



## Australian American Association Queensland Division - Brisbane

**NEWSLETTER {12<sup>th</sup> EDITION} ~ DEC 2019\*\*\***

**Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland**

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*Acting President – Mike Harris*

### **COMMITTEE 2019 - 2020**

**Mike Harris (Acting President)**

**Mark Messer (Acting Vice President)**

**Alex Kurschinsky (Secretary)**

**Teresa Pokoj (Treasurer)**

**Roger Wilkins (Public Affairs Manager)**

**Sharyn Messer (Facebook Manager)**

**Barry Thiess (Life Member)**

**Ron Reece (MacArthur Museum)**

### **ACTING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I sincerely wish to acknowledge the work of Gail Young, who recently resigned from the position of President of the AAA Qld Division-Brisbane. Gail had worked tirelessly in the positions of President and Secretary over a number of years and will be greatly missed. On behalf of our Committee and Members I thank Gail for her great contribution to our Association and wish her all the best for the future.

Consequently, I will be Acting President and Mark Messer will be Acting Vice President until nominations are called, for the President's position in 2020.

I also wish to acknowledge the major contributions of Dr Dan Morgan in organizing the Annual Battle of the Coral Sea Wreath-Laying Service, held every May at the Newstead Park Cenotaph.

It's been a massive year for our Association and also, it's been a privilege for myself and the rest of our Committee to be a part of it. I believe that we have achieved a lot together in recent times and that we have a tremendous platform now to take our Association forward positively.





A very big thank you goes to our Association's Committee and Members for all of your contributions in time, talent, networks and companionship. I look forward to a very satisfying and successful coming year of events and social get togethers.

On behalf of our Committee, may I wish you our Members and your families, a Very Merry Christmas, and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mike Harris

Acting President AAA Qld Division - Brisbane

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## OUR LAST AAA EVENT FOR 2019

Our Monthly Social Drinks Meetup and Christmas Dinner is scheduled for 6:00pm on Fri 20th December at Polonia Club, 10 Marie St Milton.

Anyone wishing to attend this function, please email our Secretary by Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec at: [admin@aaabrisbane.com](mailto:admin@aaabrisbane.com).

## MEMORIES OF RECENT EVENTS

### Monthly Social Drinks Meetup Event



A happy group of AAA members and friends enjoying our Monthly Social Drinks Meetup held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November at the "Pullman Hotel".

### American Legion - Luncheon Event



AAA members and friends attending the American Legion's luncheon held at the Redlands Sporting Club on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019.







## **The “Gateway to Victory” Rededication Ceremony.**



**The “Gateway to Victory” Rededication Ceremony was held on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> November at Hamilton Reach, Brisbane. The National Anthems of Australia, the USA and QANTAS were sung by the attendees.**



**Photo taken after the unveiling of the three banners on the monument’s plaque. From left – RAAF Group Captain Simon Sauer, Alicia Dougherty Manager AMCHAM, Noel Tunny Chairman of the Gateway to Victory Memorial. Cr David McLachlan, Elsa D’Alessio Qld. and N.T. Regional Manager for Qantas, Marine Colonel Matthew Sieber from the 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force, and Mike Harris Acting President of AAA Qld Div - Brisbane.**



**“Gateway to Victory” Plaque on the monument reads: - “On December 24<sup>th</sup> 1941 the Royal Australian Air Force, QANTAS Empire Airways and the United States Air Force completed their first joint operation when QANTAS flying boat CENTAURUS serving with the RAAF as A18-10 landed at Hamilton Reach carrying 22 pilots from the US 27<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (Dive) and 5 pilots from the US 24<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Group who were withdrawn from the Philippines. These US pilots together with RAAF facilities and personnel organised and trained the first bomber and fighter Squadrons that expanded to become the US Fifth Air Force that with RAAF Command contributed decisively in the campaigns that brought Victory in the Pacific. Throughout the war QANTAS continued its transport and maintenance role until the end on the 15/8/1945.**

## **The AAA Thanksgiving Dinner Event.**



**AAA Members and friends attending the Thanksgiving Dinner held at the United Service Club on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019. A great night was enjoyed by all and the Guest Speaker the Rev Bill Pearson, gave an interesting and informative talk on his work with the Seafarer’s Mission.**





## AUSTRALIA-US DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP



### HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA-UNITED STATES DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP [EXTRACT FROM AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS WEBSITE]

Australians have fought alongside Americans in every major US military action of the last century, including World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Australians and Americans first fought together under unified command at the Battle of Hamel in France in July, 1918 under Australian General John Monash.

The Battle was the beginning of the first 100 Years of Mateship.

The alliance between Australia and the United States was formalised through the ANZUS Treaty in 1951. More than 60 years later, the Treaty remains the foundation of our security relationship with the United States. The mutual defence clause of the ANZUS treaty was invoked by Australia for the first time in 2001, after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. Australia remains a strong ally and coalition partner with the United States in the global coalition to defeat ISIS and in global efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

The alliance increases Australia's ability to protect itself and its interests by providing access to world-leading defence hardware and technologies,

training and combined exercises, as well as vital intelligence capabilities. Both countries are committed to working together to help shape international norms to advance vital shared interests in the domains of sea, airspace and outer space, as well as cybersecurity.

Further information about the defence relationship is available on the [Australian Department of Defence website](#).

### AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE STAFF IN THE US

Through the Australian Defence Staff in Washington, DC, Australia improves the interoperability and integration of Australian and US forces, maximises training and exercise opportunities with the US and ensures access to the best technology.

Our efforts ensure that both Australia and the US continue to benefit from the alliance. For Australia, continued American engagement supports the development of our defence capabilities and plays a critical role in maintaining strategic stability in the Asia Pacific region. For the US, Australia is a key ally in regional and global security efforts.

Australia has approximately 580 Defence personnel in the United States, spread across 31 states, and the District of Columbia.

The majority are embedded into the US military – effectively filling the role as if they were a member of the American military – in US units or work alongside US partners on combined project teams on issues including operational planning and intelligence, capability development, military education, and legal support.

The Head of the Australian Defence Staff Washington is the Australian Defence Attaché in the United States.

Defence representation at the Embassy includes the offices of the Naval, Military and Air attachés and branches overseeing defence policy, defence science and defence materiel.







## DEFENCE EXERCISES - TALISMAN SABRE 2017



A clear example of the strength of the alliance is Talisman Sabre, Australia's largest civil-military exercise conducted jointly with the United States, involving more than 33,000 US and Australian personnel.

Exercise Talisman Sabre is focused on mid-intensity, high-end warfighting, and provides an invaluable opportunity to conduct operations in a combined, joint and interagency environment.

The unique training opportunities on offer in Northern Australia under the US Force Posture Initiatives make an important contribution to the capabilities of both our militaries – strengthening our interoperability and our ability to respond to regional contingencies, such as Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief.

## DEFENCE SPENDING

Australia is one of the largest importers of US arms (of both commercial and government origin) in the world.

Significant purchases include:

- 12 new-build EA-18G 'Growler' airborne electronic attack aircraft
- 72 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters – for which Australia is the largest international purchaser

- 15 P-8 Poseidon maritime surveillance and patrol aircraft (through a cooperative development program with the US).



## THE AAA WELCOMES ITS NEW MEMBERS

*It's great to see the following new members –*

- *Paulette Ann Archer*
- *Roger Wilkins*
- *Georgia Rosemond*
- *Bruce Gaydon*
- *Mike Sobyra*
- *Timothy R Lafferty*
- *Anthony Jones*
- *Alice Longford*
- *Nigel Jocumsen*

*A warm welcome to all who have just joined us*

*Kindly Reminder –*

*Membership renewals are due on 1st July of each year.*



## The Veterans Care Association

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

The Veterans Care Association (VCA) is an Australian organisation set up 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

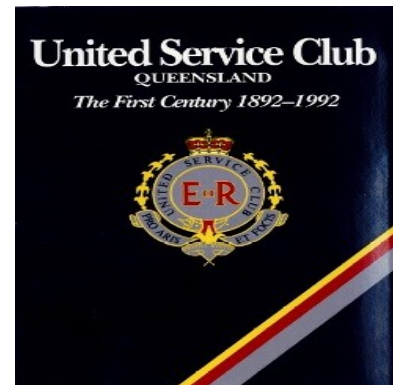
Ph: 0403 270 515

[Support@veteranscare.com.au](mailto:Support@veteranscare.com.au)

<http://www.veteranscare.com.au>



**RSL Coorparoo**



## THE AAA WISHES TO THANK ITS GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



**Tattersall's Club, Brisbane**



**The Norman Hotel**



7:09 am - 18.12.2019 mnh

