



Australian American Association Queensland Division - Brisbane

NEWSLETTER {13th EDITION} ~ MARCH 2020

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

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President – Mike Harris

COMMITTEE 2019 - 2020

Mike Harris (President)

Mark Messer (Vice President)

Alex Kurschinsky (Secretary)

Teresa Pokoj (Treasurer)

Sharon Messer (Facebook Manager)

Roger Wilkins (Public Affairs Manager)

Barry Thiess (Life Member)

Ron Rees (MacArthur Museum)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello AAA Brisbane Members.

It's hard to believe that we are now into our third month, having held our first event of the year - the Australia Day BBQ, at South Bank Parklands on Saturday 25th January 2020. Our picnic area was decorated with Australiana decorations, including a

Boxing Kangaroo and the "Green and Gold". I'd like to thank all our volunteers who helped in making this Australia Day celebration so successful, especially our AAA Brisbane Committee members Sharon Messer and Teresa Pokoj for their preparation of home-made beef rissoles, BBQ sausages, Pavlova, Lamingtons, salad and beetroot, hamburger rolls, hot dog rolls, chips and dips, tea and coffee. Without the help of Sharon and Teresa, I don't know how we would get it all done. It was an enjoyable day, a well-attended event and we were so lucky to enjoy such lovely sunny weather beside the beautiful Brisbane River.

The most important event that I would like to discuss is our forthcoming "Battle of the Coral Sea Wreath-laying Service" being held at Newstead Park on 9th May 2020. We desperately need help from our members with the running of this event. The service will be attended by the His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland, as well as more than a hundred other dignitaries and members of the public. So, please help us (your Committee) to make this event a success by phoning or emailing us and volunteering your services for a couple of hours on the day.

I'd also like to report that our Third Friday of the Month - Social Drinks Nights, being held in Brisbane City at the KG Bar Mercure Pullman Hotel, are being well attended and enjoyed.





Also, at the Annual HMAS Perth Remembrance Service held at the ANZAC Shrine Brisbane City, on Sun 1st March 2020, Teresa Pokoj AAA Brisbane Treasurer and I, laid a wreath to commemorate the loss of the USS Houston and HMAS Perth in the Battle of Sunda Strait in WW2. What is significant about this service is that both the HMAS Perth and the USS Houston (both ships were Cruisers) shared a destiny, they went down together fighting to their last round and this was against innumerable odds. Unfortunately, the majority of the crews of both ships either died in the actual battle, or later in the enemy's POW Camps. This event has a significance which is important to Australia and the USA. It's also a testament to the Mateship between our two great nations and the bravery of the crews of both ships, and they must always be remembered by us.

An application has been made to the Qld Government 'Gambling Community Benefit Fund' for the funding of equipment, to help us organize functions to earn income for our Association. A special thanks goes to our AAA member - Alice Langford for her skills and expertise in putting together this submission for us, and I dearly hope we are successful in this application. The equipment requested is to the value of \$14,721.92 and consists of a Laptop, a Laser Printer, a Yamaha 2400W Silent Generator, Two 3m X 3m Marquees (with our AAA Brisbane signage printed on these Marquees), Four 1.8m Bi-Fold Tables, Forty Chairs, a Portable BBQ and Gas Bottle, a Portable PA and Sound System, a Portable Fridge, and the costs towards a complete AAA Brisbane Website rebuild. Some of the above equipment will allow us to go and set up anywhere for a fund-raising event.

Members are welcomed to contact myself or a member of AAA Brisbane Committee with any questions or helpful suggestions they may have, in the running of our Association.

Yours sincerely
Mike Harris,
President.



Your 2019 – 2020 AAA Brisbane Committee -

From left - Mike Harris President, Teresa Pokoj Treasurer, Mark Messer Vice President, Sharon Messer Facebook Manager, Barry Thiess Life Member, Ron Rees MacArthur Museum, Alex Kurschinsky Secretary and Roger Wilkins Public Affairs Manager.

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IN MEMORIAM

The Australian American Association Brisbane, wishes to remember the three US firefighters who died, when their Hercules C130 air-tanker crashed while battling blazes in New South Wales on Thursday 23rd January 2020. They were - Captain Ian Mc Beth, first officer Paul Clyde Hudson and flight engineer Rick A De Morgan Jr. Our Association's members, as with the rest of Australia, were very shocked and saddened at this news, and may they rest in peace.

Interview in Studio on ABC Radio:

Our Association's Secretary - Alex Kurschinsky and President - Mike Harris, were interviewed about the tragedy, by the ABC's Rebecca Levingstone, on her morning program in Studio, on 4th February, 2020.





Alex said what a horrible tragedy it was to lose these 3 Americans, and so far away from their homes. He advised that he flew these Hercules Aircraft in the RAAF, and understood it was a bit of a problem in the US, where they get into these horrible conditions, and although we don't know the cause of this particular crash, there could have been poor visibility and severe turbulence, and his heart went out to these men's families for their tragic loss. Mike said that these three American firefighters were very brave men, who came to our country to help us in our time of need. It was such a terrible tragedy, and if anyone was in need of our Association's assistance, to please contact us by telephone:- 07 3554 1039, or email: admin@aaabrisbane.com

78TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BOMBING OF DARWIN IN 1942

On 19 February 1942, mainland Australia came under attack for the first time, when Japanese forces mounted two air raid attacks on Darwin. The two attacks involved 54 land-based bombers and approximately 188 attack aircraft which were launched from four Japanese aircraft-carriers in the Timor Sea. The raids killed at least 243 people and between 300 and 400 were wounded. Twenty military aircraft were destroyed, eight ships at anchor in the harbour were sunk and most civil and military facilities in Darwin were destroyed. It should also be noted that Darwin was bombed in more than 50 air raids during WW2.

78TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOOLITTLE RAID ON TOKIO, IN 1942



A B-25B taking off from [USS Hornet](#) for the raid

FROM WIKIPEDIA:

The Doolittle Raid, also known as the Tokyo Raid, was an air raid on 18 April 1942 by the United States on the Japanese capital [Tokyo](#) and other places on [Honshu](#) during WW2. It was the first air operation to strike the Japanese archipelago. It demonstrated that the Japanese mainland was vulnerable to American air attack, served as retaliation for the [attack on Pearl Harbor](#), and provided an important boost to American morale. The raid was planned, led by, and named after Lieutenant Colonel [James Doolittle](#), later General of the United States Army Air Forces.

Sixteen [B-25B Mitchell](#) medium bombers were launched without fighter escort from the U.S. Navy's aircraft carrier [USS Hornet](#) deep in the Western Pacific Ocean, each with a crew of five men. The plan called for them to bomb military targets in Japan and to continue westward to land in China. The bombing raid killed about 50 people, including civilians, and injured 400. Fifteen aircraft reached China but all crashed, while the 16th landed at [Vladivostok](#) in the Soviet Union. Of the 80 crew members, 77 survived the mission. Eight airmen were captured by the Japanese Army in China; three were later executed. The B-25 that landed in the Soviet Union was confiscated and its crew interned for more than a year, before being allowed to "escape" via [Soviet-occupied Iran](#) with the help of the [NKVD](#). Fourteen complete crews of five returned to the United States or to American forces, except for one crewman who was killed in action.

The raid caused negligible material damage to Japan, but it had major psychological effects. In the United States, it raised morale. In Japan, it raised doubt about the ability of military leaders to defend the Japanese home islands.





AAA EVENTS FOR 2020

Third Friday of the Month Social Drinks Event



Our next Third Friday of the Month Social Drinks Meetup is scheduled for 6:00pm on Fri 20th March 2020 at the KG Bar, Mercure Pullman Hotel, Cnr Ann & Roma Sts Brisbane City (right behind City Hall).



WE NEED YOUR HELP

Your Management Committee very much needs your help in organizing and in attending our Australian American Association's Events, as shown below.

Please phone 3554 1093 or email us at admin@aaabrisbane.com, with your promise to help us make these events happen:-

- *May 9th - Coral Sea Wreath-laying Service at Newstead Park.*
- *July 4th - Independence Day .*
- *October 7th - Annual General Meeting.*
- *November 26th - Thanksgiving Dinner.*
- *Christmas Party - to be announced.*

Laying of Memorial Wreaths in 2020

Our Association lays memorial wreaths at the following remembrance services:-

- HMAS Perth Association's service, held in March at the Shrine, Anzac Square Brisbane.
- The ANZAC Day Service held in April at the Shrine, Anzac Square Brisbane.
- Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) held in May, at the RSL's Allies Memorial, New Farm, Brisbane.
- The "Battle of the Coral Sea" event, as previously stated, held in May at Newstead Park, Brisbane.
- Memorial Day held in May at the Shrine, Anzac Square Brisbane.
- Victory in Pacific Day (VP Day) held in August, at the MacArthur Museum.
- Remembrance Day held in November, at the Shrine, Anzac Square Brisbane.

Anyone wishing to attend any of these events, please email our Secretary at:

admin@aaabrisbane.com.

MEMORIES OF RECENT EVENTS

Australia Day Picnic, held at Southbank Parklands on Saturday 25th January 2020.



AUSTRALIA DAY 2020 - AAA members and friends mark this day of celebration. The rain stayed away and everyone enjoyed the tasty food and wonderful friendship.





Suzarn Belle and Jenifer Addison both enjoying their Hot Dogs and Pavlova at the Australia Day Picnic.



Alex Kurschinsky AAA Secretary and Committee Member Roger Wilkins having an enjoyable day at the Australia Day Picnic.

Third Friday of the Month Social Drinks Event, at KG Bar, Mercure Pullman Hotel.



A happy group of AAA Brisbane Members enjoying the Monthly Social Drinks on Friday 22nd February 2020. From Left – Mike Harris President, Teresa Pokoj Treasurer, Noel Milner AAA Federal President, Dorothy Carroll Member and Alex Kurschinsky Secretary.



Teresa Pokoj AAA Brisbane Treasurer with dear friend Joan Burlew OAM and AAA Member, at the Monthly Social Drinks on Friday 17th January 2020.

Annual Commemoration Service for HMAS Perth and USS Houston, at the Shrine, Anzac Square, Brisbane on Sunday 1st March 2020.

This service was organized by the HMAS Perth Qld Association, who invited our Association to lay a wreath in remembrance of HMAS Perth and USS Houston. Both ships were sunk during the Battle of Sunda Strait (off Java) 78 years ago. AAA Brisbane President Mike Harris and Secretary Teresa Pokoj laid a wreath at this service.



Mike Harris AAA Brisbane President and Teresa Pokoj AAA Brisbane Treasurer (at far left) at the Shrine ANZAC Square. Others in the group include - Paul Rosmalen, Commander Darryl L Neil OAM, and Commander Louis Rago of HMAS Perth 2, Reverend Burt Jones RNAR, Commander Gerald Savvakis (ADCRAN) and CPO Paul Cannard HMAS Moreton.



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

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



The Veterans Care Association is holding a Fund-Raising Trivia Night at St Thomas' Parish Hall Camp Hill on Sat 30th May 2020. To book please Phone: 0409 894 264 or email: mnharris@bigpond.net.au.



THE AAA WELCOMES ITS NEW MEMBERS

It's great to see the following new members

- Zofia Hallasz
- Mark Gregory

A warm welcome to all who have just joined us

Kindly Reminder –

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF BIRTHDAYS & WEDDINGS

A very happy birthday wish goes to our AAA Brisbane Treasurer Teresa Pokoj who turned 70 years young on 7th January 2020.

Please let us know if you have any anniversaries coming up, and we will insert then in the next (June 2020) Quarterly AAA Brisbane Newsletter.





THE AAA WISHES TO THANK ITS GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



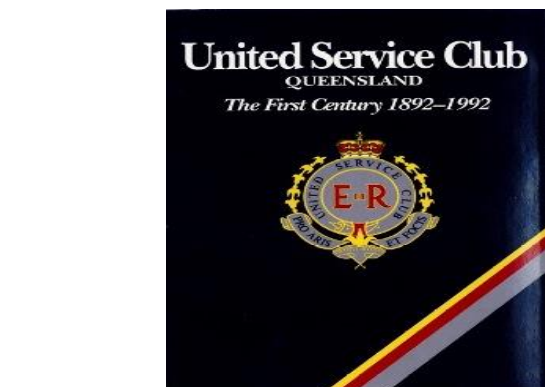
RSL Cooperaroo



Tattersall's Club, Brisbane



The Norman Hotel



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