



Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, held at the Australian American War Memorial Cenotaph located at Newstead Park Brisbane, Queensland on Sat 7th May 2022.



Arrival of the Governor's Party led by Australian American Association Brisbane Treasurer Teresa Pokoj, carrying the Governor's Wreath, and wearing her Polish-Ukrainian National Costume, in remembrance of 20 family members killed during WW2, and also, to honour those family members presently living in the Ukraine.



American Eagle figure surmounting the Australian American War Memorial Cenotaph at Newstead Park.



From left: Rear Admiral Peter Tedman RAN (Governor's Aide-de-Camp), Poppy Freer, the Governor of Qld the Hon. Dr Jeannette Young & her husband Professor Graeme Nimmo, AAAB President Mike Harris, and walking directly behind Professor Nimmo: Commander Fiona Southwood RAN Commanding Officer of HMAS Moreton.



RAN Chief Boatswain Paul Cannard holding the ceremonial sword; standing with the RAN Catafalque Party from HMAS Moreton, in readiness for the mounting of the Cenotaph.



From left: Commander Fiona Southwood RAN Commanding Officer of HMAS Moreton, and the Catafalque Party standing at attention, as the band plays a Salute to the Governor of Queensland.





The Governor of Queensland, receiving the Salute.



The Australian American War Memorial Cenotaph.



Two members of the RAN Catafalque Party at the Cenotaph.



The USN 7th Fleet Band and RAN Band Queensland, grouped together at Newstead Park prior to the event.



The USN 7th Fleet Band and the RAN Band Queensland, based at HMAS Moreton, Brisbane.



RAN Chief Bandmaster Mike Vaughn seen conducting the two Bands.





Former Senator the Honourable Santo Santoro at the Cenotaph, giving the welcome as the Event Master of Ceremonies.



Address by the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young, Governor of Queensland.



Acknowledgement of Country by Warrant Officer Class 1 Lorraine Hatton, OAM, & Honourable Indigenous Elder Australian Army.



Welcome Address by Mike Harris, President of the Australian American Association, Brisbane.



Saying of the Prayers by the Rev Stephen Briggs, Chaplain Royal Australian Navy. Reverened Briggs also represented the Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane, the Most Reverend Phillip Aspinall AC.





A record number of 280 guests attended the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea Service.



Governor of Queensland the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young and her husband Professor Graeme Nimmo, accompanied by Rear Admiral Peter Tedman RAN at the Cenotaph to lay the first wreath of the service.



United States of America's President's Message given by the Honourable Christine Elder, Consul General of the United States of America.



Speech by Deputy Commander of the USN 7th Fleet, Rear Admiral Robert T. Clark USN.



The Honourable Christine Elder, Consul General of the United States of America, laying her wreath on behalf of the President of the United States of America.





Deputy Commander of the USN 7th Fleet, Rear Admiral Robert T. Clark USN laying his wreath.



Australian American Association, Brisbane President Mike Harris joining with the Consul General of Japan the Honourable Masuo Ono, in laying their respective wreaths.



From left: Ms Peta Mc Kinnon representing the Queensland Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Barry West with Veteran Leonard McCloud representing USA Army Small Ships, and also, Vietnam War Veteran Ron White representing his Uncle John Shin who served on the USS Phelps D & D 360 during the Battle of the Coral Sea.



From left: Consul General of Italy the Honourable Luna Angelini Marinucci, AAA Brisbane President Mike Harris and the Netherlands Consulate Representative - Lt Col Peter Burgerhout Defence Attaché.



Federal Member of Brisbane Central, the Honourable Trevor Evans laying a wreath on behalf of the Prime Minister of Australia.





The Australian American War Memorial Cenotaph at Newstead Park, Brisbane, following the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea Wreath-laying Ceremony, is adorned with 73 beautiful wreaths. These wreaths were placed in remembrance of all of those who fought and those who died, throughout this momentous battle that saved Australia from invasion, during our darkest times of 1942.



From left: AAA Brisbane President Mike Harris, Philippines Consul General Hon. Margaret Grummitt, Netherlands Consulate Rep Lt Col Peter Burgerhout, Deputy Commander of the USN 7th Fleet Rear Admiral Robert T. Clark, Rev. Stephen Briggs Chaplain RAN, Police Superintendent Steven Holahan, Lieut. Colonel Stephen Pata Australian Army, WO 1 Lorraine Hutton OAM Australian Army, Hon. Trevor Evans Member for Brisbane, Her Excellency the Qld Governor Hon. Dr Jannette Young, Professor G Nimmo, Rear Admiral Peter Tedman RAN, Hon. Christine Elder US Consul General, Hon. Tim Nicholls MP Member for Clayfield, Hon. Charis Mullen MP Assistant Minister Treasury & Member for Jordan, Cr David McLachlan Councillor for Hamilton Ward, Hon. Luna Angelini Marinucci Consul General of Italy, Hon. Masuo Ono Consul General of Japan, Commander of HMAS Moreton Comm. Fiona Southwood, Hon. Santo Santoro, and US Army Lieut. Colonel (Ret) Terry Aronson AAA Brisbane Vice President and Adjutant of the American Legion Post AU03.





The Hon. Tim Nicholls MP State Member for Clayfield, speaking with Battle of the Coral Sea Veteran - Bill White, Centenarian and last Australian survivor of the HMAS Hobart, which fought in the Battle of the Coral Sea.



From left: The Hon. Tim Nicholls MP State Member for Clayfield, Consul General of Japan the Hon. Masuo Ono and his wife Mrs Kimu Ono, and Cr David Mc Lachlan Member for Hamilton Ward.

Bill's personal account of the momentous battle, has been extracted from the RAN'S Website:

<https://www.navy.gov.au/biography/able-seaman-bill-white>



Able Seaman Bill White

"The HMAS Hobart sailed with HMAS Australia and USS Chicago to join the main Task Force 73 under command of RADM Fletcher in the Coral Sea. Hobart took part in the western 'extension' of the Battle of the Coral Sea in May 1942. One of the covering force for the United States aircraft carriers. Bill later reflected on the battle: "We experienced significant exposure to the relentless and determined attack by the Japanese with limited allied air support; once again we came through with flying colours".

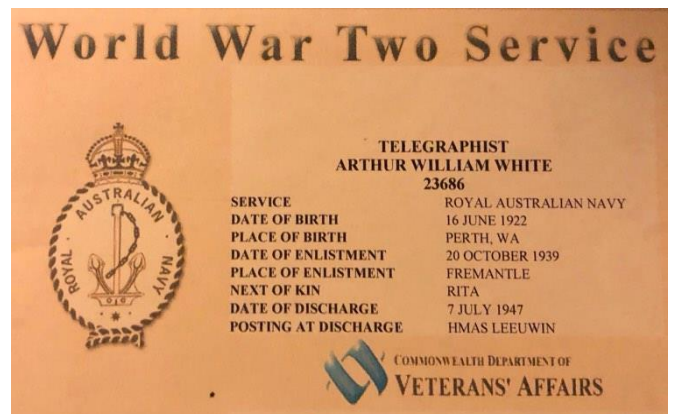
"I did observe a lot during this period, and in subsequent times I also reflected on why we were such an effective team. I have no doubt that our Captain must take a great deal of the credit, our ship was a floating fortress, manoeuvred by a skilled navigator and this, combined with our significant exposure to combat, moulded our ships company into a very effective force. The men held Captain Howden in high regard and he in turn looked after his men. This was very evident when we disembarked in Brisbane after the Battle of the Coral Sea, we celebrated our survival and comradeship - and Captain Howden".



From left: Australian American Association, Brisbane Secretary Alice Langford and Mrs Elfi Massey-Vallazza, President and Founding Member and Executive Board of the Australian Council for Europe, and Independent Public Relations and Communications Professional.

As well as AAA Brisbane Secretary, Alice Langford is President of the South West Chamber of Commerce. She has a passion for small business and regional development, especially to support businesses to understand the possibilities for growth and develop pathways to success. She is passionate about engaging in networks and implementing growth strategies.

Bill White's Record of World War Two Service





Australian Recording Artist Johnny Greenwood, who recited verses entitled "Our Old Flag" from his CD Album "This Land of Ours Australia". Johnny ended his delightful presentation by singing the bush ballad "Waltzing Matilda" also from his CD Album. Congratulations and a very special thanks goes to you Johnny, on behalf of all of us who attended the service. Your performance of these two wonderful Australian Favorites performed in your delightful Australian style, certainly touched our hearts and minds. Johnny was supported by Bernadette Gill AAA Brisbane Member.



President Dennis Cho of the Korean Veterans' Association (Qld) Branch, introducing the Governor of Queensland the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young, to Juhee Park of the One Heart Diversity Womens' Business Network and Leadership, and Councillor Simon Ju Han Jeon of the Korean Peaceful Unification Advisory Council, Brisbane.



US Vietnam War Veteran and American Legion Member Robert White says - "Thanks for the invite, I'm back home in Spain now; it was a wonderful celebration and I'm honoured that you put me in such high esteem. I'm sure my uncle will be thanking you in his own way. My uncle's name was John Shinn and he started out in Guadalcanal with the CBB, then, they transferred him to the USS Phelps D & D 360. He was a second-class Yeoman, and they took him and put him on a Destroyer that had been damaged during a battle and then ultimately he was in the Battle of the Coral Sea, all the way up to Okinawa. In memoriam for Daniel John Shinn, he died 6 months ago. Good man who didn't say much but was in the thick of it".



Australian American Association Brisbane Treasurer Teresa Pokoj and President Mike Harris standing beside the Historical Australian Flag being displayed for the event. This is the actual Flag which was fixed to the ceiling of the United States General Douglas MacArthur's Brisbane Operational Head Quarters, during World War 2. We sincerely thank Caboolture Historical Society for its wonderful generosity in loaning this much cherished flag for display at our event.

Teresa laid her first wreath at the event on behalf of the Members of the HMAS Perth Association, [HMAS Perth and USS Houston were both sunk during the Battle of the Sunda Strait in 1942].

Teresa laid her second wreath in remembrance of her 20 family members who died during the 1939 Nazi and Russian invasions of Poland in WW2 [her Great-Grandparents, Grandfather, Uncles, Aunts & Cousins].

Her second wreath was also to honour those members of her family living in the Ukraine, who are now suffering the 2022 Russian invasion and, who have not been heard from since this latest invasion began.

