

TORCH

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ON THE COVER

ANZAC march, Brisbane

Photo credit: Joseph Byford Photography



A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM CEO



Dear Legacy Family,

It is with great pleasure that I write my first Torch article as the Interim CEO of Brisbane Legacy.

As many of you would be aware, Brendan Cox has recently been appointed as the Inaugural CEO of the Veterans and Family Wellbeing Agency.

By way of introduction, I joined Legacy Brisbane as a Legatee in 2021, whilst I was still serving in the Army and was one of the first Army Unit Legatees.

I was posted to the United Kingdom in 2022 and joined London Legacy for 2 years before returning to Brisbane in January 2024.

I discharged from the Army after 31 years as an Infantry Officer in December 2024 and joined the Board of Legacy Brisbane as a Director in April 2025.

Following Brendan's appointment to DVA, I commenced a handover with him on 17 June and started as the Interim CEO on Monday 13 July.

The Board intends to conduct a comprehensive recruiting campaign over the coming months to ensure the next CEO is the right fit to lead Legacy Brisbane in the future.

DVA Changes

Since the last Torch edition, there have been a number of exciting developments and changes occur within the Legacy and Veteran community.

On 1 July 2026, the new Veterans Entitlements, Treatment and Support (VETS) Act commenced, simplifying the three existing programs under a single compensation and rehabilitation scheme (MRCA).

In addition, the Veterans and Families Wellbeing Agency was established in order to assist ex-serving Australian Defence Force members and their families navigate support systems, access early intervention resources, and connect with local services. **These two important changes should improve services across the veteran community.**

Legacy House Greenslopes

The construction of our new Legacy House has continued with the completion in sight. On 29 July, our staff spent an hour walking through the new building and were very impressed with the layout and thought that had gone into designing the spaces. Of particular note, the new House will have an area dedicated to a Living Library, depicting the history of Legacy Brisbane.

I hope you all enjoy the articles in your Torch Magazine. Please contact your Legatee or Legacy Brisbane if you wish to share any stories, events or photographs that you believe will be of interest to our family of readers.

Yours in Legacy,

Anthony Birch

Anthony Birch
Interim CEO

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dearest Gentle Readers,

If you're anything like me, you'll have been delighting in the small-world moments and the bigger-than-life milestones that have been bubbling through our Legacy community lately — and yes, I have a few tidbits to share that might make you smile (or nudge a friend).

ANZAC Day this year was quintessentially Queensland — a very rainy one — yet across Brisbane, Fraser Burnett and Central Queensland, our services were packed.

Umbrellas, soggy hems and steely resolve everywhere: the weather may have tried to dampen spirits, but it only seemed to make the turn-out and the camaraderie all the more stirring.

The commitment shown by families and supporters reminded me why we gather each year.

A very big moment for Legacy: after ten remarkable years at our helm, Brendan Cox has taken up the inaugural CEO role for Veteran and Family Wellbeing Agency.

We are proud — and yes, a little wistful — to see him move on. Our mission continues in excellent hands; Brendan's legacy of care and connection is woven into everything we do, and we wish him every success (and the odd

coffee catch-up when he is free – busy job!).

Meanwhile, Legacy House is marking its own milestones.

The Topping Out Ceremony felt like a real rite of passage, the Lord Mayor's visit brought a touch of civic fanfare, and the Living Library, supported by a grant, is taking shape.

It will be a warm, engaging space where stories and memories are shared. There's a lovely buzz around the place — the kind that only happens when projects, people and purpose collide.

It's also been a month for celebrations. Many happy returns to Adelina, Annie, Dawn, Gladys, Grace, Mrs Pegg and Patricia. May your birthdays have been full of laughter, cake and good company.

We love to celebrate the life and spirit each of you brings to our community. National Volunteer Week gave us the perfect reminder: we simply could not do what we do without our Legatees and volunteers.

To everyone who gives time, skill and heart — thank you. Your generosity is the backbone of Legacy.

A quick (and proud) nod to C3: while there were fewer teams this round, the event was impeccably run and saw excellent corporate engagement.

I am especially chuffed that the two teams from my own company hit their fundraising targets (also phew)— a sincere thanks to all donors and supporters who made that possible.

Finally, I had the privilege of attending the Youth Leaders training session in early August.

Seeing young people who have faced so many challenges grow into thoughtful, determined young leaders who want to give back — now that was inspiring.

They are impressive, compassionate, and a hopeful sign of our community's future.

So: rain, farewells, topping out ceremonies, birthdays, volunteers, fundraising wins, loss and fresh leadership — it's been a season of life in full colour.

Thank you for being part of it, and for carrying Legacy's purpose forward with warmth, humour and generosity.

With fondness (and a little bit of delicious local gossip),

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Annabel McGuire'.

Dr Annabel McGuire
President, Legacy Brisbane



Legacy Brisbane Team working hard at C3!



THANK YOU, BRENDAN

Story by: Tess Whitton



After more than a decade of dedicated leadership, Legacy Brisbane farewelled Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Brendan Cox in July as he accepted the role of inaugural CEO of the newly established Veteran and Family Wellbeing Agency.

Established by the Australian Government following recommendations from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, the new agency will play a vital role in improving support and wellbeing outcomes for veterans and their families across Australia.

Brendan's appointment is a fitting recognition of his longstanding commitment to the veteran community and the families who stand beside them.

During his ten years as CEO, Brendan helped guide Legacy Brisbane through a period of significant growth and transformation.

Working alongside five Presidents, the Board, Legatees, staff and volunteers, he strengthened support for beneficiaries, built enduring strategic partnerships, expanded the Army Legatees initiative and helped turn the vision of Legacy House in Greenslopes



into reality. Reflecting on his time at Legacy Brisbane, Brendan said his overwhelming feeling was one of gratitude.

"Thank you for your professionalism, your commitment, your friendship, and the care you show our beneficiaries every day. I have often said that Legacy's greatest asset is not its buildings, programs or reputation – it is its people. It has been one of the greatest honours of my life to serve alongside you."

Although he leaves Legacy Brisbane to take on a new national role, Brendan said he will always remain connected to the organisation and its mission.

"While my role may change, I will remain a passionate supporter of Legacy and the families we serve, and I look forward to watching the next chapter unfold with pride."

Legacy Brisbane extends its sincere thanks to Brendan for his outstanding leadership, vision and unwavering commitment over the past decade.

His influence can be seen not only in the organisation's growth, but in the lives of the thousands of veterans' families who have benefited from his dedication.

On behalf of the Board, Legatees, staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, we congratulate Brendan on his well-deserved appointment and wish him every success in his new national role.



LEGACY MARCHES IN REMEMBRANCE

One of the joys of living in regional Queensland is seeing the unique ways communities come together to commemorate ANZAC Day.

Thanks to Legatees Carol Gorton and Tina Bray, this collage captures commemorations from across Central Queensland and Fraser Burnett, celebrating the pride, remembrance and community spirit found in towns big and small.



Gracemere



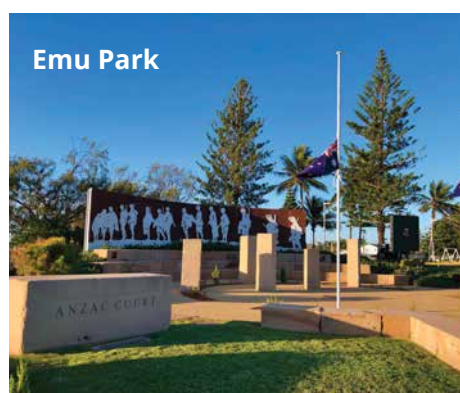
Mt Chalmers



Gracemere



Mt Morgan



Emu Park



Fraser Burnett - See page 12 for full story



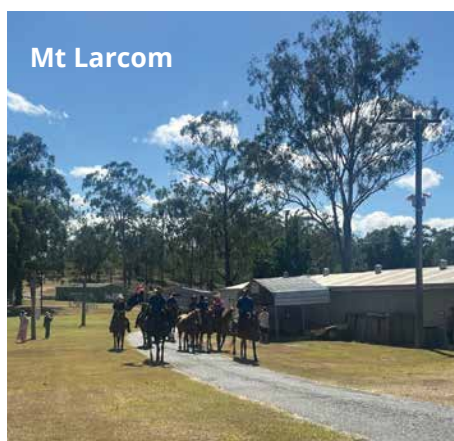
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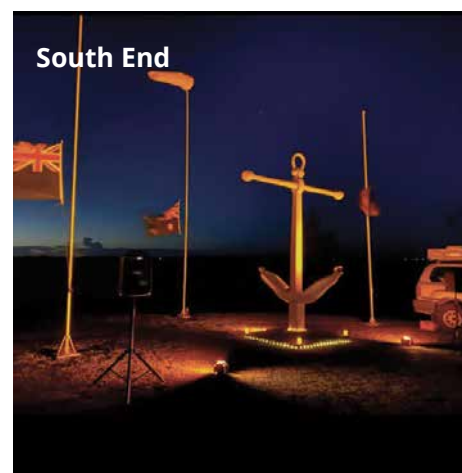
The Caves



Gladstone



Mt Larcom



South End





CANUNGRA COMBAT CHALLENGE

Story by: Tess Whitton

The Canungra Combat Challenge (C3) once again proved the power of teamwork and determination, with this year's event raising an outstanding \$81,443.

Now in its eighth year, C3 welcomed 52 corporate teams to Kokoda Barracks for a day of military-inspired challenges alongside Australian Defence Force personnel.

Participants tackled muddy obstacles, tested their endurance and worked together to complete the course, all while supporting Legacy Brisbane.

The event's success was made possible by the incredible efforts of every participant, sponsor, volunteer and member of the Australian Defence Force who helped bring the day to life.

Their enthusiasm, teamwork and generosity created another memorable event and an outstanding fundraising result.

While the obstacle course challenged competitors both physically and mentally, it also highlighted the strong partnership between Defence, the corporate community and Legacy Brisbane. The camaraderie on display throughout the day was a reminder that great things can be achieved when people come together with a shared purpose.



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, sponsored a team or supported the event. We are incredibly proud of what was achieved together and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another Canungra Combat Challenge in 2027.



STRENGTHENING SUPPORT THROUGH ARMY UNIT LEGATEES

Story by: Tess Whitton



In April, Legacy Brisbane welcomed a new group of Army Unit Legatees through its annual Army Unit Legatee Induction Program.

This initiative strengthens the vital network of care supporting Australian Defence Force personnel and their families. The program is built on a simple but important principle: providing support *before* it is needed most.

By working with serving members while they are still in Defence, Army Unit Legatees are equipped to recognise when individuals or families may benefit from assistance and connect them with the right organisations at an early stage.

Throughout the day, participants heard from Legacy Brisbane's Community Services team alongside representatives from Mates4Mates, Open Arms, RSL Queensland, Defence Member and Family Services, and Gallipoli Medical Research.

Together, they shared practical information about the wide range of services available to veterans

and their families and how these organisations work together to ensure no one faces life's challenges alone.

Army Unit Legatees from 2CER, 6RAR, 1REGT, 8/9 RAR, 7CSSB, 7CSR and 2/14 LHR (QMI) attended the program, taking valuable knowledge back to their units where they will play an important role in supporting the wellbeing of their fellow soldiers and families.

A memorable moment of the day was the formal induction ceremony led by Northern Group Chair Peter Ruff, who reflected on the proud history and enduring values of Legacy before welcoming the new Army Unit Legatees into the Legacy family.

Each participant was presented with their Legacy pin, symbolising their commitment to serving others with compassion, understanding and care.

Legacy Brisbane also extends its sincere thanks to RSL Queensland for hosting the program at the Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre Brisbane.

Through partnerships such as these, Legacy continues to build a stronger network of support, ensuring veterans and their families are connected with the care they deserve, long before they reach a point of crisis.



SIMPLIFYING SUPPORT FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES

Story by: Tess Whitton

From 1 July 2026, important changes to veterans' compensation and rehabilitation legislation came into effect, making it easier for veterans and their families to access the support they need.

Under the reforms, all new compensation and rehabilitation claims will now be assessed under a single piece of legislation, the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA).

Existing claims lodged before 1 July 2026 will continue to be

managed under the legislation that applied when they were submitted.

The changes form part of the Australian Government's response to recommendations from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, with the aim of simplifying the claims process and improving access to support for Defence personnel, veterans and their families.

The updated legislation also introduces a range of improvements, including

increased funeral benefits, expanded support for eligible families, and streamlined arrangements for compensation and rehabilitation.

These reforms are designed to create a simpler, fairer system that better supports veterans and their loved ones.

For more information about these changes, visit the Department of Veterans' Affairs website or speak with your Legatee.

LEGACY HOUSE REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Story by: Tess Whitton

Legacy House reached an exciting milestone in late April with its Topping Out Ceremony, marking the completion of the building's structural frame and bringing the project one step closer to opening its doors to veterans' families.

The occasion welcomed project partners, supporters, media and special guests, including former Brisbane Broncos players Darius Boyd and Alex Glenn, along with Assistant Minister Janelle Poole APM MP, to celebrate the progress of this landmark project.

The ceremony's most moving moments came from Legacy beneficiaries Kylie and Candice, who bravely shared their personal experiences following the loss of their husbands. Reflecting on their own journeys with Legacy, both spoke about how a collaborative facility like Legacy House would have made an enormous difference during some of the most difficult times in their lives.

Their stories served as a powerful reminder of exactly why Legacy House is being built.

Veteran David McGuire also addressed guests, acknowledging the importance of community support and recognising the significant contribution of Gripfast Consulting, which has provided more than \$315,000 in pro bono services to help bring the project to life.

Guests were introduced to the striking Legacy Torch, designed and handcrafted by John Smith Gumbula. The permanent feature will face Greenslopes Private Hospital and the Keith Payne Unit, standing as a lasting symbol of remembrance, hope and the enduring connection between Legacy and the families it serves.

Representing principal contractor BMD Group, Dare Power spoke about the remarkable collaboration that has underpinned the project, with construction partners continuing



to provide materials and services at cost to help make Legacy House a reality.

The morning concluded with a barbecue shared by construction partners, supporters and the Legacy community, providing an opportunity to celebrate not only the building's progress, but the collective effort that has made it possible.

When complete, Legacy House will bring multiple veteran support organisations together under one roof, creating a welcoming "no wrong door" model of care where veterans and their families can access the support they need in one connected location. Each milestone brings this shared vision another step closer to becoming a reality.

LORD MAYOR TOURS LEGACY HOUSE

Story by: Tess Whitton



Just a week after Legacy House reached its topping out milestone, Legacy Brisbane welcomed Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner, Deputy Lord Mayor Cr Fiona Cunningham and Allanah Muckert from The SAS Group for a tour of the site, providing an opportunity to see firsthand how quickly the project is progressing.

Led by then CEO Brendan Cox, the visit took guests through each level of the building, with the recently completed roof now allowing the vision for Legacy House to truly come to life.

The tour showcased how the facility will operate once complete, from Legacy Brisbane's offices through to dedicated spaces for partner organisations working alongside one another to support veterans' families.

The visitors also saw the community spaces that have been thoughtfully incorporated into the design, creating welcoming areas where families can gather, connect and support one another.

Built around a collaborative "no wrong door" model of care, Legacy House will bring multiple veteran support organisations

together under one roof, making it easier for veterans and their families to access the services they need without navigating multiple locations.

The visit was a valuable opportunity to share not only the physical progress of the build, but also the vision behind Legacy House.

With construction continuing at pace, the project is moving ever closer to becoming a place of connection, collaboration and lifelong support for generations of veterans' families.

OUR LEGACY THROUGH A "LIVING LIBRARY"

Story by: Tess Whitton

For almost 100 years, Legacy Brisbane has supported the families of veterans through compassion, service and community.

Soon, those stories will have a permanent home within the new Legacy House Greenslopes through the creation of the Living Library.

Designed as an immersive exhibition space, the Living Library will invite visitors to discover Legacy Brisbane's history through

photographs, videos, personal stories and interactive technology. Rather than simply reading about our past, visitors will be able to explore it at their own pace, uncovering the people, milestones and moments that have shaped the organisation since 1923.

At the heart of the exhibition, an 85-inch media wall will showcase a continuous visual journey through Legacy Brisbane's programs, activities and community impact, while two interactive 55-inch touchscreens will allow visitors to

browse historical photographs, stories, video and audio through an engaging digital timeline.

Bringing the Living Library to life has required countless hours of research.

Led by Project Lead Legatee Rob Murray, staff, volunteers and Legatees have explored archives, identified hundreds of historical photographs and documented the stories that have shaped Legacy Brisbane for almost a century.

Continued on page 23 ...



CHURCHIE COMMUNITY RALLIES

Story by: Sarah Calderwood

The Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie) community once again demonstrated its outstanding support for Legacy Brisbane during this year's ANZAC commemorations on 25 April, raising more than \$11,000 to support veterans' families.

Students, staff and the wider school community embraced the morning with remarkable generosity, purchasing Legacy badges, poppies and rosemary sprigs in support of the annual appeal. The event also provided an opportunity to share the significance of the rosemary sprigs, helping educate students about their connection to remembrance and military service.

One of the morning's highlights was the enthusiasm shown by Churchie students taking part in the fundraising.

Among them was student Daniel, who stood in the rain collecting donations and raised more than \$1,000 on his own.

As a special thank you, Daniel was presented with a Legacy bear in recognition of his outstanding effort. By the end of the morning he was thoroughly soaked, but his dedication and enthusiasm made him a deserving recipient.

Churchie's Director of Service, Jennifer Russell, praised the efforts of the students, saying, *"What an incredible amount! I am incredibly fortunate to work in this*



space with such incredible young men. I would love to look at further supporting Legacy where we can."

Legacy Brisbane extends its heartfelt thanks to the students, staff and families of Churchie for their generosity and continued commitment to honouring the service and sacrifice of Australia's veterans. Their support not only raised valuable funds but also helped inspire the next generation to carry forward the spirit of remembrance.

GOLFING FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Submitted by: Carol Gorton

Spankers Social Golf Club was formed in 2009 as a small group of teachers and their partners from Yeppoon State High School.

It was not long before it became a broader base comprising of tradies, graziers, teachers, miners, and ex-businessmen including Veterans of the Australian Armed Forces. We play 9 holes every Thursday.

The team wanted to commemorate ANZAC Day with a golfing competition and were inspired to donate to Legacy after finding an old Legacy golf trophy hidden in the bottom of a storage box.

The Club fondly acknowledges the work that Legacy does with supporting the families of deceased or injured Veterans because of their service. The Club decided that a fundraising day would best show



their support for those that have served.

Jamana Investments Pty Ltd were their major sponsor, donating \$500 for the event, which included three vouchers valued at \$25 each for a lucky draw.

They had 38 nominations for the inaugural event. Winner of the trophy was Mike

Holdstock and runner up Russell Collins. The moose (last place) went to Peter Steel.

The total raised for Legacy Rockhampton and CQ was just over \$1200.

The event looks like becoming an annual event on the Spankers' golfing calendar.

BRISBANE MARCHES IN REMEMBRANCE

Story by: Aziza Lucas

Grey skies and persistent rain could not dampen the ANZAC spirit as Legacy families came together for the 2026 ANZAC Day March through Brisbane's CBD.

Proudly carrying the Legacy Brisbane banner, Legatees, beneficiaries and staff marched together to honour the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served our nation.

Despite the downpour, thousands of spectators lined the streets, a powerful display of respect that demonstrated the enduring significance of ANZAC Day and the community's unwavering support for those who have served.

Following the march, participants travelled by coach to the DBM Vircon offices in South Brisbane, where they were warmly welcomed for a delicious lunch and refreshments.

The gathering provided a wonderful opportunity for Legacy families to reflect on the morning's commemorations, reconnect with one another and



share in the camaraderie that lies at the heart of Legacy.

Legacy Brisbane extends its sincere thanks to DBM Vircon for once again generously hosting our ANZAC Day gathering.



Their ongoing support helps make this special day one of remembrance, connection and friendship for our Legacy families.

We look forward to marching together again in 2027.

Photo credit: Joseph Byford Photography

A LASTING ANZAC TRADITION AT TORBRECK

Story by: Tess Whitton



For over five years, Legacy Brisbane has provided a handcrafted ANZAC wreath for Torbreck Home Unit's annual commemorative display.

Displayed in the heritage-listed building's Dornoch Tce, Highgate Hill entrance, the wreath serves as the centrepiece of an ANZAC Day tribute that encourages residents and visitors alike to pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice of Australia's veterans.

The wreath was lovingly handcrafted by members of a Legacy Laurel Club. Its permanent home at Torbreck ensures the dedication of those volunteers continues to inspire remembrance within the community each ANZAC Day.

Legacy is proud to support initiatives that keep the ANZAC spirit alive. This special wreath will remain part of Torbreck's annual commemorations for many years.



LEGACY DEBUTS IN FRASER BURNETT ANZAC DAY MARCH

Story by: Tina Bray

This year's ANZAC Day was a memorable one for Legacy's Fraser Burnett team, who proudly took part in the Hervey Bay march for the first time.

Despite persistent rain, 12 members of the team marched alongside Legacy widows as several hundred people lined the streets to pay their respects. The strong community turnout was a powerful reminder that the spirit of ANZAC Day endures, whatever the weather.

For the widows who participated, the march provided a meaningful opportunity to publicly honour their late husbands and remember all those who served and sacrificed.

Among them was Glenys Nichols, who proudly wore her husband's service jacket and medals. She was joined by Legatee Jean Sneesby, volunteer Elli, Legatee

Adrian Butler and his partner Morgan, while Lauren Carter carried the Legacy banner with Legatee Korinna Wroblewski marching alongside.

Legacy is proud to have shared this important occasion with the Hervey Bay community and looks forward to continuing this new tradition in the years to come.



HONOURING ANZAC DAY IN MARYBOROUGH

Story by: Jenni Bryson



Legacy members proudly joined the Maryborough community in commemorating ANZAC Day, taking part in services and events that honoured the service and sacrifice of Australia's veterans.

The Tinana Dawn Service attracted more than 100 attendees, with members of the local community gathering in the early morning to pay their respects. The commemorations also featured historical re-enactors from Great War Living History Maryborough, adding a meaningful connection to the stories of those who served.

A unique feature of Maryborough's ANZAC commemorations is its cenotaph, believed to be the only one in Queensland, and possibly Australia, to feature a nurse or angel as its central figure, making it a particularly significant place of remembrance.

Legacy representatives were proud to participate in the day's commemorations alongside local leaders and community members, continuing Legacy's longstanding tradition of honouring those who have served and supporting the families they leave behind.

BRONCOS AND LEGACY UNITE FOR ANZAC ROUND

Story by: Tess Whitton

A sea of ponchos, umbrellas and Broncos colours set the scene for a memorable ANZAC Round as the Brisbane Broncos proudly named Legacy Brisbane their official charity partner for the 2026 fixture.

Despite persistent rain, thousands of supporters packed the stadium to honour the service and sacrifice of Australia's veterans while helping raise vital funds for Legacy through the Broncos' popular 50/50 Charity Raffle.

The evening raised more than \$110,000, with half the proceeds supporting Legacy Brisbane.

The partnership also created several unforgettable experiences for Legacy families. A group of Legacy child beneficiaries proudly formed the Honour Guard, welcoming the players onto the field before kick-off in a moving tribute to those who have served.

For Legacy beneficiary Danny, the night was particularly special. He was given the honour of delivering the official match ball before the game and enjoyed exclusive behind-the-scenes access to the Australian Defence Force's pre-match activities, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

The evening was a celebration of the values shared by both organisations, including service, courage, community and mateship.

It also highlighted the generosity of Broncos members and supporters, whose enthusiastic support helped make the partnership such a success.

Legacy Brisbane sincerely thanks the Brisbane Broncos, along with every volunteer, raffle ticket purchaser and supporter who contributed to such a memorable occasion.



Even under grey skies, the spirit of the evening shone brightly, demonstrating the incredible difference a community can make when it comes together.



PINE RIVERS GROUP COMES TOGETHER FOR ANZAC DAY

Story by: Cathy Anstey

The "Small but Mighty" Pine Rivers Group gathered to commemorate ANZAC Day with a special bayside lunch at Sea, Salt and Vine Restaurant in Scarborough.

A record number of members attended the event, including several new faces who were warmly welcomed into the group.

The afternoon was filled with lively conversation, shared memories and plenty of laughter as members enjoyed catching up in good company.

A highlight of the day was the ever-energetic Mrs Beryl Davis, who organised the raffle and generously donated the proceeds from the sale of her beautiful handmade fascinators to Legacy.

Despite the wet weather, spirits remained high throughout the afternoon, proving once again that nothing can dampen the enthusiasm and friendship shared by the Pine Rivers Group.

Everyone is already looking forward to the next opportunity to come together again.



CREATIVITY IN REMEMBRANCE

Story by: Leanne Drake

The talented members of the Thread and Yarn Group at New Farm have once again created a stunning ANZAC Day display, showcasing their creativity, craftsmanship and commitment to remembrance.

Each year, the group spends countless hours knitting, crocheting, sewing and painting a collection of beautiful handcrafted pieces inspired by the ANZAC spirit.

Their annual display has become a much-anticipated tradition, reflecting both artistic talent and a deep respect for those who have served.

Following the display, the group generously donates a selection of their handmade creations to Legacy Brisbane.

These unique items are used as prizes at Legacy events throughout the year, where they are always warmly received and admired.



Legacy Brisbane is incredibly grateful for the Thread and Yarn Group's ongoing generosity and support.

Their thoughtful contributions not only brighten our events but also

serve as a wonderful reminder of the many ways our community comes together to honour veterans and support Legacy families.

EASTERN STAR CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT

Story by: Tess Whitton

Legacy Brisbane is delighted to once again receive the generous support of the Eastern Star Foundation, which has awarded the organisation \$92,070 as part of the second year of a three-year funding partnership.

The funding forms part of the Foundation's largest-ever philanthropic grant round and follows a grant of \$91,998 awarded to Legacy Brisbane in 2025.

This ongoing partnership plays a fundamental role in ensuring Legacy can continue providing care and companionship to older widows across Queensland.

The grant directly supports Legacy Brisbane's Older Widows Program, enabling the delivery of complex case management and meaningful social connection opportunities for elderly war widows.



It also helps sustain the organisation's network of 40 Laurel Socialisation Clubs, where more than 400 members enjoy friendship, support and a sense of belonging.

Many of the widows supported by Legacy are now well into their senior years, with the oldest aged 103 years!

Through partnerships such as this, Legacy can continue providing practical assistance, reassurance and the enduring promise that no widow will face life's journey alone.

Representatives from Legacy Brisbane were pleased to attend the Foundation's recent grants presentation at Kedron-Wavell Services Club, joining fellow grant recipients to celebrate the positive impact these partnerships are making across Queensland communities.

Legacy Brisbane sincerely thanks the Eastern Star Foundation for its continued generosity and commitment to helping older Queenslanders remain connected, supported and cared for.

A WILD WEEKEND FOR OUR YOUNGER FAMILIES

Story by: Aziza Lucas



Our first Younger Families event for children nine and under was a fantastic afternoon.

We kicked off the event with a craft activity which saw the children replicate and create their own animals using all of the recycled materials on hand.

Following this we enjoyed a marvellous wildlife show, filled with native Australian animals including a crocodile, a Tawny Frogmouth and a rare pig nosed turtle.

After all the excitement of the afternoon, we shared lunch and



all the children collected their take-home goodie bags. Needless to say, it was a huge success!

We look forward to continuing this event in 2027, as the intimate setting provided the perfect opportunity for all the families in attendance to connect – an ideal outcome!



STRONGER TOGETHER: WELCOMING THE NORTHERN GROUP

Story by: Legatee Peter Ruff

The beginning of 2026 marked an important milestone for Legacy Brisbane, with the former North East and North West Groups coming together to form the new Northern Group.

The amalgamation followed the resignation and relocation of long-serving Legatee and Board member Phil Lillibridge, prompting discussions about the best way to continue supporting beneficiaries across Brisbane's north.

Members of the North East Group unanimously supported the amalgamation after recognising there were no volunteers to take on the Chair and Secretary roles. The proposal was then presented to the North West Group, where it also received strong support.

Throughout the process, one guiding principle remained: *What is best for our beneficiaries?*

The first combined meeting was held in January 2026, with members also selecting the name "Northern Group".

A new meeting location was established at the RSL Queensland Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre Brisbane, creating a central hub for the group's activities.

Today, the Northern Group supports more than 700 widows and families across Brisbane's northern region. By removing former geographical boundaries, the amalgamation has created one collaborative team, bringing together experienced Legatees and newer members to deliver the

care, companionship and practical support that Legacy families rely on. As the group continues to grow, it does so with renewed energy, shared experience and a collective commitment to ensuring no Legacy family walks alone.

The Northern Group now meets on the last Monday of each month at the centre in Stafford.

At the July meeting, three new Legatees were formally inducted and members also took part in filming for Legacy Brisbane's latest Legatee recruitment campaign.



NORTHERN GROUP FIRES UP THE BBQ

Story by: Mitch Watson

A dedicated team of Legacy volunteers took to the Bunnings Carseldine sausage sizzle in April, firing up the grill and raising an impressive \$2,500 for Legacy families.

It was a busy and rewarding day, with the team working tirelessly to keep the queue moving and the community fed.

Every volunteer who gave their time and energy made the event the success it was. Among these volunteers were Ian and Marilyn Ferguson, who left their Beachmere paradise to join the team for the day.

Bev Summers - who gave her all from start to finish - is a testament to the passion and commitment that keeps our Legacy family strong.



A heartfelt thank you to all involved, and to the Northern Brisbane community for their generous support.

RECOGNITION FOR OVER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Story by: Legatee Peter Ruff

In the presence of the ladies of the Gaythorne Laurel Group, Legatee Peter Ruff had the great honour of recognising Legatee Peter Thatcher, on behalf of his grateful Legatee peers, for more than 20 years of dedicated service to the widows and families of Legacy Brisbane.

This period coincided with Peter's leadership, as convenor, of the Gaythorne Laurel Group which meets monthly at the Arana Hills Leagues Club.

Under his guidance, the group has continued to provide connection, support and companionship for its members.

In a lovely gesture, Peter's wife Mandy was also presented with flowers, acknowledging the important role she plays in supporting Peter in his Legatee work.



CONNECTIONS AT GALLIPOLI BARRACKS

Story by: Legatee Peter Ruff

In late March, Legatees Bev Summers and Peter Ruff were honoured to attend the 7CSSB Family Day at Gallipoli Barracks, joining Defence families for a day of connection and community.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for Legacy to engage with families and share information about the support available, while also enjoying the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere of the day ... along with selling a bear or two.

The Northern Group extends its sincere thanks for the invitation from the Unit's Commanding Officer, and in particular Welfare Officer Major Amanda Gibbs, who is now also a Gallipoli Barracks Legacy Unit Legatee.

It was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen relationships and continue building awareness of the support Legacy provides to Defence families.



Happy birthday to our Legacy Ladies!



ADELINA AINSWORTH

On 28 March, Mrs Ainsworth celebrated her 90th birthday surrounded by family and friends at the Yaralla Sports Club.

Known for her warm hospitality and generous spirit, Adelina is always delighted to welcome visitors into her home, where she shares stories from her life with warmth and good humour.

Her Legatee says each visit is a pleasure and treasures the time they spend together.

A passionate gardener, Adelina lovingly cares for the gardens throughout her unit complex, describing it as her favourite form of exercise.

Her beautiful blooms also brighten her local church each Sunday, where she generously provides flowers from her garden.

Happy Birthday Adelina!

Submitted by: Legatee Carol Gorton



ANNIE SHARP

A very special milestone was celebrated on 20 April as Annie marked her 100th birthday surrounded by friends, family and the Legacy community.

Annie was delighted when members of the Wynnum Care Group surprised her with a morning tea at the Wynnum RSL Club.

She was overjoyed to receive beautiful flowers and birthday cards from Legacy, along with a birthday cake generously provided by Legatee Rae Brown.

The celebrations continued with another surprise gathering organised by Annie's nephew, Duncan, at St Vincent's Care, where Annie resides. Family and friends came together to mark the occasion, while two members of the Wynnum RSL Pipe Band added a memorable touch by performing a special birthday tribute.

To make the day even more special, Member for Bonner Kara Cook also visited Annie to offer her birthday wishes and help celebrate this wonderful milestone.

Submitted by: Legatee Rae Brown



DAWN WORLEY

Legatee Peter Ruff had the pleasure of visiting Mrs Dawn Worley at her Taigum residence to present her with flowers on behalf of Legacy Brisbane in celebration of her 90th birthday.

During the visit, Dawn reflected on the wonderful life she shared with her late husband, Jack, a World War II RAAF veteran, who sadly passed away several years ago.

Peter also admired Dawn's beautiful front and back gardens, which reflect her lifelong passion for plants and flowers.

An active member of her retirement village community with many close friends nearby, Dawn has recently joined the Legacy Brisbane family and is looking forward to becoming involved with the Geebung Laurel Group.

Submitted by: Legatee Peter Ruff





PATRICIA LAWRENCE

Legacy Brisbane was delighted to celebrate Mrs Lawrence's 90th birthday, with Legatee John "JD" Dalton presenting her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers on behalf of Legacy.

JD, accompanied by Legatee Peter Ruff, had the pleasure of visiting Patricia and her daughter, Pamela, at their family home in Arana Hills to mark the special occasion.

The visit provided a wonderful opportunity to share stories and enjoy a warm catch-up together.

Submitted by: Legatee Peter Ruff



MRS PEGG

In April, Mrs Pegg celebrated her 100th birthday, with Legatee Mitch Watson visiting to present her with flowers and a birthday card.

Although it was their first meeting, Mrs Pegg warmly welcomed the visit and proudly showed off the stunning city views from her balcony.

Still mobile with the assistance of a walker, she is working with her physiotherapist and the RSL to improve access to her balcony with a small ramp.

Mrs Pegg is supported by a caring network, including regular visits from her nearby grandson, daily calls from her daughter in Young, NSW, and ongoing assistance from the RSL and community services.

It was wonderful to celebrate this significant milestone and wish her a very happy 100th birthday.

Submitted by: Legatee Mitch Watson



GRACE FINDLAY

Legatee Neil Horn was honoured to celebrate Grace's remarkable 100th birthday by presenting her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and birthday wishes on behalf of Legacy.

Grace was delighted by the surprise, carefully reading the card before warmly thanking Neil. Holding his hand, she smiled and said how pleased she was to have reached such an extraordinary milestone.

Grace spent most of her life on a property at Mundubbera, west of Hervey Bay. She grew up on the family farm and spent her early working years helping her parents before marrying and raising a family of four children.

Grace is the proud grandmother of four and the great-grandmother of one. She says her greatest achievement was raising her family. Spending time with them and enjoying a good book continue to bring her the greatest joy.

Grace's centenary birthday celebrations included congratulatory messages from His Majesty The King, the Governor-General, her local Member of Parliament and other dignitaries.

Submitted by: Legatee Neil Horn



GLADYS MIEKLEJOHN

Mrs Miekjohn was presented with flowers on behalf of Legacy Brisbane in celebration of her 90th birthday.

Living in Geebung with close family nearby, Gladys enjoys reading, watching quiz shows and listening to classical music. During the visit, Gladys shared fond memories of growing up on dairy farms both north and south of Brisbane before later running a butcher's shop alongside her husband. **Submitted by:** Legatee Peter Ruff



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, fourth 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 second & fourth Wednesday of the month
Liz Cowell 3349 2084

Deception Bay Care Group

Meet at Deception Bay Tavern
10am, first 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, second Friday of the month
Christine Atkins 0411 389 843

Gympie Laurel Club

Gympie RSL,
217 Mary St, GYMPIE
10am, third 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
10am, last Friday of the month
Denise Turner
0488 615 222

Kilcoy Care Group

Alternate venue each month
(February to December)
12 noon, second 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, first Tuesday of the month – lunch
third Wednesday of the month – bus trip
Eunice Smith
0407 092 234

Logan East Care Group

More Café
Shop 1/34 Fitzgerald Ave,
SPRINGWOOD
10am, second 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
second 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
Humptybong Esplanade,
Redcliffe
10am, first & third Tuesday of the month
Gabby Ryan 0402 268 794

Redlands Care Group

Redlands RSL
8 Passage Street,
CLEVELAND
10am, first 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, first Friday of the month
Tony Ralph 3254 2758

Warwick Care Group

RSL Services and Citizens Memorial Club
Cnr King and Albion St,
WARWICK
fourth 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, second 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, second 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, first Tuesday
of the month

Gayndah

Grand Hotel Gayndah
12 noon, first Tuesday
of the month

Wondai/Murgon

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

Kingaroy

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

Nanango

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

Hervey Bay

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

ROCKHAMPTON GROUPS

Biloela

ANZAC Memorial Club,
94 Callide Street, BILOELA
11:30am, third Monday
of the month
Bronwyn Hill
0467 447 872

Clermont

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

Emu Park

Ocean Brew Eatery
34 Pattison Street
EMU PARK
10am, second 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,
second Monday of the
month
Rose Swadling
0418 458 622

Yeppoon

Capricorn Tavern
Scenic Hwy,
TARANGANBA
10am, second 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
first Monday of the month
Helen Brett 0429 448 081

Maroochydore Care Club

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

Nambour Care Group

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

Tewantin/Noosa Care Group

Tewantin/Noosa RSL &
Citizens Memorial Club,
Memorial Avenue,
TEWANTIN, 10am, first
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

WINTER WARM-UP

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

WINTER
CHILLY
CRISP
FROST
BEANIE

JUMPER
SCARF
CARDIGAN
BOOTS
BLANKET

FIREPLACE
HEATER
SOUP
TEA
COCOA

WOOL
KNITTING
QUILT
COSY
WARMTH

Continued from page 9



More than a gallery, the Living Library will be a place of reflection, learning and connection, celebrating the people who have shaped Legacy Brisbane, honouring the families we have supported, and ensuring the stories of service, sacrifice, resilience and compassion remain at the heart of Legacy House for generations to come.

We gratefully acknowledge the Queensland Government for its proud support of this project.

The Torch is for you; everyone in our Legacy families, of all ages and types, wherever you live, wherever you've been and wherever you're going!

That said, we'd love to make it even more about you, so if you have an idea, a thought, a story or photo – even a poem or a joke – please let us know and we'll certainly consider it for the next issue.

Please contact Legacy
on 3029 5600 or email
communications@
legacybrisbane.org.au



We ask that you please remember to let Legacy know if any of your details change, for example your address, telephone number or next of kin.

This information allows us to maintain contact with you and ensure that you receive your quarterly edition of Torch.

For Brisbane and surrounds and country areas please contact Legacy Brisbane on 3029 5600.

For Sunshine Coast, please call 5443 9841.
For Rockhampton and Central
Queensland please call 4922 4010.
For Fraser Burnett please call 4194 5111.
Thank you!

Title: First name: Surname:
Address:

P/C: _____ Phone: _____

Please send me: ☐ Information on helping as a Legacy volunteer ☐ Information on how to make a bequest to Legacy

Enclosed is my gift of \$ to the Legacy family ☐ My cheque is enclosed or ☐ Please debit my credit card

Name on card: _____ Signature _____

Expiry Date: /

Please email receipt: ☐ Email Address:



Please return this coupon to:

**LEGACY BRISBANE: PO Box 3003, South Brisbane QLD 4101 PHONE: (07) 3029 5600
EMAIL: admin@legacybrisbane.org.au WEB: www.legacy.com.au**



Supporting our veterans' families

Winter 2026 | Torch 23



Supporting our veterans' families

LEGACY BRISBANE

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

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Maroochydore Q 4558
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e. suncoast@legacybrisbane.org.au

**LEGACY ROCKHAMPTON &
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Suite 3, Tobruk House
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t. 07 4922 4010
e. 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