



Australian American Association Queensland Division - Brisbane

NEWSLETTER {14th EDITION} ~ JUNE 2020

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

Address: PO Box 148 Coopers Plains Qld 4108

Phone: (07) 3554 1039

Email: admin@aaabrisbane.com

Web: www.aaabrisbane.com



Mike Harris (President)

Mark Messer (Vice President)

Alex Kurschinsky (Secretary)

Teresa Pokoj (Treasurer)

Sharon Messer (Facebook Manager)

Ron Rees (MacArthur Museum)

Barry Thiess (Life Member)

Newsletter Content	Page No
President's Message & Committee.....	1
Introducing two of our Committee Members.....	2
Memories of Recent Events.....	2
Future Events.....	4
Veterans Care Association.....	4
AAA Welcomes its New Members.....	5
AAA thanks its Generous Supporters.....	5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AAA Brisbane Members,

The COVID-19 Pandemic has brought much disruption to our daily lives and a degree of uncertainty about how we will fare, if and when, things get back to normal. The remainder of the 2020 events that we had planned, were placed on hold or cancelled, due to the present uncertainties. This is very unfortunate, as with all future planned events such as – our third Friday of the Month Drinks Nights, the 4th July Independence Day celebrations, the 7th October Annual General Meeting, the 26th October Thanksgiving Dinner and also, Christmas Dinner in December. However, we will continue to keep you updated as to the holding of these future events.

So far this year, we celebrated Australia Day in January with a most enjoyable BBQ held at South Bank. We also commemorated ANZAC Day, Battle of Coral Sea and Memorial Day with wreath-laying, complying with the required minimum number of attendees allowed.

We were sorry to lose Roger Wilkins from our Committee due to his having to move to Adelaide recently. My Committee and I thank Roger for his contributions and wish him every success for the future. Accordingly, I now invite interest from any member who may wish to join our Committee. Members are also welcome to contact me with any helpful suggestions they may have, in the running of our Association. My Committee and I thank all who have supported us and trust you will continue to keep safe and healthy during these tentative and challenging times. If you are in need of our assistance please telephone: 07 3554 1039.

Mike Harris,
President.





Introducing Two of Our AAA Brisbane Management Committee Members – Mark and Sharon Messer.

"Husband and wife team, Mark and Sharon Messer, are two active members of our Committee. Mark and Sharon joined the Australian American Association (AAA) in 2018 and became committee members in 2019. Mark was appointed as Vice-President at the beginning of 2020 and Sharon takes care of the AAA Facebook Page. Mark and Sharon met in Hawaii and were married there before relocating to Australia in 2017. They live on 5 acres in the country and they have a dream of sharing their time in the future, travelling between Australia and the USA."

AAA Brisbane's Annual Commemoration Service and Laying of Memorial Wreaths

Our Association conducts the commemoration of the Battle of Coral Sea Service in May every year, and also, lays memorial wreaths at other services shown below. **However this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, many of the events shown below were cancelled.**

- 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 held in May, at the RSL's Allies Memorial, New Farm, Brisbane.
- "Battle of the Coral Sea" commemoration, 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 held in August at the Shrine, ANZAC Square Brisbane. **{This event may still be held}.**
- Remembrance Day held in November, at the Shrine, ANZAC Square Brisbane. **{This event may still be held}.**

For any further information, please email us at: admin@aaabrisbane.com.

MEMORIES OF RECENT EVENTS

Memorial Day Commemoration Service held at the Shrine, ANZAC Square, Brisbane on Monday 25th May 2020.

This service was organized by the Coral Sea Commemorative Association, who invited organizations including our (AAA Brisbane) Association to lay a wreath to honour those who died in any war whilst serving with the United States of America. AAA Brisbane President Mike Harris and Treasurer Teresa Pokoj both laid wreaths at this service.



From left: Barry Thiess President Coral Sea Commemorative Association, Alicia Doherty Member of General Douglas Memorial Foundation, Wes Jordan American Legion, Joel Atkins American Legion, Teresa Pokoj AAA Treasurer Brisbane, Pastor Marvin Donnell American Legion & Mike Harris President AAA Brisbane.



Poem Recitation by Alicia Doherty Member of General Douglas Memorial Foundation, representing the US Consul-General, Sydney, Ms Sharon Hudson Dean.





Barry Thiess, President of the Coral Sea Commemorative Association, who was the MC for the Commemorative Service. Barry is also an AAA Life Member and a committee member of AAA Brisbane.



Mike Harris President of AAA Brisbane, reciting the "Ode for the Fallen" by Robert Laurence Binyon. This poet was so moved by the casualties of war, that he wrote this most famous work. He was made Norton Professor of Poetry, at Harvard University in 1933.

*"Ode for the Fallen" by Robert Laurence Binyon.
They went with songs to the battle, they were young.
Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

78th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea held at the Australian American War Memorial, Newstead Park, Brisbane, on Friday 8th May 2020.

As advised in our previous Interim Newsletter, AAA Brisbane had planned to hold an official service marking this event on Saturday 9th May 2020. However, due the COVID-19 restrictions on public assembly, this official service had to be cancelled. But, in keeping with our annual tradition of honouring those who served and those who died, during the Battle of the Coral Sea, the AAA's Treasurer Teresa Pokoj and President Mike Harris, visited the Australian-American War Memorial on Friday 8th May 2020, and with a small group, we paid our respects and laid wreaths.

Others attending included: Barry Thiess President Coral Sea Commemorative Association & Life-Member of Australian American Association, Hon Trevor Evans Federal Member for Brisbane & Member of Australian American Association (AAA) Brisbane, Pinky Singh State LNP Candidate for McConnell, Alicia Doherty Federal Commissioner Australian American Association and Member of General Douglas Memorial Foundation.



From left - Teresa Pokoj, Mike Harris, Barry Thiess and Alicia Doherty, standing at the Australian American War Memorial Monument, Newstead Park.





AAA Brisbane's wreath laid by our Treasurer Teresa Pokoj at the Australian American War Memorial, Newstead Park to commemorate the Battle of the Coral Sea. This wreath was made by Teresa in the colours of the Australian and American Flags and with Roses. The stars represent the five-point ones found on both flags and the seven-point star on the Australian Flag. The centre-piece shows the crossed-flags of our two nations over the Icon of the Australian American Association.



AAA Brisbane's wreath laid by our Treasurer Teresa Pokoj at the Memorial Day Service held at the Shrine, Anzac Square, Brisbane. The wreath was made by Teresa and shows a display of Cacti flowers with symbols of the American Flags on each side. The centre-piece shows the American Bald Eagle over crossed American Flags.



FOR OUR FUTURE EVENTS – WE NEED YOUR HELP !

Your Management Committee very much needs your help in organizing and in attending our Australian American Association's Future Events, following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. Please phone 3554 1093 or email us at admin@aaabrisbane.com, with your promise to help us make these events happen. We are hoping (with fingers crossed) that the following planned Events may still be held this year:

- **July 4th Independence Day** (hoping that this event can still go ahead, at some later date).
- **October 7th - Annual General Meeting.**
- **November 26th - Thanksgiving Dinner.**
- **Christmas Party – to be announced.**



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





THE AAA WELCOMES ITS NEW MEMBERS

It's great to see the following new member:

- Herman T Rijken

A warm welcome to Herman and his family, who have just joined us.

Kindly Reminder –

Membership renewals are due on 1st July 2020.

BIRTHDAY & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

THE AAA WISHES TO THANK ITS GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



The Norman Hotel



Tattersall's Club, Brisbane



RSL Coorparoo



09:05 05.06.20* MNH

