



## Australian American Association Queensland Division – Brisbane



*News Flash 79 - 29<sup>th</sup> December 2023*

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



### *Annual Thanksgiving Dinner 2023 Held at the United Service Club, Brisbane.*



The Thanksgiving Dinner was held at the United Service Club, Brisbane City on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The MC was the Hon Lewis Lee OAM, Chairman of the Australians of Chinese Heritage War Memorial Committee.

The Guest Speaker was Rudi Bianchi, Vice-President of the Naval Association of Australia who delighted his guests with the story of his life in the Royal Australian Navy and Merchant Navy.



From left: - Teresa Pokoj - Treasurer & Assistant Secretary Australian American Association Brisbane [Event organizer], / Lewis Lee OAM Chairman of the Chinese Veterans Association Australia [Event Master of Ceremonies] / Mike Harris - President, Australian American Association, Brisbane [Event organizer] / the Honourable Santo Santoro [Former Australian Senator] / Alan Chan - Chairman of Universal Education & Multicultural Exchange Association / Rudi Bianchi Vice-President Naval Association of Australia [Event Guest Speaker].



*Address: PO Box 148 Coopers Plains Qld 4108*

*Email: [admin@aaabrisbane.com](mailto:admin@aaabrisbane.com)*

*Web: [www.aaabrisbane.com](http://www.aaabrisbane.com)*

## **Thanksgiving Dinner 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024**



Greeting given by 'Master of Ceremonies' Lewis Lee OAM, Chairman of the Australians of Chinese Heritage War Memorial Committee.



Guest Speaker Rudi Bianchi, Vice-President of the Naval Association, Australia, who thoroughly delighted guests with stories on "His life in the Royal Australian Navy & the Australian Merchant Navy".



Welcome Speech given by Mike Harris, President & Life Member of the Australian American Association, Brisbane.



Vote of Thanks given by Alice Langford, Secretary of the Australian American Association, Brisbane.



Saying of "Grace before the Meal" by Michael Hill, State Chairman of the Catholic Order of the Knights of the Southern Cross Qld.

**Awarding of Australian American Association - Life Member Certificates.**



**Teresa Pokoj - Treasurer & Assistant Secretary Australian American Association Brisbane, receiving her Life Member Certificate.**



**Lewis Lee OAM, Chairman of the Australians of Chinese Heritage War Memorial Committee receiving his Certificate of Appreciation.**



**The Honourable Santo Santoro (far right) Former Australian Senator, receiving his Life Member Certificate.**



**Kasper Kuiper Chairman of the Qld Maritime Museum and Combined Company of Master Mariners of Australia (far right) receiving his Certificate of Appreciation.**

**Awarding of Australian American Association - Certificates of Appreciation.**



**Commander Fiona Southwood RAN, Commanding Officer of HMAS Moreton (far right) receiving her Certificate of Appreciation.**

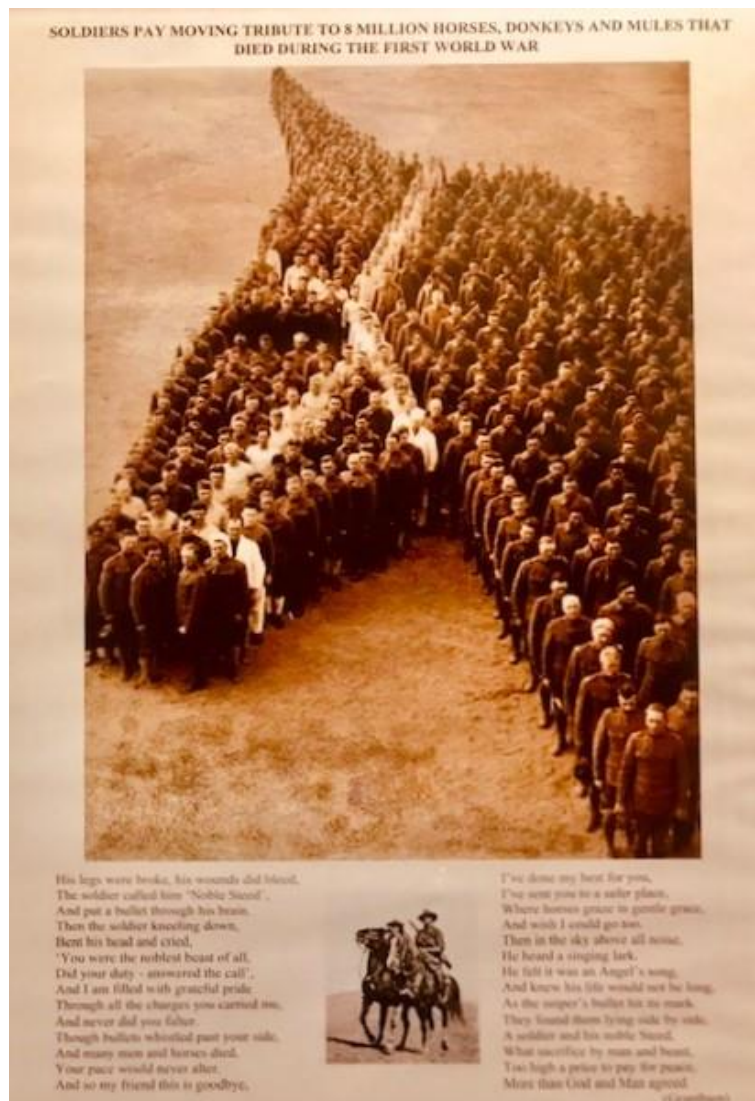


**Rudi Bianchi Vice-President Naval Association of Australia (far right) receiving his Certificate of Appreciation.**

**Picture of Australian Soldiers' Tribute to 8 Million Horses, Donkeys and Mules that died during the First World War. The Soldiers are seen standing in formation to create the form of a horse's head.**



**Rudi Bianchi Vice-President of the Naval Association of Australia (left) presenting the Picture to the Australian American Association, Brisbane President Mike Harris (centre). Mike thanked Rudi for his most generous and thoughtful gift.**



**Drawing of Raffle Prizes and the Announcing of the Lucky Winners.**



Michael Hill (far right) and wife Kaye (second from left) won the Christmas Hamper, which was donated by Teresa Pokoj Treasurer, Australian American Association Brisbane.



Owen Grimes (centre) won the first bottle of Premium Wine that was donated by Honey Binny, President of the Philippines Chamber of Commerce.



David Hale (centre) won the Pack of 4 Coffee Mugs that was donated by Phyllis Harris.



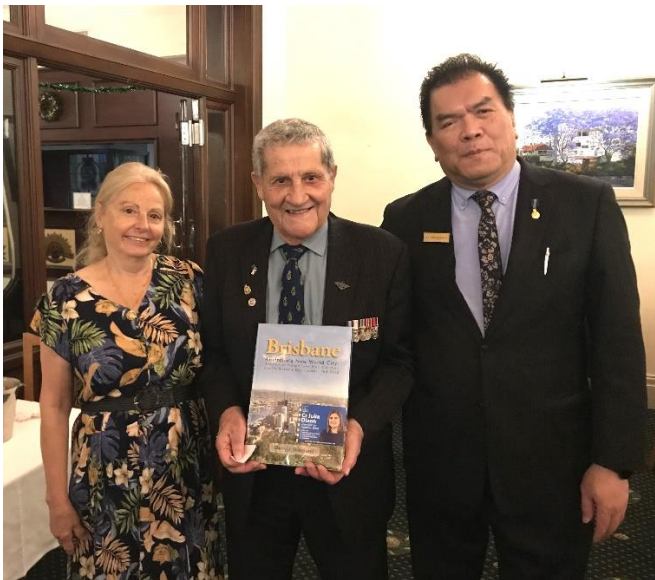
Emilia Gilbert (second from left) won the Hamper that was donated by the United Service Club.



Chris Elliott (centre) of the Mayflower Society, won the Turkey Plate that was donated by Helen Stanley, Second Vice President of the Australian American Association Brisbane.



Tom Stodulka (far right) won the second bottle of Premium Wine donated by Honey Binny.



Rudi Bianchi (centre) Vice-President Naval Association of Australia [Event Guest Speaker] won the Book entitled “Brisbane, Australia’s New World City” that was donated by Cr Julia Dixon, Councillor for Hamilton Ward.

**Seated Guests enjoying the Evening Thanksgiving Dinner festivities at the United Service Club.**



The Honourable Santo Santoro, Former Australian Senator and his wife Letitia.



(From left) Jane Wang, Alan Chan - Chairman of Universal Education and Multicultural Exchange Association, and David Hale of the Qld Maritime Museum.



Qld Division Navy League of Australia Office Bearers (from left) Tom Stodulka (Vice President) Owen Grimes (Secretary) and Harvey Greenfield (President).



(From left) Peter Cumming, Alice Langford Secretary of the Australian American Association, Brisbane and Angelina Lordi.

## Thanks for the Generous Donations Received

I express my thanks to the following persons and organizations, for their most generous donations of raffle prizes, cash and time, supporting our Association in the holding of its Annual "Thanksgiving Dinner" at the United Service Club, on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024:

"The Management and Staff of the United Service Club Queensland, Honey Binney (President of the Philippines Chamber of Commerce), Cr Julia Dixon (Councillor for Hamilton Ward), Phyllis Harris, the Hon Teresa Gambaro (Former Member of the Australian House of Representatives). As well, Members of our Australian American Association, Brisbane Board of Directors - Dr Peter Glazebrook (Legal Advisor), Helen Stanley (Second Vice President), Alice Langford (Secretary) and Teresa Pokoj (Treasurer & Assistant Secretary) particularly, for her organization of the great prizes in our event's fund-raising raffle".

Our guests enjoyed a delightful evening managed by our marvellous Master of Ceremonies Lewis Lee OAM and were entertained by our most amusing and interesting Guest Speaker Rudi Bianchi. As well, they enjoyed a great 3 - Course meal, with excellent service provided by the United Service Club's staff.



### ***INVITATION: To attend Battle of Coral Sea Wreath-laying Service.***

This Annual Service is being held at the Australian American War Memorial, Lyndon Baynes Johnson Place Newstead, Park (Cnr Breakfast Creek Rd & Newstead Ave)

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024, commencing at 10am sharp.

If you would like to lay a wreath for any veteran, please advise their name, and the name of the wreath-layer/s, and any organization represented, in your RSVP.

Please RSVP by 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024 via email to: [admin@aaabrisbane.com](mailto:admin@aaabrisbane.com)

**Morning Tea will be provided following this service.** You may also like to make a donation to cover the catering expenses, as each year, the guest numbers just keep increasing.

**Bank Details: BSB 064 162 Account No 1159 1022**

**Name - Australian American Association**



**Morning Tea at the Rotunda**, our Association's ladies (from left) Chris Elliott & Sally Elliot, have the Coffee, Tea, Sandwiches, Cakes, Biscuits and other delightful refreshments ready for the partaking of. *Thank you Ladies!*



Last year's Battle of the Coral Sea Wreath-laying Service, held at the Australian American War Memorial, Lyndon Baynes Johnson Place Newstead, Park. Some 190 guests attended this service.



Yours fraternally,

Mike Harris. *President & Life Member,*  
*Australian American Association, Brisbane.*



MANY THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS, PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS (Please contact any these organizations click on the icon and select the link)

