

TORCH



BUILDING
MOMENTUM AT
LEGACY HOUSE

CRAFTING
CONNECTIONS
IN HERVEY BAY &
MARYBOROUGH

FOND MEMORIES OF
LEGACY'S MOORLAND
HOUSE

SUPPORTING FIRST
NATIONS FAMILIES
THE WESTERN APPEAL
SUNSCREEN SEASON
HONOURING SERVICE
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FRIENDSHIP AND
LAUGHTER - THE BEST
MEDICINE OF ALL

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dearest Gentle Readers,

I received lovely feedback from one of our gentle readers who said that they laughed and laughed when they saw this last time and felt like they were watching Bridgerton with me.

So, I think this has to be my salutation to you every time now. After all, I am writing to let you know all the gossip from Legacy Brisbane.

I am writing in the lead up to ANZAC day, so of course like you, reflecting on what that means and reading stories from others. Annabelle Wilson, the new DVA Families Commissioner shared her story in a recent New Idea.

Her story of love, loss and grief and the support she received from Legacy is so poignant and powerful.

There are parallels to my own grandmother's story. My grandfather died in the 1950s as a result of injuries he suffered in WW1. She was a Legacy widow with three not yet adult sons.

We recently found her engagement ring, and I

have been wearing it to various Legacy events. I hope she would be proud.

ANZAC day is always meaningful, busy and complex emotionally for our families, Legatees and staff. I have been going to Dawn Services for as long as I can remember, at least 50 years.

For me, it is not just about those who served, but very much about their families. That is why it is such a privilege to be part of the Legacy family and to do what I can to ensure that we keep that promise.

The spirit of remembrance and support is very much alive in everything happening at Legacy Brisbane. We held the "roofing ceremony" for the new Legacy House at Greenslopes and got to walk the site with the builder and many of the people and companies that have given so generously to bring this vision to light.

You can start to feel what our new home will be like and the community that will be welcomed through the doors. I can't wait to see the new living library, the stained-glass window, the torch, the BBQ bench built from wood from the Red Cross Nurses home that was on the site and the park that will be out the front. I look forward to seeing many of you there in the last months of this year and next year.

In other society events we moved to Yeerongpilly, had our AGM, participated in Run Army, where the longest steepest hill is now called "Legacy Hill".

We also have the Canungra Combat Challenge happening in June, which is a fantastic

LEGACY CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION PRESENTED TO 129 ARMY CADET UNIT, ENOGGERA

Story by: Legatee Peter Ruff



For many years now the Cadets of 129 Army Cadet Unit Enoggera, based at Gallipoli Barracks have provided outstanding support to Legacy Brisbane, in particular to the Northern Group.

On numerous occasions, successive Northern Chairs have been invited to speak on parade nights, explaining and answering

questions regarding Legacy Brisbane's critical role.

129 support has ranged from internal fund raising, support and participation during past Run Army events, and in particular during Legacy Week, providing that critical uniformed presence at shopping centres and Bunnings!

In late 2025 Legatee Peter Ruff had the honour of being invited

to speak to the Cadets on parade. Peter then presented individual cadets with certificates of appreciation, together with a framed certificate to the unit itself.

The unit certificate was graciously accepted by the Officer Commanding, Captain Lachlan Day, a staunch supporter of Legacy.

event connecting us more deeply to community. My work has two teams running this year. They have been training in Roma St Parklands.

So, if you see a team of largely females, struggling through the Parklands on a Thursday afternoon with jerry cans and stretchers give them a big wave!

In other Legacy gossip, the past few months have included some very significant birthdays: Irene, Marion, Joyce, Elwyn, Peggy, and

Beryl. Happy Birthday to you all and I hope the cake was fabulous, I have been favouring a good old fashioned Victoria sponge for birthdays in my family.

Perhaps most importantly, local events run by our 14 groups, Laurel clubs and social activities continue to run.

Being part of a community and connecting with others in all sorts of ways is one of the most meaningful things about being part of the Legacy family.

I look forward to catching up with you all again in the Winter edition of the Torch – until then.

Yours in Legacy
(and society gossip),

Dr Annabel McGuire
President, Legacy Brisbane



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Dear Legacy family members,

As another ANZAC Day passes, our thoughts naturally turn to the loved ones who served and the memories we carry with us. While the day itself may come and go, our commitment to you, the families in our care, remains constant and unwavering.

ANZAC Day is always a meaningful and busy time for our families, Legatees and staff. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributes in their own way to keeping the spirit of ANZAC alive in our communities.

It is a day that continues to unite Australians in remembrance, not only of those who have served, but also of the families who stand beside them.

In March 2026, we commenced operations from our temporary home at 665 Fairfield Road, Yeerongpilly. This move will carry us through until we open the doors to our new Legacy House at Greenslopes in October 2026.

After more than three decades at South Brisbane, this transition to Greenslopes marks an important new chapter for Legacy Brisbane.

I'm pleased to share that there has been no disruption to our services during this time, and we

are all looking forward with great anticipation to welcoming you into our new home later this year.

I would also like to acknowledge Brisbane City Council for their generosity in providing our temporary accommodation, recognising the important work we do together for veteran families.

On 29 March, we held another successful Run Army event. With over 9,000 participants enjoying the cooler conditions, it was a fantastic day of community, connection and support.

The introduction of "Legacy Hill" certainly left a lasting impression and ensured many people were talking about Legacy long after they crossed the finish line!

Just prior to ANZAC Day, we also marked an important milestone with the Roofing Ceremony at Legacy House Greenslopes.

It was a special moment to bring together the many people and organisations who have contributed to this project; our construction partners, government representatives, and our collaborative care partners including Department of Veteran's Affairs, Gallipoli Medical Research, RSL Queensland and Mates4Mates.

Seeing this vision come to life is incredibly meaningful, and we look forward to this space becoming a place of connection, care and support for veterans and their families from October 2026.

On a personal note, I am honoured to have been invited to join the Legacy National Advocacy Committee from May 2026.

With the support of our Board, I have accepted this role and

look forward to contributing to Legacy's advocacy at a national level, while continuing to focus on our work here in Queensland.

As we head into the cooler months, we would love to see more teams join us for the Canungra Combat Challenge (C3) on Saturday 13 June.

It's a fantastic event, and all funds raised go directly towards supporting our families. If you know anyone who might be interested, please feel free to share the link:

<https://support.legacy.com.au/event/canungra-combat-challenge>

Finally, a reminder that our Backyard Assist program is always available for those who may need a helping hand.

This program brings together soldiers and volunteers to support with gardening and maintenance tasks around the home.

If you feel this could assist you or someone you know, please reach out to your Legatee or contact Legacy House (Adele) on 07 3029 5617.

Thank you, as always, for being part of the Legacy family. It is a privilege to walk alongside you.

Yours in Legacy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brendan Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brendan Cox
CEO, Legacy Brisbane

A SPECIAL NIGHT AT SUNCORP

Story by: Sarah Calderwood

Legacy widow and Tall Poppy, Bec Beckwith, enjoyed a memorable night at Suncorp Stadium with her children, Ella and Will, both Legacy Youth Leaders, after being gifted tickets to a recent Broncos home game.

While the result didn't go the Broncos' way, the experience itself was something truly special for the family.

Opportunities like this create moments of connection, fun and time together that mean so much.

When the tickets were offered, Bec's excitement said it all:

"OMG YES!!! That would be bloody amazing. We're so excited for tonight"



A heartfelt thank you to the Brisbane Broncos for generously providing these tickets, allowing us to share such a special experience with one of our Legacy families.



NEW FRANCO-AUSTRALIAN BONDS FORGED

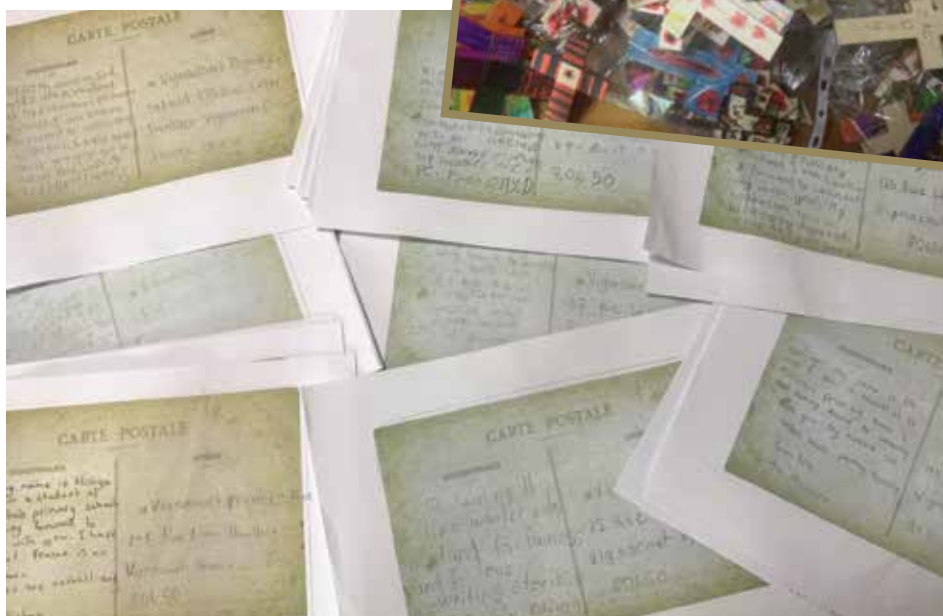
Story by: Michael Fiechtner

In a meaningful act of remembrance and connection, more than 500 ANZAC crosses were collected from St Columba's Primary School in Brisbane and carried to France during ANZAC Week 2026.

In Vignacourt, French students carefully placed the crosses on the graves of nearly 500 soldiers buried in the Vignacourt Commonwealth Cemetery, fulfilling a promise first made in 1918, to never forget the sacrifices of those who served.

This initiative has strengthened a lasting connection between Australian and French students, linked by bonds of friendship and mateship that span more than a century.

Year 5 and 6 students also exchanged postcards, helping to build meaningful relationships that continue beyond the commemorations.



BUILDING MOMENTUM AT LEGACY HOUSE

Story by: Tess Whitton

Earlier this year, a series of site visits to Legacy House in Greenslopes offered a powerful glimpse into the progress of this transformational project, with construction continuing to move ahead at pace.

In late January, Legacy Brisbane representatives and members of the Legacy Futures Council visited the site, where CEO Brendan Cox shared an update on the campaign and build. With the second-floor slab poured, the project reached an important stage, with \$500,000 still to raise to bring the vision to completion.

By March, valued partners and supporters including Gripfast Consulting, BMD Group, Sci-Fleet Motors, The SAS Group and Sabio returned to site to experience the progress firsthand. With the roof nearing completion, Legacy House is taking shape as a purpose-built, first-of-its-kind model of care, bringing together services, support and community for veterans' families across Queensland.

These visits are a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through collaboration, with sincere thanks extended to our partners, supporters and construction team for their ongoing commitment.

Legacy House remains on track to open in October, bringing us one step closer to delivering a new home for Legacy families!



CRAFTING CONNECTIONS IN HERVEY BAY & MARYBOROUGH

Story by: Legatee Lauren Carter

The Hervey Bay Craft Group has quickly become a much-loved monthly gathering, bringing widows together for creativity, connection and plenty of laughter.

Around six to nine ladies attend each session, with a mix of familiar faces and newcomers. Since the group began, interest has continued to grow across both Hervey Bay and Maryborough as more widows discover how enjoyable and welcoming these mornings are.

The Hervey Bay group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Pialba CWA Hall, while Maryborough gathers on the third Wednesday at the MADCOTA Hub, where Legacy now has a presence during the week. Activities have included card making, rock painting, stencilling, butterfly bookmarks and Christmas figurines.



Many ladies now bring along their own craft supplies and happily share skills and techniques with others.

The group was created to foster a sense of connection and belonging, and that goal is clearly being achieved.

The room is often filled with laughter and shared memories, and everyone leaves feeling uplifted and connected. Legatee Korinna summed it up perfectly, saying, *"It was so beautiful to hear*

everyone laughing and connecting at the craft group, it was like we were old friends."

The group is open to all Legacy widows, with the option to bring a plus one for a small gold coin donation. Simply turn up on the day or phone 4194 5111 for more information.

Organisers strongly encourage other care groups to try similar activities, noting that even the simplest gatherings can create a powerful sense of belonging.



HAPPY 100th IRENE!

Irene Garland celebrated her 100th birthday at Emmaus in February, surrounded by loved ones. Her husband, who served in New Guinea during World War II, was honoured as part of the occasion. Friends and family organised a special morning tea, sharing cherished memories and showering Irene with affection and gifts.

Legatee Jennifer Burley was delighted to contribute to the festivities, presenting Irene with a beautiful bouquet of flowers to mark the milestone.

Story by: Lyndal Winter



HAPPY 100th MARION!

Marion Geoghegan celebrated a remarkable milestone; her 100th birthday in April.

Marion was delighted and surprised to receive an orchid and card from Legacy Northside ahead of her special day. In good spirits and looking forward to the celebrations, she was excited to mark the occasion with family

gathered the following day. Her mentor and son, Maurice, was present during the presentation, sharing in the moment.

Reaching 100 years is an incredible achievement, and it was wonderful to help celebrate this special milestone with Marion and her family.

Story by: Legatee Terry Edwinsmith



FRASER BURNETT WELCOMES NEW LEGATEES

Story by: Katie Marsh

The Fraser Burnett Legacy contact group is pleased to share the success of its February recruitment campaign across Maryborough and Hervey Bay, strengthening support for the local Legacy community.

Ahead of the campaign, Legacy Brisbane CEO Brendan Cox visited the region, meeting with MP David Lee and Deputy Mayor Cr Sara Faraj to discuss how Legacy and the wider community can continue working together to best support local veterans' families.

The visit highlighted the importance of strong community partnerships in ensuring Legacy's services remain accessible and responsive to local needs.

Legacy Volunteer Information Sessions were then held at MADCOTA in Maryborough and the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre in Urangan.

Both sessions were very well attended, with a great deal of interest from community



members keen to learn more about the role of a Legatee and the difference they can make.

As a result, we are delighted to welcome five new Legatees to the Fraser Burnett region.

These volunteers will play an important role in providing care, connection, and practical support to the families of veterans across Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

We sincerely thank everyone who attended the sessions, as well as the teams at MADCOTA and



the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre for their generous support in hosting these events.

It is always a pleasure to welcome new faces into the Legacy family, and we look forward to the positive contribution these new Legatees will make in the Fraser Burnett region.

ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO 2026

Story by: Carina Aloni



Brisbane came alive with the sound and colour of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in February.

Legacy youth Nicholas Lord was part of the Brisbane performance troop, taking part in this spectacular international event.

Nicholas shared that the first week of rehearsals was an absolute blast, with long days on the Esplanade filled with music, marching and the excitement of bringing the show together.

In the second week, the experience became even more special as he met and watched performers from around the world.

The event culminated in four incredible days of performances in front of packed crowds.

It was a particularly meaningful experience for Nicholas, with both his mother and grandmother there to watch and support him.

EXPLORERS GATHER FOR AUTUMN SEASONS EVENT

Story by: Jess Sommerfeld

On Friday 27 March, a group of Explorers and their carers attended the Autumn Seasons Event at Hamilton Town Hall, proudly supported by Bupa.

The day encouraged participants to connect with one another and try new experiences.

Musicare facilitated both a drumming circle and a silent disco, giving everyone a chance to explore self-expression through music.

The event concluded with a shared catered lunch. This marked the second time Musicare has delivered an activity for the Explorers group, and on each occasion, participants have thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Legacy Brisbane extends its sincere thanks to BUPA Foundation for its generous support. Their contribution has been instrumental in making

the Explorers Seasons Program possible, enabling participants to build connection, creativity, and a sense of community throughout the year.



HAPPY 97th BIRTHDAY MRS WORTHINGTON!

Joyce celebrated her 97th birthday in January, marking a very special milestone surrounded by love and well wishes from friends and family.

The day was made even brighter with many phone calls and messages, reminding Joyce just how cherished she is.

Pictured here is Joyce with a beautiful birthday bouquet from Legacy Brisbane, which helped make her celebration extra special.

We wish Joyce continued happiness and good health as she enjoys another year surrounded by care and connection.

Submitted by: Lyndal Winter

CELEBRATING ELWYN'S 100th BIRTHDAY

In February, Jenni and Rod Lees visited Elwyn to celebrate her remarkable 100th birthday. Elwyn had already received flowers from Legacy, alongside several other beautiful bouquets and cards marking the special occasion.

During the visit, Elwyn shared that she had not taken part in the tree planting often associated with centenary celebrations. Having lived almost her entire life in Maryborough, her story is deeply connected to the local community. She married her husband, Gordon, in May 1950.

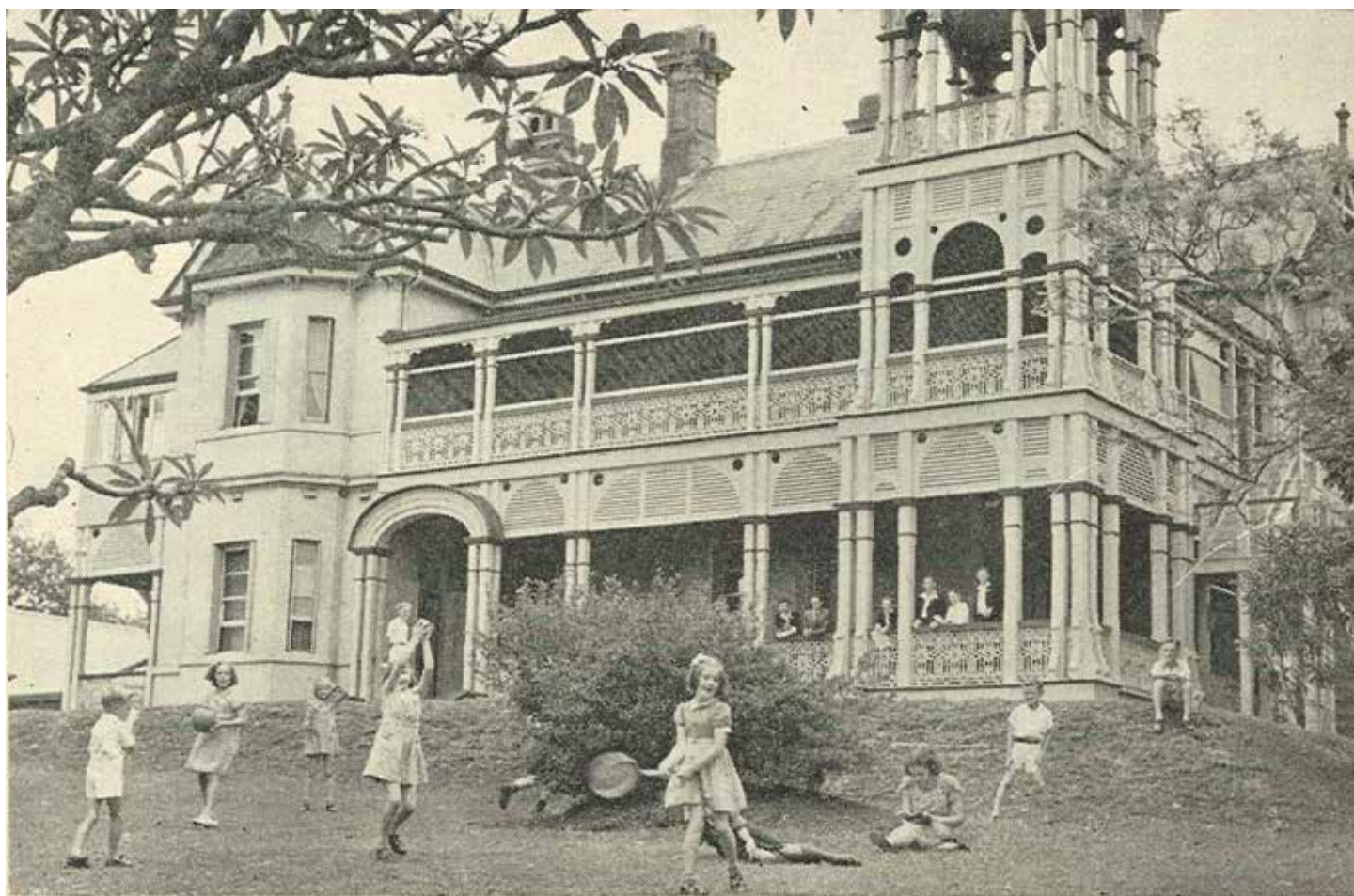
To continue the celebrations, Elwyn was heading out for lunch at one of Maryborough's well-known local venues, a place she had not visited in quite some time.

Submitted by: Legatee Jenni Bryson



MAUREEN MCNEIL'S FOND MEMORIES OF LEGACY'S MOORLANDS HOUSE

Story by: Melinda Thompson



Maureen McNeil joined Legacy officially in 2019, 26 years after her husband Hugh passed in 1979.

Hugh was a Leading Aircraftsman in the RAAF during WW2 from 1943 to 1946.

During wartime, Maureen worked her day job, and in the evenings, she volunteered to prepare food for the troops.

After Hugh returned from the war, he met Maureen and they fell head over heels.

They got married, a day that Maureen describes as the most beautiful day of her life.

Maureen was an artist, and Hugh worked in management in a bank.

They decided they wanted to help out with post war efforts so they both volunteered at Legacy's

Moorlands House, and assisted by providing bread, milk and food for the children.

Maureen speaks highly of Moorlands House and fondly of the children who lived there. After Hugh passed Maureen continued with her art and took up golfing.

Maureen says that Legacy is special to her because of the way they help people who most need it.

Legacy Brisbane CSO Melinda and FRMC's Tess visited Maureen in hospital to take her photo for this article and share some printed images of her late husband from his time in service, along with photos of Moorlands House.

Melinda also thoughtfully brought Maureen a lipstick and blush set, along with a beautiful silk scarf, knowing how much she enjoys looking her best.

Maureen even insisted that all three ladies wear her own perfume, a small but lovely detail that reflected her enduring sense of style.

Maureen shared some wonderful words of wisdom and was truly overjoyed by the visit.



LISTENING, LEARNING & SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS FAMILIES

Story by: Christina Davidson

The Child Safe Organisations Act 2024 (Qld) came into effect on 1 October 2025 and requires organisations such as Legacy Brisbane to review and strengthen our practices around working with children safely.

The legislation is designed to protect children by ensuring organisations have clear standards, reporting processes, and responses to allegations of harm or misconduct.

Central to the Act are the 10 Child Safe Standards, alongside a Universal Principle that emphasises the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, ensuring they feel welcome, safe, valued and respected.

In our response to this legislation, Legacy Brisbane also sees an opportunity to reaffirm our ongoing commitment to walking beside the families of our veterans.

An important part of this commitment is identifying and acknowledging the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are part of our Legacy community.

We honour the enduring connection First Nations peoples have to Country, culture and community, and we recognise the significant contributions they have made, and continue to make to Australia's story.

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women have proudly served, and continue to serve, in the Australian Defence Force.

Their courage, strength and dedication form an integral part of our nation's history and of the Legacy community we support.

While this initial step focuses on learning more about our First Nations Legacy families, we also acknowledge that our community is richly diverse, representing many cultures, faiths and backgrounds.

Each story adds depth and strength to our shared history. In time, we hope to better understand how we can meaningfully include and support the many different cultural groups within the Legacy Brisbane community.

Looking ahead, Legacy Brisbane is committed to ensuring our services are inclusive, culturally appropriate and respectful to everyone we support.

To do this well, we must listen and learn to understand the experience and voices of the people who make up our community.

This is where we would like your help.

We are currently gathering information to better understand how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are part of the Legacy Brisbane community.

This is the first step in an ongoing journey to strengthen inclusion and cultural understanding within the ex-service community, ensuring our programs and services respectfully reflect and honour every story, every family and every culture we support.

If you identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, or would like to share more about your cultural background, please reach out to your Legacy Brisbane contact, whether that is your Legatee or Community Services Officer.

If you do not have a specific contact, please call Legacy House on 3029 5600 and ask to speak with the Duty Community Services Officer, mentioning this article.

Your voice, your heritage and your story matter to us.

Image Credit:
National Indigenous Times



MY STORY: PEGGY SOFIA

Story by: Legatee Helen Glasson

Peggy was born in Melbourne on March 6, 1926, the first child of George and Beryl Ingram, and later a sister to her brother, Randal.

She grew up during the Depression years, and her family moved houses several times before settling in Moonee Ponds.

However, Peggy remembers fondly the freedom of the times, roaming around neighbourhood streets of Sandringham, Box Hill, Williamstown and Black Rock, with her brother, only returning home when it began to get dark.

When Peggy graduated from Hampton Hill High School, her first job was as a runner between departments within the Myer Department store in Melbourne.

She was later promoted to the administration section where her typing, shorthand and book-keeping skills were developed. Later, she joined the staff of Ansett ANA.

In 1948 Peggy married Joe Sofia, a handsome electrical technician, who had served in the Australian Air Force during the war.

Joe was keen to return to the Granite Belt, in Queensland, as that was where his parents and two brothers and two sisters lived, to open his own business as a motor mechanic.

Peggy was a city girl and found herself very homesick, thousands of kilometres from her family in Melbourne.

Nevertheless, the young couple embraced the opportunity to build a business, build a home and start a family.

Daughters, Christine and Michelle arrived during these busy times, with Peggy serving customers and



handling the book-keeping while her husband worked on vehicles in the workshop or out on a farm fixing tractors.

Peggy's pride and joy was the beautiful garden she cultivated behind the business and around the adjoining house.

Here, she was able to grow her favourite cold climate trees and shrubs, as well as daphne, gardenias, and purple violets, which complemented Joe's fruit trees and an abundant vegetable garden.

In later years, Peggy specialized in growing all varieties of geraniums, and cultivating delicate African violets, the second of which she enjoyed doing well into her 90's.

By 1969, their daughters had moved to Brisbane, to study at university, so Joe and Peggy sold their business and moved to Sunnybank, to be closer to them. Peggy enjoyed the taste of city life again, working part-time at David Jones in the newly opened Garden City.

Over the years, their daughters

got married, and they became devoted grandparents to Simon, April, and Claire, always ready to lend a hand when needed.

They also enjoyed caravanning and undertook many road trips with like-minded friends. Peggy also enjoyed volunteer work, visiting elderly people who needed some cheerful company.

After Joe's death in 2002, Peggy, always resilient, kept herself busy in her garden and stayed close to family and friends.

Around 10 years ago Peggy moved into a granny flat at her daughter Christine's home in Ormiston, where she lives today.

To celebrate her 100th Birthday Peggy's family held a very special Birthday party at East's Leagues Club, which was attended by family and friends from far and wide.

They celebrated the special role Peggy has played in so many of their lives, as a wife, a mother, a grandmother and a friend to many.

Congratulations Peggy. I am eager to see what new applications you will discover on your latest (birthday gift) iPad, after the excitement of the birthday celebrations have subsided.

Note: this is not her first iPad!

**Peggy Catherine Sofia
– 100 years young.**



RUN ARMY BRISBANE 2026: A POWERFUL SHOW OF SUPPORT

Story by: Tess Whitton



Brisbane's Run Army 2026 was a remarkable day of energy, community and impact, with thousands coming together in support of Queensland Police, Ambulance, Fire, SES, Surf Life Saving and Legacy.

A total of 7,359 participants chose to run on behalf of Legacy Brisbane.

This incredible turnout is a testament to the ongoing work of our Community Services team, Legatees and volunteers, and the strong connection Legacy holds within the community.

Beyond the atmosphere on the day, the fundraising results were equally impressive.

To date, \$86,795.25 has been raised, with a further \$36,795 expected from race entries.

A special mention goes to Jarryd Goundry, MC of the 2025 Legacy Gala Dinner, who was the highest individual fundraiser across the entire event, raising



an outstanding \$10,150 for Legacy Brisbane.

A standout moment was the introduction of Legacy Hill, the first time this challenge has featured on the course.

The hill quickly became a highlight, with runners pushing themselves early in the race as the FRMC team cheered them on with plenty of energy.

Congratulations to Sam Pike and Murphy Rankin, crowned the inaugural King and Queen of Legacy Hill for their incredible efforts.



From standout performances including CEO Brendan Cox's impressive sub-50-minute 10km run, to the collective effort of thousands, Run Army 2026 was a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when a community comes together in support of those who serve and the families who stand beside them.



THE WESTERN APPEAL: COMMUNITIES BACKING COMMUNITIES

Story by: Andrew Middleton



The Western Appeal is more than a fundraising initiative; it is a reflection of who we are as a nation.

To understand its significance, we must go back to the very foundation of Legacy itself.

In 1923, Legacy was built on a simple but powerful promise made between those who served: *"Look after the missus and kids."*

It was not a policy or a program, it was a commitment. A commitment that if one did not return, others would step in.

The Western Appeal itself began 73 years ago, born out of that same spirit of service and responsibility.

Two Second World War veterans, Graeme Searles and Jack Te Klaat, instigated Legacy support in Longreach through the local telephone exchange connecting communities to support the families of those who had served.

Over time, that simple but powerful idea evolved, moving from telephone lines to the

airwaves, and becoming the radio-based appeal we know today.

For more than three decades, Legatee and Veteran Doug Winterbotham, alongside his wife Rosie, has been at the heart of this effort. In true rural fashion, Doug describes being *"cornered in the street"* into taking on the role, yet for the past 33 years, he has helped lead and sustain the Western Appeal, contributing to raising just shy of one million dollars for Legacy families.

It is a remarkable testament to quiet commitment and enduring service.

The Appeal has also been shaped by strong partnerships and local leadership which reflects the deep connection between service, community, and Legacy's ongoing mission.

Equally critical is the role of regional radio, particularly 4LG, which broadcasts across communities including Longreach, Windorah, Muttaborra, Hughenden, Charleville, Emerald, and throughout the southwest

and western regions. Through this network, the Appeal reaches far beyond a single town connecting people across vast distances in a shared purpose.

At the centre of the broadcast is Glenn "Sheriff" Arrol from 4LG, who hosts the auction over the radio with energy and authenticity, bringing the Appeal to life for listeners and bidders alike.

Behind the scenes, the Western Appeal is powered by dedicated individuals and families who give their time and effort year after year. Sisters Anna-Marie and Shona Moffat, alongside their father Graham Moffat, form a quiet powerhouse ensuring the Appeal runs smoothly in the background.

The generosity of local communities is equally evident in the contributions that fuel the auction.

Dale and Chris Bignell, for example, raised \$3,670 through the sale of firewood for tourists in Isiford, continuing a tradition they also supported last year. These are not grand gestures made for recognition, but practical acts of giving that reflect the values of the bush.

Support also extends through local organisations, including the Longreach RSL Sub-Branch, led by President Lenny Coyte, reinforcing the enduring bond between veterans, their families, and the communities that stand beside them.

Many of the men and women who have served this country have come from rural and regional Australia. They bring with them values shaped by the land, resilience, humility, and an unspoken expectation

that when times are tough, people step forward.

When those individuals are lost or impacted by their service, it is often these same communities that feel the absence most deeply. The Western Appeal provides a way for those communities to respond, not just with sympathy, but with action.

As a veteran, I have seen firsthand the impact of service, not only on those who wear the uniform, but on the families who stand beside them. I have also seen the quiet strength of those families in the face of loss and adversity. Strength, however, does not remove the need for support.

That is where Legacy steps in.

The funds raised through the Western Appeal directly support the widows, children, and families of veterans, ensuring they have access to education,

wellbeing services, social connection, and ongoing care. It is practical support, delivered with dignity, and grounded in long-term commitment.

But more than that, the Western Appeal reinforces something deeper. It connects today's communities with a legacy of service and sacrifice that spans generations. It reminds us that while the nature of conflict may

change, the responsibility to care for those left behind does not.

In rural Australia, there is a quiet understanding: you do not leave people to face hardship alone.

The Western Appeal is simply that principle in action.

It is communities backing communities. And it is a promise worth continuing.



SUNSCREEN SEASON

Story by: Aziza Lucas

We enjoyed a sunny, fun-filled day at Wet'n'Wild with many of our families.

Interest in the event was incredibly strong, with capacity reached within hours.

It was a fantastic opportunity for parents and kids alike to explore the park, from thrilling rides to relaxing on the lazy river.

Under the shade of our pergola, families were able to mingle, make new connections and enjoy lunch together.

We thank the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust for supporting this special day.

Some feedback we received from the event:

"Kids were having so much fun they didn't want to come back to eat."

"Thank you so so much, as I said to the kids when we left in the morning to drive down, it's been so long since our family went on a road trip together!"

Absolutely loved the time spent enjoying everyone's company! Thank you!!!"

We have plenty of exciting events planned for the year and hope our families will be able to join us.



HONOURING SERVICE AT FERNY GROVE STATE SCHOOL

Story by: Legatee Peter Ruff

The Northern Group continues to foster a strong connection with the Ferny Grove State School community, home to around 100 Defence families in 2025.

As part of this relationship, Legatee Naomi Maltman attended the school's Remembrance Day ceremony, laying a wreath on behalf of Legacy Brisbane.

The event was a meaningful moment for students, families and staff, with the school expressing their appreciation for Legacy's involvement and the significance it brought to the day.

Through the support of Defence School Mentors, Jessica and Drew, students also contribute to Legacy through annual fundraising efforts, raising more than \$350 last year. It's a partnership built on respect, remembrance and community support.



SIZZLING SUPPORT AT KEPERRA BUNNINGS

Story by: Legatee Mitch Watson

Last November, the Great Northern Group hosted a fantastic BBQ at Keperra Bunnings, raising around \$2,300 for Legacy. Thanks to the incredible efforts of volunteers, approximately 850 sausages were sold across the day, keeping the grill busy and the community well fed.

There were plenty of memorable moments, including six very satisfied dogs enjoying their own share, and one particularly curious order of sausage and onions... without bread.

Most importantly, it was a fun and rewarding day that brought people together in support of Legacy.



BERYL DAVIS - 99 YEARS YOUNG!

Story by: Legatee Cathy Anstey

In late February, the 'Small but Mighty' Pine Rivers care group celebrated the 99th birthday of the simply incredible Mrs Beryl Davis.

Beryl is simply the most wonderful, kind, generous dynamo and her energy and sheer zest for life are infectious.

Her fund-raising for Legacy is also remarkable as she leads our regular 'bring and buy' sale and runs every raffle like a champion.

We were delighted that Beryl's daughter Anthea could join us for Beryl's special celebration - we were also honoured that the always entertaining Peter Ruff, Chair of the Northern Group was along for the festivities too.

Born in Albert Park, Melbourne, Beryl was married to her adored Bill with whom she had four



daughters. Widowhood has not slowed Beryl down as she embraces living life to the full.

Beryl has called Queensland home for a long time - Anthea tells me Beryl is a 'legend' in her

street...I am not surprised as she is our legend too. We can even forgive her allegiance to the Carlton Football Club.

Among her many achievements, Beryl makes the most marvellous pickles and relishes, enjoyed by none less than Brisbane's Lord Mayor!

I often reflect on Beryl's great optimism, humour, generosity and kindness and hope to be more like her one day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR BERYL!



A HUSBAND'S REVENGE!

Story by: Legatee Carol Gorton

It's funny but when family friends meet up for social weekend outings over the years, little do they realise that fate will play a huge part.....and that's what happened with Allison (Ally) and Raymond (Ray).

Ally was 15 and still at school when Ray and Ally first realised there was a spark of interest between them and so Ally would write letters to Ray and his sister who was at school with Ally would courier the notes back and forth between them.

When Ray was called up for National Service, they both decided to go their separate

ways. Ray went to Vietnam and served in the Australian Army and returned home 3 years later. Within 18 months Ray and Ally were married on 13th April 1974.

It wasn't long before Christopher came along, born in Emerald and then Kym who was the second baby to be born in the Blackwater hospital.

Ally loves sewing and has made many beautiful patchwork quilts. Ray always wanted her to make a quilt of the old buildings and outback sheds - a photographic assortment he had collected over time.

One day he decided she was taking too long so he would make

it himself. Ally said Ray picked all the colours and for three days sat glued to the sewing machine.

The only thing she helped him with was the hand sewing. Ray's sister, Carol saw the quilts and asked if she could put them in the Emerald Show as they were a little short on exhibits in the craft section.

Ray won first prize with his 'Outback Sheds' Quilt and Ally came second with her 'Geisha Girls' Quilt. Ray never let Ally live it down!!

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FRIENDSHIP AND LAUGHTER - THE BEST MEDICINE OF ALL

Story by: Legatee Carol Gorton



Some friendships arrive quietly. Others burst into your life like sunshine.

Kaye Thring and Rhonda Brown fall firmly into the second category.

Kaye met her future husband Allan while at Gladstone State High School. Just 14 at the time, she quickly fell for the handsome older boy. Not long after, Allan was called up for National Service and deployed to Vietnam with the 4th Field Regiment.

While he was away, Kaye began her nursing career, and the two became devoted pen pals, exchanging letters that were “hot and steamy,” Kaye says with a knowing smile.

When Allan returned in 1968, they married at St Saviour’s Anglican Church and built a life filled with laughter, travel and adventure. Alongside Brian and Rhonda Brown, they formed a close-knit group, travelling, camping and sharing countless memories together.

Following Allan’s passing in 2022, Kaye and Rhonda became an inseparable duo, the “fun twosome” as they like to joke, with Brian still tagging along as the driver, the

bag carrier or the sensible one, depending on the day.

These days, they’re rarely still. Twice a week they’re at the gym, more for the chatter than the chin-ups, followed by coffee of course.

Fridays are reserved for RSL Happy Hour, where they are well known and well loved, and they never miss their monthly Legacy lunches.

Kaye jokes her short-term memory sometimes “*packs its bags and goes on holiday*,” while Rhonda keeps track of plans and appointments.

Together, they balance each other perfectly, one remembering the stories, the other the schedule.

Wherever they go, laughter follows. Their friendship is a beautiful reminder that joy doesn’t fade with age, it simply grows stronger, louder and more fun when shared.

FEBRUARY’S GLADSTONE LAUREL CLUB LUNCH

Story by: Legatee Carol Gorton

There was plenty of fun and frivolity at the recent Gladstone Laurel Club lunch, organised by Legatee Col Platten and held at the Reef Hotel.

The group gathered from 11.30am, enjoying a terrific meal together while taking the opportunity to connect, share stories and catch up on each other’s activities.

The relaxed setting made for a warm and welcoming atmosphere, filled with laughter and conversation.

These monthly outings are something our ladies greatly look forward to, nurturing connection, friendship and a strong sense of belonging.

It’s clear the Legatees enjoy the gatherings just as much, making each lunch a special occasion for all involved.



THE TALE OF MY DOLL'S HOUSE: A LEGATEE'S STORY

Outside of her work with Legacy, Legatee Carol Gorton shares a hobby that brings her joy

Around 2002, I was flicking through a Better Homes and Gardens magazine when I spotted the most charming doll's house made from a bookcase.

My inner five-year-old lit up, so naturally I turned to my husband and said, "Can you make me one?" After some hesitation, he did, likely hoping I'd forget about it. I didn't.

Once it arrived, I had the best time bringing it to life. Curtains were sewn, walls painted, and every room received more attention than my real home ever has.

Then came the miniatures, collected from travels near and far. A tea set from Chinatown in Sydney, a doll from Alaska, kitchen canisters from Cairns, and even tiny carpentry tools from Longreach. Before long, friends joined in, returning from trips with little treasures to add to the collection.



With seven grandchildren, I thought at least one might share my passion. While they loved playing with it, their creativity often took unexpected turns.

I'd often find the teenage boy doll admiring himself in the bathroom mirror, the father doll either on the toilet or stretched out on the bed,

and the grandparents sitting side by side on the couch, likely wondering what chaos was unfolding.

One day, five-year-old Georgia marched into the kitchen, hands on hips, and declared, "Grandma, do you WANT your little bird to escape? The cage door is open! You're lucky it's still there!"

Another time, my grandson returned from Tasmania with a tiny mouse trap and a tiny green frog, insisting the frog be placed in the toilet bowl to frighten his cousins. He was very proud of his contribution.

Over time, the doll's house has become more than a hobby. It has brought me enormous joy, laughter, and special moments shared with family. Even my husband, who still sighs when I call out, "Come and see what I've done to the doll's house!", always comes to take a look.

MY STORY: MARJORIE ALLAN

Story by: Legatee Carol Gorton

Marjorie met Keith in 1984 through the Army Reserve Social Club. Keith was a Sargeant in the Army reserve and after every parade there was social drinks.

Marjorie & Keith shared a life together from 1986 to 2022.

Marj worked as an admin officer for an Electrical Wholesaler for many years and then moved to an Engineering Firm. Both Marj and Keith loved taking their dog down to Tannum Sands to the beach area. It was just as well Marj took plenty of food because they were both hopeless at fishing!

Holidays for Keith were spent at Shoalwater Bay at the many military exercises that are held in the area.

After Keith did his National Service 16th August - 21st November 1955 he joined the Royal Australian Navy 11th November 1956 and was part of the Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) a special joint military force created in 1950s, based in Malaya the FESR consisted of Australian, British and New Zealand units and acted as a forward defence point in South East Asia.

When Keith left the Navy he joined the Police Force 19th December 1962 - March 1994 and became Sargeant and during that time was also in the Army Reserve as Sargeant. Keith was the Parade Marshall for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day for many years in Gladstone.



Marjorie fondly remembers the wonderful Mess Dinners that were held annually and the pomp and ceremony of the night. She said they were very special nights with the men all dressed in formal attire and the women in their beautiful gowns.

Marjorie is a valued volunteer in Gladstone. She also regularly attends the Phillip Street Precinct which is a great meeting place for the locals joining in the many activities on offer there.



LAUREL CLUBS AND CARE GROUPS

Laurel Clubs and Care Groups are aimed at bringing Legacy widows together in an atmosphere of friendship and caring. Membership is free and open to all.

Most groups hold regular activities, as listed below – however we encourage you to contact the individuals listed below to ensure you have the most current information and events.

BRISBANE GROUPS

Bribie Island Care Group

Bribie Island RSL & Citizens Memorial Club Inc
Toorbul Street, BONGAREE
9.30am, 4th Tuesday of the month
Sylvia Seaton 07 5433 9345
Leonie Horton 0403 266 664

Brisbane Laurel Club

Coffee shop in Westfield Carindale
1151 Creek Rd, Carindale
Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month
Liz Cowell 3349 2084

Deception Bay Care Group

Meet at Deception Bay Tavern
10am, 1st Wednesday of the month
Verona Lowndes
0421 288 637

Gaythorne Care Group

Arana Leagues Club
247 Dawson Parade, KEPERRA
11am, Last Friday of the month
Peter Thatcher 3356 4250

Geebung Care Group

Geebung RSL
Newman Road, GEEBUNG
11am, 2nd Friday of the month. Christine Atkins 0411 389 843

Gympie Laurel Club

Gympie RSL,
217 Mary St, GYMPIE
10am, 3rd Monday of the month (except December & January)
Maureen Rush 5483 7410 or 0412 737 380

Inala Care Group

Blue Fin Fishing Club
24 Lilac Street, INALA
11am, last Friday of the month
Nev Patterson
0419 708 601

Kallangur Region Social Club

Norths Leagues and Services Club,
1347 ANZAC Ave KALLANGUR
10am on 12th of the month. Where this falls on a weekend, it will be held on the Friday or Monday
Joy Shaw, 0417 616 023

Kedron Wavell Care Group

Kedron Wavell RSL
9.30am, last Friday of the month. Margaret Hough
0400 320 530

Kilcoy Care Group

Alternate venue each month (February to December) 12 noon, 2nd Thursday of the month
May Wallace 0405 392 461

LANA – Active Widows Social Group

Different venue each month, 12 noon, last Saturday of the month
Helen White 0413 627 266

Logan Central Care Group

Logan Digger's Club
42-48 Blackwood Road WOODRIDGE
10:30am, 1st Tuesday of the month – lunch
3rd Wednesday of the month – bus trip
Eunice Smith
0407 092 234

Logan East Care Group

More Café
Shop 1/34 Fitzgerald Ave, SPRINGWOOD
10am, 2nd Friday of the month
Glenda McIntosh
0417 764 101
Nola Nicholls 0438 266 455,
Jane Jackson 0402 101 334

Logan West Care Group

Greenbank RSL Lounge
ANZAC Parade, HILLCREST
10am last Friday of the month
2nd Friday of the month - bus trip
Clare Heieck 0409 611 823

Pine Rivers Care Group

Club Pine Rivers aka Pine Rivers Bowls Club
1/11 Sparkes Road, BRAY PARK
11.30am on the last Friday of every month.

Please join us for a meal and the raffle. Please contact convenor Cathy Anstey by the Wednesday before the meeting on 0418 948 529.

Redcliffe Laurel Club

The Point Restaurant in Redcliffe RSL
Humpybong Esplanade, Redcliffe
10am, 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month
Gabby Ryan 0402 268 794

Redlands Care Group

Redlands RSL
8 Passage Street, CLEVELAND
10am, 1st Friday of the month
Colin Green 3286 6606
Shree Rogers 3206 7158

Courtesy bus available, phone Redlands RSL on 3488 1199 before 2pm on Wednesday before Friday meeting

Sandgate Care Group

Post Office Hotel
12 noon, 1st Friday of the month
Tony Ralph 3254 2758

Warwick Care Group

RSL Services and Citizens Memorial Club
Cnr King and Albion St, WARWICK
4th Tuesday of the month for 12pm lunch and 1pm meeting
Gordon Nielson 4661 5772 & 0429 615 773

Woodford Care Group

Alternate venue each month, 12 noon, 2nd Thursday of the month (February to December)
Shirley Riddle
5496 1161
Glenn Willmann
0439 535 697

Wynnum Care Group

Wynnum RSL
174 Tingal Road, WYNNUM
10am, 2nd Friday of the month
Rae Brown 3348 4508 or 0439 928 496



If you wish to know more about Legacy Care Groups or Laurel Clubs, please contact Jackie Devine at Legacy House on (07) 3029 5618.

FRASER-BURNETT GROUPS

Maryborough

Maryborough RSL
163-175, Lennox Street,
MARYBOROUGH
10.30am, 1st Tuesday
of the month

Gayndah

Grand Hotel Gayndah
12 noon, 1st Tuesday
of the month

Wondai/Murgon

RSL Club Wondai
87 MacKenzie St,
WONDAI
Morning tea,
10am, 2nd Monday
of the month

Kingaroy

RSL Kingaroy
Markwell St & Short St,
KINGAROY
10am, 2nd Wednesday of
the month

Nanango

RSL Nanango
24-26 Henry Street,
NANANGO
10am, Morning tea,
1st Wednesday of
the month

Hervey Bay

RSL Pialba
11 Torquay Road,
HERVEY BAY
2pm, 3rd Monday
of the month

ROCKHAMPTON GROUPS

Biloela

ANZAC Memorial Club,
94 Callide Street, BILOELA
11.30am, 3rd Monday
of the month
Bronwyn Hill
0467 447 872

Clermont

RSL Club, Herschel Street,
CLERMONT
2pm, 3rd Tuesday
of every even month
Peggy Williams
07 4983 2093

Emu Park

Ocean Brew Eatery
34 Pattison Street
EMU PARK
10am, 2nd Wednesday
of each month
Fran Waterson

Gladstone & Tannum Sands

11.30am, last Saturday of
the month, Venue varies,
please contact
Belinda Engstrom
0419 731 912
0407 131 162

Rockhampton City

Frenchville Sports Club
ROCKHAMPTON
105 Clifton St,
Rockhampton
11.30am - for Lunch,
2nd Monday of the month
Rose Swadling
0418 458 622

Yeppoon

Capricorn Tavern
Scenic Hwy,
TARANGANBA
10am, 2nd Saturday
of the month
Denise Lewis 0439 651 305
Sandy Donges 0413 279 358

SUNSHINE COAST GROUPS

Caloundra Laurel Club

Caloundra RSL
West Tce, CALOUNDRA
9.30am for 10am
1st Monday of the month
Helen Brett 0429 448 081

Maroochydore Care Club

RSL House, Memorial Ave
MAROOCHYDORE
9.30am, 4th Friday
of the month
Diana Solomon
0405 650 618

Nambour Care Group

Nambour RSL
Matthew St, NAMBOUR
10am, 3rd Monday
of the month
Rhondra Poor 5441 2172

Tewantin/Noosa Care Group

Tewantin/Noosa RSL &
Citizens Memorial Club,
Memorial Avenue,
TEWANTIN, 10am, 1st
Monday of the month
Brenda McFeeters
0419 680 870
John Reid 0425 295 055

If you would like more information about the groups or events in your local area, please contact your local Legacy office using the details on the back cover.



LEGACY TORCH WORD SEARCH

AUTUMN ADVENTURE

O	W	G	T	N	R	G	E	Y	F	E	V	L	T	Q	X	J	E	H	J
J	H	W	U	X	W	V	O	C	P	D	H	K	U	U	T	Z	Z	B	D
N	B	O	A	I	D	I	O	L	H	L	E	B	H	O	B	U	R	O	S
H	Y	K	B	C	L	T	N	A	D	A	C	J	A	C	K	E	T	U	E
B	C	R	I	S	P	V	Q	D	L	E	N	V	Y	B	G	G	I	T	Z
S	K	V	I	G	O	G	Y	S	E	B	N	G	G	E	M	N	M	D	Y
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N	R	F	K	K	W	C	V	I	Q	C	W	P	D	M	U	U	H	O	P
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E	V	K	U	C	A	Y	L	J	O	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	S	V
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W	A	C	A	M	P	F	I	R	E	V	E	N	I	N	G	Y	B	N	G
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M	T	O	G	T	Q	T	N	Z	T	M	I	R	D	X	Q	J	F	L	A
Z	O	K	K	Z	Z	X	K	E	K	O	N	F	V	E	X	L	P	U	C
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LEAF

BREEZE

CRISP

COOL

SUNSET

GOLDEN

RUSTLE

JACKET

SEASON

CHANGE

TWILIGHT

RAIN

WIND

CAMPFIRE

FOOTY

MARKET

SUNSHINE

EVENING

COOLER

OUTDOORS



Supporting our veterans' families

LEGACY BRISBANE

665 Fairfield Road,
Yeerongpilly Q 4105
t. 07 3029 5600
e. admin@legacybrisbane.org.au

**LEGACY SUNSHINE
COAST**

106 Memorial Drive
Maroochydore Q 4558
t. 07 5443 9841
e. [suncoast@
legacybrisbane.org.au](mailto:suncoast@legacybrisbane.org.au)

**LEGACY ROCKHAMPTON &
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND**

Suite 3, Tobruk House
8 Archer Street
Rockhampton Q 4700
t. 07 4922 4010
e. [admin@
legacyrockhampton.org.au](mailto:admin@legacyrockhampton.org.au)

LEGACY FRASER BURNETT

MADCOTA Community Hub,
333 Alice Street
Maryborough Q 4650
t. 07 4194 5111
m. 0431 600 169
e. [admin@
legacyfraserburnett.org.au](mailto:admin@legacyfraserburnett.org.au)