

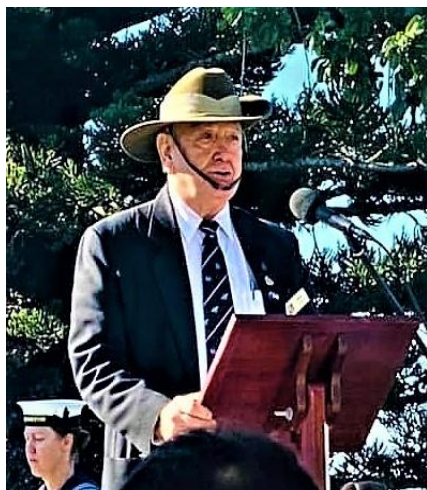


# Australian American Association Queensland Division – Brisbane. NEWSLETTER 20<sup>th</sup> EDITION ~ June 2022. 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Battle of the Coral Sea.

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*Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young PSM Governor of Queensland.*



- ✚ **Mike Harris - President - Life Member & Newsletters Editor,**
- ✚ **Terry Aronson - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President & Protocol Director,**
- ✚ **Alice Langford - Secretary,**
- ✚ **Teresa Pokoj - Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Assistant Secretary, and**
- ✚ **Helen Stanley - Member, Board of Directors.**



## Newsletter Content:

## Page Nos:

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>President's Message.....</b>                      | <b>1 &amp; 2</b> |
| <b>Congratulatory Emails Received.....</b>           | <b>2</b>         |
| <b>Events Planned for Rest of 2022.....</b>          | <b>3</b>         |
| <b>Memories of Recent Events.....</b>                | <b>3</b>         |
| <b>AAA Welcomes its New Members.....</b>             | <b>5</b>         |
| <b>AAA Thanks its Partners &amp; Supporters.....</b> | <b>5</b>         |

## President's Message.

### **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-Battle of the Coral Sea Event.**

Considerable positive feedback has been received that the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event was one of our finest and most successful events held in recent years. A record of 280 guests consisting of 72 wreath-layers, attended to honour and remember those who fought and those who died, in this epic battle (which ran from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 1942) that saved Australia from invasion.

Please refer to the following [Youtube link](#), for the complete movie coverage of the event:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOrqOg\\_fY54](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOrqOg_fY54)

I thank our Association's Patron the Hon. Dr Jeannette Young, Governor of Queensland, who attended the service accompanied by her husband Professor Graeme Nimmo and the Governor's Aide-de-Camp, Commander Peter Tedman RAN.

I also thank the following Consul Generals - (US) Hon. Christine Elder, (Japan) Hon. Masuo Ono & his wife Mrs Kimu Ono, (Republic of Korea) Hon Hanjin Bae, (Italy) Hon. Luna Angelini Marinucci, (Philippines) Hon. Margaret Grummitt, (Netherlands) Representative Lieut. Colonel Peter Burgerhout Defence Attache. Also, Members of the USN 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet and Australian Defence Force, Government Officials, Veterans and Guests.

My utmost gratitude goes to our RAN Band Queensland, based at HMAS Moreton and the USN 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet Band who provided a wonderful display of music, that included vocal and bugle support for the event. Our RAN Catafalque Party from HMAS Moreton also did us proud. I further thank Deputy Commander of the USN 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet Rear Admiral Robert T. Clark, RAN Rear Admiral Robert Plath, HMAS Moreton's RAN Commander Fiona Southwood, RAN Chaplain Reverend Stephen Briggs, RAN Chief Bandmaster Mike Vaughn and RAN Chief Boatswain Paul Cannard, for their magnificent support in making this a most meaningful, respectful and commendable event.





I congratulate former Federal Senator and our Association's Life Member, the Honourable Santo Santoro for his outstanding contribution as our "Event - Master of Ceremonies".

*Donations Gratefully Received:*

I thank the Hon. Tim Nicholls MP, State Member for Clayfield and Andrew Spyropoulos, for their donations totaling \$2,500 for the catering. Also, to River City Catering for its fine work in serving morning tea with enjoyable food for our guests. Thank you again Kedron-Wavell RSL for your yearly donation of \$150, which is much appreciated.

Thanks to our Association's Secretary Alice Langford for organizing the event's catering and for the use of her company's bus to pick up the Old Historical Flag from the Caboolture Historical Society Museum and for transporting all the gear for our event. Also, our Association's Board Member Helen Stanley who travelled with Alice to pick up the flag. I further thank Geoff Bilbow, Director of the Caboolture Historical Society, for his wonderful generosity in loaning this much cherished flag for display at our event.

I thank all of our Association's event volunteers who worked at the event to make it such a success - Terry Aronson, Teresa Pokoj, Alice Langford, Helen Stanley, Maurice Hand, Bill and Chris Elliott, Sally Elliott, Peter Glazebrook, Susan Jewell and my Niece Poppy Freer who joined with HMAS Moreton's Commander Fiona Southwood RAN and myself, in welcoming the Governor's Party on their arrival.

As well, a very big thank you to our Association's Treasurer Teresa Pokoj, for her outstanding assistance in helping me organize the event.

Congratulations to Johnny Greenwood who gave a delightful recitation of the 'Grand Old Flag' (assisted by AAA Brisbane Member Bernadette Gill). What a fantastic performance, and then when Johnny broke out singing the Ballad – "Waltzing Matilda", all the guests joined in.

Furthermore, I pay tribute to all of our Allied service personnel, particularly our 100-year-old RAN Battle of Coral Sea Veteran Bill White, last Australian survivor of the HMAS Hobart, which fought in the Battle. Bill was recognized and applauded during my speech, for his WW2 service in the RAN. At completion of the ceremony, USN 7th Fleet Officials and others, were keen to hear Bill's personal description of this crucial battle.

Some of the older Veterans attending our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service, said it was truly a memorable one, and my Association is very grateful and glad to hear such constructive comment.

**So please remember to mark in your diaries the date of our Association's next Battle of the Coral Sea event, which will be held on Saturday 6th May 2023 at the Australian American War Memorial, Lyndon Baynes Johnson Place Newstead Park, Brisbane.**

**Mike Harris, President.**

***[NOTE: Please refer to the "PHOTOS ATTACHMENT" to this June 2022 Newsletter, which is also being emailed to you separately].***

**Congratulatory Emails received in relation to the 2022 - 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle of the Coral Sea Event:**

**President Carole Morris - AAA Gold Coast.**

*"AAA Brisbane President Mike Harris and Treasurer/Assistant Secretary Teresa Pokoj delivered a remarkable service in Brisbane. Also, the interview that the Brisbane ABC News Media did with Mike in describing the importance of the Battle of the Coral Sea - he was amazing!"*

**David Bryant - Submariners Association, Australian National Secretary.**

*"Congratulations on a fantastic and very moving Commemoration Ceremony. I watched the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea Commemoration tonight, uploaded on YouTube. A fantastic day with so many distinguished people in attendance. A wonderful program of speakers and events, a magnificent day."*

**Bernadette Gill, Songwriter and Musician - Ishka Celtic Music & AAA Brisbane Member.**

*"Thank you for forwarding this very memorable record of the Commemoration. Johnny Greenwood and I were extremely proud and honoured to have been able to contribute to the event which is so close to our hearts ♥. To not forget the sacrifice of so many who gave their lives for our freedom. Thank you once again for the opportunity to contribute. We were honoured 🇺🇸".*

**Kay Jones - Queensland Maritime Museum.**

*"Congratulations on the overwhelming success of your event. What a monumental undertaking it must have been to organise and co-ordinate the day. I look forward to receiving future AAA Brisbane Newsletter & News Flash publications."*

**Myra and Leo Blumkie** *"Teresa. Congratulations to yourself and Mike; it is certainly a big achievement to be organising such an impressive event."*





**Scott Mackie – RSL Executive Officer, Brisbane ANZAC Day Parade Organizer.**

*"Someone puts a lot of work into your News Flash, never mind the event itself. Thank you for attending the VE Day service and providing a little history to the occasion."*

**Lieutenant Colonel (Army) Peter Burgerhout – Defence Attaché for the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Australia.** *"Thank you so much for your mail and the News Flash. It brings back good memories of a wonderful day in Brisbane. Hoping to meet you again in Brisbane soon!"*

**Clare Moore, Chairperson - Board of Trustees Newstead House.** *"Thank you for the chance to share in the ceremony to commemorate Coral Sea at Newstead Park. This is always a special event and important for our community. Our Newstead House family values the relationship with the Australian American Association, particularly around the commemoration of this event. Hopefully, we will be back on the veranda soon."*

**US Vietnam War Veteran - Rob White American Legion Member.** *"Thank you for the invite. I'm back home in Spain now, and I felt it was a wonderful celebration. I'm honoured that you put me in such high esteem. I'm sure my uncle will be thanking you in his own way. Please keep me informed of further events"*

**Peter Glazebrook – AAA Brisbane Member.** *"Allow me to add my congratulations to you for this truly memorable event. The brave men who gave everything deserved no less."*

**Amber Bennett – AAA National Secretary, AAA Gold Coast Secretary and Brisbane Member.** *"Wonderful ABC interview. It's nice to hear Mike talking about it all. Great to see footage too. I look forward to receiving the June 2022 Newsletter."*

**Sharon Messer - AAA Brisbane Media Director.** *"That looked really well done. Congratulations to you all. I know how much hard work and planning goes into achieving a successful day and you should be really proud of what you have accomplished."*

**Hon Santo Santoro - Former Senator, AAA Brisbane Life Member and BCS Event MC.** *"Teresa, thank you for your emailed News Flash. It again depicts an enormous amount of good work from your kind self and from Mike. Thank you for all that you do for AAA. Your friends and family in Ukraine continue to be in my thoughts and prayers, as are you."*

**Rudi Bianchi - President, Naval Association Q.** *"A huge "Thank You" for the marvellous presentation at Newstead Park of the commemoration. It was an honour to be there. P.S. Where did you get the senior gentleman and his guitar? What a show stealer!!!!"*

## EVENTS PLANNED FOR REST OF 2022.



**Come along and make these events enjoyable and successful!!**

### Independence Day Luncheon

This luncheon will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 (arrive 11:30am) at CLUB SOUTHSIDE 76 Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road, Upper Mount Gravatt, Brisbane. We are being joined by the Bentley Drivers Club Members and Friends.

**RSVP: [admin@aaabrisbane.com](mailto:admin@aaabrisbane.com) by COB Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

### Thanksgiving Dinner

A Dinner Function will be held on *Thanksgiving Day* on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (a Newsflash will be released advertising this event).

### Pre-Christmas Dinner

This is a wonderful time of the year and this event brings our members and friends together to enjoy a little friendship, reflect on the important things of the year passing and contemplate on our future hopes and aspirations. The event can be a Friday Dinner or sometimes a Saturday Luncheon, held about a week prior to Christmas Eve (a Newsflash will be released advertising this event).

### Monthly Drinks - Meet & Greet Nights.

These M & G Nights bring our members and friends together to enjoy a bit of fun, friendship and connection (a Newsflash will soon be released advertising our July event).

## MEMORIES OF RECENTLY HELD EVENTS

### Australian War Nurses Commemoration at ANZAC Park Brisbane, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.

AAA Brisbane President Mike Harris and Treasurer Teresa Pokoj attended this event and Mike laid a wreath on behalf of his Brisbane Association.

### ANZAC Day Parade Brisbane City, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

AAA Brisbane President Mike Harris and Treasurer Teresa Pokoj attended this event as guests of RSL Qld SED, seated beside the Governor's Saluting Dais in Adelaide Street Brisbane City.







**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, at Newstead Park Brisbane, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022.** Refer Pages 1 & 2 of this Newsletter and to previous AAA Brisbane News Flash No 36.

**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, at Surfers Paradise RSL Shrine, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022.** This event was organized by the Australian American Association, Gold Coast.



**Phillip Morris MC for the event, at the dais with his wife Carole, who is President of the AAA Gold Coast.**

Congratulations to AAA Gold Coast President Carole Morris and her hard-working Committee, for an outstanding ceremony attended by many distinguished guests including - the US Consul General Christine Elder, Deputy Commander of the USN 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet - Rear Admiral Robert T. Clark and the USN 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet Band, RAN Rear Admiral Robert Plath, HMAS Moreton's RAN Commander Fiona Southwood and RAN Rear Admiral Robert Plath representing the Chief of the RAN.

AAA Brisbane President Mike Harris and Treasurer Teresa Pokoj attended this event. Mike laid a wreath on behalf of his Association and Teresa laid a wreath in remembrance of 20 family members who died during the 1939 Nazi and Russian invasions of Poland during WW2. Also, to honour her family living in the Ukraine, presently suffering from the 2022 Russian invasion.

**77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in Europe Event at RSL SED QLD, New Farm, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022.** AAA Brisbane President Mike Harris and Treasurer Teresa Pokoj (with her injured knee) attended this event. Mike and Teresa again laid separate wreaths [for the same purposes as the above event].

**2022 Indigenous Veterans Ceremony held at ANZAC Shrine Brisbane on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022.** AAA Brisbane President Mike Harris and Treasurer Teresa Pokoj attended this event. Mike laid a wreath on behalf of his Association.

## **NEW WW2 WALKING TRAIL.**

Members may be interested in looking at and walking on a new WW2 walking trail developed by the Brisbane City Council called the - Salisbury War Industries Heritage Trail.

**Refer:** <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/outdoor-activities/walking-in-brisbane/heritage-trails/salisbury-war-industries-heritage-trail>

Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said - *"The new Salisbury War Industries Heritage Trail mapped 11 local heritage places within the former Rocklea World War 2 munition factory. Brisbane is home to some fascinating history and the new heritage trail in Salisbury explores what was a munitions factory between 1941 to 1943. This factory was a key part of Brisbane's wartime effort and the largest of its kind in Australia. At its peak, it employed about 3,000 workers, the majority women, and between January 1942 and October 1943 it produced 137,729,208 (million) rounds of ammunition and 1,221,122 (million) shell cases.*

*Seven months of research by Council, in partnership with the community, went into developing this trail which revisits some of the factory's important places including the bullets laboratory, oil stores (which housed fuel at a time when petrol was rationed) and air raid shelters. Brisbane is home to impressive wartime history and I encourage those interested in learning more about Salisbury's contribution to World War 2 to explore this trail."*

## **FIRST AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN MEMORIAL**

This year marked not just the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, but 70 years (1952) since unveiling of the First Australian American Memorial built, that being the Memorial located at Newstead Park. A product of the work of former Australian Ambassador to America (1939-42) Richard Casey, whose work saw Brisbane as the chosen port to base the American response to the bombing of Pearl Harbour. The same Richard Casey who, as the National President of the Australian American Association, saw a fundraising exercise for a National Memorial in Canberra, and raise funds for the Memorial in Newstead Park, as well. Later the one and the same Richard Casey as Foreign Minister introduced in the Federal Parliament in 1952 the ANZUS Treaty. But not to be outdone, however, a later Lord Richard Casey, as Governor-General, had President Lyndon B. Johnson visit Brisbane during his 1966 Australian visit. The site of the first unveiled Memorial (in 1952) sits in Lyndon B. Johnson Place in tribute to the visit. An amazing series of historical firsts all centred around the place of significance to our yearly holding of the Battle of the Coral Sea event.





## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome goes to:

 **Robert McLear, and**  
 **Peter Rasey**

## AAA BRISBANE THANKS ALL OF ITS PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS:

- ❖ *Brisbane City Council.*
- ❖ *Hon Di Farmer MP - Qld State Member for Bulimba.*
- ❖ *Hon Tim Nicholls MP - Qld State Member for Clayfield.*
- ❖ *Cr Kara Cook - Brisbane City Council Member for Morningside Ward.*
- ❖ *Cr David McLachlan - Brisbane City Council Member for Hamilton Ward.*
- ❖ *Mr Andrew Spyropoulos.*
- ❖ *RSL Coorparoo.*
- ❖ *RSL Kedron-Wavell.*
- ❖ *RSL SED Qld.*

## Veterans Care Association

### **SUPPORTING VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

The Veterans Care Association (VCA) is an Australian organisation set up by Chaplain Gary Stone, to support returning veterans and their families to overcome Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other challenges, in returning to civilian life. The VCA gives practical direct support to our wounded, injured and sick, and acts as a central hub for Veterans Services, bringing together traditional medical practitioners, therapists, councillors and more, to support the veteran's journey to good health and vitality. Should any veteran or their family require support, please contact the Veterans Care Association at: - 2 Victoria Park Road, Kelvin Grove Qld 4059. Ph: 0403 270 515 \* EMAIL: [Support@veterans](mailto:Support@veterans)



The Australian-American relationship is linked across both sides of the Pacific Ocean, with a common heritage and many countless and cherished ties.

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