



# Combat Supporter Winter 2017

## *President's Report*

Welcome to the Winter 2017 edition of *Combat Supporter*. I trust we are all looking forward to the end of the winter chill which is not too far away. Your association has been extremely active over the past 8 months within the Defence community and ex service organization environs providing welfare support and advice, representing at commemorative services and continuing to establish the association presence locally and nationally.

CSA has provided welfare support to four individual members of Air Force Combat Support personnel, one Air Force family, and supported Amberley Health Centre in preparing for a Combined Joint Health Unit South Queensland Dining In. A request was received from the South Queensland Regional Manager of Defence Community Organization requesting a donation of a raffle prize to support the fund-raising activities of 15 Amberley based personnel participating in the ADF Long Ride 2017. CSA could support the request and has provided a limited-edition WW 1 Bear with Medals as our contribution to the raffle prizes.



The CSA President represented the Association at the RAAF Amberley

ANZAC Day 2017

and Trish Lomas represented the Association at the Ipswich RSL Sub Branch Wreath Laying Service. I was joined by over 20 members of the Combat Support Association at the Brisbane ANZAC Day Parade and enjoyed the camaraderie and fellowship afterwards at the Central Hotel Platform Bar of both current and ex -service colleagues.

On the 04 Jun 2017, I represented the Association at the Bomber Command Commemorative Service held at Amberley, attended the DFWA Seminar held at Victoria Barracks on the 14 Jun 17, the Reserve



Forces Day Reception held at the Victoria Barracks Brisbane 30 Jun 2017 and the ESO Information Forum on the 02 Aug 2017 hosted by RSL QLD and Legacy with guest speakers from Department of Veteran Affairs and Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation.

Every fourth Thursday in the month representatives of CSA and Ipswich Veteran Support group man an information booth at AAFCANS at Amberley between the hours of 0900-1200. I am looking for any additional CSA volunteers to assist in the roster and potentially increase our presence at the other three Canteen sites on base. Preference is given to members who can access the base without escort. I would also like to look at other potential CSA activities to engage with the military dependency, suggestions are welcome.

CSA received a request from an AF family to supply a patient lifter for a family member. CSA joined with Defence Special Needs Support Group and



Walk on Wheels Ipswich to source, supply and purchase the lifter on the 28 Jul 2017. Special Thanks to Kim Collins Defence Special Needs Group

National Coordinator and Donor Partners (Defence Health, Navy Health and Aspen Medical) and Lauren and Staff from Walk on Wheels Ipswich.

As a network-centric association CSA continues to establish relationships with like- minded ESO's and other agencies who have and hold similar objectives to our association and who are capable of providing services that support the association objectives and meet the needs of our members. Initial engagement and exploring mutual support options is occurring with a veteran owned employment support organization *With You With Me*.

[www.withyouwithme.com.au](http://www.withyouwithme.com.au) whose service would

support our establishment of a CSA transition management program.

Our ability to fund raise sufficient funds to support our association welfare objectives requires a whole of association effort. I firstly would like to thank Rob W, Geoff, Warren and the volunteers who gave of their time during the ANZAC Day Badge sales. We will be manning the same sites for Remembrance Day. At this stage selling will occur at Bunnings Springfield on the weekend 28-29 Oct and all sites from 04-10 Nov 2017. I ask that all association members consider giving some time to assist in our welfare fund raising activities; even if you can only give a few hours it all helps. If you can offer any time at all please talk to Rob Wadley or email the Secretary.

Wounded Heroes have invited CSA to be a sponsor for Wounded Heroes Diary 2018. Sponsorship includes either a full-page or shared page ad. The diary will be distributed across the three services at Enoggera, Amberley and Bulimba. Ipswich Veteran Support Group has agreed to equally share the cost for a full page colored ad to be ready for inclusion in the diary by 31 August 2017.

I remain available to discuss any issues, concerns or ideas for our association's continued development.

Ross Wadsworth

**President CSA**

[president@combatsupportassociation.org.au](mailto:president@combatsupportassociation.org.au)



Ross Wadsworth and Rob Wardley with Bremer State High School year 12 Defence Mentors and student leaders.

Combat Support Association joined with Ipswich RSL and Queensland University Squadron in donating to the Bremer State High School Defence resilience excursion 2018, called Emu Gully Defence Day. The purpose is to assist Bremer SHS' program for Defence families with their unique struggles and needs. *(Pic and story courtesy Bremer Pride 8 August 2017)*. See also a letter of appreciation from Bremer SHS, attached below at the back of the newsletter.

## Secretary's Coordination Notes

Please address all correspondence to the Secretary [secretary@combatsupportassociation.org.au](mailto:secretary@combatsupportassociation.org.au)

Our CSA website has been updated to include some useful links

<http://www.combatsupportassociation.org.au>

**Volunteers** are sought to help with badge sales for Remembrance Day 2017. Locations with planned dates are:

- Bunnings Springfield 28-29 Oct, 4-10 Nov
- Bunnings West Ipswich 4-5 Nov
- Springfield Fair 4-11 Nov
- Redbank Plaza 4-11 Nov
- Yamanto Village 4-11 Nov

Please contact the Secretary or Rob Wadley to volunteer ([robhwadley@yahoo.com](mailto:robhwadley@yahoo.com))

**General Meetings** are held on the third Thursday of each month at either South-Eastern District (SED) RSL, 42 Oxdale Street, New Farm 4005, or at the Aviation Heritage Centre RAAF Amberley. Agenda items should be sent to the Secretary who will confirm details prior to each meeting.

**AGM 19 October** RAAF Amberley

- Agenda items to the secretary please

**Christmas function** 9 Dec 17 Venue TBC

**CSA Merchandise** Ross has negotiated with Ipswich Embroidery (web [ipswichembroidery.com.au](http://ipswichembroidery.com.au)) for individual purchase of CSA polos and jackets.

Prices (include pocket size logo and GST):

Contrast polo (pic) \$35 each

Selected jackets \$41 to \$88

Jackets are in the Winning Spirit range on the website.

See Secretary email dated 18 May 2017 for more details, or contact Glenda via the address given at the website. *(pic courtesy Ross Wadsworth)*



Dave Pepper

**Secretary CSA**



## From the Editor

There's plenty for you to read and hopefully, enjoy in the *Winter 2017 Combat Supporter*.

Quite obviously, from the variety of articles and inputs to this edition, our Association has an active presence in the community and our executives and Committee Members are continually working hard for us. They deserve our thanks, and a nod to say well done.

Apart from the uncirculated 50 cent coin (pic courtesy [ramint.gov.au](http://ramint.gov.au)) and a commemorative stamp set, not much has been made in Australia of the Centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele. Even a cursory study, as in the short article below, shows that our involvement in this WW1 battle was significant and our losses horrific (nearly 20,000 more casualties than were suffered at Gallipoli).



One little publicized gesture has been the return of the Australian War Memorial's lions to Ypres (Belgium) for the commemorations. The lions, which sit at the entrance to the War Memorial (pic below, courtesy [awm.gov.au](http://awm.gov.au)), were gifted to Australia by the Burgomaster of Ypres in 1936 as a gesture of friendship and gratitude. Previously, the two lions had guarded the Menin gate, Ypres' east exit and road to the battlefields of Flanders, but were toppled and damaged by the war. Allied soldiers moving to the battlefields would all have passed through Menin Gate and by the lions. The lions are due to be returned to Canberra after Armistice Day, 11 November 2017 (pic above, loading on RAAF C-17, courtesy [cwgc.com](http://cwgc.com)).



Menin Gate Memorial (pic above right, courtesy [cwgc.org](http://cwgc.org)) replaced the lions after WW1. Names of the missing, grouped by country, unit and rank



extend from under the archway and up stairways to either side, but still the space is not adequate for the numbers missing. A cutoff date of 17 August 1917 was applied, which the Australians duly ignored. The picture, taken during a recent commemoration (notice the falling red poppies) gives an indication of the size of the Memorial.

The local Ypres fire brigade has conducted a last-post ceremony at the Menin Gate each evening since 1928 (WW2 excepted) and allows anyone to lay a wreath if prearranged.

*Until a Dead Horse Kicks You* is Alec Griffiths' story, one of Australia's longest-lived WW1 veterans. Although I haven't yet read the book (it's on order) Alec served with the Flying Corps and was among around thirty of 3 Squadron AFC ground radio operators attached to artillery units at Passchendaele. More to come in a later newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the article on the US Dakota crashes, promised some time back. Several RAAF names appear on the passenger lists, no survivors, and some of their Units indicate they may be combat supporters. Indeed, I frequently find names of war dead who I think may be combat supporters. I do try to feature some brief bios in *Combat Supporter*, but perhaps it's time that we formalized it more and started a Roll of Honour, maybe for our website.

It would be difficult to complete and may never be declared thus, because of the historically diverse nature of combat support. Nonetheless, it would still be a meaningful list for most of us.

I'm keen to hear your thoughts. For mine, a start point at least would be the research that I already do and data I already hold. Assistance from a Canberra resident or frequent visitor would be very beneficial.

Feedback is always welcome, as are articles, requests and features for *Combat Supporter*.

Graham O'Brien, Editor



## *He is not missing, He is here*

2017 marks the centenary of the Third Battle of Ypres, or the Battle of Passchendaele as it is also called, after the final objective reached by the Allies in the series of battles.

Ypres is an iconic WW1 city, a small part of Belgium held by the Allies, breaking the conformity of the front line as it jutted deep into German held territory. Known as the Ypres Salient, an area of no more than 100 square km, it is tabletop flat except for a few small hills and gentle ridges that were the military objectives of some of the bloodiest battles of WW1.

A series of battles was fought from June to November 1917 to regain territory in the salient around Ypres, which itself had been bombarded by German artillery from 1914. Ypres was the gateway to the battlefields for the Allies but it was also within enemy artillery range and mostly lay in ruins.

The AIF were prominent in the Ypres battles of 1917, at Messines Ridge in June, the Menin Road and Polygon Wood in September, Broodseinde Ridge in October and Passchendaele into November. Weather conditions were ok at first but deteriorated terribly with the early onset of winter rains in October, turning the final Passchendaele battlefield to mud.

Casualties were horrific; over 400,000 British and 200,000 Germans killed or wounded, nearly 45,000 Australian casualties from June, including over 6,000 killed. Many were lost in the mud and were never found.

Several combat supporters were among the casualties at Passchendaele; ground radio operators of 3 Squadron attached to the RFC in advance of the AFC's arrival in France.

*He is not missing He is here* is attributed to British Field Marshal Lord Plumer at the July 1927 inauguration of the Menin Gate memorial (pic bottom, far left), the largest memorial for war dead



on Belgium's battlefields. Over 53,000 names are recorded here, of soldiers with no known grave, nearly half of them Australian. Tyne Cot, on the gentle Broodseinde Ridge leading into Passchendaele, is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world with nearly 12,000 graves (about 1400 Australians, more than any other WW1 cemetery). The Cross of Sacrifice (at center in pic at left) is built over one of the many German pillboxes that resisted the Allied advance on this gentle ridge. The inscription reads *This was the Tyne Cot blockhouse captured by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division 4<sup>th</sup> October 1917*. The wall behind the central Cross of Sacrifice (visible at back, 1 to r across pic) records another 35,000 names of men with no known grave, killed in the Battle of Passchendaele. There simply wasn't ample space on the Menin Gate Memorial for all the missing.

NZ names are also recorded on the NZ Memorial at

The Buttes Cemetery in Polygon Wood (left, pic taken from 5 Div memorial atop The Buttes looking toward Polygon Wood, NZ memorial at centre) and Messines Ridge, to the south of Ypres. Polygon Wood was cleared

by the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Divisions AIF on 26 September 1917.

Advancing behind a slowly creeping artillery barrage, they captured dozens of pillboxes and machine gun posts, won two VCs and

suffered nearly 5,500 casualties. Their final objective, the most heavily defended, was The Buttes but it was abandoned at the first sight of the advancing troops. Polygon Wood was barren in 1917, from over two years of shelling (pic above right, off the plaque c. 1920 looks back at The Buttes from graves, notice 5 Div Memorial obelisk atop Buttes and the German defensive works at base). Of the 564 Australians buried here, 407 are unidentified. *Editor (pics by editor, map from Wikipedia)*



## Vale Rob Reidlinger

15 March 1945- 9 July 2017



Rob held a multitude of posts in his 31 years of RAAF service, as a Clerk Supply and as a Supply Officer.

His postings included 7SD Toowoomba, 2SD Regents Park, RAAF Butterworth, Headquarters Support Command, RAAF Wagga, Headquarters Air Command, RAAF Tindal and RAAF Amberley. He deployed in October 1999 with INTERFET to East Timor as the senior catering officer with the Logistic Support Force.

He was awarded the Australian Active Service Medal (East Timor), the INTERFET medal, the Australian Service Medal (SE Asia), the Defence Force Service Medal (3 clasps), the Defence Medal and the Returned from Active Service Badge.

Rob and Marge have many close friends in the Combat Support community.

Rest in Peace dear friend.

**35 Squadron** celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. An evening function is planned for 15 September 2017 at Castle Hill NSW. Anyone interested in attending the celebrations should contact the organisers directly, by email at [ric35sqn75th.birthday@defence.gov.au](mailto:ric35sqn75th.birthday@defence.gov.au)

Number 35 Squadron was formed in March 1942 and operated C-47 Dakota transports throughout the SW Pacific and in northern Australia during WW2.

Disbanded after the war in 1946, No. 35 Squadron was reformed in 1966 for operations in Vietnam. Equipped with the De Havilland

Caribou DHC-4 in the tactical transport role, it became known as Wallaby Airlines for its squadron callsign, Wallaby.

In 1972 35 Squadron relocated to Richmond

and later, in 1976 to Townsville as a composite squadron, equipped with both Caribou fixed wing and Iroquois helicopters.

35 Squadron continued to operate Caribous after Army became responsible for rotary wing operations in late 1989. In 2000, when its ageing Caribous were transferred to its sister squadron, 38 Squadron, it became a squadron in name only until, in 2013, it began acceptance of the Alenia C-27J Spartan aircraft. (pics Google, Wikipedia for background)





## USAAF crashes in Australia 1943

Australia's worst air disaster, for lives lost, was a USAAF B-17 Flying Fortress that crashed at Bakers Creek near Mackay (QLD) on 14 June 1943. There was just one survivor among the 41 personnel on board. The B-17, a veteran of the war in the Philippines, had been converted from bomber to troop carrier to ferry troops to and from New Guinea, in this case for R&R purposes.



The cause of the crash is unknown. The B-17 had just taken off for Port Moresby from Mackay airport, pre-dawn in foggy conditions. It had apparently circled at low level, possibly to overfly the airfield but crashed in scrub on what is now the site of Borthwick's Abattoir. Wartime censorship meant that the accident was not reported in the media. The next-of-kin were simply advised that their servicemen had been killed in an air crash in the South West Pacific. The sole survivor, who had married an Australian in 1945, passed away in Wichita Falls USA in 2004, age 83. A memorial was erected at Bakers Creek in May 1992, and another on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June 2003 (pic at right). USAF personnel make a regular official pilgrimage to the crash site.



Five US Dakotas crashed in north Queensland in 1943, all following the Bakers Creek crash and all resulting in serious loss of life.

The worst was just six days before Christmas on 19 December 1943 at Canal Creek, about 30 miles north of Rockhampton. On route from Townsville to Rockhampton, the aircraft suffered an engine fire and appears to have lost a wing. Eye-witnesses said it fell in a spin and exploded on impact, killing all 31 on board including eleven Australians, two RAAF LACs among them. (wreckage pic at right). The first commemorative service for the Canal Creek crash was held at the crash site in December 2003, after sixty years. A



memorial was erected by the local community in 2012 (pic at right courtesy [qldwarmemorials.com.au](http://qldwarmemorials.com.au)).



On 7 August 1943, 27 people died when a US Dakota crashed into Cleveland Bay, off Townsville, 20 minutes after a pre-dawn take-off. A memorial was unveiled at Kissing Point on



Jeppine Barracks in Townsville during VP60 Commemorations in August 2005. The niece of the pilot (pic at left) attended the dedication ceremony, along with US

and Australian military representatives, current and former (myself and Stu Cameron included).

Two Dakotas crashed in November 1943, the first at Springsure (200 miles west of Rockhampton near Carnarvon Gorge) on 16 November with 22 persons on board, 7 RAAF among the 17 Australians. The cause is undetermined but the aircraft, on route from Bachelor to Archerfield via Cloncurry, is thought to have disintegrated in a violent thunderstorm. Oddly, there are now three

memorials to this crash; the one pictured at right was dedicated in 2004 at nearby Rolleston.



The second US

Dakota to crash in November 1943, was on the 21<sup>st</sup>, near Monto west of Bundaberg. All 13 persons on board died, including 7 Australians (two RAAF). The wreckage was not found until after the war, in June 1948. No cause is stated but based on the scattered wreckage and weather conditions at the time, it's thought that the aircraft probably disintegrated in flight. A funeral was held in July 1948 at Bundaberg.

The fifth US Dakota crash was on 19 October 1943 about 70 miles north of Cloncurry, on the road to Normanton. The aircraft was due to refuel at Cloncurry on its way from Fenton NT to Townsville, but was caught in a violent storm. There were no passengers aboard but all five US crew died. The crash site is still visible by the roadside. Editor ([sources.ozatwar.com](http://sources.ozatwar.com), [monumentsaustralia.org.au](http://monumentsaustralia.org.au), [qldwarmemorials.com.au](http://qldwarmemorials.com.au))

## Welfare Corner

### OVERWATCH AUSTRALIA



[OVERWATCH AUSTRALIA](#) (OWA) Inc. is a not for profit national organisation tasked to reach out and assist current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families.

**Their primary mission is to take a "boots on the ground" approach to assist personnel who are in danger of self-harm, are in hospital or just need someone to visit. It also guides people in the right direction for services such as veterans who are in trouble with the law, or are in financial difficulties which Overwatch does not provide.**

The Overwatch concept and organisation was initiated by Kyle Tyrrell, Kevin Lanaghan, Dean Bliss and Paul Sexton who in early 2013 reacted to a spate of suicides within the veterans' community.

They initially created an RAR Overwatch as a 24/7 response and support organisation for former members of Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) and 2 Commando Regiment. Its success soon expanded to today's OVERWATCH AUSTRALIA with cover to all military services (Army, Navy and Air Force) with the aim of providing peer to peer support, Navy to Navy, Army to Army and Air Force to Air Force.

OWA is one of very few crisis organisations that pro-actively identifies and communicates direct with those in need of crisis assistance rather than waiting for them to ask for help.

It has two volunteer member classes: gatherers of information and first responders. Most volunteers are former or current serving members of the ADF.

Overwatch members are constantly looking on social media for "cries for help" and when discovered the Command Team will, on verification, task the nearest First Responders to act speedily. A 1800 number (1800 699 2824) is another avenue for asking for assistance. This number is manned 24/7 by experienced, senior, Response Coordinators.

Each state and territory is an Area of Operations that is run by a State Co-ordinator. A list is kept of persons who are willing to respond to an incident, SOP's are drafted and strictly adhered to, triple 0 is automatically notified with details gathered by the team if any suicidal action is suspected of being committed.

Due to the nature of the work every OWA volunteer is carefully vetted before acceptance. First Responders are trained in the DVA Operation Life suicide prevention course.

Once engaged, OWA will act as a bridge to alert public support services (ambulance, police, health, welfare, community, etc.), VVCS and relevant Ex Services Organisations who are able to assist with ongoing support.

Today, OVERWATCH AUSTRALIA has an expanding national support network of over 5000 volunteers (3700 Observers and 1,528 First Responders).

To understand more about us and get family and friends participating in current issues and trends you can follow our Facebook community page.

<https://m.facebook.com/OverwatchAustralia/>

For ex serving and/or serving members they can apply to join RAAF Overwatch by following this link <https://m.facebook.com/groups/800244576711274>

Once they have asked to join the group an admin will undertake a process for verifying their service and tell them a bit more about becoming first responders.

The Combat Support Organisation endorses OWA and encourages all members and their families to support OWA by becoming an active member [here](#) . Become a boot on the ground.

-----

The article below is reproduced in toto from DFWA's newsletter *Hotline*, courtesy Rob Shortridge

## **FINANCIAL ADVICE – DO YOU NEED IT?**

Finances are complicated. There are so many rules now, if you do not get it right it will cost you money therefore it is suggested that unless you are familiar with how to manage your money and all the legislation, you will need some professional advice some time in your life.

Some areas where financial advice may be required:

- The new superannuation rules that were implemented 1 Jul 17 have many trips and traps for the unwary.
- There are approximately 50 000 ADF personnel who have the option to changing their superannuation from MSBS to ADF Super. Unfortunately, there are no set rules and personal circumstances and aspirations will affect decisions.



- The issues surrounding disability pensions and/or payouts from either DVA and/or COMSUPER are complex and often needs a person familiar with all the vagaries of the legislation to work with an individual to get the best outcome. This is not a common area for financial advisers and failing to get good advice may have a deleterious lifelong effect.

Where do you go?

Probably the best referral is by word of mouth. People do not recommend advisers that are not doing the right thing by them.

Check some web sites.

- The ADF Consumer Centre has a list of 22 financial advisors nationally. I guess not all that much help however they do have an excellent video by Peter Switzer on how to select an advisor.

<http://adfconsumer.gov.au/your-money-guides/getting-financial-advice/>. Also look under resources/videos to access Peter Switzer's video.

ASIC's Money Smart web site has some advice on how to select a financial adviser

<https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/investing/financial-advice>. This is an excellent site and steps one through the process of determining if financial advice is needed, then how to find an advisor and how to get the best from them. This site also gives links to the industry associations which provide a 'find a planner' service nationally.

Some issues:

- If a product seems too good to be true it probably is.
- Only do what you are comfortable with as it is after all your money.
- Always go to your financial advisor with your plan. If you don't it's like going to a travel agent and just telling them you want to go on holiday.
- If you need advice on invalidity issues associated with DVA/COMSUPER payouts go to someone who know about this. The majority of financial advisors would not deal with these issues on a regular basis and it is a very complex area.

Fees

Relatively recently, most of the predatory pricing fees and practices have been made illegal by legislation. Probably the safest option is a fee for service arrangement however, charging a percentage of the value of your portfolio may be a very good incentive for advisers to do well for you as if your portfolio increases so do their fees, if it reduces so do their fees, provided the fees are reasonable.

Every financial advisor is required by law to provide his fee structure so the most important issue is to educate yourself and be an informed consumer, after all it is your money and your future.

DFWA Qld Br has an Honorary Financial Advisor who is ex-Military and does understand the complexities of the COMSUPER/DVA payouts. His name is Lee Bowden and he can be contacted on 07 3204 5544. Lee can also travel and he may be able to facilitate skype calls if a person is located outside SEQLD.

**Disclaimer:** Any advice in this publication is of a general nature only and has not been tailored to your personal circumstances. Please seek personal advice prior to acting on this information.

This article is provided for the information of DFWA members and members of the wider Defence Community. Any decisions on financial advice will be the responsibility of the individual.

# *Path to wellbeing*

SUPPORT FOR PARTNERS AND  
CARERS OF FORMER ADF MEMBERS

RSL Queensland welcomes Toowong Private Hospital, specialists in the diagnosis and management of military related mental health conditions, to our next wellbeing seminar.

This seminar aims to equip partners and carers of former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members with practical strategies to assist with the challenges that may be faced post life in the military.

**DATE** Wednesday 20 September 2017

**TIME** Registrations open at 9:00am, commencing at 9:30am sharp

**VENUE** Kedron-Wavell Services Club  
VC Suite, 21 Kittyhawk Drive,  
Chermside South QLD 4032

**FEE** Free event

**PARKING** Available on-site

**RSVP** Registration is vital as places are limited. Please RSVP by the 6th of September to [simone.burke@rslqld.org](mailto:simone.burke@rslqld.org) | 07 3634 9444

**THE FIRST 15  
REGISTRATIONS  
WILL RECEIVE A  
COMPLIMENTARY  
YOGA MAT.**



RETURNED & SERVICES  
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA  
QUEENSLAND BRANCH



**BREMER**  
STATE HIGH SCHOOL

24<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Ross Wadsworth  
President Combat Support Association  
c/- 63 Nicholas Street Ipswich 4305

To the Committee Members

The Defence community here at Bremer would like to send a sincere thank you for your generous donation of \$1000 towards our upcoming Defence resilience excursion in 2018. The aim of the excursion is to challenge personal growth, team building and problem solving which we believe builds resilience in the students and assists them to deal with the many struggles that our Defence families face.

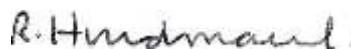
By contributing to this event, the association are supporting those families who would not normally be able to participate due to financial limitations. Your support is humbly appreciated and will be noted in Bremer's newsletter.

Yours Sincerely



Kay Louwrens

**Executive Principal**  
Bremer State High School



**Rachel Hindmarsh**  
**Defence Transition Mentor**  
Bremer State High School

We Believe. We Strive. We Achieve.





*IPSWICH & DISTRICTS  
VETERANS SUPPORT  
OFFICE*

MEMORIAL HALL  
CNR NICHOLAS & LIMESTONE Streets  
IPSWICH  
PH: 07 3812 3822 MOB: 0430 166 070

The Ipswich and Districts Veterans Support Office is open Mon – Fri, from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm. We offer assistance to all service and ex-service personnel and their dependants, with all Department of Veterans Affairs claims and applications, including VEA, MCRS, MRCA, Service Pensions and Appeals. Trained pensions / welfare officers and advocates are able to offer assistance in our office, hospitals, your home and on a Thursday morning at RAAF Base Amberley. All claims consultation is by appointment.

This office is run under a Memorandum of Understanding and represents the following Ex service organisations. The office is sponsored by Combat Support Association Inc; Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association; Ipswich RSL Sub Branch; Ipswich Railway RSL Sub Branch; Ipswich Legacy; Incapacitated Servicemen and Womens Association; Ipswich Naval Association; RAAF Association, Ipswich Branch; Rosewood RSL Sub Branch; and Moreton District RSL.

**ALL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE**

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership of the (air force) Combat Support Association Inc. as an Ordinary member.

### (Category 1) Ex Service/Serving Member:

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Served from: \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Decorations \_\_\_\_\_

### (Category 2) Dependants of Ex Service/Serving Member:

Name of Relative: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Details of Relative: \_\_\_\_\_

I declare the above information to be true and correct. I hereby agree that, if admitted, I will abide by the Rules and By Laws of the Association. I enclose \$10 as my initial subscription, or \$100 to join as a Fully Paid Up member.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We declare that the applicant meets the membership criteria detailed in the Association Rules and By Laws.

Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder: \_\_\_\_\_



## **YOUR AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE**

On Sunday 5 June 2011 the RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre officially opened. Dignitaries, former and current servicemen gathered to see the unveiling of the first stage of the Centre. The Heritage Centre is designed to tell the story of the Air Force, but more importantly the Air Force at Amberley from 1940 right through the war years until now.

Former Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Mark Binskin AO initialized the program to celebrate the relationship between the RAAF and the community by establishing heritage centres to be run through a partnership between Air Force and the community. Another former CAF, Air Marshal Geoff Brown AM as Deputy Chief was the Chair of the RAAF Heritage Advisory Council and was instrumental in our formal establishment.

The RAAF has also embarked on a program of rejuvenating its static display aircraft that have been suffering the effects of outdoor display. This has already paid off with an increase in morale within the service.

The RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre display includes:

- Australia's first Canberra bomber A84-201,
- English Electric Canberra A84-125 built by English Electric and delivered to Australia in May 1952,
- General Dynamics RF-111C A8-126, delivered to the RAAF 1 June 1973,
- Bell Iroquois A2-771 UH-1H # 67-17573 9771 which was delivered to RAAF 9 SQN in Vietnam in 1968. Returning to Australia in December 1971.
- Bell-47G Sioux A1-738. The Sioux was the first rotary aircraft operated by the Australian Army. A1-738 was the last Sioux to be flown in Vietnam on the 13 September 1971,
- Douglas A-20G Boston 42-86786 'The Hell 'N Pelican II', and
- DHC Caribou A4-236, a combat veteran that also saw humanitarian service in PNG, Indonesia, Pakistan, East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

Volunteers at Amberley have a long history of restoring aircraft, having completed the Boston and Catalina for the RAAF Museum. The restoration of these aircraft was completed whilst an annex of Point Cook was located at RAAF Amberley. They will now work on aircraft that will remain at the Aviation Heritage Centre including Canberra bomber A84-242, one of the last Canberra aircraft to return to Australia from Phan Rang, Vietnam.

The Centre is currently based in two hangars that were used for F-111 maintenance. Next year a portion of the administration building will have displays and a Gift Shop.

The RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre is open every Tuesday and Thursday for Community Groups of 10 or more, in their own coach or bus. For more information please contact RAAF Amberley Public Engagement Section on Ph: (07) 5361 1245 or e-mail [AMB.PES@defence.gov.au](mailto:AMB.PES@defence.gov.au). The RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre is also open on the second Sunday of every month with public parking at the RAAF Amberley Bowls Club car park, where a shuttle bus service will depart for the Centre every 20 minutes.



**Recognising the Aviation History of RAAF Base Amberley**