



RETURNED and SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA  
EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH  
ROUTINE ORDERS



Vol 27 No 2

April-May 2024

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



A most concerning series of developments is happening on our planet. The war between Ukraine and Russia is now in its second year. The Ukrainian war effort is largely being supported by many countries including ourselves, who we must assume support Ukraine. Similarly, there is an ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine. And all that is not to mention tensions between China and Taiwan. Smaller conflicts largely in the Middle East are also taking place.

Now all of this reminds me of what happened before World War 1 and, later, WW2. What this means to me is that we here in Australia need to be as ready as possible to defend our way of life. Our Defence Forces need to be ready for any eventuality and to do this we need defence equipment and most particularly people in uniform. The present information available indicates that we are at least 8% below our ADF manning levels. This is very worrying not only for the shortfall but also noting the time necessary to train new recruits. Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom, must be the catch cry.

Turning now to another subject: on the 28th February 2024 we commemorated Long Hai Day and Operation Hammersley. This is in conjunction with 8 RAR who lost 11 dead and 59 wounded in that Operation.. It is very difficult to know exactly how many of the enemy were killed. 45 enemy bodies were recovered but there were many blood trails showing that the wounded had been dragged away. Additionally, weapons recovered indicate that at least three times more than the 45 bodies recovered would likely have been the true figure of enemy dead.

Among the Australian dead were young men who had attended Epping Boys High School A plaque is situated on the wall of remembrance for each of these local lads.

These are all sobering thoughts which bring the reality of our strategic positioning. For you and I we cannot only support our Sub-Branch but bear in mind the broader aspects of the media information which bombards us daily.

Kindest regards to you all,

Brian Swan AM

President

Epping RSL Sub-Branch

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### VALE

### “WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

During the months of December 2023- March 2024, advice has been received of the passing of the following service members.

NAME	RANK	SERVICE	UNIT	SERVICE NUMBER	DATE JOINED	DATE DECEASED
<b>POLLEY</b> Ross Bernard	LT	ARMY	38 AIR DISPATCH PLT		18/08/1997	25/06/2022
<b>PRENDERGAST</b> James Jeffrey	LAC	RAAF	82 SQN	130217	4/11/2009	15/12/2023
<b>MILNE</b> Robert Conway	PTE	ARMY	D COY 19 <sup>TH</sup> BTN	2729574	22/03/2008	11/02/2024
<b>SULLIVAN</b> Alan Max	AC	RAAF	1 NSTU RAAF AMBERLEY	A215386	30/04/1997	29/02/2024
<b>BURGESS</b> Noel Harold	LCMDR	RAN	HMAS MELBOURNE	042055	11/05/1998	11/03/2024

### SENIOR MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

President: Merrill Prestidge

Vice President: Les Rowe

Secretary: Margaret Cummins

Treasurer: Gavin Nell

Committee Members: Don Greentree, Brenda Greentree

Our 49th AGM was held on Tuesday 5 March in The Epping Club following our monthly general meeting.

We welcome Gavin Nell as our new elected Treasurer, following over ten years with Deirdre Curdie performing the role.

On Tuesday 12 March we held our first Luncheon for the year. It was a small group that gathered to eat together, as for various reasons we were missing many of our regular members. We were however delighted to welcome a visitor Debbie Manning, daughter of members Sandra and Robert Archibald, who joined her parents for the occasion. Debbie lives in Bathurst and had only just returned from an overseas trip. The menu was well received and served by alternate servings. A lucky ticket was placed beneath each person's bread and butter plate, and four fortunate winners each received a voucher for \$25 to spend at Rawsons in The Epping Club.

We wish all members the very best of health and look forward to welcoming you to our next meeting. Those on the sick list are truly missed and we trust you are soon recovered and able to come back very soon.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month, starting at 2 pm upstairs on Level 1 of The Epping Club. The only month this is not the normal practice is November, as our meeting always coincides with Melbourne Cup Day, so we hold our meeting on the day prior, the Monday. We generally have a thought-provoking speaker, and then enjoy fellowship with each other over afternoon tea, generously provided by Epping RSL sub-Branch.

Margaret Cummins, Secretary

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### AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS N.S.W. LTD

Coordinator: Heather Gillam 9876 3588

Treasurer: Heather Gillam

Meetings: First Monday in month at 10.30 a.m.

Monday 8 April 2024 Note that 1 April is Easter Monday

Monday 6 May 2024

Monday 3 June 2024

## **EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: APRIL 2024 – JUNE 2024**

#### **APRIL 2024**

<b>MONDAY 01</b>	<b>EASTER MONDAY</b>	
Tuesday 02	RSL Senior Members Association Meeting	1400
Monday 08	Australian War Widows NSW Ltd	1030
Monday 08	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Wednesday 17	Stand Easy	1300
<b>Sunday 21</b>	<b>Anzac Sunday Service</b>	<b>1400</b>
<b>Thursday 25</b>	<b>Anzac Day Dawn Service</b>	<b>0600</b>
Monday 29	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930
Tuesday 30	RSL Senior Members Association Committee Meeting	1030

#### **MAY 2024**

Monday 6	Australian War Widows NSW Ltd	1030
Tuesday 7	RSL Senior Members Association Meeting	1400
Monday 13	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Wednesday 15	Stand Easy	1300
Monday 27	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930
Tuesday 28	RSL Senior Members Association Committee Meeting	1030

#### **JUNE 2024**

Monday 03	Australian War Widows NSW Ltd	1030
Monday 03	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Tuesday 04	RSL Senior Members Association Meeting	1400
<b>Monday 10</b>	<b>King's Birthday Holiday</b>	
Wednesday 19	Stand Easy	1300
Monday 24	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930
Tuesday 25	RSL Senior Members Association Committee Meeting	1030

## Why's Grandad Cranky All The Time?

A sprightly young lad of only 19  
Keen and eager to go chase his dreams  
But the government called and had a new plan  
And conscripted his soul to Vietnam  
His grandad told stories of sailing the sea  
An original ANZAC on the beaches of Gallipoli  
Not much older than him, their bravery now legends  
in time  
So he took the oath and signed on the thin dotted  
line  
While his peers ran away, were jailed or fined  
He answered the call, his future redesigned  
He'd rather live on his feet, than die on his knees  
His country had asked, to help others live free  
A haircut and basics to make sure he's fit  
SLR, camos, a slouch hat and kit  
He's now off to face his ultimate test  
And wonders if his own dad was also scared to death  
Breathing napalm in the morning may appear cool  
on the big screen  
But the horrors and carnage cannot be unseen  
He'd never speak of these horrors again  
He lives with the memories of such cruelty to man  
Trucks, jeeps and choppers, they bounced him  
around  
Jets, gunfire and screaming a daily sound  
If you survived the day, it felt like the lotto you'd  
won  
While Creedence decreed them all fortunate sons  
Fighting in the jungles, the rain never ends  
And still in his dreams, he sees black pyjama men  
The powers that be thought they'd play by the rules  
But they played their own game, and made them  
look fools  
There was no parade when his battalion came home  
Just an empty tarmac at a cold aerodrome  
A head full of memories that no one deserves  
The same curse today for our members that served  
He did his two tours, his life was on loan  
To be spat on and abused by the hairy and stoned

He didn't ask to go, and be treated like this  
Now dejected, betrayed, and rightfully pissed  
Jaded and angry, he sits at the bar  
And watches the youth having fun from afar  
Listening to Barnsey belt out Kha Shan  
But his memories aren't pleasant of this foreign land  
Decades later they gave him a parade  
The people all cheered, and apologies made  
For the first time in ages, he wore his medal with  
pride  
And with the Vietnam Vets he's honoured to ride  
Brothers for life on horses of steel  
He's finally at peace and some wounds have healed  
They reach out to each other and look after their own  
And raise a toast annually to those who didn't come  
home  
Their numbers grow fewer each ANZAC Day  
As time rolls on, the memories will fade  
He did his best and that's all you could ask  
While the smile that he keeps, he wears like a mask  
His grandkids play xbox and think war is a game  
You just get shot and die and you can do it again  
He leaves the room quietly so as to not make a scene  
The kids all ask mum, why's Papa so mean?  
She sits them down and tries her best to explain  
What he went through and why he's in pain  
The kids understand, their hearts filled with love  
They run into his room and give him a hug  
Innocent and naïve in the ways of the world  
He listens in awe to this brave little girl  
Don't worry Pop Pop, I'll protect you from all that  
is bad  
Just her and her teddy, she looks armour clad  
She thanks him for being her big brave Grandad  
And said it's ok if you want to feel sad  
He knows that she means it and holds back a tear  
It took fifty years to stop living in fear.

Stewart Elliott 28/02/2022

## WAR MEDALS RETURNED

*The Weekly Times Vol.103 No. 5 14 February 2024*

Lost World War Two medals recently found in Epping have been handed to a deceased bomber crew member's family following an appeal through *The Weekly Times* and sleuthing by Ryde Historian Sabina Fielding-Smith.

John Lindley of Epping found the medals of Flight Sergeant John William Houseman in a hidden and unopened box in his Albuera Road home and John Curdie OAM from the Epping RSL sub Branch identified them as the 39/45 Star, the France and Germany Star, the Defence Medal; the War Medal and the Australian Service Medal.

Mr Lindley said further research revealed the medals had been passed on to Flight Sergeant Houseman's sister – the late Betty Estelle Houseman, who married the late Jim Richman – and they lived in the Epping home before the Lindley family bought it in 1999.

“I was just stunned when these medals turned up during a recent renovation and I assumed they were for Betty's husband,” Mr Lindley said.

“It is very unusual for an Australian to receive the France and Germany Star, which is a British medal.”

Mr Lindley wanted to return the medals to Flight Sergeant Houseman's next of kin but when his search for living relatives came up with nothing, he sought help from this newspaper.

The subsequent TWT article was read by Ryde historian Sabina Fielding-Smith who conducted an extensive war records search before emailing Mr Lindley with some incredible news.

“I have had a breakthrough regarding finding one of the daughters of Betty and Jim Richman,” she informed him.

“Betty and Jim's daughter Jennifer married Alex John Murphy and gave birth to a son Benjamin.

“Sadly, Jennifer passed away on December 7 in 2015 aged 62 years and was living at Kellyville at the time.

“Both Betty and Jennifer's estates were handled by Bond and Bond Solicitors of Epping.”

The law firm retained contact details for next of kin, Alex Murphy from Kellyville Ridge.

He told TWT he was thrilled to learn about the search to find him.

“I'm the last one left and I have Flight Sergeant Houseman's war diaries so you can imagine how I felt a few weeks ago when John Lindley sent me the clipping from your newspaper, it really surprised the hell out of me!” Mr Murphy said.

He said he was amazed to read in TWT that rear gunner Flight Sergeant Houseman was the only crew member of an RAF Lancaster bomber LM633 to have been killed on the night of July 20, 1944, in an attack above Courtrai, Belgium when the Lancaster was shot down by a JU 88 night fighter.

“The most poignant thing about Flight Sergeant Houseman's war diary is how it suddenly ends, now I know why,” Mr Murphy said.

There is no memorial to Flight Sergeant Houseman although wreckage of his doomed bomber was found at Zietenacy ou Zoetenasie approximately eight kms northwest of Diksmuide.

He was 22 years old.

Ben Murphy has offered to, wear Flight Sergeant Houseman's medals during the Anzac Day March, on behalf of the family.

“Now we have his war medals, we'll be proud to wear them during the Anzac Day March, so his story and his memory will live on,” Alex Murphy said.

Both Mr Lindley and Mr Murphy said they are amazed the TWT article came up with such an amazing outcome.

“Your newspaper publishing the story was obviously of tremendous help and we're grateful to Sabina from the Ryde Historical Society who did so much research, despite all the secrecy laws and the privacy laws,” Mr Lindley said.

The *Weekly Times* thanks John Curdie OAM for his research and his later discovery that Flight Sergeant Houseman was born in Clovelly in 1922 and was part of the RAF Bomber Command in 626 Squadron.



## **EPPING BOYS HIGH SCHOOL MILITARY SERVICE IN THE VIETNAM WAR ERA**

by Ron O'Connor, Hon. Secretary, 8 RAR Association (NSW Branch)

Many Epping Old Boys have served in the military from the 1960s to the present, but the greatest number at any one time was during the Vietnam War period from 1966 to 1972. This was a time of national division over our commitment to a war so far from home, and over the introduction of a scheme for national service for 20-year-old males, based on a birthday lottery. It was a time when families worried about their sons being called up, and especially for those whose sons were sent to the war zone.

Some boys chose to follow a career in the military and volunteered knowing they could be sent overseas. It isn't hard to imagine the anxiety felt by many, as their schooling ended and they wondered what lay ahead.

The 1962 EBHS "Panorama" Newsletter announced with pride that two boys had been chosen to receive scholarships to the Royal Military College at Duntroon, Ian Ahearn and Bernard Garland. Ian graduated as a lieutenant, serving with the 12th Field Regiment in Vietnam from February 1968 to February 1969 and going on to eventually reach the rank of Colonel. Bernard Garland also graduated as a lieutenant and died in action in Vietnam on 22 April 1970. He was part of the cohort which was admitted in 1959 and sat the Leaving Certificate in 1963, out of which 24 boys served in Vietnam, 10 of whom were conscripts.

One of the first to serve in Vietnam was Lawrence O'Sullivan, with the 4th and 9th Battalions 1966-9. He was wounded in 1966, and returned for a second tour of duty from November 1968 to December 1969. Another of the early boys was Dennis Weatherell, who

joined the Navy straight from school, rising through the ranks to become a senior specialist seaman, specialising in radar and gunnery.

Michael Fogaffy, Leaving Certificate 1965 also joined the Navy, serving in the Far East Strategic Reserve in Singapore and Malaysia. Neither was sent to Vietnam, but served through this period and have assisted with advice in the search for those who became Vietnam veterans, so they can be acknowledged and commemorated.

In all, 83 of these boys have been located, of whom three were Duntroon graduates and 39 of whom were conscripts. There were three deaths in action or of wounds after battle. Sergeant Alan Ahearn, the first boy enrolled in 1957, and the brother of Ian Ahearn, died on the 14th May 1970 whilst serving with the 8th Battalion, while Private Harry White, admitted in 1958, died of wounds in 1968 after the battle of Coral and Balmoral whilst serving with the 1st Battalion, in which Ian Ahearn also fought, and in which many Australians were killed. Lieutenant Bernard Garland was the third, as a result of a mine explosion on 22 April 1970.

All of the conscripts served in the Army, many of the volunteers in the Navy. Some of these were only in Vietnam for very short periods as their ships docked. Many received good experience in trades and leadership. Two of the conscripts served in dental units, and one in the medical service, no doubt gaining valuable surgical experience. The catering corps and signals corps were also staffed by several old boys. A few were pilots or leading aircraftmen in the Air Force. For all of them, recruits and conscripts, it was a time of anxiety for their families.

As the war dragged on and the death toll rose, far fewer Epping boys visited the recruitment office. The largest number of those who served came from the 1957-9 intake of over 1,000 boys, 54 in all, of whom 21 were conscripted. The numbers of recruits declined rapidly, although the war waged on until all Australians were withdrawn by the Whitlam government in 1972, and conscription abolished.

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## **LONG HAI DAY**

Every year, members of the 8 RAR Association hold a memorial service on 28 February. This was the day in 1970 that they lost 7 members killed in action and one died of wounds.

This year they gathered at our Cenotaph in Boronia Park, Epping, for the service. At this service, they also unveiled a plaque for Private Harry White, an Epping Boys High School student who died in the Vietnam war. Member for Epping Dominic Perrottet and two current students from Epping Boys High School, Justin Sams and Ojas Mehra, assisted in the unveiling.



8 RAR Long Hai Memorial Day  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Epping



Photographs by Irene Rowe, arranged by John Curdie



## VALE Alan Max SULLIVAN A215386

DOD 29th Feb 2024 aged 86



The world during the 1950's was a decade of significant world instability and Australia was one of the nations rebuilding its defence strengths. It was in June 1956 that Allan Sullivan, one of the hundreds of thousands of young Australian males, at the age of 18 and under the provisions of the National Services Act of 1951, were required to serve in the Australian Defence Force.

Alan responding to this national call was accepted into the RAAF then deployed to RAAF Amberly Air Base in Queensland. It was here that he undertook his basic training. Following his graduation, he was transferred to the RAAF Ready Reserve and there he served until his discharge from the RAAF in 1960.

Alan was ever supportive of Australians achievements especially within the defence forces. His penchant for history and RAAF chronicle was the basis of his talks to our sub-Branch meetings where he would often detail aspects of the personal experiences and struggles of Australians in time of war and the day-to-day challenges.

Alan joined the sub-Branch in 1998 and became active in aspects of sub-Branch life. His compassion for fellow veterans saw him involved in the hospital visitation team who called on the veterans who were in hospital or nursing homes.

In 2002 he was elected to the sub-Branch management team where he served enthusiastically until his passing in 2024. He became involved in the management of the membership database as well as arranging guest speakers to our monthly meeting of veterans. Alan was a member and office bearer in the Epping RSL Seniors Association. Alan also was a sub-Branch delegate to the District Council of the RSL NSW.

He served his sub-Branch and the veterans well. Alan was awarded life membership of the Epping sub-Branch and further a special honour, awarded Life Membership of the RSL of Australia.

## Bombing of Darwin remembered 82 years on

CPL Michael Rogers

Air Force News, Vol. 66 No. 3, February 29, 2024

GNR William Hudson was taking a shower when the bombs began to fall on February 19, 1942.

As the sound of explosion boomed across Darwin harbour, he ran to his post wearing only his helmet, boots, and a towel.

Unable to hit the Japanese aircraft from their position, GNR Hudson and GNR Leslie Garner ran into the open for a clearer shot.

With the Lewis gun perched on his mate's shoulder. GNR Hudson let out a burst of fire at a low-flying Japanese Zero and brought it down.

In the chaos of battle, GNR Hudson lost his towel but was the first person to shoot down an aircraft that day, and the first Australian awarded the Military Medal for bravery on home soil.

This year marked the 82nd anniversary of the largest single attack on Australia by a foreign power - the Bombing of Darwin.

A commemoration was held at the Darwin Convention Centre to mark the occasion, relocated from the Cenotaph due to wet weather.

The USS *Peary*, a US Navy destroyer anchored in Darwin harbour at the time of the attack was caught off guard by the Japanese onslaught and ultimately sank, though its guns did not stop firing until the last plane left.

Community leaders, veterans and members of Australian and US forces laid wreaths at the USS *Peary* Memorial in remembrance of the 88 sailors who died on board.

On February 19, 1942, Japanese forces launched a coordinated aerial raid devastating Darwin and its harbour, the first of at least 64 raids against Australia.

The attack consisted of two separate waves of over 240 aircraft, with the first bombers arriving at 9:58am, targeting ships, infrastructure, and military installations.

The second wave followed shortly before midday and left most essential infrastructure damaged or destroyed, as well as killing about 250 people.



## STAND EASY

The meetings are between 1300 and 1500 hours on the third Wednesday of the month in 45 on Rawson at the Epping Club.

It is a warm and relaxed camaraderie meeting. Drinks and snacks are provided. These monthly casual meetings are designed for all Members of the sub-Branch to join and enjoy a friendly atmosphere to laugh and share their experiences with each other. They will also be informed about the current and future events and activities of the sub-Branch. All Members are welcome and warmly encouraged to attend.

The next meetings will be on:

Wednesday 17 April 2024

Wednesday 15 May 2024

Wednesday 19 June 2024

*Allan Lotfzadeh, Secretary*

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### **Australian Army test technology in United States** Defence News 20 MARCH 2024

The Australian Army have joined allies and partners in Project Convergence, testing and developing networks, robotic and autonomous systems, air defence and strike related systems.

Project Convergence is a US-led campaign of learning through persistent experimentation. It was designed to aggressively advance and integrate technology across all warfighting domains, to overmatch an adversary in competition and conflict.

Director Australian Defence Force Multi-Domain Strike Colonel Casey Guidolin said being part of Project Convergence meant the ADF could test more new and emerging technologies as a part of a coalition force.

“Project Convergence Capstone Four provided Australia with the opportunity to work closely with allies and partners to promote a stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region,” Colonel Guidolin said.

“The ADF continues to test and invest in new and emerging technologies through multinational activities such as Project Convergence.

“In a time of heightened competition and conflict, working with the militaries of our allies and partners ensures we can work together as an integrated force in all warfighting domains on national defence.”

The Project was hosted by the United States Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Space Force, and included participants from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, France and Japan.

It was run between 23 February and 20 March 2024 as a two-phase “in the dirt” experiment at two locations in California.

This year’s event provided the Australian Army the opportunity to test capability modernisation as an integrated force for Australia’s national defence across all warfighting domains – land, air, sea, space, cyber.

Approximately 120 Australian soldiers were involved in Project Convergence, building skills and relationships with international partners and allies.

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## MEMORY LANE

### GROWING UP IN AUSTRALIA

I remember the corned beef of my Childhood,  
And the bread that we cut with a knife,  
When the Children helped with the Housework,  
And the men went to work not the wife.  
The cheese never needed a fridge,  
And the bread was so crusty and hot,  
The Children were seldom unhappy,  
And the Wife was content with her lot.

I remember the milk from the bottle,  
With the yummy cream on the top,  
Our dinner came hot from the oven,  
And not from a freezer or shop.  
The kids were a lot more contented,  
They didn’t need money for kicks,  
Just a game with their friends in the road,  
And sometimes the Saturday flicks.

I remember the slap on my backside,  
And the taste of soap if I swore.  
Anorexia and diets weren’t heard of  
And we hadn’t much choice what we wore.

Do you think that bruised our ego?  
Or our initiative was destroyed?  
We ate what was put on the table  
And I think life was better enjoyed.

*Author unknown*

## Western Sydney Hub

Report by Allan Lotfizadeh, delegate to FWMDC

I attended a highly supported meeting at the Richmond RSL Club about the start of the Western Sydney Hub in the near future.

In attendance: Both the Minister and Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Deputy Mayor, Dignitaries from Army, Airforce, Navy, RSL NSW and RSL NSW LifeCare, FWMDC President and Delegates from the sub-Branches.

The funding for the Hub is now approved. Once in operation, it will be a one-stop shop to assist Veterans and their families.

In a conversation with the RSL NSW LifeCare Executive Operation Manager, he confirmed to me that the Hub will be in operation at a temporary location within the next couple of months whilst a permanent location for the Hub is located and chosen soon within Richmond area. He will organise for sending more information to Epping sub-Branch in the near future.

In addition to providing some information about the Hub, the Minister for Veterans Affairs confirmed that DVA backlog is now cleared and generally incurs a 14 day application waiting time.

In response to one of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran suicide and in relation to the three Acts of legislation for compensation, "Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 – Exposure Draft" is now ready to be reviewed for comments and feedback prior to it being introduced to Parliament for approval later this year.

<https://www.dva.gov.au/about/royal-commission/veterans-legislation-reform-exposure-draft-consultation>

As part of her speech, the Opposition Deputy Leader MP, thanked the sub-Branches including Castle Hill and Epping for their support.

Further information and photos will be published in the next issue of Reveille.

## NRL players improve teamwork

CAPT Brittany Evans, Army News, Edition 1551, February 15, 2024

In the lead-up to the 2024 NRL season, the North Queensland Cowboys participated in a leadership and teambuilding camp with the Army as part of their pre-season training.

Facilitated by the Combat Training Centre and 3 Bde at Lavarack Barracks, it focused on building qualities needed to win.

Led by the team's new co-captains, the coaches and players practised cohesion, adaptiveness, agility, robustness and tested their resilience.

Some activities included a rope shuffle run, pool survival scenarios, and simulated indoor combat drills with sensory deprivation.

With a focus on team cohesion, the training was designed to build confidence in new leaders to make decisions under pressure.

WO1 John Lines said the aim was to instil a leadership mindset in the players, and define what leadership meant to the team.

"There was a distinct shift in the way the team had been vocal as a large group, progressing to listening to their leaders and respecting what they were being asked to do," WO 1 Lines said.

Cowboys co-captain Reuben Cotter said communication was one of the key learnings for the players.

"During the simulated indoor combat drill, I delegated specific tasks, as we didn't have great visibility or hearing, which meant clear communication was integral," Cotter said.

"Working together was the only way we could achieve the objective."

Cowboys head coach Todd Payten said the Army training offered specific benefits for elite athletes, and there were similarities between soldiers and players.

"Whether it be sport or the Defence Force, each individual needs to display characteristics of teamwork and being selfless to perform well," Payten said.

"It was great to see the team under a bit of pressure. The leaders really stepped up to take command of the group and execute the various tasks.

"The players in charge seemed comfortable and led from the front with clear instruction."

## EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH DIRECTORY 2024

<b>SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Sub-Branch Office</b>	<b>9868 3272</b>
	subbranch@eppingsubbranch.com	
	<b>President</b>	Brian Swan
	<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	John Curdie
		David Taylor
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	<b>Treasurer</b>	Les Rowe
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	<b>Vice President</b>	Les Rowe
	<b>Secretary</b>	Margaret Cummins
	<b>Treasurer</b>	Gavin Nell
	<b>Committee</b>	Don Greentree
		Brenda Greentree

**ROUTINE ORDERS** is issued 5 times per year, in January, April, June, August and October.

Contributions for inclusion in **ROUTINE ORDERS**, such as forward activities, interesting personal notes etc. are always welcome. Items for the next issue on Monday 27 May 2024 are required before Wednesday 15 May 2024.

Earlier would be appreciated. Electronic copy preferred if possible. *Routine Orders* editor Barry Hoschke bhoschke@tpg.com.au.





Photos: Irene Rowe

Arranged: John Curdie