter Hood passed away.

"Obviously it was a very sad time for all of us" says Jim. "I was feeling very down about Peter. I also have arthritis in my hands and fingers. But one day I said to myself What are you doing, you bloody idiot?"

"So, I picked myself up and started writing some new songs. I rang Martin who was very keen. He also had a few new songs. Then Bosco re-joined the band and that was three quarters of The Atlantics, so we wrote and produced this album as a sort of tribute to Peter.

"Still Making Waves" is the end-result. A 16-track album featuring Jim, Martin, Bosco and Mental As Anything drummer Jacob Cook. As the title implies, the band has not moved far from its heartland.

Fittingly, the last track "Stranger on Mykonos" features Peter Hood on drums. It was recorded in 2013 at the very last session he ever recorded with the band.

"Still Making Waves" was released on Australia Day this year. And the reviews here and overseas have given it the big "thumbs up".

"The unmistakable tones of the Surf Music Maestros." Glenn A Baker.

"You guys were guitar gods to me. The world's best Surf Band." Ross Fear -Alive 90.5 FM.

"I actually had goosebumps listening to Still Making Waves for the first time...it also contains perhaps 8 songs that I would place among the best Atlantics songs of all-time." Continental Magazine USA Feb 2023.

Exactly what you would expect from our very own surf-music super group..

"Still Making Waves" is out now www.theatlantics.com



GTR: Peter and Reg, welcome, also known as Dog Trumpet. Welcome to the Last Post Podcast series. It's a great pleasure having you here and an honor. And something that came about quite serendipitously, but something I've been wanting to do for many times. How are you both going? How are you both traveling? And how are Dog Trumpet going?

Reg Mombossa: Oh, pretty good, thanks. Yeah, we've been pretty busy. We've done the first interstate touring in the last month and a half that we've done for years because of all the pandemic lockdowns, and all the travel problems. So it's good to get out of New South Wales again. So we're enjoying playing and we're getting good crowds, so we're happy with that.

GTR: Yeah, indeed. I think for both of you, obviously being born in New Zealand and coming across to Australia at a relatively young age. As brothers, were you traditionally close as brothers? Did you feed off each other? When was it that you first recognized that there was some neutral wanting to express yourself through art or music or whatever?

RM: Well, I think we were both keen drawers as children. And I started playing music, playing the guitar when I was about 15, although I had a few piano lessons when I was 12. And I think Peter started playing the guitar when he was 11 or 12. So we've been at it for a while.

Peter O'Doherty: We have a difference in age, so I was about six years younger than Reg. So I saw him as a teenager and I was younger than that, playing guitar, so that was quite impressive to me and quite influential. And plus, we would both listen to that radio in the '60s and early '70s, and it was an amazing time for music. So there was a lot of different kinds of music that were filtering through. And the top 40 was full of great stuff. And Reg was collecting old blues records and loved all the English stuff, and I did too. Just once you get the bug and start playing guitar, well, we both just kept at it. And the switch goes on and was never turned off.

GTR: Isn't it amazing, Peter? And you speak about that inspiration through the radio, which a lot of us around the age felt. And of course, the variety too. You'd have Dean Martin one moment, the Beatles, and whatever, Frank Sinatra, and then Led Zeppelin. It was an amazing time of

POD: It really was. Yeah.

RM: That's right. I mean, the hit parade today is a bit generic. It's all the same sort of stuff, essentially.

POD: It's probably more compartmentalized nowadays, but back then it was all in one top 40, as you say. So you'd have country, you'd have sort of a jazz novelty song, and then you'd have a Cream or a Hendrix song, next a Burt Bacharach song. And so it was very interesting, eclectic mix of songs. And plus, there's reggae coming through at the time too, so it was a great influence for kids like us to draw from.

GTR: Yes, it was hard not to fall in love with the radio back then. So you came to Australia, went to university. When you joined or when you formed the Mentals, did you find that the people that have attracted to join you in that group, could you believe that you gave across a zaniness, but a great... I remember seeing your first single one Saturday morning. The zaniness of the Mentals, was that perfectly befitting how you wanted to express yourself at

RM: Oh, well, no, we didn't really think about it much. We were an arts school band and I suppose there was some of that weird art Bohemian ridiculous stuff came into the band

POD: We did share a sense of, I suppose, the absurd and that sort of sense of humor that comes through. And we also looked at the way music was and the way pop stars looked, and we thought it was pretty ridiculous in so many ways. And yet, we were doing it too. So we were poking

DOG TRUMPET

PODCASTS: www.thelastpostmagazine.com/tlp-interviews

fun at ourselves as we were doing it, but quite seriously songwriting at the same time.

GTR: Yeah, that's right. I think a lot of people recognize that. I remember telling this girl that I met in Toronto back in the '80s, that there was a group in Australia called Mental As Anything, and she fell in love with the name and obviously then she became a fan because of the name. It attracts that... Making fun of yourself in many ways, which is true. So I guess the idea of Dog Trumpet for both of you, I was just speaking to Reg before Peter and about obviously formed in the early '90s, when you took a break from Mentals. And Reg suggests it's because you both had a lot of songs to get out there that obviously would be hard under the Mentals banner.

POD: Yeah, well, with the Mentals we had four principal songwriters, so there was a lot of songs being written, and only so much space on each Mentals' album. And as we gathered past through the '80s, what had begun as sort of like a maximum momentum in the earlier days, we were putting out basically a record every year. It just got slowed down a little bit with the touring and the record companies, and the cumbersome sense of... There was more expectation, more money floating around, bigger budgets. And it kind of slowed us all up.

And by the time we did get to the end of the '80s, we probably had a handful of songs that were quite good songs, and they hadn't made it to any album for the Mentals, so we realized that we had enough to think about making our own album. And we had a bit of a hiatus from the Mentals. Greedy had an accident and we were off the road for a little while, so that was the opportunity to make a record. So we made that first one with no real idea, a bit like the Mentals, no idea what the future held, and here we are eight albums later.

GTR: Yeah, and bless that for what you went through. The Two Heads, One Brain album, I guess a summation of what you were doing together. I mean, some of the songs of Dog Trumpet you recognize is ah, okay, they're Mentals. And of course, others are completely Dog Trumpet stuff. Where did the name come from, the name Dog Trumpet?

RM: Oh, it was an image that I'd done for Mambo at the time. It was sort of cross between a dog and a jet engine and a trumpet. And we just thought, "Oh, well, that'll do for a name. We've got a picture to go with it." So we didn't sort of put that much thought into it, really.

GTR: And I know that one of the things that's true to nature for both of you is we spoke about the zaniness that seemed to encapsulate the feeling of Mentals, now a more mature zaniness perhaps. But is it true that the third album, did you record that on a reel-to-reel in a flat in Coogee?

POD: Yes. No, we made the first one in a recording studio in the same sort of method as we would've done Mentals' albums with a producer, Steve James, who had also worked with the Mentals. So it was kind of like we just kept going the way we sort of always knew. And then we've kind of in a way, calmed in a world of very low budgets after that because... So at the same time, technology was getting better and better, so you could make records at home. And I had an eight-track reel-to-reel tape recorder, which I recorded a fair bit of stuff on. And then upped that to a 16-track tape recorder. And we made a couple of albums in that way at home on a... So very basic sort of stuff, very old-school analog gear. And then, eventually I had to go over to the Pro Tools and a computer, and start working that way just because my gear was wearing out. The old tape recorder wasn't working so well anymore.

So we made the last few albums all digitally, but at the same time making it sound... With real gear, good mics. And we're playing very much old-school music, so it's not like we're doing something in a modern way in the sense of say electronica or hiphop. I do use some drum-writing tools and things that I can... Which is a big songwriting aid, and I've used that on the last album exclusively. There's no real drummer on this present album. But I spent a lot of time on that and make it sound as real as possible. And I don't think anybody would know that there wasn't a real drumming playing. But yeah, the technology is great, so you can make records at home and that's what a lot of people do now.

GTR: Yeah. Well, it comes across beautifully. Love the music, of course. To me, it's funny with the The Ballad of Clayton Looby, because we've all got surfer mates and everything, but you encapsulate a bit of that grunge surfing feel very much so. And is this part of the psych? It just appears to be something that comes to mind when we listen to Dog Trumpet now, very surfing type music for some reason. It fits in that genre.

POD: Oh, well that song is about... I came from New Zealand then lived on the Northern Beaches of Sydney, went to school up there, so all my friends were surfers, and Clayton Looby was one of them. He was a particularly extreme sort of version of a rat bag, who had a very pirate kind of life and he passed away a couple of years ago, just from wear and tear. But yeah, had a pretty colorful life. But that surfing thing, yeah, I think we've had that through the Mentals as well. In fact, the B side of Nips Are Getting Bigger, was Instrumental As Anything, which was pretty much a surfing instrumental, based on all those surf bands of the '60s that we liked, from The Delltones, through to Link Wray and whatever.

RM: We used to play Wipe Out and we also played Stompin' at Maroubra, the Little Pattie song at a few of the gigs.

GTR: Yeah. That's interesting, that too because Instrumental As Anything, that should have been a double-A side, that first single. It was lovely. It was great stuff.

POD: Yeah, that was a good song.

GTR: I was talking to Reg before about how the streaming has impacted on the earning potential of artists, and we know the good and bad of all of that. So touring for you guys obviously is a productive way of not only getting your music out to the Australian public, but also of earning a few bucks along the way. How have you found the current tour, Peter?

POD: Oh, look, it's been going good, Greg. We've been up in Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria. So we've gotten out of New South Wales for the first time in several years. The album before this one Great South Road, we had it all ready to go and we had booked gigs and interstate gigs. And then the COVID thing hit, and everything shut down. So we didn't really go out and play. Apart from a couple of shows around Sydney, we didn't play any shows for that album outside of a very tiny little radius. So we're just getting out again and it's been great. People have been coming to see us and getting a really good response to the record, so we're pretty pleased about that.

GTR: Yeah, that's right. I've heard some very good reports. And I think with the unshackling of the COVID era, and perhaps also with the government more likely to be attuned to the arts, do you find there's a reawakening of some sorts, a new energy that's coming about now?

RM: Yeah, I think so. I think that there does seem to be a bit more enthusiasm. All the festivals are up and running again, which they're all struggling, and closing down or canceling and putting things off. So people seem to be keen to go to go out again after all those two or three years of semi staying at home.

POD: Yeah, it's taken a while for it to reboot itself because a lot of venues were still struggling, with bands canceling and people getting COVID in bands. So look, it didn't take much to keep it sort of a little bit on edge. I think it's getting a lot more secure and everybody's going back to pretty much the normal, and people love to go out. So you can see why, they've been trapped in their houses for two years.

RM: There is some little small difficulties with the festivals because all the costs have gone up quite remarkably. So unless they can sell enough tickets, they have the problem of not covering their costs. So that will hopefully be a problem that gets ironed out.

GTR: Yeah, that's right. The current tour you guys are doing, how long is that going for? I know I've seen the dates, but just if you let people know how long's it going for. And what have you got planned after that?

RM: Well, our next gigs are the... We're going out to Canberra this week and somewhere near Cowra, and then we are doing the Byron Bay Blues Festival. And apart from a couple of gigs in Sydney, not really got a lot locked in after that.

POD: Playing Wollongong and a few other things. Yeah, then we're looking at the further down the track this year to do more gigs, but we've been busy for the last couple of months.

GTR: Yeah, just on a sideline there. I was just thinking the song Marianne, did you guys write that?

RM: Peter wrote that.

POD: Yeah, I wrote that one.

GTR: Peter, just a brilliant song. It just came to me when I was talking about one of your other songs, Marianne. Yeah, I just had to get that out there to make sure that I got that right because it's a brilliant song. So with your art, and we spoke about this growing up, with the ability to express yourself through music and also through the visual arts, how important is that for you for not only mental health, but also a feeling of progression in life, that you're doing something different? No one likes to keep treading water.

POD: Well, it's one of those things where you talk about mental health. We are lucky that we are able to forge a life where we do do art, our music and our visual art, because it's the sort of thing that you do as a child [inaudible 00:15:33] a very natural thing to do when you're a little kid. And that kind of gets beaten out of you as you go through life through, through school and people go to university, and then you have to enter the work world. And so we both avoided the normal world of having to find a job with a salary. So I-

RM: I would've been very frustrated and disappointed if I hadn't got to do art and music as an adult, which I wanted to do from an early age. So to not be able to do that would've been quite disappointing.

GTR: And I know that the world is a better place because of your commitment to that. And we know that you've had success not only in Australia and New Zealand, but worldwide. And it's a good advertisement for the fact that anyone out there that feels the need to express themselves through art should be encouraged to do so. And not necessarily find themselves locked into that feeling that they have to do something more traditionally conservative. It brings about, for you guys, surprises and joy and happiness each day, almost each day.

POD: It does. It does.

RM: There are tedious aspects of it and disappointments when things don't go well or you do a bad picture or you

can't finish a song off or something. But generally, we both feel very grateful that we can go on doing it every day and people are ...

POD: I mean the arts are a funny one because a lot of people actually are tortured by doing it because it presents the same sort of set of challenges. Every time you write a song, if you think of a successful song and you've put all the pieces together to make that song work, it doesn't mean you're going to do another one in the same way, and it's not going to come easily. I mean, some songs, for both of us, have been written over several years before they actually come to light. And other songs you can maybe write in a day or two. So it's a very erratic kind of thing to try to just get there with a song, and same with art that I find too.

GTR: Yeah. Just briefly on the songwriting thing. I remember John Lennon telling George Harrison that the song was best to write quickly, and yet he was no great artist at that. He would procrastinate over songs for many years himself too. With the paintings, how long do these take generally? Or is it like the songs, each one has its different journey?

RM: Well, it kind of depends. I do anything from a drawing, which might take five minutes, up till a painting or a drawing that you would work on for weeks. So it depends on how detailed and how finely finished it is, and what materials you are using in terms of that.

POD: And the scale of it too. The scales.

GTR: Yeah, right. And finally, I guess for both of you, Shadowland is amazing. Are you happy with the album? There's some great songs on it. How did it feel recording it? Did you know were recording a great album when you were doing it?

POD: No, you never know what you're doing when you're recording it. You're just in the midst of it. Basically, we wrote the songs over quite a concentrated time, after the previous album I was talking about released at the beginning of COVID in 2020. Because of the lockdowns, we had time where we weren't on the road, we weren't doing a lot of other things. There were no other real social commitments. So we had a lot more time to focus on the songwriting and the recording. So we did this album in record time for us. It took probably 18 months all up to do it. Whereas, the previous albums have taken five years, six years even to nail them down.

So we thought we had some good songs and we just kept going. And each album's a bit like that. You just start with what you've got. And as you go, you get a bit of momentum up and you get enthusiastic about the songwriting, and you write a few more and they sort of just appear. And you got to open up the channel to get them out, you got to dig them out somehow.

GTR: That's right. Well, I think similar to the Mentals and it's only natural it would be this way, but there is this feeling of expectation and interest alone in the fact that you're producing something new. Because as there is a theme and a feeling that runs through all Dog Trumpet albums, there's also the fact that each song, each album is different, and we'll remember that very much so with this album too. It's completely brilliant. Thanks so much for being a part of this.

POD: Oh, thanks. Well, thanks for having us.

RM: Yeah, thanks for having us on, Greg.

GTR: It's great. Look forward to catching up. And hopefully, we'll get to do something about seeing some of your paintings and next exhibition for both of you. That'd be lovely.

POD: Yep, no worries.

RM: Come and see us if we're down your way.

GTR: Oh yeah, most definitely look forward to having a chat and catching up. Take care, my good friends, and stay safe.



CAMILE IN HIS SHOES

Between 1969 and 1970 Joe South was king of the hill – he was living in a world of hit records, television appearances and Grammy awards. Artists from various genres, seeking instant credibility, were continually cherry picking from his songbook and admiration was coming from the likes of Brian Wilson and John Lennon.

Then it all, mystifyingly, stalled – the hits no longer came, albums got lost in the shuffle and South himself scaled back almost to the point of invisibility. When South died at his Buford Georgia home on 5 September 2012 he hadn't released an album since 1975 and, apart from a few scattered live performances, continued to keep the music business at arm's length. Most obituaries followed the "famous long ago" line and generally singled out his first and biggest hit, Games People Play, but South has always been much more than a one song wonder.

Born Joseph Alfred Souter on 28 February 1940 in Atlanta Georgia, South was raised by working class parents who resided in the Adamsville housing projects situated on city's southwest side. At age 11, South was given his first guitar as a Christmas gift and a year later, with a head full of music, introduced himself to Atlanta radio personality and song publisher Bill Lowery. Also something of whiz kid with a penchant for electronics for which are good with the design of the sense small radio station as an outlet for his songwriting. Lowery saw great potential in the precocious pre-teen and was saw great potential in the precoclous pre-teer and was prepared to offer support as both manager and mentor. He also advised his new protégé to amend his surname to South. Through Lowery's contacts and connections, South picked up valuable experience by joining steel guitarist Pete Drake's band in 1957 before kick-starting his own career the following year.

Signed to Lowery's National Recording Corporation label, South's debut single, the self-penned I'm Snowed, was an exercise in hard edged Rockabilly built around his spluttering guitar and the bit of Presley swagger in his voice. The follow up single, a cover of The Big Bopper's novelty B-side The Purple People Eater Meets The Witch Doctor, crept into the national Top 50 and earned South an appearance on American Bandstand but songwriting seemed to be his real forte. Two of South's compositions. seemed to be his real forte. Two of South's compositions, I Might Have Known and Gone Gone Gone, were recorded by Gene Vincent and in 1962 The Tams, an Atlanta vocal R&B group, sourced South songs for their first two singles. Billy Joe Royal, a Gene Pitney sound-alike from Valdosta Georgia, who had already released several South penned songs on small labels between 1961 and 1962, was about to breakout, courtesy of South, on an international scale.

Somewhere around 1964, South had written Down In The Boondocks, a soulful poor boy tale of social divide, and pitched it to Royal. Legend has it that Royal's recording was pitched it to Royal. Legend has it that Royal's recording was initially cut as a demo intended for Gene Pitney, a claim Royal later refuted. "We would never have been able to get a song to him," Royal remembered. "Our plan was for me to sing it like Gene Pitney. We were so young, we thought: "Well they'll think its Gene Pitney and by the time they know it's not it'll already be a hit."" In the end, Bill Lowery grabbed Royal's recording and shopped it to several major labels. Columbia were the first to bite and released as a labels. Columbia were the first to bite and, released as a single 1965, Down In The Boondocks gave Royal his first hit record and established him as South's best interpreter.

Up until 1965, South continued to release solo singles on NRC and other Lowery associated labels. Although the singles made only regional noise they did present an artist well versed in Rockabilly, Teen Pop, R&B and Country. At the same time, South's reputation as a songwriter was

picking up speed - Let The Party Roll On, an R&B stomper, had the luxury of being recorded by both Charlie Rich and Tony Joe White. After The Searchers drummer Chris Curtis quit the band to go solo he chose South's Aggravation as his first single. Lowery also used South, along with Jerry Read and Part Stovens as a steff musician which had Reed and Ray Stevens, as a staff musician which had much appeal for a self-professed studio rat. When Royal was ready to record his first album after the success of Down In The Boondocks, South was assigned as producer and arranger. Three quarters of Royal's debut album, an engaging blend of Soul and Pop, featured songs written by South. The follow up album, released in 1967, was more of the same and included the original versions of Hush and I Never Promised You A Rose Garden. Both songs have since grown into much covered standards.

By the second half of the 60s, South had picked up an enviable reputation that took him beyond Atlanta. In demand as a studio player, South, at the bequest of producer Bob Johnston, was brought into Nashville to add guitar and bass onto Bob Dylan's groundbreaking album Blonde On Blonde. Johnston also hired South to place some electric guitar on Simon & Garfunkel's third LP Sounds Of Sileone. At Fame Studios, in Muscle Shoals Alabama, South's unforgettable Pop Staples informed tremolo guitar introduced Aretha Franklin's Chain Of Fools. South also used similar tremolo licks to fine effect on Solomon Burke's It's Been A Change. Meanwhile, Bill Lowery, who had been South's cheerleader from the beginning, was confident his protégé had to right stuff to be an album artist in his own right. Using his industry connections, Lowery got South signed to Capitol Records and the 28 year old artist, with a definite sound in his mind, was ready to record his first album.

In 1968, Capitol released South's debut album, Introspect, and then quickly deleted it after the first single, Birds Of A Feather, faltered. A year later, Freddy Weller, a friend and associate of South's, lifted Games People Play from Introspect and took it high into the Country charts. Capitol, realising their overreaction, reissued Introspect together with a hybrid album titled Games People Play. South's own version of Games People Play, with a distinctive twangy sitar intro, became his first international hit and the song that launched over 120 cover versions.

Second time around, Introspect rightfully set South up as major artist albeit one with certain eccentricities. As a producer, South preferred to work with sounds rather than formulas. Stax Volt horns collided with Spectoresque string sections, R&B grooves meshed in with Eastern ragas while Country, Pop, Soul and Psychedelia were all thrown into South's ambitious mix. Above it all was South's engaging voice, a burly soulful baritone that fell somewhere between Elvis Presley and Brook Benton. Lyrically, South blended downhome poetry in with hip speak and catchphrases to rail against by persion. to rail against hypocrisy, bigotry, consumerism and intolerance which rightfully dropped him into the top bracket among the new breed of Southern singer/songwriters.

"Joe South was a huge influence on the sound of Atlanta music," offers former Michael Nesmith and Emmylou Harris drummer John Ware. "The feel of the drums and bass were different than other music cities. Not Blues, not Country, not

exactly a conscious blend. It was so simple and good for the feel of the Lowery music team overall. The bass/drums duo of Emory Gordy Jr and Dennis St John later made the move to LA and the city was better for it."

1969 was truly the year of Joe South. Capitol released South's second proper album, Don't It Make You Want To Go Home, which featured the wistfully nostalgic title track and the Gospel soaked Walk A Mile In My Shoes. Both songs attracted a swag of covers and have since been recognized as Pop standards. The album itself was a natural progression from Introspect, South still rooted his sound in Soul and Country but continued the flirtations with Psychedelia and studio experimentation. The album's strangest track, A Million Miles Away, begins as a stratballet Plus impossed to the sound to the state of the sound to the so gutbucket Blues jam swathed in reverb and echo before it morphs into something decidedly trippy and finishes with a soundbite of South trying to place a call through to US President Richard Nixon. Other tracks like Shelter and Be A Believer maintained South's Pop sensibilities but it was obvious to the discerning listener that he was a little more idiosyncratic than the average singer/songwriter.

Nonetheless, South was seemingly everyone's favourite song man as a diverse army of artists were constantly raiding the South catalogue. Johnny Rivers, Mel Torme, Lee Dorsey, Bobby Bare, Willie Hightower, Deep Purple, Wynn Stewart and Aaron Neville were only some of many who sought South's songs in the wake of Games People Play. In 1970, one of South's major influences, Elvis Presley, made Walk A Mile In My Shoes into an anthem all of his own. The same year, South took out two Grammys for Games People Play which was more of a curse than a blessing. "The drugs had taken over." South told journalist Robert Hilburn in

To South the Grammys were the equivalent of a title belt that had to be defended by continually coming up with the goods. He turned to drugs. "I didn't see myself doing drugs goods. He timed to drugs. I dright see myself doing drugs for kicks. I did it more or less to keep going and to tap into inspiration. I equated the chemicals with inspiration." South admitted to reporter Amy Duncan in 1990. South's appeal as songwriter continued into the early 70s when Lynn Anderson's Countrypolitan remake of I Never Promised You A Rose Garden grew into an international crossover hit in 1971 however his own output was possibly becoming too eclectic for the mainstream.

South's fifth album, So The Seeds Are Growing, released in 1971, yielded no hits and was the first South LP to source outside material. The non-originals may have suggested outside material. The non-originals may have suggested South's songwriting muse was running dry but he insisted that he chose the songs because he liked them more than some of his own compositions. Among the five covers was a rousing rework of the traditional Motherless Children where Delta Blues met Southern Rock and a deep Soul reading of Ray Charles' Drown In My Own Tears. South's own offerings were equally strong including the radio friendly title track and the beefed up R&B of Revolution Of Love. For whatever reasons, the album failed to register but, for South, worse was yet to come.

In October 1971, South's younger brother Tommy, who had also been his studio and road drummer, suicided throwing South into an emotional tailspin. In a deep state of depression, South tried to self-remedy by hiding out in the jungles of Maui crippled by what he called "the Polynesian paralysis." South returned the following year and released his final Capitol album, a dark, confessional body of work appropriately titled A Look Inside. The album opened with the downbeat Country Soul of Coming Down All Alone, an unambiguous reference to addiction, and followed through with Imitation Of Life, Misfit, and the slyly ironic I'm A Star that all openly chronicled South's then troubled state of mind and his gradual exhaustion of the music industry and the fame that went with it. The mood lightene industry and the fame that went with it. The mood lightened on the album's second half; All Nite Lover All Day Friend was a buoyant blast of horn driven Southern Soul. Like its predecessor, A Look Inside failed to shift units and Capitol ended its association with South despite the album being one of the better "dark night of the soul" discs of its time."

Free of the demands for new product, South, who was never particularly fond of touring, took time out that

Joe South in 1979.



extended to an absence of almost four years. In late 1975, South, now signed to Island Records, réleased Midnight Rainbows, an album that seemed to announce a second coming. Midnight Rainbows was an equal split of South originals and well-chosen outside material. South's own compositions revealed he'd lost none of his songwriting chops, in particular the thoughtful title track with its testifying. Leon Russell's Stranger In A Strange Land was a perfect fit on all levels and, closer to home, Atlanta bassist and songwriter Tommy Dean offered South the rousing Home And Homesick. Once described as the best song Joe South never wrote, South took Dean's original by the throat and sang it if there were no tomorrow.

"Joe was a master at putting the world around him on its ear," commented Tommy Dean who also contributed bass guitar to Midnight Rainbows. "He had no patience with complacent musicians who approached his recording sessions like any other. Joe was in pursuit of a magic moment and if everyone in the studio was not actively committed and focused on that quest then he was not having it. He was also unbelievably generous to me, sad that I did not realise it at the time.

Although Midnight Rainbows was favourably received among the music scribes it sold poorly and Island eventually cut South loose. In 1977, South, as a hired gun, was lured back to Nashville where he added rhythm guitar to journeyman Country singer Ronnie Sessions' self-titled MCA album that, for the most part, was a pleasant foray into Country Funk. From thereafter, South gradually eased himself out of the music industry and by the end of the 1970s he'd been unfairly re-branded as a museum piece or, worse still, a has been.

In 1980, Billy Joe Royal released his first album in over ten years. A buffed up mix of hard Rock and Blue Eyed Soul, Royal's self-titled disc included remakes of South's Untie Me and Tommy Dean's Home And Homesick. The same year, Ry Cooder's ear for a good song led him to reviving Down In The Boondocks, complete with street corner harmonies, for his Borderline album. Coincidence or otherwise, South made a brief return to recording the following year. Released on Bill Lowrey's 123 label the self-composed A side, South Georgia Pines, was all Southern Gothic filtered through backwoods Blues and some of South's best storytelling. Jack Daniels On The Line, the equally appealing B-side, was South's venture into steel guitar Honky Tonk. With little promotion outside of Atlanta the single came and went – not surprisingly, some of South's more devoted fans have remained unaware of its existence.

Five years later, South made another one-off comeback. Released on Southern Tracks, another Lowery imprint, Royal Blue was South at his Country Soul best. Royal Blue had it all – the soulful twang of South's guitar, the honeyed baritone that had lost none of its range and a suitably polished production. In a perfect world, if there's ever been one, Royal Blue should have been blaring out of radios all across the US. Sadly it didn't happen. Supposedly, South had a completed album ready to go in 1987 but, for reasons best known to himself, chose to shelve it. South also remarried in 1987. Jan Tant, an Atlanta social worker, became South's second wife and he openly credited her for helping him overcome his on and off addiction to prescription pills and providing him with a renewed sense of purpose.

"In times Joe was responsible for building a wall and burning bridges," remarked friend Cheryl Vidrine. "He later learned to love himself but, most of all, gave himself permission to forgive himself and others."

All of South's albums had fallen out of print by the late 1970s however he was ripe for rediscovery in the CD era. In 1990, Rhino Records were the first to reissue Joe South in the new format. Rhino's The Best Of Joe South, a 20 song compilation plucked from South's Capitol years with informative liner notes from roots rocker Ben Vaughn, was just that as well as a fine introduction for those that missed South the first time around. Four years on the ever reclusive South surprisingly appeared in London as one fifth of the Southern Songwriters Circle. South shared the stage with contemporaries Allen Toussaint, Dan Penn and Guy Clark plus indie singer songwriter Vic Chestnutt and more than held his own. South's unexpected reemergence strongly hinted at the possibility of something bigger.

Country crooner Don Williams released Borrowed Tales, a fine album of covers, in August 1995. Williams' choice of material was decidedly free range and went beyond the boundaries of Country music – he, instead, zeroed in on songs from Carole King, Eric Clapton, Tim Hardin, Cat Stevens, Gordon Lightfoot and Otis Blackwell. He also covered Games People Play. To promote the album, Williams appeared on Music City Tonight with a full band and delivered a fine understated version of South's hit. However, the real coup was enticing Joe South to also perform on the same program. Accompanied by the house band, South offered up commanding renditions of Don't It Make You Want To Go Home and Walk A Mile In My Shoes before joining hosts Charlie Chase and Lorianne Crook for an informal Q&A.

At the peak of his popularity South had picked up an unwanted reputation for surliness but in the company of Chase and Crook he was anything but. Oozing Southern charm and a self-deprecating sense of humour, South came across as an engaging character who didn't take himself too seriously. In between the gentle banter, South let on that he'd been writing and recording which suggested a legitimate comeback could be just down the track. The following year, fellow Georgian Dan Baird (ex-Georgia Satellites) released his second solo album, Buffalo Nickel, which included a raucous cover of South's Hush. A certain cachet came with Baird inviting South to add improvisational backing vocals to the track. South's participation again raised the chance of a genuine return but, unfortunately, it didn't quite happen.

Sydney teacher and author, Bernie Howitt, first became aware of Joe South as a 14 year old schoolboy in 1968 and it was love at first listen. Bernie's admiration for South's art has never wavered and just before the 20th century shut up shop he compiled a CD of Joe South's best for the Australian reissue label Raven Records that surpassed the 1990 Rhino anthology. A Mirror Of His Mind mixed South's more familiar material with lesser known album tracks plus two songs from the often overlooked Midnight Rainbows making it the most comprehensive overview of South's late 60s – early 70s output. However, Bernie knew he was only skimming the surface.

In 2001 and well aware that getting too close to your heroes often promised great disappointment, Bernie flew to Atlanta and, much to his amazement, got to meet South in person. "To finally sit down with him in 2001 and have that lead to a sincere friendship was beyond the dreams of a 14 year old boy who fell in love with his music late in 1968." Bernie later recalled. Encouraged by his Atlanta stopover, Bernie returned home and convinced Raven to reissue all six of South's Capitol albums – two LPs on one compact disc and all with bonus tracks. Introspect and Don't It Make You Want To Go Home arrived in 2003 followed by Games People Play and Joe South in 2006 and, in 2010, So The Seeds Are Growing and A Look Inside. The 2010 twofer added four bonus tracks – three Capitol B-sides and, astoundingly, a new track recorded the previous year.

Oprah Cried, a languid Country narrative, confirmed South's talents had remained intact – his flair for writing topical lyrics had not dulled and, remarkably, his warm baritone had lost none of its resonance. Once again South appeared to be making a tentative re-entry into the big time and it didn't go unnoticed. Suddenly in demand, South was booked to appear at the 2010 Ponderosa Stomp, an annual roots music festival, to be held at New Orleans' House Of Blues where he'd share the bill with The Trashmen, Red Simpson, Sugar Pie De Santo, Duane Eddy and Roy Head. However a sudden illness forced South to cancel at the eleventh hour. Two years later South died at his home of heart failure at age 72.

At the time of his death, South was primarily remembered as the major hit maker who performed one of Pop music's great disappearing acts. More importantly, he'd gradually reclaimed his status as a top flight songwriter and an early architect of Americana. Inducted into The Georgia Music Hall of Fame in 2003, South shared the stage with Buddy Buie, J.R.Cobb and Chips Moman at the induction ceremony. In 2005 the San Francisco based label Jackpine Social Club gathered a dozen indie and roots artists to interpret their favourite Joe South songs for the appropriately titled The Joe South Tribute Album. Each one of them reverently reimagined their song of choice that ranged from the obvious (Games People Play) to some hidden gems (Redneck, Fool Me) all of which brought more clout to the South legacy.

Don Law, a self-motivated singer songwriter from Atlanta, first met South in 2000 and came to regard him as both friend and mentor. Law worked with South in the studio between 2003 and 2007 recording and rearranging numerous tracks. As the friendship grew, South gifted Law with a newly written song titled Flying, a poignant reflection on dying. In return, Law set up the Joe South website and at South's funeral he was called on to sing two songs. Since South's passing, Law has been rumoured to be writing a book on his good friend. In New Orleans, a semi-retired attorney is also planning to pen a biography of South. The thought of two possible biographies is sure to excite any Joe South aficionado.

Joe South leaves behind an ample body of unpretentious but innovatively compelling music to earn him a permanent place in Pop music history that's far more substantial than a just a couple of hit records. "Joe South was an original, "declares Tommy Dean. "I don't know of anyone remotely like him"

MICHAEL MACDONALD

Special thanks: T.Wesley Dean, Bernie Howitt, Cheryl Vidrine and John Ware.

Serving Country exhibition honours First Nations' Naval legacy - Australian National Maritime Museum

An exhibition of photographic portraits depicting Indigenous servicemen and women opens at the Australian National Maritime Museum on April 20. Serving Country shares the unique and largely unknown history and legacy of Australia's First Nations peoples' servicemen and women, from more than a century of service.

The exhibition draws from contemporary portraits that are created to prompt reflection of the contribution of First Nations Australians to Australian defence forces, throughout our history. The poignant portraits depict service men and women across a broad span of ages and rank, some in uniform, some wearing medals. The distinctive, stylized photographs invite the viewer to engage with the story behind each portrait, and to consider this as part of our national maritime heritage.

The Museum's Manager of Indigenous Programs, Matt Poll, said 'These portraits bring the viewer face to face with individuals who signed up to serve Australia, whose existence many people may not yet be aware of. The Serving Country project aims to honour and recognize the legacy of those who have served and who continue to serve, to see their faces and consider their stories, and to build a more complete picture of the contribution each has made to our shared national story."

Able seaman Kaylin Coleman, a Kaparn woman from WA and a boatswain's mate in the Royal Australian Navy said, 'Being able to serve my country, protect my friends and family, and be a role model to youth, especially Indigenous youth, is something that motivates me daily.

A creative project from Sydney-based human rights social documentarian Belinda Mason and artist Dieter Knierim, Serving Country aims to elevate and celebrate these lesserknown stories. The exhibition includes 18 portraits of Naval Servicemen and women, to be shown in three sets in the Navy Gallery at the Museum, until November 2024.

Despite being officially excluded from enlisting in Australia's armed forces by early government policy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people joined ranks to defend Australia at war, for more than 100 years. First Nations coastal people's connection to the sea and coastlines includes preservation of Sea Country - a cultural priority that may be aligned with defence forces protection of Australian territorial waters.

While unreliable records of First Nations' national service have obscured the legacy, pictorial evidence in historic photographs brings these stories to light.

Museum Director and CEO Daryl Karp said, 'The fact that Aboriginal and Torres Strait men and women served at all in the defence forces is profoundly significant. When they were denied the most basic rights of citizenship and were subject to racism and severe disadvantage, many individuals chose to serve for the benefit of all Australians. This exhibition honours not that legacy, but also current First Nations Australians serving their country.

'The Serving Country exhibition brings us face to face with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who enlisted in the Navy, to defend and serve Australia. These powerful portraits of strong people are made even more so by the photographic technical artistry. The National Maritime Museum is proud to share their stories and to honour their service. We look forward to showcasing the 18 portraits over the next 18

First Nations visitors to the Museum are encouraged to share their own stories of family who served in the Royal Australian Navy or other services.

A further 6 portraits will be on display for Remembrance Day 2023 with the final 6 on display for ANZAC Day 2024.

"BEING ABLE TO SERVE MY COUNTRY, PROTECT MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY, AND BE A ROLE MODEL TO YOUTH, ESPECIALLY INDIGENOUS YOUTH, IS SOMETHING THAT MOTIVATES ME DAILY."

- KAYLIN COLEMAN



Kaylin Coleman Kaparn Woman Able Seaman Boatswain's Mate Royal Australian Navy ANMM00055221



PAUL LONG

Paul Long is University Professor at Monash University and is working with Holly Tessler and Liverpool University Press to produce The Journal of Beatles Studies.

Greg T Ross: Professor Paul Long from Monash University. Welcome to The Last Post podcast series, and in our interview with you regarding the Journal of Beatles Studies. Tell us a little bit about this, Paul. How did you get involved and what does it entail? Obviously, The Beatles.

Paul Long: Well, you put your finger on it there. Well, it originated in Liverpool, as you might expect with all things Beatles. And the University of Liverpool started a master's program in Beatles studies around issues of music heritage and what have you, a couple of years ago. As it happens, I'd not long arrived in Australia, and because I do some work around policy issues, history and music and heritage, I was asked to evaluate that course. And then, the university decided, or rather the university's publishing arm decided that it'd be a good idea to launch a journal dedicated to academic research around The Beatles. And Holly Tessler, who's the leader of that program, was asked to be the editor, and she very graciously asked me to be co-editor. So we were tasked with generating an identity for that journal, making a case for it, standing up before people like yourself, and justifying why that might be needed or worthwhile. And then of course, reading and soliciting contributions to it. And the first edition came out last Autumn, I'm pleased to say.

GTR: And so, look, I know Holly, obviously the University of Liverpool, isn't it, which has been involved with

PL: That's right. That's right.

GTR: So when's the second edition coming out?

PL: Working on it right now, actually. It should be about midyear. We aim to produce two issues a year at the moment. And one of the challenges in

working in this field is because it's an working in this field is because it's an academic journal, because it follows particular conventions about research and quality, it's quite a long-winded process. And anyone can write about The Beatles. There are millions of experts out there, and some of whom are far more accomplished than are far more accomplished than those of us in academia, but there are particular conventions that we follow in order to generate work in a particular way, which means that some people might not enjoy reading this as much as they might like reading a blog or listening to a podcast or an article in a music magazine or blog or whatever. But we try and make it lively and accessible. That's our objective.

GTR: Yeah, very good. And I guess well said. There are so many podcasts out approving the timelessness of the Beatles that it's probably very timely itself that this has come about. What, in your mind, Paul, does make The Beatles worthy of academic study?

PL: That's a really good question, and I'll tell you by way of a non-answer. That when we started this knowing that the challenge would come in that kind of question, I actually went and looked at some academic journals dedicated to figures like Shakespeare, Beethoven, Goethe and all those kind of characters. So you can infer straight away what kind of comparisons I'm making about why The Beatles are worth studying. But none of those journals, none of the academic study really made a case or seems to have to make a case for why it was worth doing. Now, I think it's always worth answering that question you've asked us, and to think about that all the time. The Beatles have endured... It's 60 years last year since Love Me Do.

I think this week is near enough 60 years since the first album. Next year will be 60 years since Beatles came to Australia and New Zealand, right? But 60 years they've endured, not



just endured because they promoted by the music company. They clearly had an impact at the time, beyond the level that we normally associate with popular culture and popular music. That leads people to question whether they're better, worse, or more important than other artists, but you can say that they were cultural phenomenon. And their ways, their methods were really interesting and sometimes innovative, sometimes perhaps learning from others. And both in terms of their music, its impacts, the fandom, the impact on the music business, the statuses as cultural figures, the individuals themselves.

How that is endured over time. You mentioned a moment ago that podcasts abound, which itself is instructive about the amount of stuff people have still got to say about The Beatles. Because they're an endured as some kind of unchanging statue. New generations get hold of them. Sometimes people don't like new generations getting hold of them. They've been translated, they've traveled the world. So part of my



Photo: Apple Corp.

interest is, well, how do we account for that? Why? What kind of things can we say about that durability? And also, what does that tell us about... You know, remember John Lennon's famous and misquoted point about being bigger than Jesus, but their durability is a cultural reference point, both as a band but also the music, is itself something quite significant compared to how the world was 100 years ago, and what we value in our societies. That seems to me to be worth investigating and thinking about

GTR: Yes, indeed. And so many points that you've touched upon there, Paul. I'm old enough to remember being presented with The Beatles on The Ed Sullivan Show when I was very young, and being taken with, I guess, like a lot of other people, the look, the music and the humor. Was this the thing that stood out initially to people that helped create Beatlemania?

PL: Well, again, sometimes the answer is difficult because so much has been said in terms of analyzing that. When you think about that

moment on Ed Sullivan,he Beatles had already been established as in the UK, and perhaps Europe too, as quite impactful. Beatlemania was coined to describe what was going on in the UK. And in fact, in the US, you get all these news reports, rather mockingly, disdaining this mania. And the story of how they end up in the US and how they get received is a complex one. But Ed Sullivan was clearly significant because I think the claim is there were more people watching that night than any other. It was particularly quiet. It was also in the aftermath of Kennedy's death and quite a cultural trauma, social and cultural trauma in the US And there's been a lot of claims about how The Beatles came to sort of cure or calm society. But clearly, they spoke to a burgeoning youth culture.

That's the other thing to remember, more teenagers alive in the post-war period than any time before. And I think the mid '60s is where this post-war bulge in the US, the UK, Europe, Australia, really came to fruition, which itself was a significant social cultural force marketed to by popular music industries, television,

consumerism and what have you. But there's no predisposition to claim that The Beatles were going to do better or worse. In fact, they, by and large, as I understand it, were as surprised as anyone else about how they took off. On the other hand, they're also confident about their abilities. I think they were pretty self-assured about the quality of their music, which itself I think is really important in an artist.

GTR: Yeah, they presented themselves confidently at press conferences, which I think befuddled the journalists of the time because they had been used to singers being very much the opposite of that. And the mystique was created by that conference, I guess. But they took music... Paul, interesting to hear feedback on this. They took music beyond music where it became art, it became, as we know by the Journal of Beatles Studies, it became cultural and social. It went beyond music.

PL: I think it went beyond pop music would be the thing to say because when we look back, there was a tendency, particularly for rock

and roll pop music to be framed as particularly ephemeral. I mean, we shouldn't forget that there was a tradition of American standards and artists like Sinatra and all those songwriters, who produced highly crafted, really considered work. That wasn't, to my mind, easily dismissed But the idea of these three minute pop songs, two chords, whatever, seen as somehow defined, not through artistry, but are more kind of... And particularly, shaded with both positive and negative connotations about race in the US context. Have this self-presentation, but also a treatment by the music industry as ephemeral and disposable. So the idea that they could come along and both make interesting music, but also sustaining it was itself really... And also maybe aim for something that wasn't just throwaway, but aspired to be art.

But The Beatles themselves were pretty reflexive about that. There's a great clip in Ron Howard's film Eight Days a Week from the first American tour, where someone asks Paul, "Do you imagine this being culturally significant?" And he kind gets really taken aback. He says, "Are you having a laugh?" He says, "What are you talking about?" But of course, the interesting thing about them is you've got young men who are dedicated to music, who were thrown into a space where they sucked up all their influences, and were in a great cultural moment of innovation and change. So that very much was their university, if that's the right word. So becoming mindful of doing interesting stuff, which may or may not have been art to them, but it was certainly innovative. And was also risqué for them, risky to their culture, their commercial model.

GTR: Yeah, it's interesting you say that too, Paul, because of course when you throw in that risk factor to their model, then this is something that happened where they seem to align themselves very with the progress of the '60s. They changed almost as quickly as the '60s, Paul. I mean, there were bookends and almost chapters with each album, but they did change. I think like time and history itself, they refused to tread water.

PL: That's right. And I think that's interesting about any artist who's meaningful is that desire to test oneself, innovate and move on. And as you said, they're aligned with the '60s, but they lasted in the public eye for eight years, barely. And you think

GTR: Yeah, I mean, that's right. They reflected the times that they were going through. But at the same time, they gave back to initiate things that a lot of people put down to The Beatles, some of that was obviously fed from other sources. But they did seem to a lot of people to be leaders in so many ways, cultural, social, and musical.

PL: I think that's right. And you think of other characters like Dylan, who people also saw in this leadership role. It's quite a curious model, isn't

it, to think back and imagine people wanted to be led. Not everyone, but some people did actually openly voice this, "Oh, please lead us, tell us what to do." As if the pop musicians are in some way programmatic or able to do this. But that's one of the great fascinating things I think about studying things like The Beatles, is those kind of stories also, is that kind of framework that for some people there was some kind of intentionality or power. Clearly there is a power about popular music, but the idea it was somehow kind of formulated by plan. There's a curious story, I don't know if you've ever come across it. But there's a kind of conservative Brazilian critic who claims that the German Marxist, Theodor Adorno, contrived and wrote all The Beatles music. It's just the most bonkers conspiracy theory. That's also fascinating that The Beatles themselves are a hotbed of conspiracy, and Paul is dead, all that sort of stuff.

GTR: Yes, that's right. I was going to get onto that, and of course-

PL: Don't let me push you.

GTR: No, that's right. I was just thinking about the messages and of course, the messages of the conservatives in the south of America burning Beatle records after John's misquoted statement. And also, where you talk about people wanting to be led, and I think George Harrison going to Haight-Ashbury during a layoff from The Beatles and experiencing what he thought was terrible things, hippies just aimlessly walking about looking for something, and wanting to touch him as though that would give them some divine power. So yes. And Paul is dead, I guess also, Professor Paul Long, was the need almost to read something into the Beatle lyrics and albums.

PL: And I think it's curious, isn't it, about how there's kind of explanations, networks or inferences of... They seem to be really present nowadays, the QAnon stories, all these kind of things seem so resonant of that... I'm not saying just The Beatles, but it's a curious version of paranoia, but also a way of using The Beatles to excuse a whole host of activities. Sometimes sins. Look at the Manson murders and what have you. George has said The Beatles were just an excuse for a lot of people to turn on and trip out, as it were. They probably weren't the cause, although for some people, were. I think it's fascinating to watch audiences that... You go back to The Ed Sullivan show. I think it is really, really interesting to watch the audience getting absolutely hyped by the band. I find it deeply, deeply affecting to watch it. Over the years it's been dismissed and criticized, but I find it really engaging to watch. It's really exciting.

GTR: Yeah. With that power, I think this is my take anyhow, Paul, is that George and John may not have at times totally understood the power that they had. Maybe they did, but they

underplayed it. John, I think, saying "We're just a rock and roll band." But I think Paul understood, because there was obviously a lot of times where there was evidence of their power within the community, but they were more than a rock and roll band.

PL: Sure. But never knowingly stepping into a space. I mean, I suppose John did later in life to be much more of an activist. And I suppose George too after The Beatles, mobilizing his power to generate relief for Bangladesh. And Paul less so, but still quite a philanthropic fellow. I think for four young men being thrown into that maelstrom, they managed to keep their heads remarkably well and navigate what could have been quite an, as we've seen from other stories of other pop artists and other types of artists, it can be quite a crippling experience to be so famous, and so lauded. I mean, the only other person with that experience, as I think they've said several times, is Dylan, and Elvis, I guess. And they had the misfortune to be simply single people, whereas the four of them-

GTR: That's right. Yep, that's right. I think Paul said that-

PL: They gained enormous power from each other too, which I think is one of the really moving things about them as a group as well.

GTR: You see that in Eight Days a Week, Paul. You see that. That's what I got from Eight Days a Week, they were like family. A lot of laughter, a lot of jokes, a lot of in Beatle jokes to each other. So I think Paul said, "Elvis was unlucky," or George, "because there was only one of him, but there was four of us.'

PL: That's right. They called them, the four-headed monster or whatever. But there's a lot of anecdotes about how, because they played together, because they worked together, because they were locked up together, they developed that kind of intuitive relationship, both as musicians, but also creatives, but also as friends. I think it's one of the things I find really interesting about the more stories are rewritten or told about the post-Beatles period, which always looks very negative and nasty, there's actually a deep friendship and love between them, whatever the kind of disagreements that came out. And also, quite a lot of candor about their quality. Some critics complained that they were never as good as they were together because they were good critics of each others' work and abilities. And I think that's a really interesting way of seeing what it means to be a creative individual, whether you're a musician or otherwise.

GTR: Yeah, well said. Well said too, Paul. And people would like to take the best solo songs from each artist and The Beatles and combine them into a Beatles' album, and imagine that that's what they would've done, but they probably would've done something

completely different. But it's amazing thing. You speak of this family thing, and I think that's something we get from The Beatles: Get Back movie, is that part of the appeal also, Paul, was that they were accessible because they would talk and they were accessible. You see this in the movie too. Where they become family. A lot of people considered The Beatles to be part of their life, and I guess that's led to the Journal of Beatles Studies.

PL: That's right. I think we all make a claim on The Beatles. They all have individual meaning for us. I think you mentioned having seen Ed Sullivan. I mean, growing up, I was kind of quite anti-Beatles, and I was somehow resisting it. But once I gave way, I gave way big time. And it's an interesting thing for us both as scholars, but also fans, that we encounter sometimes negative aspects of how other people want to own The Beatles. We dispute what's the best of their work, what they mean, who should be allowed to speak about them. And that's one of the interesting things about doing the journal. We do get that. I mean, Holly's experiences in discussions of the very idea of teaching The Beatles, the nature of how, if at all, we should be studying them the data let of experiences in the them, that got a lot of coverage in the press, both positive and negative from readers.

Sometimes it's not very wellarticulated, just because people object as though it's somehow an affront to your own perception of The Beatles. And they are an anvil of both abiding, but also changing values. I mean, one of our collaborators on the journal, Christine Feldman-Barrett, wrote an amazing book that came out last year about the women in the Beatles, which itself is an ever changing story about how Linda or Patsy or Yoko were viewed. But also, the role of the fans themselves. So it's an interesting space, I think. But again, to underline your point, we all own The Beatles in many ways. And what I know about them, first and foremost, comes from perhaps how I feel about them, rather than what I think about them.

GTR: Yes, very well said. I do know as young teenagers growing up and before that, obviously awaiting always music and news about The Beatles, and finding it quite different. And knowing at the time that it was different, feeling even though at a young age we are aware that we are experiencing something completely different. And that was the beauty of The Beatles. So how do people get involved in this, Paul? Is there a book in this... There's a paperback. But are people able to get involved or how's the best way to tune into what you're doing?

PL: Yeah, that's an interesting question. So you can actually access the journal. The first edition is free and open access anyway. So if you go to the website for liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk, you can actually look up the Journal of

Beatles Studies, and you can read some of the stuff there. And one of the things that readers will note is we include what might seem as relatively formal academic studies. That doesn't mean that they're designed to alienate, but we also, in the journal, seek to encourage other voices to.. And that means that we think we'll get other types of reviewer, other type of writer. The coming edition, for instance, we include some poetry that's been inspired or is about a kind of Beatles context. And there's a lot of that out there.

We have to be cautious here because we're not a fan journal, but that's not to disparage what fans do. Because we're trying to do this process of evaluating contributions that speak to what the journal's trying to do, which is say new things about The Beatles, not just add new facts, but think about these changing contexts. Think about the challenges you started with about, well, why bother doing this kind of stuff? I mean, just sit down and listen to The Beatles? We know what they mean. I mean, last edition, I myself did an interview with the daughter of Lizzie Bravo. She was one of the Apple Scruffs who hung around the Apple Studio.

And Lizzie came from Brazil, managed to trick her parents into sending her to London, where she spent about five years just hanging around Apple, which was quite remarkable dedication. Crazy, some people would say. And she's an interesting figure in her own right as an artist back in Brazil, but also maintain this memory and community of connection with Beatles fandom, which she herself kept a record, and also demonstrated how ordinary The Beatles were to a degree, because they'd see them every day. They'd see them outside of Apple, they'd walk home with Paul and talk to him. And in fact, Lizzie got brought into sing on Across the Universe, just because she was outside, so she could sing.

And also, I suppose that speaks to an era that perhaps rock stars were probably less remote than they are nowadays, I guess because of the paranoia that came, particularly because of course, the assassination and murder of John and all that kind of stuff. So going back to the general, sorry. We're always interested to hear what people think about it. Always interested to think or explore what people might have to say to us about what they do. It goes through a filter process, of course. It's accessible. Anybody can find us online, so you can always send us an email of approval or disapproval or engagement.

GTR: And just finally, Paul, hard to look at, I suppose, but the '60s without The Beatles. Do you think there was an optimism in the air? We talk about Kennedy's assassination, the Camelot feeling before that. The Beatles took that into music. So it became a very optimistic... We had some terrible things going on. You spoke about

Manson, you spoke about the Vietnam War and the political shenanigans that were going on at the time. And yet The Beatles continued. We knew that they'd started taking drugs. We knew there was things within the group that could have been a bit better personally, but yet the music continued to be brilliant and continued to take us to levels of excitement and enjoyment that we hadn't experienced before The Beatles. Without The Beatles, the '60s would've been what?

PL: The '50s. No, but then of course you've got... I mean, the '50s are amazing, aren't they? Because you've got the appearance of rock and roll, Elvis is important. But it's hard to answer one or the other. I suppose if you look at the journal, the first article or one of the first articles we have, [inaudible 00:27:41] writes about that film, Yesterday, which imagines the world without The Beatles. Now, whatever you think otherwise of that film, one of the curious things is it doesn't quite work because everything about the film, about the contemporary world seems in part the result of The Beatles having been around. I'm not saying they're responsible for Ed Sheeran or whatever. But our contemporary music is so inflected with not only the kind of way in which The Beatles wrote or recorded, but the models we have of artistry.

So it's a difficult question, but of course, it means that this is why it's worth thinking about The Beatles. Because whether it's the '60s or otherwise, their music isn't just a soundtrack of that era. It seems like an index of how we feel about it. You don't need to know much about the '60s to feel that the music speaks about that era. But of course, for new generations, it seems remarkably new and timeless to a degree.

GTR: It's amazing. It's amazing. We're running out of time, Paul, but it's been absolutely brilliant speaking with you about this subject. And of course, your work with Holly Tessler and the Uni of Liverpool, and you admonished there, of course, the Journal of Beatles Studies. We thank you very much and look forward to educating readers in the next edition with this.

PL: My pleasure. If I may tell you one last thing, if your listeners and readers are at all interested in telling us about Beatles in Australia, get in touch because that's our next big plan to think about celebrating. It's going to be the anniversary next year. So please don't be afraid to share ideas or challenges or get in touch. It'd be great to hear from your listeners and readers.

GTR: We'd encourage people to do that, Paul. So be in touch with the Professor Paul Long at Monash University and the Journal of Beatles Studies on anything celebrating or in remembrance of the Beatles' 1964 tour. Paul, thank you very much once again.

PL: You're welcome.



Glenalta Rail Corridor has been transformed!

What a brilliant addition to our community and a wonderful welcome to Blackwood. For many years the rail fence line has been home to graffiti and no matter how many times it was resprayed it was attacked shortly afterward. With representations from many in the community to myself and the Department for Infrastructure, including our invincible Blackwood Action Group led by Geoff Bartlett as well as Community Advocate Tony Phillips, it was clear that something needed to be done.

We have been incredibly fortunate that our team from RailCare, led by Scott Bailey agreed and we saw this as an opportunity to collaborate with the Blackwood RSL, Blackwood Action Group, City of Mitcham, the DIT Senior Aboriginal Leadership Committee, local community and of course the very talented Adam Poole-Mottinshaw and his crew, to bring this vision to life.

We now have a nearly 200m long Anzac Mural to admire along the fence line that runs along Main Road in Belair. The Artist, Adam from Cold Krush Store/ Gallery, along with students from Lighthouse Youth Projects, Blackwood Highschool and others as well as the crew from RailCare have put in a huge effort to bring the walkway to life, not only a vibrant Mural acknowledging and honouring our Service Women and Men, but now the path is shrouded by new plants courtesy of Rail Care and Blackwood Action Group to really make it something special. Local primary school students from Belair as well as community leaders, select DIT Staff who have been involved in the project along with some community members and BAG had the opportunity to have their hands painted into the Mural in a symbol of Community.

A big thank you to local resident June Field for keeping the artists and Railcare team well fed and watered and Chippy for all his help.

To compliment this, I am now working with ARTC and Blackwood Action Group to continue work on the adjacent land and Glenalta Freight platform to ensure that there is an entrance and exit to Blackwood that we can all be proud of.

On Saturday the 22nd we invited the community to the official launch of the fence where they were Welcomed to Country by Uncle Tamaru, heard from some of the stakeholders involved in the project and then enjoyed a BBQ, gratefully cooked by Blackwood Lions Club, Donuts from OMG Donuts and also coffee from Serea Coffee. It was a wonderful event, and I am so proud to have been a part of such a great project for our community to enjoy for many years to come.

CATHERINE HUTCHESSON

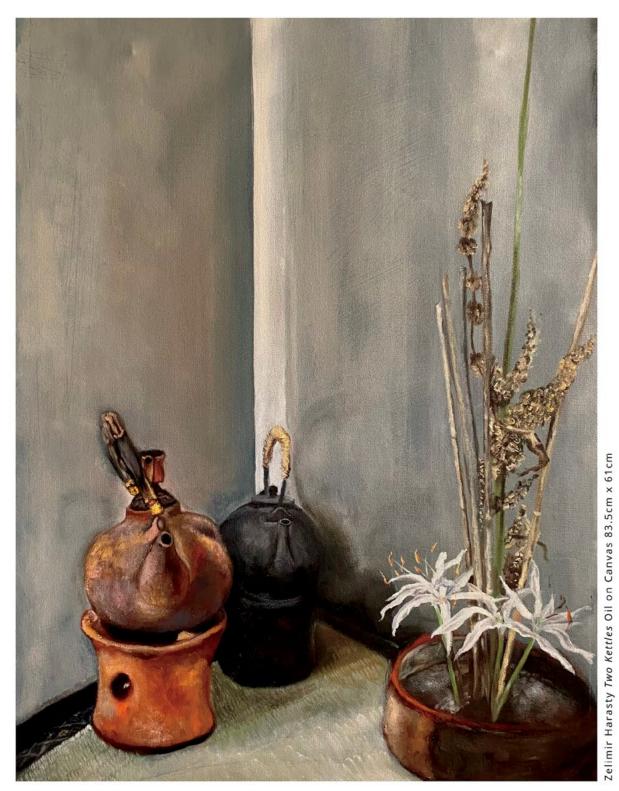
Member of the South Australian House of Assembly







GALLERY 3 BYRON BAY



EXHIBITING ARTISTS 2023

Contributing to the cultural fibre of the Byron Shire, Gallery 3 is an artist run initiative offering contemporary works by local artists for the Northern Rivers community and beyond.

ZELIMIR HARASTY
LEONA DEBOLT
KATE FORD
MARLEY ALVAREZ
BRIDIE MCKELVEY
JOEL BENGUIGUI
MELANIE VALENTINE

ASH WICKENS
JENEVIEVE BEVES
JENNIFER HOGAN
SABINE PICK
LUCY BE
CAITLIN REILLY
ZINE WEEK (JUNE)

To Make An Emotional Response Sing To harness the unsayable, to not to sign up for anything limited, is why I choose poetry, says Ada Limon. With insights through memorable language, that helps us understand ourselves and the world. To look back, maybe tears and years later and say, where the F did that come from? To make an emotional response sing. That's the thing. To condense the use of words. In a place where there are no limitations and where you can be creative without risk. And to F convention. That is poetry. **GREG T ROSS** 32 THE LAST POST – 2023 ANZAC DAY EDITION



THE SKIN OF OTHERS

The NFSA is proud to present a screening of the film The Skin of Others 2pm April 29 at The Arc Theatre.

The film uses the profound performance of the late Balang Tom E Lewis to explore the dynamics and forces of Douglas Grant's life. It tells the story of this proud ANZAC and his achievements and asks why he has been largely forgotten by history.

Douglas Grant was a First Nations man and an ANZAC, taken from his family as a child after a massacre that killed them.

After the First World War broke out Grant enlisted as a sergeant in the 34th Battalion, although he was delayed by a law that prevented Indigenous Australians from leaving the country without permission. By the time he was permitted to serve he had been stripped of his rank.

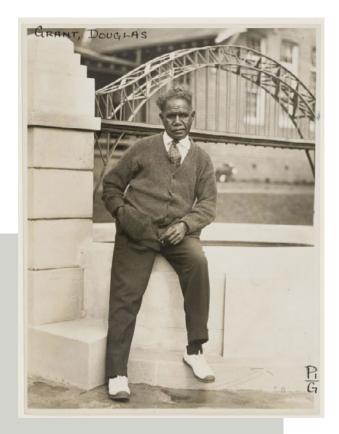
Grant was sent to France with the 13th battalion and was wounded and captured on the 11th of April 1917 at the first Battle of Bullecourt. This battle resulted in more than 3000 Australians casualties and approximately 1170 men were captured.

As a prisoner Grant was in contact via letter with the secretary of the prisoners of war branch of the Australian Red Cross society, Miss Elizabeth Chomley. Not only did he distribute parcels to the other captured men, he also passed on vital information about fellow soldiers who had been captured. This information was of the ultimate importance to families waiting at home with little to no information about the wellbeing of their family members.

Upon returning to Australia Grant was active in Aboriginal rights and returned servicemen's affairs. He wrote prolifically for newspapers and hosted 'Diggers session' on a local radio station. During this time he continued to experience discrimination; in one circumstance he was removed from a pub after patrons complained to police that there was an Aboriginal man drinking there

In his later years Grant struggled with mental health and spent time in the exserviceman's ward at Callan Park Mental Hospital, he also worked as a clerk there and constructed a small pond with a replica of the Sydney Harbour Bridge spanning it

Douglas Grant died in 1951 having lived at a war veteran's home in La Perouse for several years.



AUSTRALIAN FILM & TV NEEDS VETERANS!

Did you know that the skills you acquired in the ADF are in high demand in the Film and Television industry?

Film and Television production is growing in Australia like never before. Screen Warriors is an exciting training and recruitment program for ex-Defence members, those who are transitioning and their families.

Developed by seasoned professionals from the Australian Film Television & Radio School, we hold short courses throughout the year, provide bespoke mentoring and connections to jobs on local productions.





WATCH VIDEO



Alee is a Navy veteran of 22 years - now she's making strides in the film and TV industry, as part of the groundbreaking Screen Warriors initiative.





Register your interest to learn more about our courses and opportunities.



Australian Film Television and Radio School



www.veteransfilmfestival.com/screenwarriors



screenwarriors@veteransfilmfestival.com

Screen Warriors is an initiative of the Veterans Film Festival Ltd, ABN 37 653 160 895 - an ACNC Registered charity with DGR status.

Badder Than Bubby

Kangaroos graze under the street lights,

My baby's in bed, sleeping tight.

A football match on the TV,

I can hear it from the balcony.

A crescent moon, with a cloud cutting it in two, hangs in the night sky.

The sounds of crashing dishes from the neighbours house. I think they have guests tonight.

A few doors down the street, Jack the dog gets off his leash but his owners don't seem to care. I think they're drunk.

Here I sit in the darkness, halfway through writing a short story for a friend of mine. It's pretty dark but it's funny too. I like writing about common people. And this main character, he's a pretty bad boy.

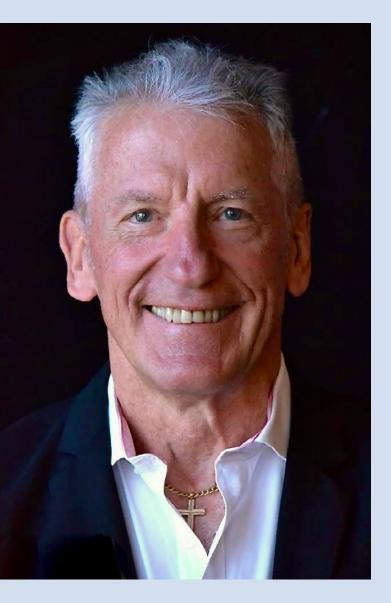
Badder than Bubby.

I start thinking about a Director friend of mine, who died too early. Goddamn it.

GREG T ROSS

WHAT FACEBOOK HAS DONE FOR AN OLDIE LIKE ME

Though I've always enjoyed writing, my only opportunity to write professionally was in the late 60s early 70s period. This was a weekly Record Review column in the then Adelaide evening newspaper called The News. I loved writing for The News because it covered music which was the basis of much of my life to that point.



A kickback from this job was that I was given up to 30 LPs a week from record companies. This was in the hope that their record would receive a favourable write-up in the Paper. I therefore collected many tens of thousands of LPs over the period which more than made up for the poor pay. Because of this my huge collection of LPs was stored in our Dernancourt home under the beds, on top of wardrobes, in linen cupboards and elsewhere. Eventually this caused a domestic problem with Christine where she issued the ultimatum "either the LPs go or I go?" She won.

THEN CAME FACEBOOK

Facebook has allowed me to express my views on events of yesterday, today and beyond.

When I first heard the word Facebook I didn't know what it was or what you did with it. Some people were telling me that it was a bad thing, that they would never use it and that it could cause harm or damage. I began investigating Facebook and could see what these people meant.

Now however after being on Facebook regularly for many years I contend that Facebook is whatever you want it to be. Sure, it can be bad but it also can be good. Facebook can be used or misused. Like many things in the world! Take motor vehicles, alcohol, crooked coppers, bent politicians, lawyers who get struck off - and more of course. Its what you do with it. I find Facebook to be a wonderful medium.

In my case, the stories that I Post are mostly G-Rated, sometimes controversial, topical, colourful, personal, nostalgic, tragic, political, entertaining and more. I spend an hour or two a day on Facebook. The subjects that I write about are varied.

I am honoured that Facebook has provided me the opportunity and medium to expound my views and writings.

Unlike some Facebook-ers I choose to be selective about accepting Friend Requests. Some people accept all Friend Requests thereby building up thousands of FB "Friends" of mostly people they don't know - a big bragging point or a badge of honour My criteria is that they must at least be an acquaintance. So my Facebook Friend list is just several hundred, not huge.

BIRTHDAYS

From childhood like most of us I have always loved my birthday - a day of gifts, love and laughter with family and friends. As time passed I grew to appreciate the importance of other people's birthdays too. My friend the late Trevor T.C. Cowling formerly of 5AD used to send me, and his other friends a birthday card every birthday until this all became cost prohibitive many years ago. Then he continued the nice thought by ringing me each birthday. It was a lovely gesture.

I loved the whole idea so I started Posting a brief birthday message to my friends on Facebook. The feedback I received was positive so I continued and expanded my Post to include a photo of the birthday person with a brief story. I have an extensive network of friends and acquaintances so that I post a Birthday Message most days of the year. Sometime up to five people celebrate on the one day and receive my message.

REVIEWS

I don't call myself a "foodie" but food is a serious love, pastime, pleasure and part of my life. I was spoiled early in my life by my mother Mary's magnificent Yugoslav cooking in particular from the Dalmatian coast of the Croatia region.

At home Christine and I cook different cuisines from around the world. Our meals are so often much better than buying food out even in silver service restaurants. So we are happy to eat at home. We love cooking Croatian, Hungarian, Italian, German, Australian, Chinese, American barbecue and smoker dishes.

We often feature our dishes on Facebook. Christine didn't like doing this at first but has softened a bit due to the favourable comments from readers.

OCCASIONAL ADVERTISER COLUMNIST

As I near 80 years, an opportunity came up to write again this time for the Advertiser. Another new career path opened up in my life. As mentioned earlier I had written a Record Review column for The News in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Advertiser topics that I have written about have generally been about music and entertainment which has been a big part of my life. The columns have been published as 3-page spread in the Monday Boomer section of the Advertiser. I love writing these stories. I am so blessed to enjoy another component of my working life where I have enjoyed every chapter.

CONCERT REVIEWS

Writing reviews of concerts has become another hobby career for me in retirement. Critiques should always be written factually reporting without fear or favour. giving music followers an informative, truthful description of a show so that it may help someone decide whether or not the show is for them. It should be written constructively, systematically with discipline in an entertaining slant.

This however is not always to the pleasure of function organisers or promoters who from time to time have contacted the writer with a complaint or even requesting an alteration or retraction. No names no pack drill.

A critique review is one person's opinion whose credentials and resume should stand the test of credibility and legitimacy.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS, MOVIES AND TV-SERIES

These are other sectors of entertainment that have always consumed my interests and love.

When I first reviewed movies I promised that I would always write honestly and make sure that I judged them from the "entertainment" point of view. Why do we go to the movies? To be entertained of course - in my opinion. That principle applies to any genre of film whether it be drama, musical or any other.

Some years ago a newspaper reviewer with our daily paper wrote a glowing 5 out of 5 review of Beijing Bicycle. Based on this our friends and we went to see it together. We found it to be such a boring film that we walked out, something that we'd never done before. I rang this writer for a discussion but he never had the courtesy to call me back.

I find that Movie Reviewers tend to write their review from an elitist point of view rather than entertainment. They are reluctant to give a 10/10 rating because maybe it's not cool to do so. And they also delve to find fault rather than give praise.

MOTOR CYCLE

In 1995 against the advice of wife Christine I went out and bought a new Harley Davidson Heritage Softail Special motor cycle. Now in my 80th year, I still ride regularly with a range of friends. We always ride defensively and within

In October of 2022 with my friends John White, Tim Bradshaw and Chris Pattichis we set off on a tour that included the Flinders Ranges, Marree, Jamestown, Broken Hill and home via Renmark and the Riverland. It was sensational 2,600+ kls - the longest ride I've done. Pretty good for a 80 year old. We have locked in 2 more tours together for 2024 and 2025 to NSW/Victoria, then Tasmania respectively. Can't wait.

THE NEWS

I have reported on the Murray floods this year, at the time focusing on Mannum.

I broke the news about 99 year old tennis player Henry Young long before he played centre court at the 2023 Australian Open.

There was the quirky story of the dead-eye-Dick Advertiser newsagent who every day accurately throws our Paper to the spot next to our garage door of our home. He should compete at the paper-throwing Olympics.

GIVING CREDIT FOR GOOD SERVICE

This is a regular feature of my FB site. I like to feature businesses or people who give good service or products to their customers.

The Keyshoeman at Burnside Village, the Stamford Grand at Glenelg, Evolution Crash Repairs at Blair Athol, Westpac Norwood Branch, S.E, Waite & Son at Norwood and H&A Coffee Shop at Glenelg just to name some.

FRANKIE'S MAINTENANCE SERVICES

With tongue firmly in cheek we also promote Frankie's Maintenance Services for providing good service to its clients. Usually in the Frankmont (formerly Beaumont)

Frankie who is neatly attired in his Company Uniform is a tradie who specialises in painting, plumbing, carpentry and anything else you can think of. On call 24/7, no job is too tough - too big or too small.

All jobs are cash money only - no plastic or cheques. Happy to give quotes.

Please call Frankie 0 4 1 0 T.

RADIO AND TELEVISION STAYERS ADELAIDE AKA RATS.

This is a national organisation. In South Australia it is headed by Bob Byrne, Rex Leverington and the writer. Its all about the mateship of people who have worked in one the three sectors of our industry. The S.A. division was revitalised over three years ago and meets now at two luncheons each year at the Highway hotel. The lunches feature the interview of a guest Speaker. The main proviso for attendance and membership is that an applicant must have worked in one of either radio, television, press or an affiliated industry.

Stories of industry personalities often feature on Facebook, recently Mel Cameron and the late Mark Pedler.

Facebook is our medium for communication.

FACEBOOK - WAY TO GO

FRANK SEBASTYAN

PETER SCOTT

Greg speaks with Commodore Peter Scott, about his Fremantle Press book, 'Running Deep'. From conducting top-secret missions to making history commanding the farthest deployment in the history of the Australian submarine service, Peter Scott depicts what it takes to be a Submariner.



Greg T Ross: Well, welcome Peter Scott, Commodore Peter Scott, to The Last Post Magazine. We've previously run an extract from your amazing book Running Deep, and now the interview. It's good to catch up with you.

Commodore Peter Scott: It is, Greg, thanks for the invitation to come along and chat. And yeah, thanks for including that extract in the previous edition of your magazine, The Last Post Magazine. That was much appreciated.

GTR: No, it's fantastic. It's doing things like that that make the magazine better, and with each edition comes highlights. That's certainly a highlight of the summer edition for readers. Peter, of course, a 34 year career in the Royal Australian Navy when you had initially wanted, I believe, to be in the Air Force, after watching the movie, The Battle of

CPS: Yeah, certainly as a youngster, I had a couple of schoolmates, and we dreamt together of finding our way through school and off to the Air Force and flying jets or whatever it was that the Air Force could offer us at the time. That was probably more the boyhood dream for a lot of

GTR: Yeah, that's right. Well, it beats me, I think I wanted to be a motorcycle cop. That's right. No, I do remember seeing the movie Battle of Britain, and I can see where you got that inspiration from. Of course in RAN, the Royal Australian Navy, mostly to do with submarines. I guess you have been in submarines, I think 10 submarines, is that

CPS: Yeah, I've served at sea, been posted to 10 different submarines in different roles. Two of those in command, and others in other roles on the way up, either as a part three when I was under training, before I was qualified and had my officer, or as a seaman officer, there was a pretty clearly laid out pathway of progression through roles such as torpedo officer, navigating officer, sonar operations, executive officer, the second in command, and then pending a successful day out on Perisher, the command qualifying course, I landed a couple of submarine commands on the back of those. Yeah.

GTR: And that's an incredible thing. With the submarines, Peter, do they possess a different, I don't know if the word soul is the right word to use, but did you have a favorite?

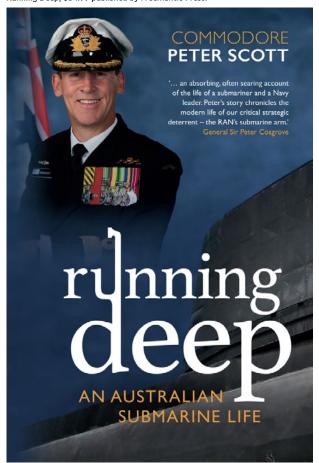
Did you have feelings, different feelings for each sub that

CPS: Yeah, look without the people, they are truly soulless. With the people, they absolutely have their own character. I think there were definitely some submarines, which I find there were definitely some submarines, which I enjoyed more for different reasons, and probably if I thought it through, you could bring that down to either the people that you were working with at the time, although as a rule, the people you were working with in submarines were great. But also what you were doing at the time, what that submarine was tasked with, where you were yourself professionally, and where the submarine was within its life cycle or impact, what you get, what you have to put in and what you get out of time on board a boat. Yep.

GTR: And indeed too, I suppose, Peter, having been to so many various parts of the world and experienced different things through your connection with the Royal Australian Navy, I guess it would also be to do with where you were stationed, whether it be East Timor Iraq, etc. Does that come into it?

CPS: Yeah, absolutely. So I guess just on the boats, I spent a lot of my early years in submarines running out of Sydney, so that was my hometown. We had the Oberons running out of Platypus down there at North Sydney, and they were great formative years in many respects. I spent a couple of years in the UK on exchange with the Royal Navy, so we brought a boat out of build, up in Liverpool and took her on the sea trials and brought host, and then we prograted commissioned and operational boat, and then we operated her out of Plymouth. So even there, you might imagine living and working out of Liverpool in the mid-nineties, very depressed and pretty difficult part of the world, was very different experience to running an operational boat out of Plymouth down south for the remainder of that time. And then towards the back of my career, seagoing career anyway, a lot more time over in Perth because that of course is where the Collins have been home imported since they've come online. Yeah.

GTR: That's interesting. And of course I've seen that. I've been to Plymouth and it's an incredible experience. One of the things you do in this book, Running Deep, Peter, is you draw the reader in. What I found in the early stages of the book was your family, detailing your childhood, etc, your father, your grandfather, your family and experiences there. How important was that to you, your father obviously, in



framing who you became? I mean, I know there were issues I guess when you first joined the Navy, naivety perhaps. I don't know. You could never really tell until you experienced these things, but did you change as a person during your early days in the Navy or did that take some time to evolve?

CPS: Look, we're always changing and hopefully always evolving towards some better version of ourselves. I think my formative years as a school boy absolutely influenced my decision to join the services in the first place, and they probably set the values that allowed me to continue to serve in that sort of environment for a very long time.

So just looking back a bit, you mentioned my grandfather. He was a World War I veteran, just epitomized the notion of service of country, and he was very much a patriarch in our wider family, and stood there as the leader of the family, very service-oriented, very family, and very communityoriented. That flowed through absolutely to my dad, who was a career public servant through his working life and a very dedicated father and family man. And even one of my uncles served in the Air Force in Papua New Guinea during the second World War. Another was a priest and built a parish out at Winston Hills through a lot of his working years. So certainly the male role models that I had, all service-oriented and all families based values driven. So it really wasn't much of a stretch at all for me to find myself in a service, in an arm of the services and spending a career in the service of others. It was just natural for me. Yeah.

GTR: Your honesty in the book, of course, smoking and drinking, you felt perhaps you could continue in that vein, but of course you had to confront these changes that you'd brought upon yourself by joining the Navy. How tough was that?

CPS: Yeah, so tough in different ways at different times. Very early on I was quite homesick in that first year at Naval College, but there's plenty of work to do and plenty of adventure along the way to keep you going and get you through that. Certainly, I adopted over the years a couple of maladaptive coping processes. So there was a very heavy binge-drinking culture, I'd say, across most of the Navy and certainly in the submarine arm when I was in there through my twenties. And I became probably a victim of that and

probably a protagonist of that culture. Now in part, that was just me, I thought and still think, living a very full tilt sort of life, I wanted a bit of everything and that included lots of fun, lots of partying, lots of drinking, but it also included that membership of that Navy community and my mates and the bonds and so on there. So it was a balance. I'd say I didn't always get it right, got better at getting it right over the years.

GTR: Yeah, yeah, that's right. And part of the process, as you said before, we're always evolving. So the book's human element is wonderful. I guess I was drawn to the fact that you went in, what was it that attracted you about submarines? Was there a particular romantic feel? I mean, you knew the danger, you'd explained that your wife knew the danger. What was it that drew you to submarines in preference to other forms of-

CPS: Yeah, so I certainly didn't join the Navy to join submarines, and I'd probably spent half a dozen years in the Navy before I volunteered for boats. And in that time I'd seen a fair bit of the Navy. I'd seen servicing patrol boats on a destroyer, the old Vampire in the flagship and in obviously the training ship.

Probably towards the back of my time as a midshipman, I met my wife to be, and it started to dawn on me that not only would the Navy demand some hard work and graft and commitment, but it was also going to impose some sacrifice, including some sacrifice on those people around me and the people that I cared for. So my logic at the time was, well, if I'm going to do this, I'm not going to do it in any half-hearted way. I'll provide the most effective service that I can. And so this is mid to late nineties. You might recall, Greg, that's only a couple of years after the Falklands War. So I had very clear images of HMS Conqueror putting the Argentinian flagship on the bottom, and there was nothing at all to compete with that for an example of decisive naval sea power. And I thought, all right, well we've got boats, maybe that's the place for me. So I stuck my hand up and in I went.

GTR: Yeah, interesting too. We'll just deviate, but not really. When we speak about the submarines too, Peter, how important are submarines to the future of Australia's defence strategy? And currently of course very interested or very relevant I guess, always has been, but in the news more of late with Anthony Albanese's trip overseas, how important are the submarines to that strategy, do you think? Defence?

CPS: Yeah, just vital. There's a couple of bits to submarines that make them a really core part of any navy that can afford and has the will to create that sort of capability and utilize it. Certainly our submarines, they're designed and built as offensive weapon systems. They are there to sink war ships and ships and other submarines. They go about that a particular way. And so preservation of stealth is very important to submarines at sea, but what they're able to do is operate at vast distances from our shores in strategically important waters. They can persist there quite independently for long periods of time and their ability to do that, the difficulty of others in their ability to counter a submarine, really means that they build up a question mark in the minds of regional naval officers or political leaders or whatever. And the longer they're at sea, the more open the question about where are they, what are they doing, what sort of a threat might they pose?

So that combination of the ability to operate with stealth and the ability to deliver some really potent lethal force when they're called upon to do so, means they can act as a deterrent or as an offensive capability, depending on what you need. And so clearly, past decades, they've operated with varying degrees of effectiveness as a deterrent capability, but they're right up there at the apex of that offensive capability and therefore invaluable, I would say, in shaping our posture and giving government options at sea.

GTR: Yeah, yeah, very true. Now, the stealth, the feeling of the need for stealth and strength, did that encroach, did that become part of your persona, was there a feeling of this within the group that served in submarines, the stealth, the strength?

CPS: Yeah, I think so. I think the way we operate and the way we need to operate in order to be most effective really does shape the way we train, the way we exercise. It shapes the way we think. We're conscious, I think, not just of the tremendous power and offensive potential of the submarines, but also quite conscious of the vulnerabilities of the submarines. So certainly a diesel electric submarine, when its location is unknown, it can do all sorts of things. But if that boat does get pinged and is being tracked or attacked by opposing forces, you can lose your tactical advantage really, really quickly. So you need to be very conscious of where your valuerabilities are in order to operate to your strengths. And yeah, it definitely shapes the thinking on board. It shapes the nature of the command and the nature of the way we do our business, for sure.

GTR: Yes. I thought that may be the case. We talk of vulnerabilities, we look at the prologue to the book, we describe the submarine sinking. What actually happened

CPS: Yeah, so that was a difficult day. So we suffered a flood whilst we were at deep diving depth. So deep diving depth is the maximum depth at which we would typically be licensed to operate. And a good analogy is if you think about the red line on your car's engine, you can certainly push beyond that. But when you do so, you're pushing your luck. So you're safe down at DDD, deep diving depth, until something like this goes wrong. And we had a material failure, a flexible hose burst on one of the seawater cooling systems. And so we were very quickly flooding, at the rate of about a ton of second. So not a lot of people can picture what a ton of seawater might look like, but one way I describe it is it's equivalent of about two and a half thousand cans of beer. So everyone knows what a can of beer looks like, right?

But if you imagine a hundred cartons of beer ripping into your submarine through a couple of holes about the size of your fist every second, and then just imagine the shock and the noise and the damage that that's going to cause internally. And of course there's a whole lot more out there than we've ever got room for in here in the boat. So what absolutely saved us on the day was the training and the skill and the teamwork of the crew on board who conducted their emergency operating procedures and then did everything that they needed to beyond to get us onto the roof and then get us safely back alongside.

GTR: Where were you?

CPS: So we were off the coast of Western Australia. We were in the back end of preparations to go away on about a three or four month trip to conduct a bunch of classified operations, and that was one of our final checks. We were doing a final water tight integrity check down there before we headed off. So interestingly, we got onto the roof, we got back alongside safely, certainly a bit shaken up, and then a great deal of effort on behalf of a great number of people went into, first of all, understanding what had happened and then redressing actions. So we docked the submarine, we strengthened the boat where we needed to, we changed a few procedures and operating limits and so on, and built back the confidence for the crew to get back on board and get back out there and do what they needed

GTR: Indeed. Over your time with the Royal Australian Navy, Peter, I guess you left, you retired in 2017, I think?

CPS: Yep.

GTR: Okay. So over that period, the 34 years, just briefly, a summation if that's possible, changes that you feel occurred, are we in a better spot now than we were say 34 years ago, do you think? Is it possible?

CPS: As a Navy?

GTR: Yes, yes.

CPS: Yeah, yeah, absolutely. And on a couple of fronts, I would say. So one would be, we've grown tremendously through the benefit of a lot more operational experience.

So when I joined the Navy, there were plenty of folks still around who had been on operations off Vietnam during the Vietnam War, but for many of my early years there were certainly no war-like operations. But for the past 20 or so, we've had ships on almost continuous rotation up into the Middle East. That's only ceased in the last couple of years as we've got the big landing helicopter dock ships, Adelaide and Canberra, and we've switched back to much more task force or task group operations and more of a focus in the Indo-Pacific.

So whether they are exercises or operations or in fact, Navy's been intensively involved in a lot of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief work, either on our own shores or offshore. So all that experience has really evolved the Navy to what it is today

From a capability perspective, if you look at the broad force structure, it's probably not too different to when I joined the Navy, but the capability of each individual ship, submarine, aircraft, is orders of magnitude beyond what it was. And look, I think culturally we've come a long way as well. I think the Navy has generally represented Australian society pretty well, but I think Australian society has become much more integrated and has evolved a lot culturally over the last 20 or 30 years. And certainly the Navy's evolved along with it.

GTR: With, of course, you were talking about submarines being offensive attack weapons of course, but of course there are the peacekeeping roles that you spoke of also, whether it be Timor Leste or Solomon Islands, for example. These things are undertaken by Australian forces too, so that's very good.

Peter, you now work as an executive coach and a master. You've had a master's in coaching psychology. Tell us, where does that take you these days? Apart from writing this brilliant book, the psychology, is that something you've always been interested in?

CPS: So I probably wouldn't have put that label on it, but I'd definitely say I've always been interested in people and engaging with people and understanding how to live and best work with people. When I was coming up towards the decision to retire from the Navy, I had a conversation with my wife, in fact. I was pretty clear that while I was in the Navy, I'd be a thousand percent in the Navy, but when I stepped out, it would be put behind me and that would be that. But she said something along the lines of, "Hey, you've been at this, working in this organization for over three decades, why would you cut it off at the neck?" So I started looking for the ways to continue to be engaged.

So I've been in the reserve since I left full-time service, and one of the ways that I continue to serve is I now use my executive coaching back into the Navy, typically with the more senior folk. So that's a great way to use my experience in leadership, my newfound knowledge and understanding of psychology and human behavior, and combine that with a willingness to both challenge and support leaders so that they can develop themselves where they need to perform, how they need to, and succeed at whatever it is that's important to them on the

GTR: Look, I could go on talking with you for hours about this. I think the brilliance of the book is that it brings you in. I think we would have about six interviews if we were to go through some of the amazing stories you've got in the book. The psychology part is interesting in itself, and that raises as many talking points, the human mind, et cetera, and how best to deal with, as you say, in your role now. So look, Peter, the book, Running Deep is wonderful. The Last Post supports such brilliant writing. I like to talk to you about these things and to find out the person behind the book, and thank you for being part of this wonderful interview, and we look forward to having you in the Anzac Day edition.

CPS: Thanks very much, Greg. I do appreciate the opportunity, and I think I wrote the book to offer people an insight into what is a genuinely rare way of life, and hopefully it does that reasonably well.



Yunupingu's hope for a Treaty: 'Pass it on, pass it on'

Thirty-five years ago, the late Yunupingu handed Bob Hawke a bark painting known as the Barunga Statement. Hawke promised a treaty. It remains unmet.





With Bob Hawke at Garma 2014. Image by Peter Eve.

In the year 1988, called by white Australians the Bicentenary, then-prime minister Bob Hawke travelled to a big Indigenous festival of dance, music and sport at a place in the bush, 80 kilometres south of Katherine in the Northern Territory, called Barunga.

And there by a campfire, seated on the ground, Hawke found himself blindsided by a powerful leader of northern Australia's Aboriginal people, a man we call, now he is deceased, simply Yunupingu.

Leader of the Gumatj clan of Arnhem Land and at the time chairman of the Northern Land Council, Yunupingu, along with the chairman of the Central Land Council, Wenten Rubuntja, and other Indigenous leaders - all of them in full ceremonial paint that spoke of vastly more than the 200 years since the First Fleet had arrived – approached the prime minister with a bark painting that bore a written message.

It stated, in a few short paragraphs, the aspirations of "the Indigenous owners and occupiers of Australia"

It called on the Commonwealth Parliament to "negotiate with us a Treaty recognising our prior ownership, continued occupation and sovereignty, and affirming our human rights and freedom".

Here then, was the Barunga Statement.

Hawke, overcome by the moment, promised Yunupingu and his fellow leaders that he would work to conclude a treaty with Aboriginal Australia by 1990.

He never managed to meet his promise.

But that moment when Yunupingu presented him the Barunga Statement haunted Hawke.

Precisely one minute before his years as prime minister ended on December 20, 1991, Hawke stood before the bark painting at Parliament House in Canberra, and declared: "The important thing is what's in our minds and in our hearts."

The previous day, Paul Keating had won his second challenge to Hawke's prime ministership. As Hawke spoke, Keating was at Government House, about to be sworn in as Australia's 24th prime minister.

The vanquished Hawke had insisted that his final act as PM must be to keep an old promise to Yunupingu and his people and unveil the Barunga Statement in Parliament House. It was - and remains - mounted at the entrance to parliament's Great Hall.

"Its presence here calls on those who follow me; it demands of them that they continue efforts, that they find solutions to the abundant problems that still face the Aboriginal people of this country," said Hawke, speaking without notes.

Beside him stood Yunupingu, who had come from Arnhem Land to farewell PM Hawke and remind all the prime ministers to come to stay true to the significance of the bark painting's message.

And he had words of his own.

"Great leaders have to step down for other leaders," said Yunupingu.

"The Aboriginal people have expected things like this [Hawke's defeat] and I made a very clear statement to Bob when this Barunga Statement was handed over to him that when his time finishes he will have to pass it on, and pass it on, and pass it on.'

Now, Yunupingu, who spent much of his life in pursuit of justice and rights for his people, has passed on, too. The senior Yolngu lore man, Gumatj clan leader and the keeper of songlines died on Monday, aged 74, after a long illness.

But as Australia wrestles with its latest attempt to grant recognition to Indigenous Australians - a referendum asking no more than to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the constitutional right of a Voice to Parliament - it remains a fact that there have been eight Australian prime ministers since Hawke.

And not one of them has come near to meeting the request for a treaty inscribed in the Barunga Statement and handed over around a campfire by the now late Aboriginal leader, Yunupingu, to the leader of the nation of Australia in its socalled Bicentennial year, 1988.

"Pass it on, pass it on, pass it on."

TONY WRIGHT

theage.com.au





Greg Ross interviews Susan Chuck about her work with 42 for 42, in helping to establish the Afghanistan Memorial Gardens. Susan is the secretary for 42 for 42, an organisation dedicated to supporting the families of fallen Afghanistan veterans as well as those who have returned from active duty.

PODCASTS: www.thelastpostmagazine.com/tlp-interviews

Greg T Ross: Good afternoon, Susan Chuck, and welcome to The Last Post Podcast series interviews. And obviously, welcome to the fact that you joined our Inspirational Australian Women's Series.

Susan Chuck: Good afternoon, Greg. and thank you very much. I'm very honored to be part of this.

GTR: Thank you so much. Susan, you have a very interesting, not only family history, but roles that you've undertaken yourself in regards to remembrance of veterans. And I guess, first of all, one of the things that came to mind obviously was what happened to your son, Ben. I believe Ben was taken in the direct intake in the military back in 2005. How did that come about that he went in through that way, Susan?

SC: The Australians first went into Afghanistan in 2002, just all the SAS boys. So it was very cloak and dagger in those days. And then they came back home. And then since things escalated in Afghanistan and the type of war that was being conducted over there, it required special forces to be part of it. We, in Australia, in the Commandos and in the SAS, just didn't have enough men in those regiments. And the government or the ADF put out a huge advertisement in the Australian newspapers virtually saying, "Have you got what it takes to be a Commando?" And at the time, Ben was working as a crocodile handler.

As part of his crocodile farm. He had a lot of courage. And he was home for the weekend saying, 'God, I love my job." He loved reptiles, always had, always had pet ones as a boy. And I said, "Well, honey, look at this. You're an active, fit young man." Oh, he said, "The back's bad." Well, he didn't say bad, he said other. "My back's bad and my feet are bad." And I said, "Well, work on it." Anyway, he did and he strengthened his back. He applied for the direct intake. The ADF couldn't get enough special forces from their own ranks within the Army, so they put it out to mature gentlemen. There was surveyors, there were doctors. Ben was nearly 21 when he applied. And that's how he went in.

GTR: Okay. That's interesting. And of

SC: I was just going to say, I think there was about 248 or something in his intake, and not even 30 made it through. So it was a very tough selection.

GTR: Wow. So his back held up after all, Susan? His back was all right.

SC: It did. It did.

GTR: That's wonderful. Now look, of course, Ben was involved in a tragic accident in 2010. But before then, he had had, I believe, three deployments to Afghanistan.

SC: He was on his third deployment,

GTR: Okay, that's fine. Can you tell us a little about those, Susan?

SC: Well, first, he went over in 2007 and with what training he'd had to date doing courses he'd done. He was in what they call recon. So he was one of those chappies riding around in the four wheel motorbikes in the mountains of Afghanistan, and patrolling the green zones. He did that again in 2009, I think it was. And then between his second and third deployment, he did his sniper training.

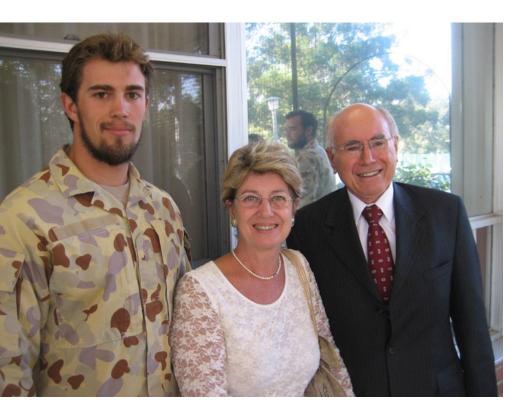
And so in 2010 he went back as part of a sniper team.

GTR: Right. Now, do you mind taking us through what happened in 2010 that led up to Ben's death? Can you talk about that?

SC: Yes, I can. They'd been involved, the SAS and the Commandos, in quite a very intense battle in the valley of Shawali Kowt. It had gone on for weeks. And the night of the 21st of June, a three chopper load, the boys were going back in for the final. It was virtually the final mission. They're flying in after midnight, pitch dark, in three choppers, all in night vision gear, et cetera. And Ben was in the lead chopper sitting in the front row with his sergeant and best mate. And the chopper pilot came in too fast, too low, and just chipped the runners on the chopper, and it crashed.

It was found to be pilot error, but no one holds him directly responsible. Nobody wants accidents like that to happen. But fortunately, there was two choppers following behind. They initially thought Ben's chopper had been shot down. So they came in in fight mode, and then they realized what had happened. So there were a lot of young soldiers there to help with the wounded. Ben actually survived the crash and was treated on the ground. And the chap that treated him thought he had saved him. His femoral artery had been severed. But in the chopper on the way to Kandahar, the tourniquet came off.

GTR: The loss of Ben, I suppose one of the things that we learn in life is that good will come from bad. And of course, what has evolved over the years, particularly with your role, I guess if you could take us through this, Susan. Of course, we have a



couple of things here to discuss. The avenue of honor at Yungaburra. And of course, that's to commemorate the fallen in Afghanistan. And apparently that follows Ben's gun carriage route on the banks of Lake Tinaroo. That must be beautiful.

SC: It is lovely. Because Ben grew up on the Atherton Tablelands and spent a lot of time on the water, either waterskiing or kite surfing. We used to go out a lot on a boat. And so we had his funeral on the banks of the dam, and there's a road that leads down to the point where his service was held. And the local population wanted to honor Ben in some way. I was at an Anzac morning service in Yungaburra, and the guest speaker, John Hardy, an ex Nasho, was talking about avenues of trees memorials around Australia. And I thought that would be perfect to honor all of them with an avenue of trees. And that's how the seed was planted, and it went from there. So we built it to honour our boys.

GTR: How beautiful.

SC: We get a lot of comments, and it's a very, very popular visitation point for not only veterans, but other people coming to honor our fallen boys.

GTR: Yes. Wonderful spot too, Yungaburra. And that avenue of honor there, a beautiful thing. We also know that you became involved with Sean and the 42 for 42, which is the building obviously, then, which you've done the building of the Afghanistan Memorial Garden at Milton. And in fact, you are secretary of that for five years. How did you come in contact with Sean and 42 for 42? And how did that evolve into something so wonderful?

SC: Oh, well, my life took so many different turns after Ben's passing, and I ended up moving down to Brisbane. And not long after, my daughter also came down. And I just saw on Facebook that they were having this walk at Suncorp Stadium to honor the fallen. And Ben's hour was about 04:00 AM in the morning. So each hour is dedicated to one of the boys. So my daughter and I went in there to do our Ben's hour. And I hadn't met any of the young men that had this wonderful idea of building a memorial. And we got in there and then we hung around and we had coffees and we got chatting.

And then it was just before Remembrance Day, that particular one. So I then took a donation tin over to the brewery across the road at lunchtime and rattled it and, I don't know, got \$500 or something. And then we stayed and walked back. We walked a lot that day. And then I got chatting to Sean and the other boys and said, "What's going on? What are you doing? What are your plans?" And they knew what they wanted to do, but they were a little bit vague about it. And I thought, well, you need good fundraising. I've built one, I know it costs a lot of money.

And I had lunch at the Cricketers Club at The Gabba and saw that beautiful venue and thought, a luncheon here, I'll put on a luncheon. And of course, my background's hospitality. And I went to the guys and said, "I'd like to organize a luncheon for you." And they were a bit hesitant and worried about it. Anyway, we've just had our sixth last week, and it's just become an institution. And it's not only been a great fundraiser, but it's just created this beautiful environment for families of the fallen, veterans, past service men and women to come along. And we just have a fabulous time overlooking The Gabba.

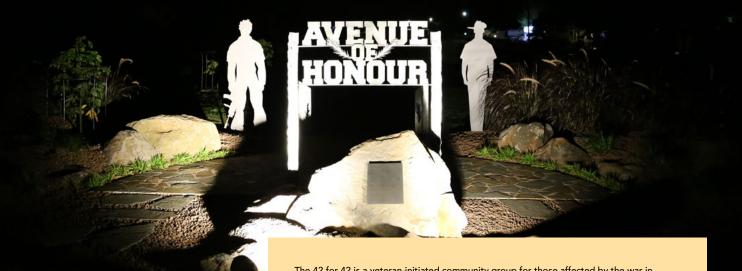
GTR: Is that fantastic? And I tell you what too, Susan, it must give you great joy to see how this is the result of your involvement with 42 for 42, and Sean and the boys and women. What do you get from that, some feeling? What feeling do you get from your involvement? Happiness, I imagine. How do you feel about it?

SC: Gosh, yeah. It's a strange thing to say, but I often say to people, "I lost one son, a beautiful boy. But I've gained hundreds of really other beautiful young men in my life and their wives and their children." So yeah, you've got to look. There's silver lining somewhere along the line for everything. I guess I'm a people's person, otherwise I wouldn't have been in hospitality all my life. So I've enjoyed it. I've enjoyed working with the vet boys and their families and with other family members that live in the Brisbane area. And it's just become a really beautiful thing for me. I get a lot of enjoyment and pleasure out of it. I cry lot and have my moments, of course, when we're all together. But it's super.

GTR: Yeah. Well, thanks for taking us through your responses, Susan. And I guess, the added acknowledgement and knowledge that we have nature involved, obviously with the Yungaburra there, which is totally beautiful. And the Memorial Garden too, which, of course, garden is in many terms used as a way of expressing heaven or a place to visit to compose yourself and have thoughts. Is that how gardens are to

SC: Oh, yes. I grew up in the country and on a property, and we had huge gardens. All my life and with my children, we always had old country homes with huge gardens. So yeah, I find a lot of peace in gardens. I love it. I find a lot of solace in them, I suppose. And it's incorporating the memorial and the plaques, and the story of Afghanistan conflict in the Afghanistan War Memorial Garden in Brisbane, that's so beautiful too.

'EVERY PLAQUE, EVERY FALLEN HAS HIS OWN PLAQUE THAT TELLS THE STORY OF HIS LIFE, NOT JUST IN THE MILITARY, BUT THE FAMILIES WERE INVITED TO WRITE THEIR OWN STORY ABOUT THEIR SON.'



Every plaque, every fallen has his own plaque that tells the story of his life, not just in the military, but the families were invited to write their own story about their son.

So you can just go up with your phone, put your phone to the QR code, and it downloads each young man's story.

And those stories are also on the 42 website as well when you go into the fallen. So we try to really humanize it as just young men, not just soldiers.

GTR: Of course. And I guess, well, I don't guess, I know this is one of the reasons why we reach out to people like you is because the merging of the veteran community with the general community, we are all human and we all know veterans or know of families of veterans. And you walk past people in the street, you don't know who you are walking past. They have their own stories. So to be able to access those stories of those young men that have fallen humanizes it and brings a personal touch that is there for the visitor to use if wished. That's a beautiful thing to do.

SC: Yes. We also, part of 42, now that the memorial's built, it's still not guite finished. There's a lot of history to still be put on QR codes on the storyboards. We're still working on that with the War Memorial. But we really want to educate school children about the conflict and what the young men and women of Australia and are doing to protect our shores. So we take a lot of school groups through. We have quite a good involvement with several of the schools up here which some of the fallen were students of. We've got a big cricket match challenge coming up between two schools shortly At the luncheon on Friday, we had three lovely young students from St. Lawrence's College come along and volunteer and sell raffle tickets and help with the auction. It's just really great to get the kids involved.

And every year I go and speak at one of the schools here in Brisbane, at

The 42 for 42 is a veteran-initiated community group for those affected by the war in Afghanistan. We aim to pay honour to those soldiers lost in battle and to all those that served in the war. We want their families who they have left behind, to have a place of purpose and for them to know that the sacrifice of their loved ones will not be forgotten.

We also believe building strong relationships with long standing and great new initiatives in the veteran's services sector. We build several relationships within the corporate sector, through our fundraising and corporate events, we hope to bring together all the help that already exists and by working together lead our veterans and their families out of the darkness and reconnect them within their communities.

We have a purpose for those soldiers whose battle continue their return home and the families affected by the war, we aim to be able to offer a place for guidance to the right providers for welfare and advocacy support, a family friendly atmosphere that brings us all together through our events and a place to honour our fallen and their families.

Our biggest achievement is the building of the Afghanistan War Memorial Garden in Brisbane beside Suncorp Stadium, especially because it was built by all the families and veterans from the war in Afghanistan.

The Afghanistan War Memorial Garden is set up and built so we can show and educate everyone at the garden about the war in Afghanistan.

their Anzac Day service for primary school, which has a lot of children of veterans at that school. And a lot of our committee members go to other schools. So we're trying to educate the younger generation of the sacrifice, not only of our boys, but the past servicemen and women going way back.

GTR: And a great educational tool to do so. Where's the cricket match on at?

SC: Look, I'm not sure exactly where they're playing it. I think it's going to be at one of the schools, maybe Marist Brothers or St. Barnes', I'm not sure. It's going to be towards the end of this

GTR: Oh, wonderful. We'll follow up with that, and we'll give that coverage in the magazine too, because that sounds absolutely wonderful. And being an ex cricket player myself of some interest, not that I was probably of much standard, but there you go. Of course, Ben was following in the footsteps, really, of a family tradition. When we look at your family's involvement in the services, Susan, your grandfather was a major general, and he was with the 9th Field Ambulance, a commander there. And your father, what was he, a director?

SC: No, dad was a flight lieutenant, squadron leader. He was a bit of a

wild one, and at 21, flew to England in 1936 in a tiny little paper plane sort of thing with a mate. And he joined the RAAF. And when the war broke out in '39, he was summonsed to come home because there weren't a lot of pilots really in those days in Australia. So he spent several years with No. 1 Operational Training School based in, I think it was in Bensdale, Sale, Tamworth and Newcastle, training pilots. And then in '42, he went up to New Guinea and he was one of the biscuit bombers on the Kokoda Trail.

He was with the 30 squadron up there and bombing Japanese submarines. So that was what my dad did. So he was five years in the Air Force during the Second World War.

GTR: Well, my father was in Kokoda too, in Milton Bay and Buna and everything. So it's amazing.

SC: Dad was stationed at Buna, Milton Bay and oh, what was the other one? He was up in Rabaul. He was moved to Port Moresby, Popondetta.

GTR: Geez, incredible connection. They may have passed each other at some stage. Your grandfather, tell us a little about your grandfather. He was with the 9th Field Ambulance.

SC: He was actually a surgeon, not a soldier. Well, he was a soldier and a surgeon. But yes, he was commander





ANZAC day provides us all with an opportunity for quiet reflection, something that can be difficult to find in our hyper-connected world.

Council is committed to providing areas across our city that give us the space for this reflection and serve as visual reminders of the debt of gratitude we have for our soldiers.

The Anzac Square memorial opened in 1930 as the state's national memorial for the Queenslanders who have served their country in conflict and in peace.

The site was borne out of the grieving of a society that gave and lost so much in the First World War of 1914-1918. It was the passion and dedication of the community worked to secure this memorial after 15 years.

Council continues to share this passion today.

We invest more than \$20 million in restorations to revitalise Brisbane's most cherished memorials. We also maintain 46 war memorials and Avenues of Honour, which are commemorative tree plantings to pay respect to Brisbane's servicemen and women.

In modern times, the 42 for 42 war memorial garden was created specifically for honouring Afghanistan combat veterans and provides yet another space for families and servicepeople to congregate during these moments of reflection.

As we approach the 108th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing at Anzac Cove, I invite you to explore your city and find a guiet space to reflect on the sacrifices of the past, as we progress towards a brighter future.

ADRIAN SCHRINNER

Lord Mayor of Brisbane



in chief of the 9th Field Ambulance at Messines and Passchendaele in '16

GTR: Yes. Now, Susan, you yourself, with this focus that we've been having on the wonderful Memorial Garden at Milton, and obviously what we were speaking about before at Yungaburra, these are concrete things that have been done that can be visited and utilized by the general public. But you yourself, you come from quite a background too. You're a bush girl, you grew up, where was it, Gunnedah, I believe?

SC: Gunnedah, yeah. When the war was over, my father had met my mother when he was at training for pilots at Tamworth. She was a country girl from property, and they met at a dance at Tamworth. Anyway, they eventually married, and dad took up farming. He had a wheat property just south of Gunnedah.

GTR: Isn't that interesting? And also, you worked for a company, which I believe had a contract with the US government, which were actually providing travel services for the US servicemen during what, '69 to '71, I think, during the Vietnam War?

SC: Yeah. I then went back to Sydney to work. I lost my brother when I was 16, and I'd gone home to the property. And then did a business course, then went back down to Sydney and ended up working for a company called Priscinia. And it had the contract with the US government looking after the Americans coming out of Vietnam. We used to get three flights, two flights one day, one flight the next, coming in, and they'd be briefed by the US authorities. They'd do their money change, they'd hire civilian clothes to wear. And we were the travel organization. We'd organize fishing trips, horse riding, harbor cruises. They could go do all sorts of things.

GTR: Well, you must have enjoyed yourself too. That would've been wonderful.

SC: I was quite young and I was kept under lock and key by my boss and the older girls. But yeah, it was interesting.

GTR: I bet too. I bet. And of course. you traveled to England back in the early '70s, I guess, a tour manager in Scandinavia or something for two summers?

SC: Yeah. I worked as a tour manager, tour guide, taking coach groups of English-speaking tourists through Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Belgium. So I'd do that in the summertime. Then I'd come back to London, where I was based, and take myself off for a trip somewhere, work as a temporary secretary during the winter, and then go back up to Scandinavia in the summer again. So I had the best of all worlds actually.

GTR: You did indeed. Isn't it a marvelous way to spend a life and continue to spend a life where you are utilizing your talents and finding something to do that is meaningful, is a joy for anyone?

SC: And traveling. Fabulous.

GTR: Traveling is a beautiful thing, and of course that's part and parcel of what you have been in your life too. What are you doing now?

SC: Well, I'm retired now. I've got to that age where I can after a long working career. And I'm living in Brisbane, but I've spent the last five years working voluntarily with the 42, doing fundraising events. I bought a motor home and I'm just about to head off in a couple of months around Australia for one, maybe two years travelina.

GTR: Back to the 42 for 42 for a moment, with Sean and your lunches there. You have that at Suncorp Stadium, I believe?

SC: The lunches? No, we have them at the Queensland Cricketers Club.

GTR: Oh, lovely.

SC: At The Gabba. And we have huge support from a lot of the old time cricketers. Well, when I say old time, for the last four years, we've had people like Ian Healy, Michael Kasprowicz, Carl Rackemann. They've come along. They were all there last Friday. They're very supportive. They've all visited the garden. And yeah, they've just been amazing.

GTR: Well, that's a nice thing for all involved, and gives us even more of a reason to continue your story and the garden there too. When you look back at what you've done, I know sometimes you look back at what you've done. But for Ben's memory, and I guess the things that have been important to you in assuring that there is a place for people to go to visit, to remember, and just consider the effects on all of these conflicts, what do you see as the best result to come from these remembrance gardens?

SC: I think the tragedy, you look back on, say, the boys coming home from Vietnam. They were scorned, they were spat at, it was just dreadful. And our boys didn't experience that. And it's nice to be able to create a place where their brothers can go and sit in quiet and remember their mates. I know a lot of them have found it very healing to do that. A lot of them find it very confronting as well. But not only that, I think we've got to keep reminding the general public. And as the way the world is today, they don't really stop and think about what is going on outside their own little nest.

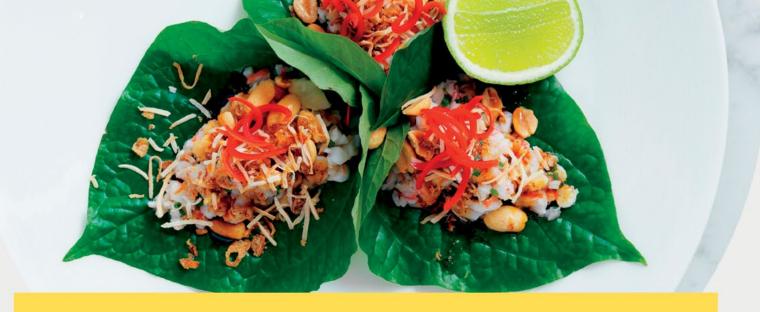
And we have to remember what these young people sacrificed, not only in Afghanistan, Iraq, Korea, Vietnam, Second World War, First World War. So many young men and women have given so much, and we must remember them. We must honor them still. And in Australia, I think we are developing a culture far more now than before. You go to Anzac services now, and there's so many people there, it's just wonderful to see. To me, it's just keep their memories alive. And honour them.

GTR: Yeah. Well said, Susan. And to honour and to keep the memory alive is an important thing in life. And as they say, you carry that with you for the rest of your life. And we appreciate very much your thoughts on this because it helps readers and listeners understand the importance of such. So Susan Chuck, an amazing woman in her own right, but with a backstory and family connections that touch to the base of the veteran community in Australia. Thank you very much for vour time.

SC: Greg, thank you. Thank you for your love and concern to all those boys and girls.

GTR: No, thank you for being our latest inspirational Australian Woman.

SC: Thank you, Greg, it's been my pleasure.



LUNCH AND HIGH TEA AT NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Strangers' Restaurant 3 Course Lunch \$90 per person Monday to Thursday, 12pm to 3pm

Traditional High Tea \$65 per person Friday Only, 12pm to 3pm

Maximum group size for the Restaurant is 24 people. Maximum table size is 10.

Public Cafe

Monday to Friday, 9:30am to 4pm

Please note:

The current scaffolding at the front of the building will remain until early 2024. The restaurant is located at the back of the precinct and is sheltered from the building works and noise.

Tours will resume in July 2023

6 Macquarie Street Sydney

mww.parliamentarycatering.com.au

Restaurant: 02 9230 2124 Office Hours: Mon to Fri, 9:00am to 5pm New gift items available to purchase when you dine at Parliament House



DINING AT PARLIAMENT COOK BOOK



Visit the online gift shop for a list of other available items for sale



Veterans; more than just a defenders of Australia, potential defenders of our cultural heritage.

Back in 1943, during World War II, America formed a new regiment called the Monument Men. This regiment of about two dozen men and women were commissioned into the American Army under the official request of President Roosevelt.

They were tasked with locating, preserving, protecting, and repatriating all the art and artifacts that Nazi Germany had stolen during the war as well as tracking down the people who aided these thefts. The regiment was disbanded in 1946 with the men and women of this regiment aiding in the tracking down of stolen art and war criminals.

In 2019, the monument men were reinstated in a collaboration between the Pentagon and the Smithsonian Institution. On the 12 August 2022, the first class of the 21st century's monument men and women graduated the US Army Monuments Officers Training, ready to continue the protection of tangible and intendible author for generations. protection of tangible and intangible culture for generations

Why am I talking about an American initiative and what does it have to do with our veterans? In Australia, we have an extensive number of monuments dedicated to various wars all around Australia and the Pacific which are either falling into a state of disrepair due to lack of maintenance or climate erosion, or they are vandalised by people with a political agenda and no respect. Every year, two rounds of \$10,000 grants are released in March and September for the repair and upkeep of war memorials and monuments.

Working with conservation professionals, these memorials and monuments can be better looked after and every citizen can be a "monument conservator", collaborating to ensure that these important memorials do not corrode

While it has been a long time since WW2, there is a significant need for monument men here in Australia. Perhaps war is not damaging our heritage, but illicit trade, time, lack of expertise and climate change certainly are. Having trained conservators and in particular veterans involved in the care of our heritage makes sense as it is our tradition and history which we wish to protect, which is the very reason veterans sign up in the first place.

Australia's own heritage conservators could comprise both civilian and veteran personnel who can repair our monuments as well as work as first responders with the defence force, foreign embassies and countries in a time of disaster or conflict, as protectors of cultural heritage, architecture and monuments, as well as tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Further, monument men would remain dedicated to helping the police and Interpol in the locating of lost and stolen items of cultural heritage and art.

Veterans are not just people who have been trained in one job, we are highly trained in multiple jobs, highly disciplined, and are able to "think outside of the box". We have been to some of these disaster areas and understand that it requires a unique degree of compassion and humanity, when someone has lost everything may only have a book of their family's photos. We, as veterans, understand that they need to be treated with compassion

Monuments Man Lt. Frank P. Albright, Polish Liaison Officer Maj. Karol Estreicher, Monuments Man Capt. Everett Parker Lesley, and Pfc. Joe D. Espinosa, guard with the 34th Field Artillery Battalion, pose with Leonar

and understanding. Most people will see someone just holding a book. Veterans see a person who has just gone through a traumatic event, holding the only piece of their story and life that they were able to save before escaping a disaster or conflict.

All of the conservation and handling practices relating to the care of objects and artifacts can be taught; however, compassion and humanity can often only be learned by first experience, being put in that situation and having had interactions with people of different cultures. We as veterans have already been trained to get a job done, to protect life and to save what matters to ensure the survival of a community. This makes us capable of working locally

The EU is calling for experts to advise on cultural heritage management in Ukraine and countries are already in close discussion on how best to reinstate art, artifacts and heritage assets in Ukraine when the Russian occupation finally ends. Devastation is increasing from natural disaster in our own region and being able to assist in cultural heritage restoration would be a very highly valued gift that Australia could offer to our neighbours. Trained carers, cultural experts and a keeping place for artefacts during times of crisis.

For more information please email at sean.puttifoot@endangeredheritage.com



OD DIR 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1958 DECLASSIFIED COPY NE by BUD DOLD 8/13/66

26 May, 1944

AG(SHAEF/G-5/751)

SUBJECT: Preservation of Historical Monuments.

C.O.C. in Chief, 21 Army Group, Commanding Genefal, lst U.S. Army Group, Allied Nawal Commander, Expeditionary Force, Air C-in-C, Allied Expeditionary Force.

1. Shortly we will be fighting our way across the Continent of Europe in Eattles designed to preserve our civilization. Inevitably, turel centers which symbolize to the world all that we are fighting to preserve.

It is the responsibility of every commander to protect and respect these symbols whenever possible.

3. In some circumstances the success of the military operation may be prejudiced in our reluctance to destroy these revered objects. Then, as at Cassino, where the enemy relied on our emotional attachments to shield his defense, the lives of our men are paramount. So, where military necessity dictates, commanders may order the required action even though it involves destruction of some honored site.

4. But there are many aircumstances in which damage and destruction are not necessary and cannot be justified. In such cases, through the exercise of restraint and discipline, commanders will preserve centers and objects of historicals and cultural significance. Civil locations of the storical monutents of this type, both in advance of the front lines and in occupied areas. This information, together with the necessary instructions, will be passed down through command channels to all echelons.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, General, U. S. Army.

Copies to:
The Under Secretary of State, The War Office,
Commanding General European Theater of
Operation, U.S. Army (Copies for FECZ),
The Under Secretary of State, The Air Ministry,
The Secretary, The Admiralty.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

13 December 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Eisenhower.

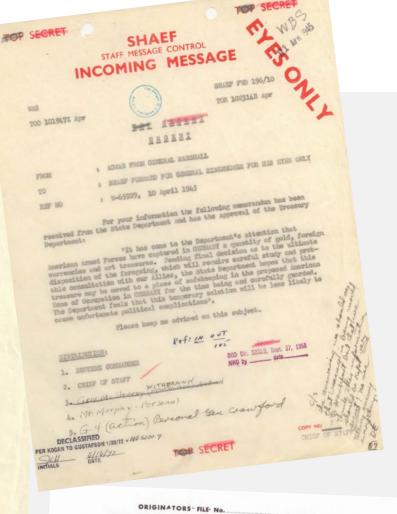
I am just in from a trip around Sicily and Itsly. I visited Palermo, saw Patton, McSherry and the AMG group there. I talked with the staff people who were running the thing from Headquarters, with the staff people who were running the thing from Headquarters and one of the Civil Affairs officers who osme with me took a trip around through the back areas and saw how it was operating on the ground. Patton was a bit downcast but soldierly. He was not very intelligent the way he handled himself, but Lincoln's remark when they got efter Grant comes to mind when I think of Patton - "I can't spere this man - he fights." I hear that the hubbub is dying down in the States.

From Palermo I went to Naples and was much impressed by Hume and his group there.

Everywhere it was the same story: "Food". There were many problems, some scute, but most could be answered in terms of food. The shimments have not had any continuity and they are short to the point where I feel it will complicate your military situation unless they are increased and are made fairly regular.

There was evidence of some careless and what seemed to unnecessary use of great historical or national monuments to troops.

Crimes are being committed in the name of military necessity that I think could be avoided by some pronouncement from you. If you are fighting a battle, you cen't help it if you knock the corner off a Greek temple that stands in the bettle-incok the corner off a Greek temple that stands in the bettle-field. With a little more effort and some greater inconvenience you can billet troops elsewhere than in the midst of a scienyou can billet troops elsewhere than in the midst of a scienyou can billet troops elsewhere than in the midst of a scienyou can billet thoo still has many easily removable objects in Naples Museum which still has many easily removable objects in the if for a storehouse. We have been running many articles in the States as to the good work the Armies in Italy are doing toward respecting the great monuments of Italy, but I was a bit shocked respecting the great monuments of Italy, but I was a bit shocked at the way the thing was operating in Naples itself. When we get to Rome, I suggest a better system should be devised whereby get to Rome, I suggest a better system chould be devised whereby it would not be possible for every combat officer to take the course of least resistance in the name of military necessity in the accommodation of his troops. Could not some expeditious



SHAEF MESSAGE FORM

TO FOR ACTION	ORIGINATOR	DATE-TIME OF DRIGIN
TO (W) FOR INFORMATION (INFO) (REF NO.) FWD 1895H		NAMAGE INSTRUCTIONS GR
Post of the second seco	COVERED SOUTH OF GOTHA	NEAR MEINERS GERMANY WERE

BERNSTEIN FORMERLY US TREASURY WITH TWO OTHER OFFICERS OF MY STAFF AND ARRANGEMENTS COMMENCED FOR MYS REMOVAL (TO AGENR FOR GENERAL MARSHALL FOR HIS EYES ONLY FROM SHIEF FORWARD SIGNED EISENHOWER (COO). MAJOR PERERRA A FINANCE OFFICER THIRD ARMY WHO HAS ACTUALLY INSPECTED THE BOXES ESTIMATES THAT GOLD BULLION AMOUNTS TO BETWEEN 225 AND 250 TOWS AND OBJECTS OF PIME ARTS SOME 2000 BOXES. TREASURE IS BEING MOVED TO BANK VAULTS IN FRAN FURT WHERE IT WILL DE INVENTORIED AND HELD UNDER MY CONTROL AND CAREFULLY GUARDED. REFERENCE YOUR W-65928 10 APRIL. PARTY CONSISTING OF COLONEL MOORE CHIEF GERMANY CURRENCY SECTION G-S COLONEL CLAIBORNE COLONEL CRAGON AND OTHER OFFICERS ALL OF CURR NOT SECTION G-S THIS HEADQUARTERS TOGETHER WITH MR. ST. GERMAIN OFFICIAL OF QUARANTY TRUST COX-



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

D-Day Landings, Gen Marshall to Eisenhower, President Eisenhower to Gen Marshall, J.J. McClov.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

FOREWORD BY ELISE STEPHENS

Business Service and Development Manager, Fortem Australia

We need to support and place value on our first responders and families just as we do for our Veterans.



Elise Stephens is a former Western Australia Police Officer who is married to an ADF veteran, who has been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq multiple time

Elise's passion for first responder wellbeing sparked early in her career, when she witnessed first-hand, the need to support officer wellbeing.

Elise is known for her innovative work in career management and wellbeing for first responders; she oversees programs promoting first responder wellbeing throughout their career lifecycle. Elise also developed Fortem's Career Management Framework.

Elise holds qualifications in Career Development, Coaching and Counselling. First responders are there for us in multiple ways, and we often take them for granted.

If you have a family member that is a first responder, you know first-hand the sacrifices they make to do their job. We don't often see the impact that those sacrifices make until a transition happens. A transition doesn't necessarily mean leaving the service; it can also mean any circumstance whereby the first responder has a situation or event that results in a change of routine, workplace, role type, or relationship. In a first responder career, it would be safe to say there are many transitions, and that affects the whole family unit.

I believe we also don't emphasise and take note of the impact on the first responder's family. The ones who are there from the beginning are essentially the glue that holds everything together.

There are a lot of similarities between defence and first responder families, both experience needing to adjust their routines at short notice. Many experience the toll that working long hours can cause, the loss from the serving members' side in missing out on key family milestones, and at times, the exhaustion from the partner at home compensating.

There are often feelings of loneliness for the partner at home, particularly when juggling the many hats they can wear and the stressors of life admin itself.

Both Defence and First responder families experience adjustment stress due to relocation and the pressures of career progression and expectations.

We see that the impact of first responder work in families are greatly under-recognised. Usually, families are put in second place, particularly when a first responder joins the service, it comes with a sense of loyalty to serve, and importance placed on that service to the community.

It's a privilege to work at Fortem where we can provide a range of services to support FR families.



7 June 2023





Join us on 7 June 2023 to show how much we appreciate first responders.

The aim of Thank a First Responder Day is to create a clear voice of gratitude for the paid and volunteer first responders who do so much for their community.

Visit our website to find out how you can get involved!

firstresponderday.com.au



Scan the QR code to visit our website



Thank a First Responder Day is proudly presented by



Supporting THE BRAVE











WHY DOES FORTEM EXIST?

First responder work is inherently stressful. Frontline workers deal with numerous operational stressors and are exposed to a wide range of traumatic events. As a result, research has consistently found high levels of burnout and exhaustion and higher rates of psychological distress, diagnosed mental health conditions and suicidal thinking in the first responder community.

Social connection is a key predictor of mental health and wellbeing after stress and trauma. Research on first responders in Australia has demonstrated that social connection influences various aspects of mental health and is associated with higher resilience.

Getting the right help early is critical to good outcomes. First responders need holistic, culturally aware, evidence-based support, that prioritises prevention and early intervention as well as recovery and injury management to maintain an experienced, productive workforce as well as happy, healthy first responder families. To achieve this, we also need to address page month health literature and colf address poor mental health literacy and selfstigma; key barriers to first responders getting this help.

WHAT DO FIRST RESPONDERS AND THEIR FAMILIES NEED?

We ask a lot from first responder families, but there are gaps in what is available to support them. Based on first-hand conversations and various research first responder families need and deserve:

Recognition of the important role partners and family have in supporting the first responder workforce Acknowledging the sacrifices made by first responders and the positive impact these sacrifices have on people's lives within the community.

Understanding of the full range of psychological impacts of first responder work. Like defence members, first responders (and their families) are exposed to a complex range of stressors, including organisational and operational factors, and different types of trauma.

Resources that go beyond education and self-care skills training packages, to building networks of support and safety around the family unit, creating a strong and resilient container for the inherent stress of first responder work.

Breaking down the barriers to appropriate and attuned mental health support. First responders face stigma and concerns for career impact that prevent them from seeking help when needed, leaving families trying cope as best they can on their own.

WHAT DOES FORTEM DO TO MEET THESE NEEDS?

Low threat, engaging activities that enhance First Responder social connections and overall wellbeing.

Fortem's wellbeing activities are deceptively simple, designed to be fun, accessible and non-threatening. What feels like a fun day out with mates or family is actually an essential vehicle for a number of sciencebacked benefits, including, enhancing social connection in and between first responder families, creating and expanding networks of support and safety, building trust and engagement which promotes early access to more targeted psychological support where needed, enhancing mental health literacy and breaking down stigma which both act as barriers to first responder help-seeking, and providing opportunities to improve work/ life balance and using natural resources to manage workplace stress – helping first responders to switch over to family life rather than just switching off from work.

HOW DOES FORTEM DIFFER FROM OTHER PROVIDERS?

Fortem focuses on bringing the right services to the right people at the right time.

Fortem is an independent organisation that maintains strong relationships with agency stakeholders (link to advisory board)

Fortem is truly client'-centred, providing a holistic model that included including things like not having arbitrary session limits, equal focus on families, not differentiating between 'work' and 'home' stress, not being diagnosis focused, focusing equally on preventative measures as well as recovery measures.









Two best friends. One incredible mission. The story of Blue Light Card.

Now that Blue Light Card has welcomed Australia into its global community, co-founders Tom Dalby and Steve Denny reflect on what the business has achieved over the past 14 years – and what it means to them and millions of frontline workers to be here.

Blue Light Card, the discount service exclusively for frontline workers and emergency services volunteers, launched in the UK in 2008. But its origins started much earlier, when two eight-year-old boys became best mates.



The seed of an idea

Steve Denny and Tom Dalby met at primary school, and quickly bonded "We delivered newspapers and did other odd jobs. Even at that age we knew we wanted to work together," remembers Steve.

After high school the boys went in different directions – Tom to university and then work, Steve into the police force – but they stayed close. It was in a session at the gym that the seed for Blue Light Card was planted.

As a police officer, Steve had seen a gap between members of the public wanting to show their gratitude to frontline workers, and how workers could accept discounts or savings ethically. "Officers were discouraged from accepting small discounts because it was seen by the force as bribery but the community and local businesses really wanted to say thank you" he explains.

Tom understood the public's need to show support for the officers, and frontline workers who often put themselves in harm's way for people they don't know. "I was at Steve's swearing-in ceremony when he became an officer, and there was a lot of talk about the community being there to support these incredible people who do this really hard job."

And it isn't just police officers who do a tough job. Tom and Steve were inspired by what Blue Light Card could mean to more people, and they were motivated by their own personal experiences to include the wider frontline and first responder services.

"When we had complications with our first child the hospital staff were absolutely incredible" recalls Steve. "I don't even know how they did it, but it was amazing to watch. And everyone will need that kind of help sometimes – hopefully not often, but sometimes. So, we knew first-hand why people wanted to give back and say thank you. But there was no way to do that. Blue Light Card was the answer."

Making a difference every day

Tom and Steve launched Blue Light Card in the UK from Steve's spare room in 2008. Their childhood dream of running a business together became a reality.

Fast forward to 2023, the UK business has 3.2 million members, partners with some of the biggest global brands and saved frontline members over £250 million last year. In the UK and Australia, members can access exclusive, best-in-market discounts and offers from top brands and local businesses.

While the organisation has changed and grown, the mission stays the same: a commitment to do more for the frontline workers - Blue Light Card is here to support, by helping them save money.

Blue Light Card in Australia

When it came to expanding Blue Light Card, Tom and Steve say Australia was the obvious choice.

"There's a clear allegiance between the UK and Australia – apart from when it comes to cricket," smiles Tom. "In all seriousness though, the impacts of the bushfires, floods and the pandemic have called all Australian frontline workers and volunteers to action in recent years. The community wants to give back and show gratitude for what the SES volunteers, nurses, firefighters, paramedics and others have done, and are still doing. Blue Light Card makes that possible."

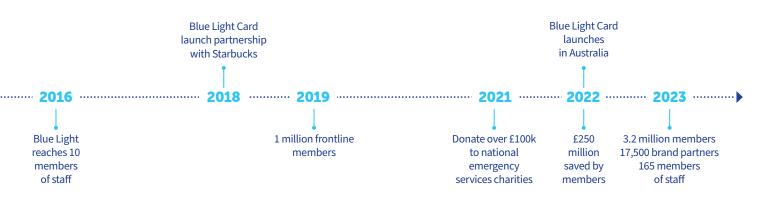
It's why General Manager, Tracey Duff, is so proud to lead Blue Light Card in Australia: "To know that each day I come to work, I get to help thousands of frontline workers and their families just as they have helped us so many times is the most amazing feeling. I am so grateful to be a part of a company with such an important purpose."

"Blue Light Card isn't just a job to us, Blue Light Card is a community" says Tom, "We're on a mission to help as many people as we can.

Free limited time offer!

As a 'thank you' to eligible The Last Post readers we're offering **FREE 2-membership** using **promo code LASTPOST** if you sign up by 30 April 2023 at **bluelightcard.com.au**







Thanks to our overlooked heroes

On Anzac Day it is always humbling to have the opportunity to wear my medals and have people offer me their thanks for my service. While the sentiment and recognition of our military and veteran population is greatly appreciated, I can't help but feel that there's numerous other professional groups in our community who are equally entitled to the respect and thanks of the broader population, but who go largely unrecognised and unappreciated.

I'm talking here about the police officers, the paramedics, the fire fighters, the correctional officers, and the Emergency Department staff, who week-in, weekout, shoulder a significant burden of stress and traumatic exposures in service of the community.

They are the ones who answer the calls for help and who save and stabilise those who are having the worst day of their lives. They are the ones who might respond to a traumatic death and then be expected to bounce straight back and see the next patient or attend to the next call out. They are the ones who care for and attempt to rehabilitate the worst criminals in our society and are then expected to go home and help their kids with homework.

Spare a thought also for the volunteer fire fighter or ambulance officer, who quite literally might finish their day job one day, pull a mutilated body from a car crash at 2am the following morning, and then get up to go back to work a few hours later at their day job. They have a fraction of the training afforded to their full-time counterparts and none of the support that comes from being surrounded by, and being able to debrief with, other members of a professional tribe

who could truly empathise with their experiences and exposures. And yet they continue to selflessly serve our communities.

Not only does this service to the community go unappreciated, but I also fear that public perception of some of these groups is skewed by the fact that the only time they appear in media coverage is often following negative events.

Perhaps an inappropriate use of force by a police officer, a death of a prisoner in custody, a slow response time by an ambulance crew, or a poor outcome from an Emergency Department presentation.

What gets overshadowed in these media reports is the thousands of appropriate police use of force events that kept the community safe, the thousands of prisoners rehabilitated by correctional services, the thousands of on-time paramedic responses that saved lives, and the thousands of Emergency Department presentations that ended with positive outcomes.

There is no appreciation for this, it has become an expectation, and anything less is criticised.

The average career military member may deploy a handful of times and experience a handful of critical incidents during their time in uniform. This is not to be diminished, and I thank everyone who has served for their contribution. The average police officer, fire fighter, paramedic, corrections officer, and Emergency Department worker however faces the stress and traumatic exposures of their roles often for years to potentially decades of their careers.

The tragic recent deaths in the line of duty of Queensland police officers and a New South Wales ambulance officer, as well as the stabbing of a senior Emergency Department doctor in Tasmania, draw into sharp focus the very real threat to life that our first responder community accept every time they put on their uniform to go to work.

So, I encourage everyone to celebrate the service of our veterans and military members this Anzac Day, but please also take the opportunities as they present to pay similar respect to our police officers, corrections officers, fire fighters, paramedics, and Emergency Department staff for their service to our community.

DR DAN PRONK





The doctor's words were clear. "Perhaps some exercise would be helpful in your cancer recovery..."

Good advice, for someone who didn't exercise much at all - whose idea of having a swim was simply standing in the waves at the beach, or that a long walk was only a short stroll at the park...

In 2007 an ovarian cancer diagnosis, had turned Heather's world upside down. Her normal, structured life, had been replaced with uncertainty and unknowns. She was facing extensive surgery, time away from work and family, and coming to terms with overwhelming medical stats - only 48% of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer in Australia survive beyond 5 years.

But fortunately, due the skill of her surgeon, Heather's cancer was successfully removed. She was given a second chance at life.

So back to that day, as the doctor's words hung in the air, Heather made a promise to herself to become fitter (and little braver).

That 'line in the sand' moment, paired with the experience of surviving cancer, would again turn her world upside down - but this time, in a good way!

First off, Heather trained to become a volunteer Surf Lifesaver and actually swam out beyond the break zone. (She still regularly patrols at her local beach). Then in 2012 she signed up for a 4km fun run with her two teenage children. It was the furthest she'd ever run - taking her way beyond her comfort zone (straight into a new pair of sneakers) as well as revealing something more: a previously unknown love for long distance running.

4km quickly became 14km, which turned into a half marathon (21km), then a full marathon (42km). Heather soon discovered trail marathons, ultra marathons, and then extreme ones held in remote, challenging and breathtakingly beautiful environments. It's been quite a journey from there. Here are a few of her favourite races:

- The North Pole Marathon 42kms on an ice floe at the geographic North Pole in -41c - female winner.
- The World Marathon Challenge 7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days (yes you read that correctly) It was a very long week running 295kms in only 168 hours with no time zone changes factored in catching commercial flights, eating airline food, racing against the clock..
- The Volcano Marathon 42kms at 4,400 metres altitude in the Atacama desert in Chile around smoking volcanoes.
- 2018 Australian 24hr Championships female winner running 171km
- The Marathon des Sables 250km in 7 days in the Sahara Desert, carrying all her own food and sleeping gear in temperatures above 40c
- The Track Ultra 520km in 10 days in Outback Australia - west of Alice Springs to Uluru - carrying her own food and gear.

Trekking and climbing are in the mix too, and Heather is all for sharing experiences with friends and family.

One of her favourite quotes is "It is our loved ones and our journeys together, not possessions, that give us the greatest joy and are our truest treasures in life..."

In 2016 Heather spent 5 months trekking 1700 km along the Great Himalaya Trail in Nepal, with her two adult children and with a support team from World Expeditions. It was an incredible journey climbing technical mountain passes living in the elements up at altitude, navigating rugged trails and visiting remote villages.

Everest Base Camp, The Larapinta Trail and Mt Kilimanjaro are favourite destinations too, and just recently Heather summited Cholo Peak (6097m) in Nepal.

Through it all Heather remains passionate about raising awareness about the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer, and with every race and speaking event that she does, she raises funds for cancer research and patient care services, in the hope it will help improve the survival and quality of life of other women diagnosed too.

And she's come to realise that it can often be the low points in our lives that become our most significant turning points...

That sometimes all it takes is a nudge in the right direction, an idea or a great piece of advice, that will set us on our

To rediscover our sense of adventure. To seek renewed purpose and hope, Even discover an unknown courage within...

VETERAN & VETERAN FAMILY CHANGE MAKERS 2022/23

In the past couple of years, I have met some extraordinary people in the veteran community who are doing wonderful things for the welfare and wellbeing of those who served and sacrificed for our great nation.

As a result of seeing these people doing what they do so humbly, we at EnVision decided to gather many of them together in this campaign to raise awareness of what they do. Many of these humble people don't want credit or accolades but, in our eyes, the more they are known, the more people are supported because of awareness of the work that they do.

When it comes to needing help, it can be difficult to know where to go to seek that. So, the more you get to know those who are doing the great work out there in the community, the more you will know what's available so you can source that which you may need or want. The journey of making a difference is often a selfless one and that is part of the reason we decided to put together this list of people to be able to help them with their journey of impacting veteran, veteran family and other lives and assist them to make the change they are here on this earth to do.

These people are all associated to the veteran community in some way whether it be as a veteran themselves, a partner or supporter of causes that are impacting lives. Their work is integral to the quality of life of many people including veterans and veteran families to create a country where it's safe to ask for help, it's alright to want to rise up and it's all for a great cause that is making way for a new generation of leaders in an every evolving community such as the veteran and veteran family space.

Thank you to each and every one of these leaders for what they do to create a better nation for those in need and for sacrificing for the good of those who may struggle to help themselves. This cause is one that is about humility and leading from the front where it is needed most to make a difference in the lives of others for the good of humanity.

ANNA MARIA LANG

CEO & Founder EnVision Life Solutions























rslaustralia.org



envisionlifesolutions.com.au



gaplegal.com.au



greenfoxstudio.com.au

































www.envisionlifesolutions.com.au/veteran-change-makers



As we honour the brave sacrifice of Australia's servicemen and women this ANZAC Day, please also remember their families...

Melanie is proud of her ex-husband's service to our country in the Australian Army. But she also understands what it cost, better than most. She's lived with the devastating effect of trauma for years.





Keep the Promise this ANZAC Day.

Give generously.



Melanie's ex-husband, Scott, has severe Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a result of his Army service in Timor Leste.

In the first years after Scott's diagnosis and eventual medical discharge from the Army, it was a constant battle for Melanie just to keep him calm and to keep him from harming himself or others.

Though the PTSD never really went away, Scott's condition did seemingly settle for quite some time... but then the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"It really put a strain on his coping mechanisms, and it all came to a head last year. It's very hard to care for someone when they make you feel at risk yourself. I needed safety plans in place."

When faced with increasingly violent outbursts and a husband who refused to recognise his worsening condition – who wouldn't take his meds or seek the treatment he needed – Melanie had no other choice but to take her two children, Chloe (12) and Max (9), and flee.

"When we left, Scott blocked me from all bank accounts. I didn't have access to anything."

That's when Legacy stepped in.

Thanks to the support of generous Australians, Legacy was able to provide Melanie and her children with grocery vouchers and other emergency assistance to keep her family from crisis.

This year, Legacy commemorates 100 years of being there for our veterans' families like Melanie's – faithfully keeping the promise during and after conflict and war.

Names changed for privacy and protection. Models used in photos.



This ANZAC Day, please help keep the promise to support veterans' families who are doing it tough by donating to Legacy at www.legacy.com.au/donate or by calling 1800 LEGACY.





Legacy – a Centenary of Service to veterans' families

Legacy is one of Australia's oldest and most trusted charities, providing personalised support and services to the families of veterans of the Australian Defence Force who have given their lives or health for our country.

For 100 years, Legacy has stood proudly as the only veteran service organisation in Australia dedicated solely to the care and support of our veterans' families. Over 40 Legacy Clubs across Australia work to ensure our families receive the support they deserve.

Legacy will be commemorating its centenary with The Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023, presented by Defence Health, marking 100 years of service to veterans' families.

Beginning in Pozieres, France on Sunday April 23, 2023, the Centenary Torch will travel around the world, stopping at all 45 Legacy Clubs.

Contact your local Legacy Club for details of Torch Relay activities in your area.

The Legacy Centenary Torch Relay culminates in Melbourne on 13 October in a commemoration ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance. For more information on the Torch Relay visit www.legacytorchrelay.com.au.

In addition to the Torch Relay, the Royal Australian Mint and Australia Post are commemorating Legacy's centenary through the issue of a limited edition \$1 coin and a postage stamp, commemorative pack and first day cover.

A flowering grevillea – 'Grevillea LegacyFlame' – will also be available at Bunnings and some local nurseries.

Legacy's Centenary of Service provides an opportunity for Australians to reflect on the sacrifices made by the families of veterans and the invaluable contributions of volunteer Legatees and donors who make Legacy's work possible.







For more information on Legacy, visit www.legacy.com.au



Father Bob



The Foundation is saddened by Fr Bob's passing. This was a man who was universally loved and admired but we think the last thing he would want would be to see his work come to an end.

He believed in the ethos of the Church into which he was ordained 63 years ago, i.e. post Vatican 2.

That was when the Church wanted to move away from the clerically dominated view of the world, flattening the model as Fr Bob was want to say, reaching out and embedding itself in local communities

Fr Bob as the local Parish Priest believed in the ethos of the Church into which he was ordained 63 years ago, i.e. post Vatican 2.

So Fr Bob taught us and so many others in communities and organisations far and wide. It's been about being inclusive, us insiders being here for the outsiders, seeing the good in others especially the marginalised and the disenfranchised, and creating a sense of belonging for everyone and

He was often described as a "revolutionary" and a "ratbag" but his self description as "orthodox" but "unconventional" was just as accurate.

So The Foundation is determined to continue the work commenced by Fr Bob and in a way consistent with his lifelong commitment to the underprivileged, especially the unloved and the

We have already been developing plans regarding our current activities and the expansion of those projects and activities which Fr Bob has championed over so many years. This will be subject to on-going fund raising and current funding requests being successful.

www.fatherbobs.com

Many who have served our country with distinction find it difficult to adjust to civilian life without support from the Government or other welfare agencies.

This is particularly the case where housing is concerned, with Veterans dramatically overrepresented in the Australian homeless population. Approximately 5,800 Veterans find themselves homeless in a 12-month period, a rate significantly higher than for all Australians.

Veteran Steven is just one of the Veterans who have struggled with transitioning back into civilian life. His challenges left him without a stable home life; however, housing support gave him a chance to start a new chapter of his life.

"A broken man I hid away, I wept every night in solitude to put on a brave face for the next day. Too proud to put out a hand & too ashamed to admit it I was lost; until Veteran Housing Australia opened the door. Then as if I had a fairy God Mother, the general manager of VHA Olivia, furnished the empty house, with thought & kindness, to make it a home. And I smiled, humble and grateful because I knew, I was saved"

VHA's vision is to end Veteran homelessness in Australia and provide Veterans with the support and assistance they may need to succeed. VHA currently own and maintain 101 properties across Victoria in regional hubs including Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Mildura, Dandenong, and Rosebud with plans to expand nationally. VHA provide secure, affordable, long-term rental housing for Veterans and their families who are experiencing homelessness and/or financial hardship. They also provide temporary emergency housing for Veterans and their families who are vulnerable to experiencing homelessness.

Carry On was established to provide support for those who were doing it tough through providing housing and financial support. VHA draws on the decades of experience gained from Carry On's history in the sector providing subsidised housing for Veterans and their families.

"A BROKEN MAN I HID AWAY, I WEPT EVERY NIGHT IN SOLITUDE TO PUT ON A BRAVE FACE FOR THE NEXT DAY. TOO PROUD TO PUT OUT A HAND & TOO ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT I WAS LOST; UNTIL VETERAN HOUSING AUSTRALIA OPENED THE DOOR. THEN AS IF I HAD A FAIRY GOD MOTHER, THE GENERAL MANAGER OF VHA OLIVIA, FURNISHED THE EMPTY HOUSE, WITH THOUGHT & KINDNESS, TO MAKE IT A HOME. AND I SMILED, HUMBLE AND GRATEFUL BECAUSE I KNEW, I WAS SAVED."



Learn more about VHA's mission by visiting www.veteranhousing.org.au



It is no different for veterans, in fact it's worse. Nine years ago, I could get emergency accommodation or public housing for homeless veterans, now it's impossible.

For most of The Last Post's readers it will come as no surprise that Aussie veterans are at higher risk of homelessness than most of us, and they are much more likely to be homeless for longer.

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2,000 veterans are homeless on any given night, and this number is projected to rise. Over 300 who leave the service every year experience homelessness.

A mate of mine lives in a little house outside of Sydney, the original structure, just four walls and an outside dunny, was built for a returning veteran from the bloodsoaked fields of the Somme.

Many diggers got this Government help after WW1 and WW2; they got a roof, some land, but then, there was little understanding of the mental health impacts of war service. That wouldn't start to happen until after the Vietnam.

Studies show that Veterans have a higher incidence of long-term health conditions compared with those who had never served. This includes higher rates of arthritis, back problems, diabetes, heart attacks and

Worse, over a quarter of veterans who have ever served, have mental or behavioural conditions, according to the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, veterans also have increased risk factors for dementia.

While understanding of the mental impacts of war service has increased, governments, both state and federal, have dropped the ball on housing and the support services needed to transition soldiers and their families to civilian life.

As soon as soldiers know they're being discharged, Defence gives these serving families just two weeks to leave their housing. Surely Defence could cut them a little more slack and give them more time to find a rental in their price range?

On the 13th of February the Albanese Govt announced an initiative for housing providers called Working

with Veterans: A toolkit for Community Housing Organisations. This is an initiative to help community housing providers take into consideration 'the unique life experience and challenges that veterans face', sounds good on paper but how many roofs will this actually put over their heads?

On the 3rd of April I was honoured to be at the opening of a Veteran Hub in Launceston. This Hub, the first of its kind in Tasmania, will provide vital services and support to veterans and their families, this will include advice on housing and connection to housing providers.

We need more hubs like this, and we need more dedicated housing for veterans and their families. There are old defence facilities that could potentially be turned into emergency housing. We need multiple fixes for this issue, those who have served deserve a roof over their head, it's not all we should do but it's absolutely the least we can do.

Lest we forget.

JACQUI LAMBIE

Senator for Tasmania

New record-low vacancy rate more proof that NSW is in the midst of a housing crisis

The peak body for community housing in NSW, Community Housing Industry Association NSW (CHIA NSW) is calling on the NSW Government to confront the housing crisis as Sydney records yet another new record-low rental vacancy rate.

Mark Degotardi, CEO of CHIA NSW said the vacancy rate figures were one of many indicators that NSW is facing a housing crisis.

"Sydney's new record-low vacancy rate is more proof that our state is in the midst of a housing crisis," said Mark Degotardi, CEO of CHIA NSW.

"The social housing waitlist in NSW increased by 15% in the last year

alone, to almost 58,000 families and individuals. This number is going to get worse, as there aren't enough homes available for people to rent.

"This is a crisis, and it requires an urgent, emergency response from the NSW Government," Mr Degotardi said.

The data released today by Domain for February shows that vacancy rate in Sydney have slipped to a new record low 0.9 per cent, with Domain warning the conditions are going to get more serious.

This vacancy rate has halved since the same time last year, and has decreased by over 65% since January 2021.

"One of the key causes of the housing crisis is neglect by successive state governments. For decades they have failed to invest in the social and affordable rental housing NSW desperately needs," said Mr Degotardi.

"Our leaders cannot keep turning their backs on the thousands of families across our state struggling to keep a roof over their head. Ahead of the state election, both sides of politics must confront the crisis, and commit to investing in the social and affordable housing our state needs,' Mr Degotardi said.

www.communityhousing.org.au



In 2019 Perfect Events' Liliana Sanelli was working with Legacy Melbourne. It was then, through then-Legacy Melbourne CEO Jo Moloney, that Liliana first heard of Legacy's approaching 2023 centenary.

Amongst others, Liliana and Perfect Events had worked with Melbourne City Mission, the State Library and the MCG on commemorative events. Liliana thought it appropriate to suggest to Jo that Legacy do something memorable for the milestone.

In late 2019, Liliana spoke with Legacy Australia CEO and meetings were arranged. In early 2020, Covid struck and those meetings were postponed, as the pandemic and how to deal with it, became a priority.

A year later, groups involved in organising for the centenary re-grouped, to work through what was possible. As Liliana says, "It is all about the torch, on the badge. Why don't we do a torch relay?

It was then suggested that the proposed relay start in France, where the promise was first made by two diggers, to look after their wives and families, in the advent of their death.

The concept became reality when Liliana was given 3-months to scope out the project and for a program that would include the relay covering all 45 Clubs. The vision included having a torch bearer and behind, the tri-services, in uniform, Army, Navy and Air-Force.

Money was needed to be raised for the project.

In September, 2021, a virtual event was held to launch the Centenary. The challenge was to raise \$500,000. \$1.2 million was raised.

And so, here we are. On Sunday, April 23, at Pozieres, in France, the relay got underway. The excitement travels around the world. From London, on April 27, to Australia, where Kim Beazley will be the first torchbearer on home soil.



From Albany, May 3, to Fremantle, Perth, Adelaide, Darwin, Cairns, Townsville, the eastern seaboard, Canberra, Victoria and Tasmania. Then, back to Melbourne, where the first Legacy Club was founded, on October 13th.

Six months on the road and 1300 torchbearers and community days in 6 locations.

2000 volunteers are needed.

For all involved, this is the chance to be part of something historically relevant and a reflection of why the Legacy Torch Relay is such an important event on the calendar.

GREG T ROSS



Join the Journey

This year in 2023, Legacy commemorates 100 years of supporting the families of those that have served and given their life or health for their country.

To commemorate such a milestone, The Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023, presented by Defence Health will be begin. 1500 Torch Bearers will have the official honour of joining us on the journey to participate in a 50,000km International Torch Relay.

Each Torch Bearer has a personal connection with Legacy or the defence community and is aiming to raise over \$10 million dollars. This will enable Legacy to continue to ensure that these families are empowered to build their best future.

To learn more about this once in a lifetime event, visit www.legacytorchrelay.com.au

Give now to help support veterans' families

Legacy are calling out to organisations to purchase a Limited-Edition **Legacy Centenary Torch for \$10k** to help enable Legacy to continue to support and empower our veterans' families to build their best future for the next 100 years.



To purchase a Torch, please use this QR code or contact Natalie Jones on **0414 284 143** or email **natalie@perfectevents.com.au**

Buy now to help us #fueltheflame www.legacytorchrelay.com.au





OF SERVIC

1923 - 2023





The Resolute Ready Global Virtual Hub Connects Military Veterans, First Responders and their families to service providers, anytime anywhere.

Do you offer services or support in any of the following areas: mental health, education and skills, transition, employment opportunities, housing, advocacy, homelessness, family support, build youth capacity. Complete the Resolute Ready Service Provider Proforma and become part of the solution to suicide prevention accessing services anytime anywhere.

Early Intervention is Key.

The ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Day Ode of Remembrance is dedicated to those solders serving, non serving, past and present who gave the ultimate sacrifice, but some have been forgotten. For those that served, sacrificed and returned home alive, some continue to suffer the effects of service trauma, mental and physical war injuries.

ANZAC epitomises the mateship between Australia and New Zealand around the world and in times of war and of peace. I hope there is restoration between the great divide of service time and entering back into the civilian world.

Soldiers are highly trained, skilled and mission-focused and are trained to win at all costs. To run towards danger and not from it. Whilst this level of training is crucial on tour, once active duty is completed, its effects are often lifelong and debilitating with many tragic consequences. This, coupled with some truly unimaginable horrors (which must be witnessed to be believed), makes the transition into civilian life for some an almost impossible task.

As a result of this intense training, my husband, also a Veteran who suffers Chronic Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Alcohol misuse disorder, has found it difficult to transition from an active military mindset to a civilian one. Service Trauma impacts the whole family, including our children.

First Responders also suffer service trauma; theirs is just a different type of battlefield. Their exposure can be life threatening and they, too, can suffer from PTSD and suicidal ideation.

As the wife of a former soldier suffering from PTSD, my family has first hand experience of how difficult it is to navigate the system. It was during the last eight years that the idea for Resolute Ready was first formed. It became apparent that so many were falling through the cracks and in the words of my husband, Duncan, "I've had five friends [Veterans] that have committed suicide, one was a best friend, and two very, very close and I just don't want to see another solider die of suicide".

Resolute Ready has been described as a "revolutionary global hub" and our volunteer team is thrilled to provide an easy to navigate website that can link Veterans and First Responders to the support they desperately need.

Our mission is to stop the generational cycle of service trauma, restore relationships, and create initiatives to prevent suicide and support the families of those affected. We are not clinical professionals. We are a group of community helpers offering a referral service with initiatives into suicide prevention. The virtual hub will be instrumental in achieving this.



Resolute Ready would like to expand their service to include a 24/7 Crisis Hot Line and talks are underway with Australian Federal Government dignitaries. Resolute Ready has had discussions with the SA Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Blair Boyer MP who is currently developing a digital enrolment form which will assist families to select whether parents are current or previous members of the Australian Defence Force. This will be a significant step in supporting the health and wellbeing of Defence students and their families with changing schools, integrating into the school community and providing support during parental absences. As an educator, I believe that, if we can identify the families and young people not engaged in learning, we can link them to services earlier before a crisis occurs with the intention of

reducing the harm service trauma brings to families.

24 HOUR CRISIS SUPPORT Turkey (Republic of Türkiye)

Resolute Ready invites services to support our Veterans and First Responders and their families, not just in Australia but globally, and our service providers are growing daily. We're seeking service providers from around the world to join the Resolute Ready Virtual Hub community, to create a single gateway giving easy access, anytime, anywhere

If you have a service that can support our global community, please register your interest at: resoluteready.com/submit-your-service

Resolute Ready welcomes any donations or offers of help: resoluteready.com/support

One Stop, One Call, One Life!

"We thank our Veterans and First Responders along with their families, partners, carers, children, grandchildren and friends for their Service!

We will remember them... Lest we forget!



Resolute Ready was officially launched on 20 April 2023 at The Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia. In attendance were veterans and first responders, families and friends along with government officials including Federal Assistant Minister for Defence, Veteran Affairs and The Republic – Matt Thistlethwaite (pre-recorded video message), Senator Karen Grogan, Senator David Fawcett, Joe Szakacs MP Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services of South Australia and Adrian Wotton, Council for Outer Harbor Ward.

Resolute Ready Ambassador, Derrick McManus, former Special Task and Rescue Group officer and 42-year South Australia Police Veteran, shared his story of being shot

14 times in 5 seconds. Derrick uses his experience and account of trauma growth, resilience and durability to support others. Phil Essam, a Veteran and founder for the Australian Homeless Veterans Action Group spoke of our homeless Veterans in Australia, with possible solutions in moving forward. The founder of The Home Post, Julia Michel gave an in-depth and moving insight into the struggles of dealing with service trauma at home and the complexities associated with accessing services and appropriate support.

We have a wealth of expertise here in Australia which can drive future directions for suicide prevention and community support - Australia can unite the globe in this. We need to acknowledge change is possible and we need to review our services, know what is working really well, what needs expansion and to stop doing what evidently is not working. Government agencies are working at capacity with funding restraints but within, there are those who are committed to change. We need to all work in partnership; not as competitors but as allies and only then can we move forward. Our core business should be - and is - about saving lives in our community.

Children and families need to be acknowledged. There has been a significant impact with the world recovering from the pandemic, world conflicts and disasters. With a united front, we can make a positive and long lasting change while also reducing the cost to governments with preventative

Resolute Ready is receiving global recognition - we are responding to a worldwide crisis.

As a proud US Marine Gulf War Veteran and a Boston Firefighter for the last twenty five years, I'm thrilled to connect with Resolute Ready and contribute to the global support of our Veteran Military , First responders & their families. The Meaning of Life for me is to live sober, share my experience and do God's Will by companionship with my brothers and sisters serving around our world.

- John F, New Hampshire, United States

Thank you so much for the invitation and I only wish I could nip out to Australia for the meeting especially as my brother lives in Australia just outside Sydney. This is an incredibly important matter and one i whole heartedly support. Have a really successful meeting.

- Danny Kinahan, Veterans Commissioner for Northern Ireland

I am very happy to collaborate with ALL interested and vested parties to find solutions and work cohesively in this endeavour. Let's invest in the future by designing a blueprint for support to all military veterans, first responders and their families and work toward supporting those in turmoil and danger of self-harm, moving towards a brighter future.

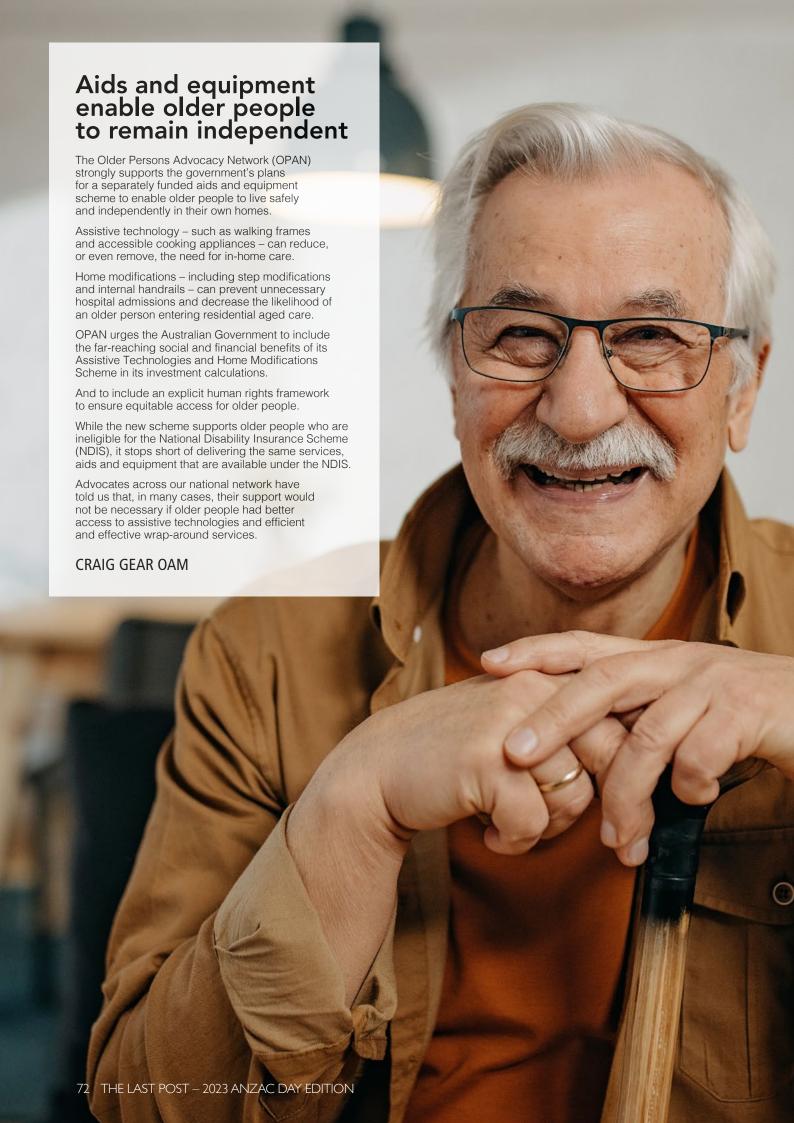
Suicide damages not only those closest to that individual but the community as a whole. We are focusing on all military veterans and first responders whose choice is/was to volunteer their skills and services to making our community (and working in partnership with other countries) safer, better, more secure and healthier place to live and raise a family.

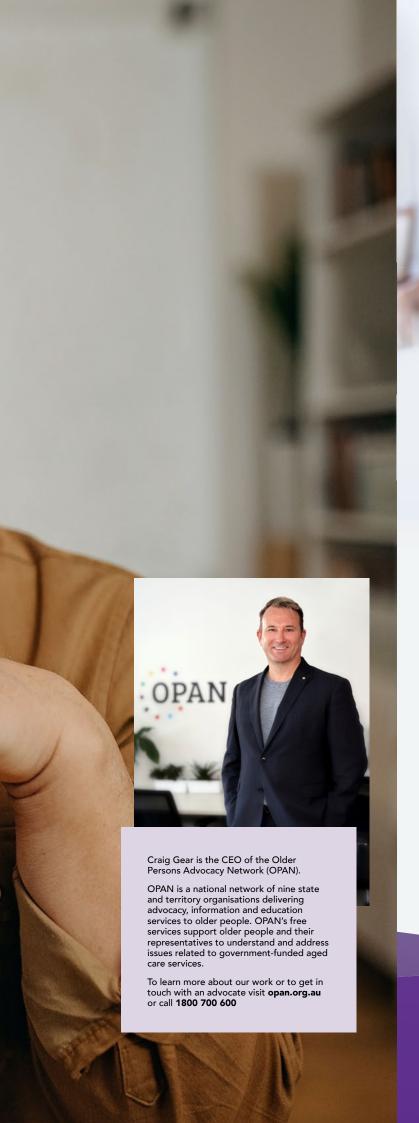
With your help and support, we can and WILL do this. Giving up is not an option; saying YES to life is.



Please contact me if you would like to work in partnership to support our mission. I am also available for public speaking presentations.

> Lidia Hall | Resolute Ready | CEO and Founder hello@resoluteready.com resoluteready.com







Aged care support service

Chat with us - free and confidential

Do you need advice about your governmentfunded aged care services, either in your own home or in residential care?

Our experienced aged care advocates can help you with the following, and other aged care issues:

Aged care provider services or fees.

Assistance with visits or services.

Supported decision-making.

How to speak up for better aged care

Concern that you may not be treated respectfully, fairly, or appropriately.

If you ticked any box above or you simply want advice regarding your government-funded aged care services:

Chat with us - 1800 700 600



To find out more visit **opan.org.au** or scan the QR code.

ZERO DEATHS FROM BREAST CANCER



The National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) is Australia's leading not-for-profit organisation funding world-class breast cancer research with money raised entirely by the Australian public. Their vision is Zero Deaths from breast cancer.

How?

By identifying, funding, and championing world-class research that will help to detect tumours earlier, improve treatment outcomes, and ultimately, save lives.

ABOVE: Alana with her dad, Geoff.

Meet National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) Community Ambassador Alana and learn about her life-changing diagnosis as well as the importance of breast cancer research.

In January 2022, young mother Alana discovered that she was pregnant with her second child.

However, what should have been a joyful time with her partner and 1-year-old son soon took a turn for the worst.

One week after announcing her pregnancy to friends and family, Alana discovered a lump in her breast. She had the lump promptly checked by medical professionals and was then diagnosed with breast cancer.

Alana gave birth to her healthy baby girl at 36 weeks, but her encounter unfortunately wasn't over yet.

"Since then, life has been a whirlwind," Alana asserted, "I had surgery to remove the cancer, but sad to say [the surgery] hasn't removed it all and we've found out it has spread to my lymph nodes. I will need a mastectomy."

Thankfully, a year on, Alana has just finished active treatment for the cancer.

When reflecting on the journey she's taken so far, Alana stated: "Before I had cancer, I didn't realise just how much it takes from you, I naively thought you just lost your hair and breasts, but it takes so much more physically and mentally."



1 in 7 Australian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. Women just like Alana.

Treatment just like what Alana received is now available thanks to ongoing research funded by people like you.

A charitable gift in your Will (of even 1%) to support NBCF goes towards funding innovative research that can improve survival rates and transform detection and treatment.

With your support, we can work towards our vision of Zero Deaths from breast cancer.

For more information, please contact our Gift in Wills Manager at bequests@nbcf.org.au or (02) 8098 4848.



ERIN'S WALKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS MOTHER'S DAY

Erin's first Mother's Day Classic was in 2009. And today, she's there each year with her family rain or shine.

Erin was 33 and had just given birth when she received her HER2+ breast cancer diagnosis. And sadly in 2020, she received more devastating news, her breast cancer was now metastatic and had spread to her liver, bones, lungs and brain. The disease flipped her world upside down twice, putting her through countless tests, hospital stays, invasive surgeries and more - all while raising her three kids.

But thanks to game-changing breast cancer research, most of Erin's cancer has been removed, and her doctors can continue to manage the disease with positive results. Now, she loves getting involved in the Mother's Day Classic (MDC), helping raise money for game-changing research, and supporting more women like her.

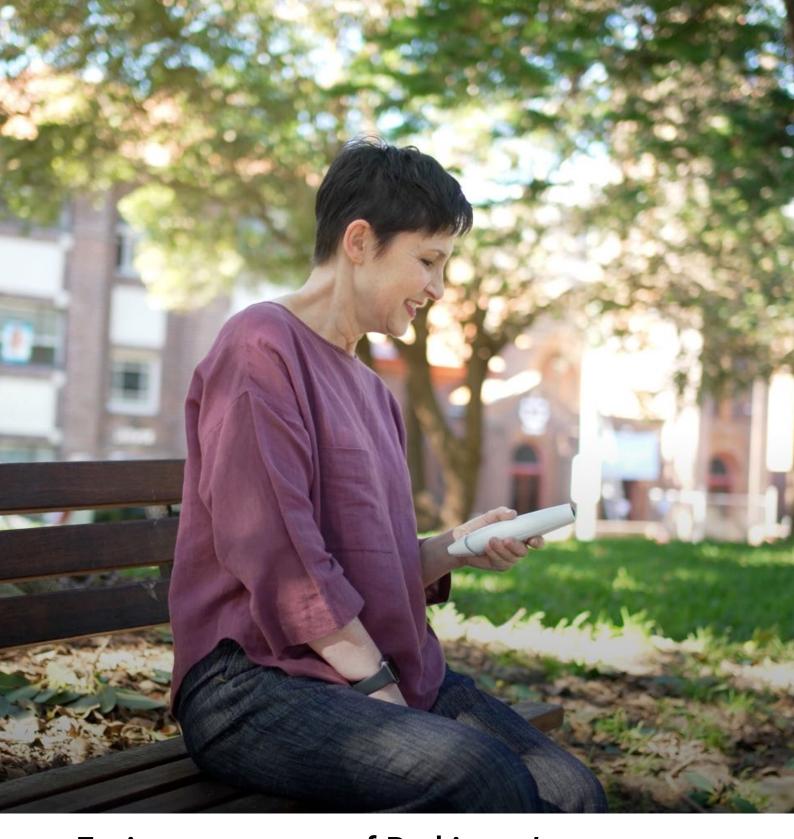
Erin is excited to celebrate Mother's Day with her family at the Classic once again this year. We'd like to thank her and every MDC superstar for coming to the Classic each year and making a difference for the many women like Erin who are living with broast capacity. are living with breast cancer.

If you'd like to join us at MDC this year, you can sign up here www.mothersdayclassic.com.au and raise money for lifechanging breast cancer research.

"I'm here enjoying life and watching my children grow because of the research and treatments that are helping people diagnosed with breast cancer live longer lives".

– Erin, MDC Community Ambassador





Easing symptoms of Parkinson's with laser light company, SYMBYX.

SYMBYX, an Australian company, is changing the lives of people with Parkinson's. Its innovative light therapies have been featured in The Australian, AFR, Forbes, Dublin Live, London Express and on Channel 7, 9 and 10 TV News as well as on ABC radio.

The PDCare by SYMBYX is available for purchase via **www.symbyxbiome.com**. Visit the website or reach out to the team for more information today!



Parkinson's disease is the fastest-growing neurological disorder in the world and is now only second to dementia. The prevalence of Parkinson's is also increasing in younger people - 1 in 5 newly diagnosed are under 50 years old and 10% are under 40 years. Australians unfortunately follow these global trends closely.

The PDCare Laser by SYMBYX is the only approved at-home laser device for the reduction of Parkinson's symptoms worldwide. Customers have reported improvements in as little as 8-12 weeks. They include fewer falls, better balance, sense of smell, increased quality of sleep, enhanced mood and cognition.

Research is now establishing a close relationship between the brain and the gut and this linkage is critical for understanding and treating many chronic diseases. People with Parkinson's have been shown to have key Parkinson's biomarkers in their gut sometimes up to 10 years before a positive diagnosis. The gut is effectively a 'canary' for early signs and symptoms. "Parkinson's is increasingly being recognised as a metabolic disease, not a neurodegenerative one", according to SYMBYX CEO Dr Wayne Markman.

In-line with Dr Markman's sentiments is the greater emphasis on early detection and recognition of the many non-motor symptoms that are typically apparent years before the official diagnosis. Early intervention through Levadopa medication, vigorous exercise, healthier eating and laser light therapy would delay destructive biomarkers (misfolded alpha synuclein proteins) from reaching the brain and causing irreversible damage, according to SYMBYX and other reputable 3rd party literature. This approach also calls into question the current best-practice approach of confirming a positive diagnosis (the point at which Medicare funding kicks in) only at the stage when the first motor symptoms such as tremor appear. When motor symptoms first appear, it is widely accepted

that up to 80% of a person's dopamine activity in the brain has already been damaged.

SYMBYX light therapy works by stimulating the gut microbiome to produce a lower inflammatory environment. By placing the PDCare laser directly onto the bare skin of the abdomen, the laser stimulates the patient's natural immune response, increases energy levels by raising mitochondrial activity, as well as stimulates the production of increased dopamine levels in both the peripheral and central nervous systems. The evidence level for each mechanism differs but what is clear through recent clinical trial evidence is that there is a material reduction of classic Parkinson's symptoms, so laser therapy is gaining traction quite quickly.

Lucie and Paul from the central coast of NSW have been using the SYMBYX PDCare laser for Paul's Parkinson's disease. "Straight away his mood and sleep improved, and he stopped getting nightmares which are accompanied by involuntary movements and thrashing about. This was good for him and me! Paul is having far fewer bad days and nights now which means we have rediscovered our social life and we can do all the things we love – sailing and spending time with our family and friends. Before light therapy, Paul was having half-hour off periods every three hours. This is no longer the case. In fact, he recently forgot to take his meds at 3.30 PM and again at 6.30 PM and at 8 PM we finally realised. We couldn't believe it! He usually is just waiting for the next pill."

The PDCare treatment is non-invasive, painless, and only requires 20 minutes, 3 days a week. The PDCare laser is ARTG-listed and CE-marked, with extensive clinical studies already undertaken to prove the efficacy of the technology. Further studies to show the full range of benefits of light therapy are currently underway in Adelaide, Brisbane and Toronto, Canada.





Understanding and Supporting Service Personnel and their Families



wellbeing

There is currently significant activity in veteran reform in Australia.

A Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide is underway after much veteran community agitation over the last decade. Reform of the Acts that oversee veteran entitlements are being overhauled with significant contest over how that should look across the sector and government.

The Australian War Memorial is undergoing a 5-billion-dollar overhaul raising questions about Australian colonial history and the representation of conflict and what it means to be a veteran. Along with this activity there are significant challenges in changing the paradigm from veteran welfare to wellbeing which includes addressing veteran homelessness, improving veteran transition to education and employment while improving the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) claims and support processes.

The Australian Defence Force is around 60,000 strong. Around 6000 veterans come and go each year. There are about 600 000 veterans living in Australia. For the first time in Australian history the National Census has asked the question "did you serve?, did you deploy? Evidence is so important in making decisions about veteran wellbeing. Our sector is full of pride and good will but there is a dearth of evaluation. There is also a historical and largely unproductive focus on the 'broken soldier'.

Open Door is a research entity at Flinders University that takes veteran's and their families lived experience very seriously. In the veteran sector we want to know if what we are doing is working for veterans and their families. To do this we partner with the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA), an influential national policy focused ex service organisation that has a seat at the ex-service organisations round table (ESoRT) and the ear of the minister for Veterans Affairs. Defence Force Welfare Association is a national Ex Service organisation, that has formal agreement with ADF to negotiate on Pay and Conditions of Service for serving personnel. It représents Veterans on the Public Safety Skills Council and is recognised its quality of submissions on several Productivity Reports, Health, Mental Health, and Wellbeing supporting veterans and families.

At DFWA-SA and Open Door we recognise the veteran as a sovereign asset. There is considerable national investment in the skills and training of service members that provide a (social) return on investment for the wider community and give ongoing meaning to military service. Our aim is to recognise the skills, capacities, and experiences that veterans acquire over their service. We must also recognise the investment of the nation in building their capacity and invest in their post service success and wellbeing. The military covenant says succinctly: "For what they have done we will do".

To achieve a holistic and veteran centric perspective Open Door and DFWA appraise the mental, physical and social health of veterans and their families. We understand that a supported transition (from leaving to the death) will permit the veteran and their family to take their skills and experiences and go on to make significant contributions

to society over the rest of their lives. This means improving Defence policy and service on transition, renovating Veterans Affairs legislation, policy and serving of veterans, and building bridges to industry and the wider community to create a mutual recognition of the value of veterans and the needs of industry. This promises wellbeing to the veteran and their family after service e and a return of investment to the nation as explained.

DFWA and Open Door are engaged in some significant national research to contribute to this ideal including. Three examples include:

Mapping Service and Transition to Self-Harm and Suicidality

Open Door is funded by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide to "Map Service and Transition to Self-Harm and Suicidality". The research draws on 113 life history interviews with veterans (and/or families) to understand the veteran life journey through childhood, service, transition, and post service to poor outcomes. The research also demonstrates how veterans possess great resilience with many rebuilding successful lives after their service challenges

Research into experiences of ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel in corrective services systems in Australia

This DVA funded study of veterans in corrections in Australia provides a baseline understanding of the challenges service members experience leading to engagement with criminal justice system and incarceration. Better transition services, and ongoing support for veterans in corrections are possible policy directions.

Veteran Suicide: Investigating the social and historical dimensions.

Veteran suicide rates are concerning and there has been little progress in reducing these rates in the last two decades. Suicidality can be the outcome of deployment trauma, but it is also heavily affected by the institutional factors such as institutional betrayal and military institutional abuse. This research investigates veteran suicide from 194 until the present looking at individual trauma, family disruption and support and national responses to repatriation and support.

Our work is nationally and internationally significant partnering with key organisations and universities across the five eye nations. We are involved in key decision making around Defence and Veteran's Affairs reform. Our work on veterans and higher education has opened university study as a transition pathway for veterans through the Military Academic Pathway Program (MAPP). These important initiatives are bolstered by the research and practice relationship between Open Door and DFWA which seeks to shift the paradigm from veteran welfare to wellbeing creating resilient and productive members contributing their unique and invaluable set of skills and experiences to the wider community on separation.

BEN WADHAM

Director, Open Door: Understanding and Supporting Service Personnel and their Families, Flinders University

HSU MEMBERS SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

The Health Services Union is the union for public and private health, paramedics and aged care workers in NSW.

Our members go to work every day to assist the community and provide the best possible care.

We salute Australian veterans and acknowledge the sacrifices made.





The recent TGA rescheduling of Psilocybin and MDMA will help solve our accelerating mental health epidemic

Australia is facing an accelerating mental health crisis, and unfortunately, the mental health system has lacked substantial treatment innovation for the past five decades. Although efforts to reduce access times and increase the availability of mental health practitioners are positive, they are unlikely to solve the problem. The current tools used to treat mental illness have nasty side effects and dependency issues, and the majority of patients experience ongoing symptoms, significant side effects, and relapse after treatments stop.

To create positive change and healing, we must be innovative and broaden the tools available to medical practitioners and qualified therapists working in this area. Mental illness does not have to be a life sentence because there are safe and effective medicines and therapies that can heal many more people.

Enter Mind Medicine Australia, a registered charity and Australia's leading not-for-profit organization working on the use of medicinal psilocybin and MDMA-assisted therapies to treat a range of mental illnesses and expand the treatment options available to medical practitioners and their patients in clinical environments.

After four years of presenting data and science from over 200 trials around the world, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) finally listened, and on February 3 2023, the TGA announced that Mind Medicine Australia's applications to reschedule MDMA and psilocybin were successful, making Australia the first country in the world to achieve this feat! From July 1, 2023, these treatments can be prescribed by psychiatrists under an Authorised Prescriber Scheme. They will be able to deliver psilocybin-assisted therapy to patients with treatment-resistant depression and MDMA-assisted therapy to treatment-resistant patients with PTSD.

Unlike current treatments such as anti-depressants, which only manage the illness and can have nasty side effects, psilocybin and MDMA-assisted therapies have been scientifically proven to be a safe and effective cure for anxiety, depression, end-of-life stress, addictions, and PTSD after just a short treatment program. These medicines are also CODD Autions Speatrum Dicordor, and a number of the stress of the disorders, OCD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and a number of other conditions.

Research from over 200 trials indicates that the medicines are safe and non-addictive when administered within a medically controlled environment, and lead to remissions in 60-80% of patients after just 2-3 medicinal sessions in combination with psychotherapy.

This is a massive breakthrough in the mental health space, as patients will be able to access these therapies outside of clinical trials. The TGA's decision offers a new option to practitioners and tens of thousands of patients who have been unable to get well with currently available treatments.

However, Mind Medicine Australia's job is far from done. As these therapies become available, there is plenty to do to make them accessible and affordable to all who need them.

One key program that will achieve this is MMA's Certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies (CPAT cpat.mindmedicineaustralia.org), which has trained 240 psychiatrists, psychologists, psychotherapists, GPs, physicians, addiction specialists, mental health nurses, social workers, and occupational therapists since 2021. This training will help prepare mental health practitioners to safely administer these therapies and help patients heal from their mental health conditions.

It will take time for health funds and the government to begin subsidising these treatments, and MMA wants these therapies to be accessible and affordable to all, including those in need. 100% of donations to the Patient Support Fund will be used to subsidise treatment with psilocybin and MDMA-assisted therapies for those who otherwise could not afford it.

To donate into the fund, please visit www.MindMedicineAustralia.org/donate MMA would like to express our enormous gratitude to the tens of thousands of people who have made this breakthrough possible including the TGA, the Delegate, the members of the TGA's Medicines Scheduling Advisory Committee and all of the clinicians, world leading researchers and all of the people who put in submissions of support.

In conclusion, the TGA's recent decision to reschedule MDMA and psilocybin is a huge step forward in the treatment of mental illness, and it is hoped that this will mark the beginning of a new era of innovative treatments for mental health in Australia.

Let's rally together and train enough clinicians and give financial support to those who need it. Together we can begin building a world where effective mental health treatment exists for every Australian. They now have the opportunity of accessing this breakthrough treatment with their mental health professionals, which has shown such positive safety and efficacy results internationally.

TANIA DE JONG AM

Co-Founder and Executive Director of Mind Medicine Australia

Please learn more and support: www.mindmedicineaustralia.org

Serving Those Who Served



Home Care: support and services so you can live in your own home with confidence. Ages 65+



Award-winning Residential Aged Care: homes at Bundoora, Brighton, Brighton East and Frankston South.



Ex-Service Accommodation: at locations in Melbourne, Geelong and now Wodonga. Ex-service only. All ages.



We are proud to offer services and accommodation that prioritise veterans and war widows.



For more information on any of our services, contact us: T 1300 602 108 E office@vaseyrslcare.org.au
W www.vaseyrslcare.org.au



A lifetime of helping others

Sparked by the love of his life, Bruce is leaving a gift behind in his Will. Will you?

Bruce Smith and his late-wife,
Mavis, have left gifts in their Wills
for Australian Red Cross after
volunteering more than 30 years
together. Through an enduring
legacy of love shared between
Bruce and Mavis, Bruce hopes that
their impact will be felt by people in
the future long after they're gone.

Bruce has dedicated more than 30 years volunteering for Australian Red Cross. But it was through his love for his wife, Mavis, that sparked his interest in Red Cross when she began as a volunteer in the 1960's.

Over the decades and since his retirement, Bruce has supported Red Cross in a range of areas – from picking up refugees from the airport and helping them settle into their new homes to providing psychosocial support to survivors of the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria in 2009.

While Mavis has since passed on, Bruce wants others to think about their contribution to helping others beyond this life.





"If you've been supporting a cause throughout your lifetime, then please don't stop when you're thinking about what's going to happen after you leave."

Bruce will be leaving a gift in his Will to Red Cross – just as Mavis did – and he hopes he can inspire others to do so too.

"I always think about 'people helping people' as being a motto or a thought that I keep in mind, that you get more out of helping people than you can fully understand."

This is the message that Bruce wants to pass on as his legacy: "It would certainly be a wish of mine that people would consider helping others in such a way that they continue to support the causes they care about after they've gone".

Visit our <u>website</u> to request your FREE Wills guide, or phone 1800 733 276.

Feeling inspired?

Scan the QR code to find out more.



An enduring passion for medical research

Patricia (Pat) Farrant and her late husband John Farrant had a passion for medical research and were dedicated supporters of WEHI (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research). Pat passed away in 2019 at nearly 100 years of age, leaving a \$26 million bequest to WEHI.

This incredible gift is supercharging an area of ever-growing importance in health and medical research: developments in data science including artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).

WEHI director Professor Doug Hilton AO believes investment in innovative and high-impact research technologies to help deliver positive health outcomes more quickly to more Australians is the ideal legacy for the Farrants

"I think Pat and John would be proud of the impact their gift will have on the future of medical research at WEHI, which will ultimately benefit health outcomes for the community," says Professor Hilton.

Leaping into the digital future: Al at WEHI

Developments in AI and ML are rapidly changing medical research and discovery, and WEHI is poised to be at the centre of that transformation in Australia and around the world.

This year WEHI is embarking on an ambitious five-year strategy to leverage its established leadership in data science, bioinformatics and computational biology by further developing and harnessing expertise in AI and ML.

Exponential increase in data

"WEHI has an impressive history in data science that has made us the envy of many other medical research institutes," says Professor Tony Papenfuss, leader of the Computational Biology theme at WEHI and a laboratory head in the Bioinformatics division.

"But rapid advances in technologies and methodologies have led to an exponential increase in the volume and complexity of data being generated.

"More and more we're seeing laboratory and clinical research using a many-layered 'multiomics' approach to understanding disease and improving our ability to predict whether a patient will respond to treatment – and that has big implications for big data."

The field of multiomics integrates layers of data from multiple levels of biological function within a cell, providing incredibly detailed and precise understandings of cellular processes. Its impact has been likened to the difference in viewing experience between VHS videotape and full immersion virtual reality.

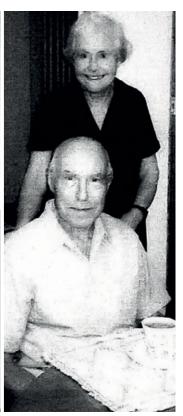
"Al and ML-based approaches give us vastly expanded capacity to analyse data, build new kinds of models, and drive discoveries that were not previously possible," Professor Papenfuss says.



ABOVE: Professor Tony Papenfuss, Theme Leader, Computational Biology, WEHI.
RIGHT: John and Pat Farrant.







Over 100 years of discoveries for humanity

For more than 100 years, medical researchers at Melbourne's WEHI – the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research – have been making life-changing discoveries so we can stay healthy as we get older.

Our success has been a shared journey supported by thousands of donors, many of whom have made gifts to WEHI in their Will.

It is these gifts that help us tackle the world's most complex health problems, including dementia and neurodegenerative diseases, so we can all live healthier, longer lives.

Together we can ensure future generations of Australians continue to benefit from world-class medical research and treatments.



For confidential enquiries about making a donation or leaving a gift in Will to WEHI, contact Heather Kiley in our Future Giving team 03 9345 2555 | kiley.a@wehi.edu.au



Vets Hub – Making it simpler and easier for veterans to take control of their financial wellbeing.



David Wilton is the National Manager of Defence and Veterans Liaison at Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) David is also the creator of the Vets Hub, a single front door dedicated to improving financial wellbeing for veterans and families through a collaborative network of support and information.

Since I last chatted with Greg T Ross for the 2023 summer edition, more changes have rolled out in CSC's ongoing transformation program.

These changes include some great news for those veterans who are medically transitioning from the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

As CSC continues to broaden its network of ecosystem supports for veterans, a new approach to medical transitions was designed in consultation with key stakeholders and with veterans. It's just one step in the fundamental reforms that are happening across Australia's veteran community.

What the CSC team have done is change the approach to working with veterans so that they have the opportunity to give support early, connect and partner with veterans through their transition and make sure their claims go as smooth as possible.

When advised by the ADF that veterans are medically transitioning, CSC will now take a proactive approach and reach out early to start the claims process. This is a change from the old way of doing things as it significantly reduces the complexity and challenges for medically transitioning veterans seeking to access financial support through their superannuation.

Key benefits for veterans and families include:

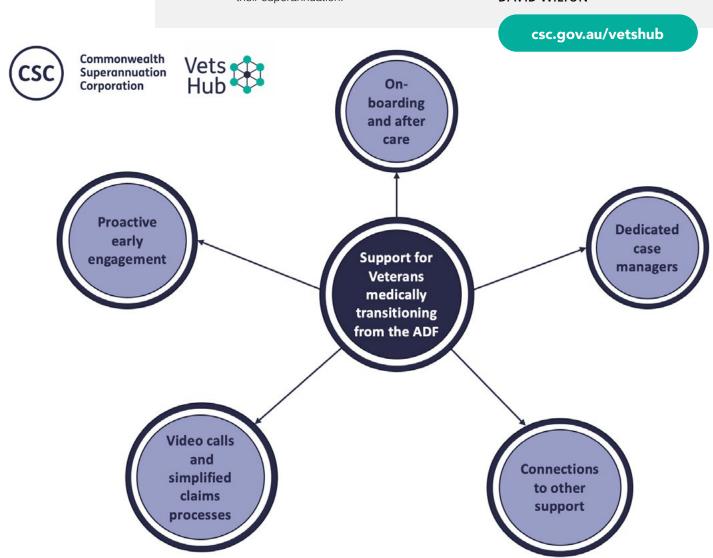
- earlier, more consistent and supportive engagement
- dedicated end to end case management
- · simplified claims processes
- face to face via video options, enabling veteran's to tell their story in their way
- on-boarding and aftercare for a better transition to life after service

Medical transition from the ADF can be a time of considerable change and challenging for some; I strongly encourage veterans to start their journey at ADF Medical Transition on the csc.gov.au website

Vets Hub and CSC acknowledge the sacrifice of all who have served, and their families, and those who continue to serve. Wherever we are on ANZAC Day 2023, we will remember them.

Lest we forget.

DAVID WILTON





Who will be there for you when health decisions are needed?

Advance Care Planning Australia is urging everyone to have brave conversations about their future health care preferences in case they cannot make their own decisions at the time.

More than 50% of Australians will be unable to make medical decisions at their end-of-life but only 15% of people have an advance care directive. If you couldn't make decisions for yourself, who would speak for you and what would they decide?

Tom, a Vietnam War veteran, had separated from his partner. The diagnosis of a terminal cancer rocked him and he realised he needed to plan for his death. He didn't want to choose voluntary assisted dying, but he knew the cancer might spread to his brain and affect his ability to make his own decisions.

He wrote his preferences in an advance care directive, including wanting to die at home with his dog Mac beside him. He wrote, "I know I might have to go to hospital, but please don't let me live beyond my

He discussed this with his brother, James, and appointed him as his substitute decision-maker for health decisions.

"I have asked James to give my kids letters I have written to tell them how much I love them. I trust James knows me well enough to speak up for me so hopefully I can have my wishes

respected at the end. Our Dad died with palliative care support and it was very peaceful. I want that when it's my time.

Tom died with palliative care support, with Mac and his adult kids gathered round his bedside with his favourite Chinese takeaway, telling Tom how much they loved him. It was the peaceful death he had wished for.

The time is now to choose your substitute decision-maker

Now is the time to talk about your future health care preferences and appoint a substitute decision-maker.

Visit advancecareplanning.org.au for more information or an email starter pack. For free advice or a printed starter pack, call the National Advance Care Planning Support Service: 1300 208 582 from 9am-5pm (AEST/AEDT) Monday-Friday.

The elephant in the aged care room

Change the model or nothing changes

As aged care advocates, we are encouraged that reforming the aged care system is still high on the agenda for government and for Australians. However, we are concerned that the current program of reform is not addressing the elephant in the room, or more to the point, the elephant in the rooms.



Your say, your rights in aged care

Help with aged care issues

Understanding aged care costs and fees

Having a say in your care

Free, Confidential, Independent

1800 700 600

www.adaaustralia.com.au



Put simply, the current model of institutionalised aged care fails as a model for ageing well.

Large multi-bed facility living is the reality for most in residential aged care under our current aged care system. For many there is no alternative. To really fix aged care this needs to change.

As we somewhat provocatively commented for a recent story about deinstitutionalising aged care in The Australian newspaper, worryingly, older Australians and prisoners are the only remaining cohorts supported in institutional settings. The disability and mental health sectors saw the benefits for people moving to community-based living and support decades ago, so why is residential aged care one of the last bastions of the institution?

Institutionalised care tends to foster the things we don't want for people in residential aged care. A loss of autonomy, freedom and purpose, as well as feeling isolated, and in worst case scenarios, abuse and neglect.

While aged care providers strive to deliver person-centred models of care in these environments, the above issues don't stem from intent but rather from the flaws inherent in institutional living – the need for routine, rules and a 'one size fits all' approach which can easily be applied to supporting large numbers of people through their day.

There needs to be political will for deinstitutionalisation of the aged care system but also importantly investment in innovation and planning for development and change.

I am calling on the Australian Government to quarantine just 10% of the aged care reform funding for this purpose to promote innovation – what would it take to move away from institution-like facilities being the mainstay of residential aged care?

The Older Persons Advocacy Network's (OPAN) Position Statement Deinstitutionalisation in Aged Care calls for a multifaceted approach to deinstitutionalisation which considers both the provision of adequate care and services in the home, and the need for greater investment in a diverse range of affordable, safe and accessible housing options to support older people to age in their community.

Care at home

We know older Australians want to remain in their own homes as long as possible. An effective and nimble home care program will support the preference to age in place and is a much more cost-effective model of care compared to residential care.

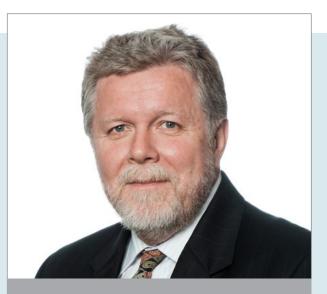
We are eagerly waiting for the Australian Government to reveal the new-look home care program from 1 July next year, which we hope addresses a number of issues.

People often end up in residential aged care because there is no other choice. The transition between hospital and inhome care fails multiple times each day. In-home support should be available when you need it and have the flexibility to easily scale up and down as needed.

We would also like to see the new home care program cater for older people who want to share supports in shared housing. The Aged Care Royal Commission made specific reference to the cohousing model, where multiple people live in one dwelling and share living spaces.

Investment in affordable and accessible housing

If you watch TV it can be easy to think there are lots of options for modern resort style retirement living where care is available as you age and may need it. However, this is assuming that older people own their own home and/or are self-funded retirees. For those on low incomes, residing in social housing or private rental accommodation, this is not an option. These older people are often overlooked or viewed as a small minority despite the rate of home ownership among older people decreasing.



Geoff Rowe is the CEO of Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia, the Queensland aged care advocacy provider under the Older Persons Advocacy Network of Australia. If you need information and support with your options for aged care, you can contact an aged care advocate in your state or territory on 1800 700 600.

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) advise there is an urgent need for innovation in the Australian housing market and suggest alternative housing models for low-income older Australian's that may include accessory dwellings, mobile and manufactured homes, collaborative housing, rental retirement villages, home share arrangements, and dual key housing, and that this will require commitment by both federal and state governments.

There are some examples of innovation in aged care and housing across the country, such as development of dementia villages, builds of new smaller facilities, and collaborations to build social housing for older people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. But these are the exception rather than the norm.

Changing current facilities

The Aged Care Royal Commission made recommendations for improving the design of aged care accommodation for older people. This will help for future builds but what can we do to change the facilities we have now?

There are examples of positive impacts which have been achieved with good interior design and refurbishment to make the most of space, light, colour, indoor and outdoor spaces.

Similarly, other things that make a facility feel more like home, such as being able to make your own cup of tea or coffee, sit in a reading room, or keep to your own schedule for personal care and meals would help with creating a greater sense of autonomy, choice and dignity for residents.

Of course, providing support safely in residential aged care facilities is a priority but one size does not fit all. Currently, there is little dignity of risk afforded to residents. Giving choice and control comes with more inherent risk which has to be accepted as part of being human.

Deinstitutionalisation of aged care is complex, but like those sectors that have gone before us, it is possible and necessary. If we don't take this opportunity to really change how we think about and deliver aged care, I fear we will end up with more of the same. Albeit an improved version, but one which remains the same at its core leaving us susceptible to yet another aged care crisis in the future.



Our understanding of the unique issues and circumstances affecting Defence families means we are able to fully represent your best interests while assisting you to reach a workable and holistic agreement after separation.

We understand that family separation can be a difficult time, particularly for those in the Defence Force who may be facing additional challenges such as deployment, relocation, and mental health issues. Just because these types of situations require careful planning and 'thinking outside the box' does not mean that parenting matters cannot be resolved cooperatively and amicably, with a focus on maintaining the coparenting relationship.

We understand the value of MSBS and/or DFRB entitlements and the impact of how they will be considered in a property division. We also have a thorough understanding of employee benefits, such as medical discharge pensions, rental allowances, mortgage and homeowner assistance schemes, retention bonuses, and posting allowances, and how they can be taken into consideration in a property settlement.

Our experienced family lawyers, Katrina Potter and Sarah Adams are dedicated to assisting Defence Force members and their families through every step of the separation process. They have the knowledge and expertise required to provide you with comprehensive legal advice and solutions. We can assist you with all aspects of family law, including property settlements, child custody arrangements, parenting orders, spousal maintenance and mediations.

At Donaldson Law, we are committed to helping Defence families achieve a positive and practical outcome. We provide a safe, confidential, and supportive environment where you can discuss your concerns and receive guidance on the best course of action for your specific circumstances.

Don't let family separation become an unnecessary burden for you and your loved ones. Contact Donaldson Law to learn more about our services and how we can help you. We are here to provide the legal support and guidance you need to navigate this challenging time with confidence and clarity.





Could you be eligible for military superannuation invalidity benefits?

Donaldson Law has helped many veterans who discharged as long ago as the early 1970s, to obtain invalidity benefits through the relevant military superannuation scheme. This has resulted in them receiving an ongoing pension as well as significant lump sum arrears payments, backdated to the date of their discharge.

Our concern is that there are likely many more veterans who suffered serious physical or psychiatric injury during their military service, who may not be aware that they could potentially access these significant benefits and are missing out on the entitlements they deserve.

What are military superannuation invalidity benefits?

Invalidity benefits are financial benefits provided to veterans who were discharged from service due to a medical condition or injury considered severe enough to prevent them from continuing their service. They are designed as a form of compensation for the veteran's loss of earning capacity as a result of their injury.

Invalidity benefits typically consist of ongoing payments in the form of a pension. The amount of the benefit will depend upon a variety of factors including the severity of the injury, and the veteran's earnings at the date of their separation.

It's worth noting that these benefits are separate from compensation payments through DVA, or through common law claims for damages. Commonwealth Superannuation (ComSuper) is the agency responsible for the administration of military superannuation invalidity benefits.

What if the veteran was not discharged on grounds of invalidity?

The usual process when a veteran is discharged on the grounds of medical invalidity, is that ComSuper must consider (known as classified) whether their invalidity (injury) has interfered with their ability to use their skills and experience in the civilian workforce. If their invalidity has significantly impacted on their civilian work opportunities then they may be classified as entitled to invalidity benefits which are paid as a regular pension.

In most cases, this classification occurs around the time of separation, so most veterans who were medically discharged have already been through this process.

However, most of the veterans we assist were discharged on grounds other than medical invalidity. They were unaware that they could also be entitled to these benefits, through a multi-step process of firstly asking the ADF to reconsider the circumstances of their discharge. Whilst no-one can "rewind and redo" what has happened in the past, in appropriate cases the ADF is willing to recognise that the veteran could have been eligible for a medical discharge, which in turn allows us to ask ComSuper to classify the veteran for invalidity benefits.

The law requires that invalidity payments are backdated to the date of their discharge, so in the case of men and women who discharged decades ago this has resulted in a lump sum payment of hundreds of thousands of dollars, in addition to the ongoing invalidity pension.

Could you be eligible?

There are multiple different military superannuation schemes in operation, depending upon the timeframe of a veteran's service, including the Defence Force Retirement Benefits Act 1948, the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973 and the Military Superannuation and Benefits Act 1991. This makes the process quite complex and difficult to understand. It is not surprising that many veterans have never considered that they might be eligible, especially if they were not discharged on the grounds of invalidity, and their separation may have happened many years in the past.

Every veteran's circumstances require individual consideration, such as which scheme applies, the minimum service requirements and whether there are any exclusionary factors. However, there are some general guidelines that will help you to know if you should be getting further advice about whether you may be eligible. If:

- a. you suffered a physical or psychiatric injury during your service which has been diagnosed by a medical expert (eg in a DVA claim, or a common law claim for damages); and
- b. there is likely to be evidence in your ADF records that you were already suffering that injury at the time of your separation; and
- c. the injury was serious enough that you could have been medically separated; and
- d.the injury has prevented you from using your skills and experience in civilian work,

then we may be able to assist you to obtain invalidity benefits, resulting in not only a hefty payment of arrears, but also an ongoing pension into the future.

"...A LAWYER SPECIALISING IN MILITARY SUPERANNUATION CAN PROVIDE EXPERT LEGAL ADVICE AND ADVOCACY THAT MAY INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION."

Donaldson Law is a veteran-owned specialist firm with a proven track record of achieving outstanding results for veterans who never even realised that they could bring such a claim. We operate on a no win-no fee basis, and if the claim is successful, our fees (which are also tax deductible) are paid from the arrears payment that the veteran receives.

This makes seeking advice from us a risk-free opportunity for veterans who think they could have been medically discharged and may be missing the benefits they deserve.

What is the process of seeking invalidity benefits?

There are three separate steps to the process, and veterans must pass through all steps to achieve invalidity benefits:

- Apply to the ADF for a declaration that the veteran could have discharged on the grounds of medical invalidity (often referred to as a retrospective change of discharge);
- If that succeeds, apply to ComSuper to verify that the declaration by the ADF is sufficient for military superannuation purposes;
- 3. Request ComSuper to classify the veteran and allocate them either Class A, B or C.

Class C classifications do not result in any payments, but Classes A or B result in both arrears payments, and an entitlement to a regular payment by way of ongoing invalidity benefits pension.

Who can help you?

Free advocates can and often do provide valuable support to veterans, however a lawyer specialising in military superannuation can provide expert legal advice and advocacy that may increase the likelihood of a successful application. A lawyer experienced in this area will have a deep understanding of the complex laws and regulations and processes surrounding military superannuation.

Lawyers are trained to gather and analyse evidence, and to build strong cases, potentially identifying legal arguments and angles that a free advocate may not be aware of. They will have the time and expertise to provide advice and guidance that a free advocate may not be able to offer.

BY LISA KINDER

Principal Solicitor, Donaldson Law





As the Airbus banked over southern England it afforded us a glimpse of the snow-covered countryside – white meadows with dark hedgerow borders sliced by black highways infested with glistening speeding cars like beetles on a caffeine high. London itself was a lumpy sea of white covered rooftops.

But we weren't to explore the riches of London just yet. My daughter met us at Heathrow and soon we were barreling towards her hometown of Leamington Spa in Warwick.

Royal Leamington Spa (the Royal is because the Queen Victoria visited there) is a beautiful spa town which Victorians would visit and "take the waters".

Our first walk into Leamington Spa on a frosty morning was on icy white crunchy pavements that led us past the town fountains frozen into cones of ice a metre high that spouted water. Then past the magnificent gothic All Saints cathedral. To our delight the bells were pealing a delightful din. The church is thought to have started life in the 12th century but the existing building was built between 1843 and 1860.

Our next foray was into Birmingham for the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas market. The city centre is filled with wooden German replica stalls selling gluwein, beer (of course!) schnapps and a hundred different sorts of German street food as well as a plethora of german crafty products.

Next... London (where else!) to take in a Panto at the Palladium (Jack and the Beanstalk with Dawn French, Julian Clary and Nigel Havers) and then a day at the British Museum walking amongst Egyptian mummies, ancient Persian artifacts not hundreds

but thousands of years old and the fascinating history of the mechanical marvel – the clock!

An overnight train trip to Edinburgh to experience the Hogmanay spirit of Scotland and a day at Edinburgh Castle which was repeatedly lost and retaken by the Scots followed by a bus trip through the Highlands, Glencoe and to Loch Ness was our New Years' experience.

Lastly to the City of Spires – Oxford. My daughter had organized a walking tour/treasure trail ala Inspector Morse around Oxford which, needless to say, involved an unscheduled stop at an 800 year old pub, The Turf Tavern whose motto is "an education in intoxication" which had seen Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor on sneaky secret dates!

STAN WILSON



Discover New Caledonia

To be different from everyone else, to enjoy multiple holidays in one and to unravel the mysteries of this unique archipelago protected by the world's largest lagoon.

Hidden in the middle of the Pacific to the east of Australia, New Caledonia is a vast, unique and diverse French overseas territory offering an exceptional variety of landscapes, cultures and activities. Nouméa is a modern coastal capital with lots to offer. The islands are picture-postcard perfect with their paradise beaches. The lush East Coast is alive with the Kanak spirit. The West Coast is an opportunity to explore the authentic Wild West inhabited by "bushmen". Finally, the Great South is an adventurer's paradise with its myriad of outdoor activities.

newcaledonia.travel/au



Join Chef Christophe and Josephine on a gourmet tour of New Caledonia. Experiences on offer include visits to cultural centres, the hospitality school, the harbour market, restaurants, shops and producers.

- Five nights luxury accommodation at the Hilton Noumea La Promenade Residences – enjoy the magnificent view of Anse Vata beach and L'île aux canards from the balcony of your luxury apartment
- Fully chartered coach transport
- Full breakfast daily, three lunches with wine and two dinners with wine
- All cooking classes and demonstrations
- All entrance fees, visits, entertainment and gratuities
- Games of petanque with French Champagne and cheese

All for \$3900 per person double, twin or single room.

Not included: airfares to/from New Caledonia, insurance, personal items, personal transport, food and beverages not included above.

See website for all details and upcoming dates.



Your hosts

For Chef Christophe and Josephine, New Caledonia is a culinary match made in heaven. They met and married there, when Christophe was working as a culinary teacher with Escoffier and Josephine as a health promotion specialist with the Secretariat of the Pacific Commission.

It's no wonder they're keen to share their love for the place and their wealth of local knowledge with tour guests.

Chef Christophe and Josephine have been conducting small group gourmet food and wine tours since 2007. They both organise and accompany each tour, ensuring their guests' peace of mind, comfort and enjoyment.

Men Caledonia



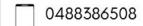
Fully guided gournet tour by chef Christophe & Josephine

BOOK NOW!



OTO	2 2 2 2 2 2	. 120		114-03	
$(\Pi\Pi)$	www.chefchrist	opheand	iose	phine.co	om.au
UHU.			,		



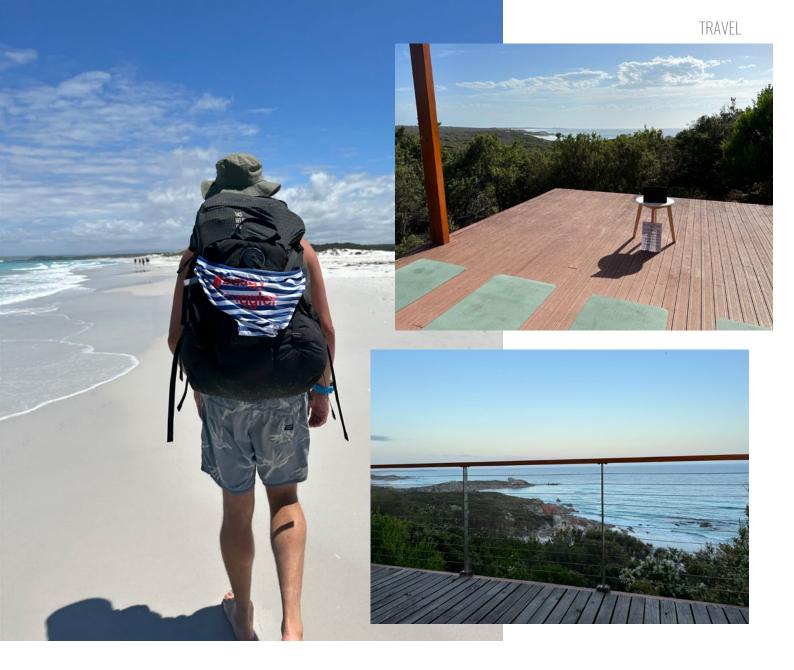




interesting and fun people. The 10km beach stroll on day 1 got them to an eco-luxury beach camp for the first night, before continuing the beach stroll on day 2 to Tasmanian Walking Company's environmentally sensitive luxury lodge for nights 2 and 3. Day 3 was less about walking and more about kayaking with a 5 km guided kayak along Ansons River before returning to the lodge for a dip in the ocean and soak in the foot spas. The final day was about enjoying the Lodge and its beautiful surrounds before a 3km inland walk to the bus

Heath and Jackie recommend the Bay of Fires walk to anybody looking to completely disconnect, relax and reset while taking in some of the best scenery Tasmania has to offer and relishing the region's food and wine. Heath describes the experience as the never ending beach stroll everyone needs to take!

Heath is a Co-founder and Managing Director of GSA Management Consulting.





A 50% VETERAN-OWNED BOUTIQUE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES ACROSS DEFENCE, GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR



Support in developing, planning or reviewing your organisational, business unit, or functional strategy.



Service Delivery Improvement

GSA works shoulder-toshoulder with your organisation to design and implement changes that deliver results.



Governance, Risk and Compliance

Ensuring your organisation is effectively governed and that risk is optimised to meet strategic outcomes.













100 THE LAST POST – 2023 ANZAC DAY EDITION

Widely considered the birthplace of the Anzac legend, Albany has a deeply rooted connection to World War 1.

In late 1914 the first two convoys departed from Albany's shores taking more than 41,000 Australians and New Zealanders to war, with many never to return.

Sitting atop Mt Adelaide, the National Anzac Centre overlooks the harbour from which these convoys departed, creating a strong sense of place looking out across the magnificent views of King George Sound.

The National Anzac Centre allows visitors to explore this story through a layered and interactive experience, creating a cultural pilgrimage to honour the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought in the Great War.

On entry, visitors can select a character card which unlocks the interactive experience throughout the Centre.

These cards allow each guest to discover the unique journey of one of the 32 featured individuals by immersing themselves in their story.

By sharing their stories, visitors can gain a deeper understanding of the impact that war has on individuals and communities, and the lasting legacy it has left on our society.

The Albany Heritage Park surrounding the National Anzac Centre offers natural, cultural, historical and adventure-based experiences free of charge to add depth to the stories presented in the Centre.

Taking in the views from the Padre White Lookout, paying a visit to the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, or exploring the Barracks Building will enhance each visitors understanding of the Anzac legend.

Albany has since become one of Australia's top heritage destinations, providing visitors with a deeper appreciation of the impact war has on society as well as at an individual level.

Book your visit today, by visiting www.nationalanzaccentre.com.au







Kalgoorlie-Boulder is a city well known for the pride it places on its unique and fascinating history.

From its early days as a prospector's paradise the twin towns of Kalgoorlie and Boulder grew rapidly into a thriving early-20th Century metropolis.

Endowed with the region's workmanlike spirit and with the riches of the Golden Mile at its disposal, the Municipality of Boulder completed its magnificent town hall in June 1908. The elegant Federation Free Style building features a grand ballroom, stately council chambers and the opulent Goatcher Curtain. It's no wonder that visitors often say they feel like they've stepped back in time!

Nestled comfortably inside the building's old public library is the Goldfields War Museum. The newly redeveloped museum opened in March 2019, brings together an intriguing collection of artefacts, documents, military equipment and uniforms to present captivating and heartbreaking stories of our region's men and women both in the armed forces and on the home front. It also tells the stories of the impact of war on the Goldfields community. The Boulder Town Hall has a long and proud military association with the Goldfields community. During the First and Second World Wars the town hall was used to host many fundraising and patriotic events. Boulder citizens gathered in the hall on Sunday afternoons to farewell departing soldiers and welcome home those who had recently returned. On 13 June 1920, a bronze and marble honour roll containing the names of 245 Boulder names was unveiled in the town hall foyer to commemorate the fallen, 1914 - 1919.

This is a region that's especially proud of its history built on the early prospecting pioneers' Paddy Hannan, Daniel Shea and Tom Flanagan and not forgetting the visionary John Forrest and C. Y. O'Connor, to

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Local History Archives occupies the former civic offices of the Boulder Town Hall. A wealth of exceptional records and an on-site archivist and military historian can help researchers (and the curious) to uncover all aspects of local and military history as well as family connections to the Goldfields region.

The best way to experience the **Boulder Town Hall** and the **Goldfields War Museum** is via guided tours:

Tuesday & Thursday: 10:30am Thursday: 1:30pm

The Boulder Town Hall is open:

Monday - Friday: 10:00am - 4:00pm Saturday: 9:00am - 1:00pm

For more information on our services, opening hours and tours, please contact:

t: (08) 9021 9817

e: mailbag@ckb.wa.gov.au

w: www.ckb.wa.gov.au



BECOME A KOALA CRUSADER TODAY!

This is your opportunity to directly contribute to the preservation of koalas in the Port Stephens region. When you become a Port Stephens KOALA (RUSADER, a contribution goes towards ensuring long-term rehabilitation, preservation and conservation of koalas in the wild.

For only \$129.00 become a Port Stephens KOALA CRUSADER and receive the below inclusions.

GIFT BOX INCLUDES

A STATE OF THE STA

- **\$129**

BUY NOW ONLINE SCAN OR CODE BELOW



The Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary is offering koala lovers the opportunity to become a KOALA CRUSADER.

Holiday Parks Section Manager Kim Latham said that koala lovers can directly contribute to the long-term preservation of the species in the Port Stephens region by becoming a KOALA CRUSADER.

"When they become a KOALA CRUSADER they take the pledge to 'educate and encourage all to better understand the plight facing koalas today, and to do whatever possible to ensure their long-term survival in the wild'," she said.

"KOALA CRUSADERS receive various 'goodies', including a 12 month Annual Entry Pass, a pledge certificate, plush Koala, baseball cap, lapel pin, sticker and writing pen.

"Most importantly our KOALA CRUSADERS make a direct financial contribution to the Port Stephens Koala Hospital.

"When a KOALA CRUSADER visits the Sanctuary they'll also get plenty of additional perks like 10% off souvenirs, food and beverage purchased at Fat Possum Café, and a 10% discount off onsite accommodation.

"A decade ago we counted koalas in this region in the thousands, but today their population numbers are in the hundreds. Ongoing financial support is vitally important to support population growth in the species," Ms Latham said.

Purchase a Port Stephens KOALA CRUSADER pack for family or friends this Christmas and directly contribute to the long-term preservation of Port Stephens koalas in the wild. Packs are \$129.00.

The Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary is a partnership between Port Stephens Council, the NSW Government and volunteer care group Port Stephens Koala Hospital. Its focus is on conservation and protecting the threatened species for years to come.



For more information about becoming a Port Stephens KOALA CRUSADER visit: portstephenskoalasanctuary.com.au

The Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary is open daily from 9am to 5pm (except Christmas Day).



Bali Hai RESORT & SPA

CABLE BEACH

6 Murray Road Cable Beach, 6726

reception@balihairesort.com balihairesort.com

Accommodation: (08) 9191 3100

Spa: **(08) 9191 3155** Cafe: **(08) 9191 3160**

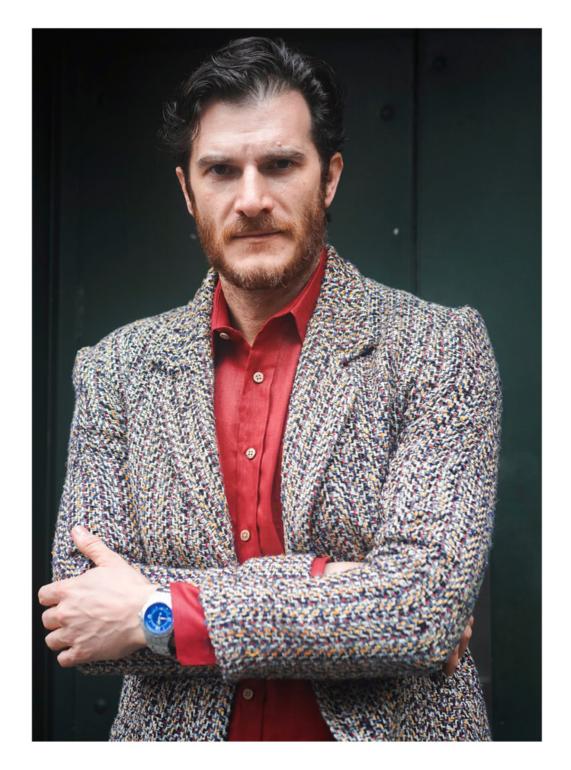












SYDNEY | MELBOURNE | NEW YORK NEWPORT BEACH, CA

AUTHENTICALLY AUSTRALIAN
NATURALLY INSPIRED
HAND CRAFTED
ABSOLUTE INDIVIDUALIST

joebananas.com.au