



## Australian Peacekeepers & Peacemaker Veterans Association

APPVA STH QLD Inc.

[www.appvasthqld.webs.com](http://www.appvasthqld.webs.com)

### eNews

Issue #7 - June 2011

*"Looking after our own"*

Web: [www.peacekeepers.asn.au](http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au)

107 Excelsior Drive, Morayfield QLD 4506

#### FROM THE EDITOR

G'day, and welcome to the second 2011 edition of the APPVA South Queensland Branch News, an electronic newsletter for APPVA Sth Qld Branch members.

About 40 peacekeeper and peacemaker veterans assembled under the APPVA Banner for this year's ANZAC Day March in Brisbane, led by Major General (Professor) John Pearn AO, RFD (Ret'd).

Being my first march in Brisbane itself, it was refreshing to see a good turn out by our members, and associated peacekeeper/peacemaker veterans.

The Secretary, Rob Sumpton was in fine voice and managed to keep us all in step throughout the march. A big thank you goes out to the Army Cadets who carried the APPVA Banner in the blustery conditions.

Once again, thank you to those veterans who attended and to Bob Rogers for assisting with the organising of the march as the APPVA Sth Qld representative on the ANZAC March committee.

In my absence there was a Peacekeepers Day with the Vietnam Veterans on the 7 May 2011 at the Sherwood & Corinda R&SL Sub Branch.

Also the annual UN Peacekeepers Day March and Service, organised by the UNAA, was held on the 29 May 2011 and I believe there was a good turnout.

On the 11 June 2011 we have the opening of the Military Brotherhood MMC veterans centre (VAC Slipper) at Tanah Merah (see details) and we are hoping to have a few APPVA Sth Qld members attend (with lapel badges to identify us).

The APPVA Sth Qld has now also started a web page at [www.appvasthqld.webs.com](http://www.appvasthqld.webs.com) which contains news and information about the branch.

On a downbeat subject, we had the "Galaks" out prior to ANZAC Day sprouting their opinions and discontent, I hope no one was troubled by the emails and their content, I believe they have now stopped.

*Glenn Warnes*

APPVA Sth Qld eNews

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*"Keeping our members informed"*



*"In the Service of Peace"*



### **SECRETARY REPORT**

Well members it has been a very hectic period since I last jotted some notes for the eNews edition. Firstly It is with deep regret that we once again see the loss of life of our Military family members whilst on deployment and my sympathy goes out to all those closely associated with each family concerned. May they Rest in Peace. 📌

As always I struggle to meet the many commitments we attend and are involved with in the local Brisbane CBD and beyond. As you will see below we have had reasonable turnouts to most events and urge you to jump on board and attend as many as possible. Your support on the day is more valuable than your subscriptions because it shows that we are here for not only our members but others in the ESO veteran community. Please attend where you can.

I had the privilege of attending the VAC OP Slipper opening at 12 Tanah Merah Ave, Tanah Merah recently and was impressed with the efforts of the MMCC to get it up and running. It is not the Hilton but it provides a safe place to unwind and a place to seek assistance and advice on various Entitlement issues you may face. The team there may look a bit rough on the edges and scary to some but their hearts are definitely aimed at supporting Defense members and their families in need.

Our next general meeting is to be a BBQ at the Greenbank RSL Rooms at 1200hrs on the 31 July. We are attempting to secure more avenues closer to the majority of members nearer to the CBD but

alas we cannot cater for everyone's location of living. If you know of a venue that will accept us at no cost then drop me a line and I will only be too happy to change venues. I travel from Morayfield to Greenbank to attend so it would help me as well. Glenn travels over 70 km so believe me when I say we are happy to be flexible where we can for members.

We have hoped that the information we have been sending out either by email or post has been of benefit for you. Please let us know of any specific topics or issues you may wish discussed and we will investigate and add the article to this newsletter if we can. We are also searching for recent articles that you may have as a Peacekeeper/Peacemaker or where local APPVA members have been involved with support to a local group or school, Anzac Day pictures etc. Just drop the Editor a line and submit an article for everyone to see. Thanks to the editor/welfare officer for his efforts in keeping the members informed.

We will soon be submitting a grant to replace some of the older IT equipment we are using as it has well and truly reached its end life. This may be a bigger task than most think as obviously the Government and in turn DVA who provides most of our support funding are struggling just as bad as most and have tightened their belts considerably. To that end if you see a need for the APPVA SQLD to source something specific then drop me a line and I will add it to the list.

It will soon be time to remind everyone of annual subscriptions.



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I refer members to the [www.peacekeepers.asn.au](http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au) webpage (membership) to renew early so that we can avoid the hassle and strain of reminding you to re-join. Of course some of you prefer to deal locally with your SQLD association and that is fine. Drop me a line and I will confirm your current status and provide alternate avenues for your renewal payments if you wish.

Also Windaroo is coming up so keep September open for the TBA date for this our local event to recognise the fallen.

APPVA SQLD Sec – Rob.

### **BRANCH NEWS**

#### Recent events

**ANZAC Day Brisbane 2011:** About 40 peacekeepers marched under the APPVA Banner which was a good turn out and one of the larger groups considering we cover a vast group of veterans, many who march with their own groups.

A number of Blue Berets were seen amongst other groups which showed our diverse contribution as peacekeepers and peacemakers.



**7 May 2011 - Vietnam Veterans & Peacekeepers BBQ Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch:**  
Well approx 170 people turned up on a fine sunny

day (approx 120 last year) and the APPVA was represented by President (John and his wife), Secretary (Rob), Treasurer (Mitch) & Rod (APPVA member), and a mate of mine that I deployed with who is going to join our association.

The food was great with steak, sausages, rissoles, bacon and lots of salad dishes.

A speaker spoke of soldiers lost at Vietnam and I was asked by my RSL President to recite the soldiers we have lost in Afghanistan. All and all it was an enjoyable day for all. **Thanks to our member Randall New for the reporting on the event.**

#### **Sunday 29 May 2011 - UN Peacekeepers Day.**

A thank you to all those that attended the UNAA Day held in the Brisbane CBD on 29<sup>th</sup> May at great day was had by all (apart from the salty tasting tea) with numbers up on last year's attendance. Same month and day next year. **Thanks to Rob Sumpton for the reporting on the event.**

#### **Saturday 11 June 2011 - Brotherhood MMC Veterans Assistance Centre, 'VAC SLIPPER'.**

Members of the APPVA Sth Qld attended the opening of the Gold Coast Military Brotherhood MMC (MBMMC) veterans assistance centre “VAC Slipper” on the 11 July 2011 at 12 Tanah Merah Ave, TANAH MERAH QLD.

Congratulations to the Gold Coast MBMMC for their work in getting the centre open and it is a credit to them.

The APPVA Sth Qld presented commemorative bottles of wine from our “APPVA Medal Series” to



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the Gold Coast MBMMC at the official opening.

The centre was officially opened by Sen. Sue Boyce and is open from 3.00pm on Fridays for those wishing to drop in.



### COMING EVENTS

**Sat 25 June 2011 Veterans Health and Lifestyle Expo.** Hosted by the Ipswich and District Veterans Support Group. From 10.00am to 2.00pm at the Ipswich RSL Services Club, located at Downs Street Nth Ipswich. **See attached flyer for full details of the day.**



### **Reserve Forces Day**

**2 July 2011, “Recognition Ceremony” ANZAC Sq Brisbane 10.00am.** All Welcome, Tri-Service, All Ranks.

### **3 July 2011, RFD Parade, Ipswich, 10.00 am**

Form Up at Ipswich Grammar School at 0930 “Recognition Ceremony” in RSL Park following Parade.

For more information contact Robert Hume; telephone: 07 3211 9520; mobile: 0409 498 211

**3 July 2011, Wondai Qld,** commencing 10.00 am conducted at the cenotaph in front of the Council Chambers

**PARADE ASSEMBLY:** Beginning at 10.15am in the Post Office Paddock Coffee Stall run by Queensland Country Women’s Association in support of the Diabetes Foundation donations welcome. Parade commences at 11.00am



**12.00pm Sunday 31 July 2011 General meeting Greenbank RSL Club Rooms** (At the rear of the Services Club). **\*\*\*Members BBQ Lunch\*\*\***



**18 August 2011 Vietnam Veterans Day**

12.00pm at Anzac Square Brisbane.

4.00pm at Laidley Cenotaph (Organised by the VVF Lockyer/Bris Valley)

### WELFARE & PENSIONS NEWS



I have been away for 6 weeks, so have been out of the loop. I would remind members that if they have any urgent Welfare or Pension matters please contact the Secretary in my absence, as per my “Out of Office” message.

I would also ask members to C.c any emails addressed to me regarding Welfare matters to the Secretary at [qldsec@peacekeepers.asn.au](mailto:qldsec@peacekeepers.asn.au)

The APPVA Sth Qld Branch has now got a web site at [www.appvasthqld.webs.com](http://www.appvasthqld.webs.com). The web page has news and events, as well as a photo section. If anyone wants to add photos or content please do so, or alternatively email them to me and I will add them.

**The next meeting, 31 July 2011, will be a BBQ Lunch for the members, commencing at 12.00pm and a chance for the members to**



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catch up. The lunch will also commemorate the end of the Korean War and the signing of the armistice on the 27 July 1953.

Any members welfare support or pension advice please contact Glenn on 0410 132 711 or [welfareappvasq@gmail.com](mailto:welfareappvasq@gmail.com)



### VETERANS NEWS



#### **Caught in the Crossfire – Matina Jewell**

##### **An Australian peacekeeper beyond the front-line**

This is a story of idealism and heroism; of romance and terrifying drama.

##### **Description**

In 2006, while part of an un-armed UN peacekeeping team at the border junction of Lebanon, Israel and Syria, Australian Major Matina Jewell and her colleagues were caught in a full-scale war with tragic consequences. In the days that followed she and her team-mates reported hundreds of violations of the peace agreement as

Israeli artillery, tank fire and aerial bombs, as well as rockets fired by Hezbollah fighters, exploded only metres away and shrapnel rained down around them. But the story does not end there...

Matti Jewell is the kind of soldier every country is proud to have – fearless, honourable and highly skilled. A star graduate from Duntroon by the age of only 24, she became a highly valued army commander. In the years that followed, she earned eight war medals, tracking militia leaders in the Solomon's, fast-roping out of Navy helicopters and boarding smuggler ships in the Arabian Gulf, as well as serving on operations with the American Navy SEALs and Australian Special Forces.

Caught in the Crossfire is a frighteningly dramatic first-hand account of what really happens in modern warfare and the high price our soldiers pay for their country.

##### **About Matina Jewell**

Matina rose to the rank of Major in the Australian Army She has a Bachelor of Science and a Masters in Project Management. She speaks both Arabic and Bahasa Indonesian, and has represented Australia internationally in volleyball. She is the recipient of six Australian Defence Force service medals and of two war decorations from the Lebanese Government. She is a member of the Federal Commission for the ANZAC Centenary and the **Ambassador of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemakers Veterans Association**. She was born and raised near Byron Bay; today she lives regional Victoria. This is her first book.



## **Young veterans' post-traumatic stress leads to new treatments**

**Sean Parnell, FOI editor. From: the Australian May 25, 2011**

A SIGNIFICANT increase in recent military veterans and serving troops with post-traumatic stress disorder is set to force an overhaul of government-funded treatment programs, which have traditionally catered to an older generation of sufferers.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has about 30,000 people on its books with PTSD. The vast majority are receiving compensation and treatment for what has been deemed a service-related condition. In total, about 48,000 veterans have a service-related mental health condition.

Documents obtained by The Australian under Freedom of Information laws show Vietnam veterans will soon no longer be the dominant group of PTSD sufferers in the department's treatment programs.

Those involved in post-1975 operations – such as Iraq and Afghanistan, along with East Timor and the various African peacekeeping missions are the fastest-growing segment and have forced a rethink of departmental policies.

The department will next month receive a report, arising from an independent review of its PTSD programs by the Centre of Military and Veterans Health, which is expected to chart a new course in treatment.

But the Australian Centre for Post Traumatic Mental Health, which performs quality assurance on the existing programs for the department, has been recommending an overhaul since 2008.

Documents obtained from the department under FOI laws show the ACPMH has repeatedly warned that some groups are, by their size and composition, unsustainable, and there should be “greater efforts to engage post-1975 veterans”.

According to the ACPMH, promoting the program to recent veterans and serving troops, expanding its scope to cover other mental illnesses and even opening it up to more outsiders would make it “more relevant to the vocational and family needs of Australia's growing number of new veterans”.

Since the recommendation was made in 2008, the proportion of post-1975 veterans in the program has risen from 30 per cent to 40 per cent.

The department would not be drawn on when Vietnam veterans would no longer be the dominant group of PTSD sufferers, saying only that the estimated number still alive, not necessarily clients of the department, was 47,900, whereas the number of personnel who had served in post-1975 operations was more than 45,000.



## Trust in Afghan police force will take a generation: AFP

May 27, 2011 16:47:34

**A senior Australian Federal Police officer has told a Senate committee it will take a generation before the Afghan National Police has reached an acceptable level of development.**

The committee's also heard that many Afghans regard their local police as corrupt, poorly trained and unable to take control of the country's security. The AFP has conceded that their efforts to train the Afghan police are undermined by the fragile security situation. But they say the forces' capabilities are slowly improving.

*Presenter: Joanna McCarthy*

*Speaker: Tony Negus, the commissioner of the Australian Federal Police; Federal Agent Frank Prendergast from the Australian Federal Police*

MCCARTHY: Twenty-eight AFP officers are currently stationed in Afghanistan where they're part of the larger NATO effort to train the Afghan national police force. And that training mission was under scrutiny when senior AFP officials appeared before a Senate Estimates hearing in Canberra. Tony Negus is the commissioner of the Australian Federal Police.

NEGUS: As at the 14<sup>th</sup> of April we've trained 1255 Afghan national police in Tarin Kowt and we've also trained 172 personnel out of the Afghan major crime taskforce in Kabul.

MCCARTHY: The local police attend a six week course at the secure police training facility in Tarin Kowt. And Commissioner Negus says there's little prospect at this stage of delivering training outside of those confines. He says it's just too dangerous to send AFP personnel outside of that protected environment.

NEGUS: It is something we've looked at. The current security assessment is that really anywhere outside the confines of the Tarin Kowt camp is really a battle zone and the dangers to civilian police operating in that environment is just too great.

MCCARTHY: The dangers to international forces can come from the Afghan police themselves. This month an Afghan policeman shot dead two NATO soldiers. And a British inquest into the murder of five British soldiers by a rogue Afghan policeman heard that Afghan police were sometimes high on drugs and open to corruption. At the Senate Estimates hearing, ADF officials were asked about a UN survey which found that Afghan people have little confidence in their local police. Six in ten reported that the police were corrupt, more than a quarter had seen police using drugs and half reported they would take criminal matters elsewhere. Fewer than a third saw the police as very well trained, well equipped and prepared to take over duties from the international forces. Federal Agent Frank Prendergast told the Senate Hearing the survey was accurate.

PRENDERGAST: Any police force Senator really relies on the confidence of the public to properly perform its duty it's a key element of policing. And



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I think in the development of the AMP we have a long way to go. There are significant issues with things like literacy, narcotics abuse, human rights issues with the AMP.

MCCARTHY: Frank Prendergast says the concerns about local police are widely known and NATO is working to eliminate corruption and ensure local police are being paid. And he says NATO training programs are tailored to weed out those involved in the narcotics trade and educate forces about human rights. But there'll be no quick fix.

PRENDERGAST: So you're probably looking at the AMP at a generational issue in terms of its development in terms of it getting to a state that we would consider acceptable. That's not to say there aren't a lot of good people in the AMP and progress isn't being made. But the fact is you're dealing with an under-developed police force of 130,000 plus. And there's significant issues to overcome.

**From: Radio Australia Connect Asia**

### **Security Council extends mandate of UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus**

13 June 2011 – UN News Centre

**The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus for another six months and urged the leadership of the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities to accelerate the pace of talks aimed at reunification.**

Expressing full support for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus ([UNFICYP](#)), the Council voted to extend its mandate until 15 December this year.

The UN has maintained the peacekeeping force on the island since 1964. The force's current strength is nearly 1,000 uniformed personnel and 150 international and national civilian staff.

In a resolution adopted unanimously, the Council urged the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot leaders to “intensify the momentum of negotiations, engage in the process in a constructive and open manner, and work on reaching convergences on the remaining core issues in preparation for their meeting with the Secretary-General in July 2011.”

It also called on them to “improve the public atmosphere in which the negotiations are proceeding, including by focusing public messages on convergences and the way ahead, and delivering more constructive and harmonized messages.” The Council also called for increasing the participation of civil society in the negotiations process where appropriate.

The Council echoed the Secretary-General's view that a solution is well within reach, saying it looked forward to decisive progress in the near future.

The 15-member panel said it was convinced of the many important benefits for all Cypriots accrue from a comprehensive and durable settlement and urged the two sides and their leaders to “foster positive public rhetoric.” It encouraged them to explain the benefits of a settlement, as well as the need for increased flexibility and compromise in order to reach an agreement.

The resolution noted with regret that both sides



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had withheld access to the remaining minefields in the buffer zone, causing demining work to stop. It called for rapid agreement on facilitating the resumption of demining operations and clearance of the remaining minefields.

The UN has been facilitating talks between the leadership of the two communities with a view to the establishment of a Federal Government with a single international personality, consisting of a Turkish Cypriot Constituent State and a Greek Cypriot Constituent State, each of equal status.

### Official History of Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Post-Cold War Operations



Trooper (Tpr) Jon Church carries an injured Rwandan child who has survived the brutal massacre by soldiers of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) at the UN administered refugee camp at Kibeho in 1995. Tpr Church was one of 18 soldiers killed in a training accident in Townsville on 12 June 1996, when two Blackhawk helicopters crashed. Photo by George Gittoes.P04111.030

With the end of the Second World War, the UN Security Council took responsibility for the collective defence of member states against aggression. However, with conflicts since 1945 being the result of Cold War tensions and internal civil wars, another more practical way was needed to ease conflict.

This desire to keep the peace led to the concept of employing a minimally armed force to monitor an emerging peace between two parties recently at war, either opposed nations or internal factions. In turn, this has led to more complex peace-enforcement operations, where force has been authorised to prevent further conflict, and also the need for humanitarian support in the face of man-made or natural disasters. The overriding goal for these operations has been the use of impartial, multi-national forces to bring peace, stability, and rebuilding to areas in crisis.

Since the first peacekeepers left Australia for Djokjakarta (Indonesia) in September 1947, over 30,000 Australians have been involved in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. The Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Australian Federal Police (AFP) have been involved in over a hundred operations (large and small), providing forces and leadership for peace observation and enforcement, weapons destruction, demining, training, and disaster relief all over the world.

Source: AWM

### MERCANDISE

Name Badges are now available to APPVA Sth Qld members at the cost of \$20.00. Please contact Glenn on 0410 132 711 or at [welfareappvasq@gmail.com](mailto:welfareappvasq@gmail.com)





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# IPSWICH and DISTRICT VETERANS SUPPORT GROUP

## VETERAN'S HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE EXPO

Saturday 25th  
June 2011

Time: 10 AM–2pm

Ipswich RSL  
Services Club,  
Downs St  
North Ipswich



*This Expo is in support of both serving and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. So come along, gather information and participate in health and lifestyle presentations. Find out exactly what your entitlements are.*

### Are you missing out??

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| "The Pit Stop" health check- up program | JPs Ipswich                              |
| DVA VAN Officers                        | St Andrews Hospital                      |
| Free Hearing Tests                      | Advocacy and Pensions Assistance         |
| Toowong Hospital                        | Various Ex Service Organisations         |
| The Public Trustee (do your will)       | GP and Allied Health Providers           |
| Defence Service Home Insurance          | War Service and Defence Home Loans       |
| Defence health                          | Veterans and Veterans Family Counselling |
| Ipswich City Council services           | Legacy                                   |
| Aged Care Information                   | Medal information and mounting           |



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