



## Australian American Association Queensland Division - Brisbane.



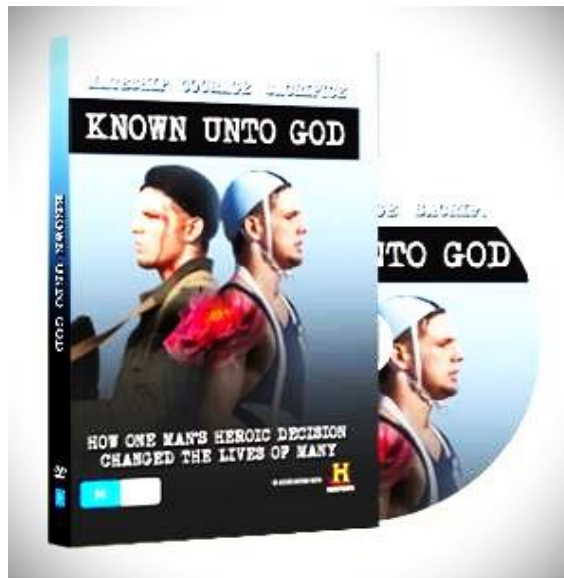
*News Flash 86 - 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024.*

*Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Qld.*



### *Invitation*

You are invited to a “Dinner Presentation” by internationally renowned speaker John Schindler, one of Australia's leading Independent Documentary Producers and Narrators. John Schindler’s most recent WW2 Pacific War Documentary “*Known unto God*” was selected for screening on the History Channel, and at the prestigious American GI Film Festival in Washington DC.

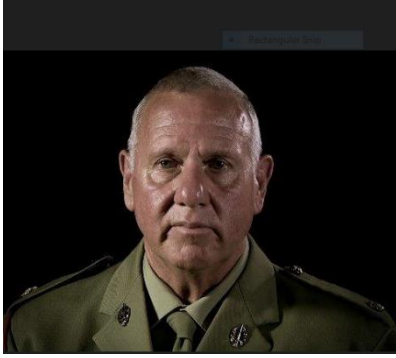


The DVD of the documentary with bonus material, is available for sale at the Dinner Presentation, at \$20 each. Also available is the USB Card of the documentary with bonus material which can be easily plugged into your desktop or laptop.

John Schindler’s Dinner Presentation is a story about the making of the War Documentary. He tells how Australian military operatives are sent behind enemy lines during the Pacific War to rescue an American bomber crew, and how unexpected events have a dramatic effect on the course of the documentary.

The making of “*Known unto God*” is almost as amazing as the documentary itself. John Schindler explains the background into the making of the story of Sydney Surf Lifesaver John Whitworth, who was lost behind enemy lines in Indonesia in late 1945. Family and friends were never able to find out John Whitworth’s fate, but this was to change half-way through the making of the documentary film, when the unexpected happened.

John Schindler’s dinner presentation will be followed by a 15 minute “Question Time” segment.



**SPECIAL GUEST: Major John (Jack) Thurgar SC MBE OAM RFD** John (Jack) Thurgar and his wife Hedonna will be attending this dinner presentation. Thurgar has had an extraordinary career of service. Born in 1950, he served in Papua New Guinea in 1969 and South Vietnam in 1970 as a Trooper in the Australian SAS. Chief Inspector Jack Thurgar was awarded the "Star of Courage" for a landmine incident in Cyprus in 1979. As a Chief Inspector with the then Commonwealth Police, Thurgar was awarded

Australia's second highest civil bravery decoration, the Star of Courage (gazetted February 15, 1980) for his bravery on Cyprus on October 9, 1979, when he entered a minefield and then carried out a badly injured farmer whose tractor had set off a mine. His actions saved the man's life. Thurgar had himself been wounded by a mine in Vietnam, and was on his second tour to Cyprus. Thurgar served concurrently in the AFP and the Australian Army Reserve, his OAM in 1995 recognizing his service to the army and to veterans. He was awarded an MBE by Papua New Guinea for his work with disabled children. Major John "Jack" Thurgar SC MBE OAM RFD was the officer in charge of the investigations to locate, identify and recover many Australian men whose remains were not recovered from numerous conflicts including (but not limited to) the Pacific War and Vietnam.

### **Dinner Presentation Function:**

**DATE & TIME:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024, to arrive at 7:00 pm for the serving of dinner at 7:30pm sharp!

**LOCATION:** The Coorparoo RSL & Community Club, at 45 Holdsworth Street, Coorparoo, Brisbane.

**2-Course Dinner Menu:** *The main meal is Rib Fillet Steak with a choice of gravy, mushroom or pepper sauce, served with a Roasted Vegetable Medley (a Vegetarian main meal is also optional). This will be followed by a sweet of Chocolate Flake Cheesecake served with Cream. **Total Cost: \$48 per Person.***

**Book early to avoid disappointment - Seats are available until all tickets are sold** Please use Coorparoo RSL's link below, to book and pay \$48 per Person directly online by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024:

[https://bookings.nowbookit.com/?accountid=bc487f82-e355-4593-9cc2-d6909246e2e0&theme=outlined-light&accent=hex,1a237e&venueid=5682&date=2024-04-24&serviceids=event\\_ISRYH4H55OYG2\\_1710319743547](https://bookings.nowbookit.com/?accountid=bc487f82-e355-4593-9cc2-d6909246e2e0&theme=outlined-light&accent=hex,1a237e&venueid=5682&date=2024-04-24&serviceids=event_ISRYH4H55OYG2_1710319743547)

We pay homage to the memory of those who defended us and those who gave their lives, so that we may enjoy our present freedom. Lest we forget!

Yours fraternally,

Mike Harris President / Life Member,  
Australian American Association, Brisbane.

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