



**Australian American Association [Queensland Div] Brisbane.  
Newsletter Photos Supplementary Edition 28-B**

**83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea Commemoration  
Service held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025.**

**Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young  
AC PSM, Governor of Queensland**



**Arrival at the Commemoration Service of Her Excellency the Governor of  
Queensland, the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, and Aide-de-Camp  
Major Brook Hastie of the Australian Army.**



**The Governor was met by representatives of the Australian American Association [Queensland Division] Brisbane. Standing from left are: – First Vice-President Tony Chau, Member Jill McKeon, the Governor the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young, Treasurer Teresa Pokoj, President Mike Harris, and Members Brien Doyle and Rob McLear.**



**Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland receiving the Vice Regal Musical Honour, which was played by the Royal Australian Navy Band of Queensland from HMAS Moreton, and the Band from the US Navy 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet.**



**Standing at the front row for the the Vice Regal Musical Honour, were from left: - Brigadier Richard Peace Commander 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade and RSM WO1 Scott Elvery representing the Australian Army, RAN Commander Rowena Gaffney, representing the Chief of Navy and also CMDR Rosemarie Apikotoa Commanding Officer of HMAS Moreton, the US Consul General the Hon Christine Elder and Captain Sean Lewis Director of Maritime Operations, representing the Commander of the US Navy 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet.**



**Event 'Master of Ceremony' and Former Senator the Hon Santo Santoro, Life Member of the Australian American Association, Brisbane welcoming the guests.**



**Address by Her Excellency the Governor of Qld, Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM.**



**Australian American Association Brisbane First Vice-President Tony Chau, presenting the Acknowledgement of Country.**



**Australian American Association Brisbane President Mike Harris presenting his Welcome Address.**



**US Consul General the Hon Christine Elder, speaking on behalf of the United States of America.**



**Captain Sean Lewis, Director of Maritime Operations and representative of the Commander of the US Navy 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet, presenting his Speech.**

**TRIBUTE TO OUR VERY SPECIAL GUEST**

**MR BILL WHITE**

We were most honoured and blessed to have seated among us, a “Very Special Guest” and “Living Legend”- the 103-year-old Royal Australian Navy Veteran Mr Bill White. Bill is the last-living RAN survivor, who served as a Telegraphist on board the Australian Navy Cruiser HMAS Hobart, during the Battle of the Coral Sea. He received an outstanding applause of recognition and appreciation by all 280 guests plus 20 Royal Australian Navy and US Navy 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet personnel who attended, and Bill’s presence at our Commemoration Service made the event so much more revered and cherished.



**Bill seated at the front row of guests beside Australian Army Brigadier Richard Peace Commander of 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade and RSM WO1 Scott Elvery and RAN Commander Rowena Gaffney.**



**The Royal Australian Navy Band of Queensland from HMAS Moreton, and the Band from the US Navy 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet.**



**American Eagle surmounting the Australian American War Memorial at 'Lyndon Baynes Johnson Place' Newstead Park, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.**

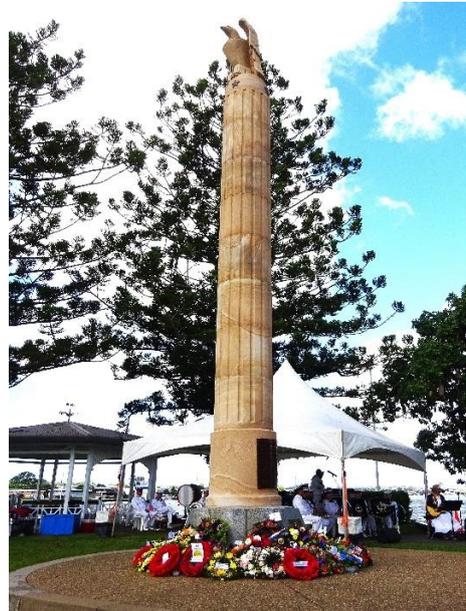


**RAN Catafalque Party mounted at the base of the Australian American War Memorial at 'Lyndon Baynes Johnson Place' Newstead Park.**

**THE LAYING OF WREATHS AT THE AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL**



**Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland, the Hon Dr Jeannette Young laying the first wreath, accompanied by Aide-de-Camp Major Brook Hastie of the Australian Army.**



**The Hon Tim Nicholls MP State Member for Clayfield, Minister for Health & Ambulance Services & Life Member of the Australian American Association, Brisbane representing the Premier of Queensland, the Hon David Crisafulli MP.**



**From left - the Hon Reatau Rau Consul General of Papua New Guinea, Australian American Association Brisbane President Mike Harris, the Hon Mr Ishikawa Katsutoshi, Consul General of Japan, and following - Captain Kasper Kuiper Chairman of the Qld Maritime Museum and AAA Brisbane Honorary Member.**



**The Hon Christine Elder Consul General of the United States of America.**



**Australian Army Brigadier Richard Peace Commander of 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade and RSM WO1 Scott Elvery.**



**Group Captain Dennis Tan representing the Royal Australian Air Force, Amberley.**



**RAN Commander Rowena Gaffney representing the chief of Royal Australian Navy.**



**Captain Sean Lewis. Director of Maritime Operations representing the Commander of the US Navy 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet.**



**From left - Alan Chen - President of Universal Education & Multicultural Exchange Association, Lewis Lee OAM- Chairman Australians of Chinese Heritage War Memorial Committee and Zet Lee Vice President Korean Veterans Society.**



**The Deputy Commissioner [Queensland] Tara Hatzismalis Dept Veterans Affairs representing the Australian Prime Minister the Hon Anthony Albanese MP.**



**Bill Arthur White, the 103 Years old - Battle of the Coral Sea Veteran who is the Last Living Survivor of the HMAS Hobart joining US Vietnam Veteran Rob White, representing his Uncle John Shin who served on the USS Phelps D&D 360, at the Battle of the Coral Sea.**



**Dr Betty Lee representing The Australian Coast Watchers Association.**



**Detective Inspector John Misom representing Acting Police Commissioner Shane Chelepy.**



**Tony Wadeson Secretary and John Gates representing the Royal United Service Institute, Queensland.**



**The Reverend Stephen Briggs representing the Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane, the Most Reverend Jeremy Greaves.**



Six members of the Catholic “Order of the Knights of the Southern Cross, Qld” being led by their Deputy State Chairman Kevin Lappin, an Australian Vietnam War Veteran who served as a “Tunnel Rat” with 1 Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers. The Brothers include – State Treasurer Br Michael Hill, Br Brian Harding, Br Darryn Lambourne, Br Arend De Weger and Br Mike Harris. They laid a wreath in solemn memory of all their Brother Knights, who served with the Australian Defence Force, in the many wars fought since World War 1 to the present time.



The Knights of the Southern Cross Order is guided by the Catholic Faith and the cardinal and chivalrous virtues of prudence, faith, justice, fortitude and temperance in all its many charitable works. The Order strives to serve the wider community, particularly in support of those who are in most need, as well as those considered most vulnerable.



Immediate Past President Bob Bannan representing the “Queensland Sappers”. The Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) is the Military Engineering Corps of the Australian Army. The Corps was formed in 1902 and since then, has served in various conflicts including World War 1, World War 2, the Korean War and Vietnam War. The Corps has also served on numerous peacekeeping operations and was heavily involved in the Australian contribution to the war in Afghanistan. *[Please Note - Engineers call their private soldiers “Sappers”, in recognition of the fact that the earliest engineers had been primarily concerned with driving saps (tunnels) both towards the enemy lines and underneath fortifications].*



Jill Burgess laying a wreath for her husband Sqn Ldr John Burgess ED (Ret) representing RAAFA Queensland and Special Envoy Mr Rod Single representing the Queensland Sappers Association and Frank Alfred Lieutenant RAN (Rtd) representing Royal Australian Communications Branch Qld.



From left - President Narelle Corbett representing the American Legion Auxiliary, Dr Wes Jordan representing Submariners lost in WW2, Jerry Bongard Post Adjutant of American Legion Douglas MacArthur Post AU03.



Jesse Carmona (CPO) and Dwight Clarke laying a wreath for the 543 U.S. personnel killed during The Battle of the Coral Sea.



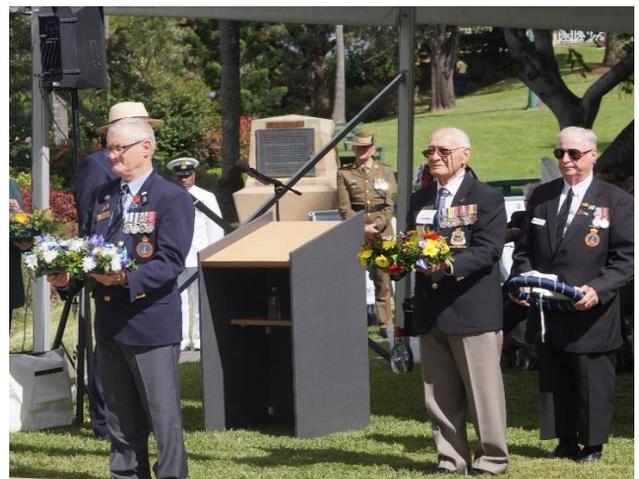
State Deputy President Wendy Taylor representing Major General Stephen Day DSC AM State President of RSL Queensland.



Chris Johnson Chairman of General Douglas MacArthur Museum, Brisbane.



Patrick Ringold President representing the Naval Association of Australia, Queensland Section.



Brian Thompson Vice President representing the Naval Association of Australia Pine Rivers Sub Branch, Mr Derek McMillan representing Kedron-Wavell RSL and Mr Jeff Abrahams representing the Bribie Island Sub Section of the Naval Association.



Laying the wreath is President Frank Lamy representing Veterans de l'Armee Francaise d'Australie and standing behind is Bill Elliott Governor and DGG representing the Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants inc.



Derek McMillan representing Kedron-Wavell RSL.



Michael Hiller Chair of AMCHAM [American Chamber of Commerce] Qld's Governors.



President Ashish Katta and Secretary Ganesh Deshpande representing the Indian Council of Australia Qld.



Vice President Rudi Bianchi representing the Far East Strategic Reserve Navy, Australia.





**Kay Halford President of WRAAC Association (Qld).**



**Australian American Association, Brisbane Treasurer Teresa Pokoj, laying her wreath in remembrance of her 30 family members who died during the 1939 Nazi and Russian invasions of Poland - her Great- Grandparents, Grandfather, Uncles, Aunts and Cousins. Also, to honour those members of her family living in the Ukraine, who are now suffering the 2022 Russian invasion and, who have not been heard from since this invasion began.**

**THE RECITING OF THE NAVAL ODE AND THE PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND AUSTRALIA.**



**RAN Commander Rowena Gaffney representing the Chief of Royal Australian Navy, reciting the Naval Ode at the Commemoration Service.**



**Playing of the "Last Post" and "Taps".**





**Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland receiving the Vice Regal Musical Honour, which was played at the conclusion of the Commemoration Service by the Royal Australian Navy Band of Queensland from HMAS Moreton, and the Band from the US Navy 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet.**



**Pastor Jenny Schleusener fulltime Royal Australian Navy Chaplain from HMAS Moreton, who said the earlier Prayers, and gave the final Benediction at the conclusion of the Commemoration Service.**



**Royal Australian Navy Band of Queensland from HMAS Moreton, and the Band from the US Navy 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet.**



**Group Photo taken of Dignitaries joining with Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland, in front of the Australian American War Memorial, Newstead Park.**



Combined group of happy sailors from HMAS Moreton's Royal Australian Navy Band of Queensland and Catafalque Party, and the United States Navy's 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet Band, at the conclusion of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea Commemoration Service held in Brisbane on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025. In the background, the flags of our two Nations are seen flying proudly together, driven by the strong South Easterly Winds blowing up the Brisbane River, directly behind them.



### UNITED STATES NAVY 7<sup>TH</sup> FLEET

The 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet is the largest of the US Navy's forward-deployed fleets and has 50 to 70 ships and submarines, 150 aircraft, and more than 27,000 Sailors. The fleet has been commanded by Three Star Navy Flag Officer - Vice Adm. Fred Kacher since Feb. 15, 2024.

The US Navy's 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet's area of operations spans more than 124 million square kms from the International Date Line to the India - Pakistan border; and from the Kuril Islands in the North to the Antarctic in the South. This encompasses 36 maritime countries and 50% of the world's population, including: the five largest foreign militaries: China, Russia, India, North Korea, and the Republic of Korea. The US Mutual Défense Treaty Allies are: the Philippines, Australia, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, Japan and Thailand.



AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, BRISBANE

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