



**Australian American Association, Queensland Division - Brisbane.
81st Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea Commemoration held
Saturday 6th May 2023 Photos Supplement to Newsletter Edition 22**



Arrival of the Representative of Her Excellency, the Hon Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM the Governor of Queensland - Lieutenant Commander Nicholas Robinson, Royal Australian Navy. He is being met by the Australian American Association, Brisbane - President Mike Harris and Treasurer Teresa Pokoj. Teresa is holding the Governor's fine-looking wreath to be laid at the Australian American War Memorial Cenotaph, at Newstead Park.



American Eagle figure surmounting the Australian American War Memorial Cenotaph at Newstead Park.



Event Master of Ceremonies - Former Senator the Hon Santo Santoro, welcoming all the guests.



Salute given to Representative of Her Excellency the Governor - Lieutenant Commander Nicholas Robinson, Royal Australian Navy.



Australian American Association, Brisbane Board Member - Dr Peter Glazebrook giving the Acknowledgement of Country.



Saying of the Prayers by the Reverend Stephen Briggs, Chaplain Royal Australian Navy. Reverend Briggs also represented and laid a wreath for the Anglican Church of Southern Queensland.



Welcome Address given by Mike Harris, President of the Australian American Association, Brisbane.



The Governor of Queensland's Message given by Lieutenant Commander Nicholas Robinson, Royal Australian Navy.



President of the United States of America's Message given by the Hon Christine Elder, Consul General of the United States of America.



Prime Minister of Australia's Message given by the Hon Graham Perrett MP Federal member for Moreton.



Chief Bandmaster Simon Potter conducting the RAN Band Queensland, based at HMAS Moreton, Brisbane.



Commander of HMAS Moreton CMDR Fiona Southwood RAN and RAN Chief Boatswain Paul Cannard at attention with the RAN Catafalque Party from HMAS Moreton, at the Australian American War Memorial Cenotaph. The flags of the US and Australia both flew at the Cenotaph.

THE LAYING OF WREATHS AT THE AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL CENOTAPH.



RAN Band Queensland, based at HMAS Moreton, provided a wonderful musical display for the event, with 'taps' played by the American Legion Bugler Lauren Folster.



Lieutenant Commander Nicholas Robinson, Royal Australian Navy, laying the Governor's Wreath.



RAN Chief Boatswain Paul Cannard at the front of the Australian American War Memorial Cenotaph.



From left – Hon Mrs Melissa Mc Mahon MP Member for Macalister representing the Qld Premier, Prime Minister of Australia Representative Hon Graham Perrett MP Federal Member for Moreton, and Phillip Thompson MP Representing the Federal Opposition Leader Hon Peter Dutton MP.



From left - US Ambassador Caroline Kennedy's Representative-Defence Attaché Colonel Shane Gries, the Hon Christine Elder US Consul General to Australia, and US Navy 7th Fleet Rear Admiral Michael [Buzz] Donnelly Commander of Carrier Strike Group 5 / Task Force 70.



From left – Lt Colonel Khanid El Khaligi Commanding Officer of 1st Regiment, Representing Brigadier Mick Say Commander of 7th Brigade Australian Army, Commander of HMAS Moreton Commander Fiona Southwood RAN Representing the RAN and Group Captain Dennis Tan Representing the RAAF.



From left - Ainsley Jordan Representing Submariners lost in World War 2, and Captain Kasper Kuiper Chairman of the Qld Maritime Museum and Combined Company of Master Mariners of Australia.



From left – Frank Lamy President of Veterans de l'Armee Francaise d' Australie, US Vietnam Veteran Ron White whose uncle John Shin served on the USS Phelps during the Battle of the Coral Sea, Tara Hatzismalis Deputy Commissioner Qld Dept of Veterans Affairs, Rowena Langan Veterans Care Association, and Gerry Bongard Commander of the American Legion MacArthur Post AU03.



American Legion Bugler Lauren Folster Playing "Taps".



From left - Commodore Paul O'Grady Royal Australian Navy Commodore of Flotillas, and Cr David Mc Lachlan Councillor for Hamilton Ward representing the Lord Mayor of Brisbane.



From left - The Hon Tim Nicholls MP State Member for Clayfield, and Cr David McLachlan Councillor for Hamilton.



Members of the Order of the Knights of the Southern Cross (wearing a Blue Sash with White Cross and Order Insignia) led by Qld State Chairman Michael Hill, lay a wreath in memory of their members, who served with the Australian Defence Force from World War 1 to the present time. The Order is guided by the Catholic Faith and the cardinal and chivalrous virtues of prudence, faith, justice, fortitude and temperance in all its charitable works. The Order strives to serve the wider community and support those in need.



From left - Lewis Lee OAM Chairman Australians of Chinese Heritage War Memorial Committee, and Alan Chen President Universal Education and Multicultural Exchange Association.



Stuart Mansbridge General Manager of American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM).



From left – Bill Elliott of the Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants, and Narelle Corbett President of the American Legion Auxiliary.



Australian American Association, Brisbane-Treasurer Teresa Pokoj, dressed in Polish-Ukrainian Costume, holding the wreath she will lay in remembrance of her 25 Polish and Ukrainian relatives lost during World War 2. Teresa's Grandfather, an officer in the Polish military, was believed to have been captured by Russian Soviet forces during their Invasion of Poland in September 1939, and that he was one of the officers they murdered in a mass execution of 22,000 Polish military officers during the infamous Katyn Forest Massacre [the Stalinist Communist's prime objective being - the elimination of the country's upper-class intelligentsia, making it easier to force, coerce and re-educate the country's remaining population into the acceptance of Communism].



Musical Recitation by Australian Recording Artist Bernadette Gill, who sang a Lament that she especially composed for the day's event entitled "The Lament of the Coral Sea". She was accompanied by Jim Lowe - Bag Pipes of the Redcliffe Scottish Pipe Band, Can Sengal - Drummer Bodhran Celtic Drum, and Marcus Philtrip - Bass Guitar.



Patrick Keogh President of the Multi-Cultural Projects and his wife Hedy in Armenian Costume, laying a wreath for the Veterans of their organization.



Australian Recording Artist Johnny Greenwood sang the delightful Australian bush ballad "Waltzing Matilda".

A very special thanks to Bernadette, Johnny and their musical accompaniment. Your performances at the end of the service, were a delight to us all.



From left – The Hon Luna Angelini Marinucci Italian Consul General, Hon Junji Gomakubo Japanese Consul General, Terry Aronson AAA Brisbane Vice President, Hon John Paul Langbroek MP, Australian Army Lt Colonel Khanid El Khaligi Commanding Officer of 1st Regiment, HMAS Moreton’s Commander Fiona Southwood RAN, Cr David McLachlan, US Defence Attaché Colonel Shane Gries, Hon Phillip Thompson MP, Rear Admiral Michael [Buzz] Donnelly USN 7th Fleet, US Consul General Hon Christine Elder, Mike Harris AAA Brisbane President, Lt Commander Nicholas Robinson RAN the Qld Governor’s Representative, Hon Melissa McMahon MP, Commodore Paul O’Grady RAN Commodore of Flotillas, Hon Tim Nicholls MP, Netherlands Consulate Representative Lt Col Peter Burgerhout, Group Captain Dennis Tan Representing the RAAF, Capt Laurens Van Der Laan Royal Netherlands Army, Lewis Lee OAM Chairman Australians of Chinese Heritage War Memorial Committee, and Alan Chen President Universal Education & Multicultural Exchange Association.



At Newstead Park standing on the banks of the beautiful Brisbane River. From left - Vera Pottinger, Juhee Parks, Lt Eamon O’Shea RAN, Lewis Lee OAM, Lt Steve Zakravsky US Navy 7th Fleet, Alan Chen, Shanjeshi Deo and Jitendra Deo.



From left – the Hon Phillip Thompson MP, Rear Admiral Michael [Buzz] Donnelly USN 7th Fleet, Hon Christine Elder US Con General, Mike Harris AAA Brisbane President, Lt Commander Nicholas Robinson RAN, Hon Mrs Melissa McMahon MP, Commodore Paul O’Grady RAN Commodore of Flotillas, and Hon Tim Nicholls MP.



From left - Australian Recording Artist and Songwriter Johnny Greenwood, United States Consul General to Australia the Hon Christine Elder and Mike Harris Australian American Association, Brisbane President.



From left - Veterans de l’Armee Francaise d’Australie Member Keith Beardsmore and Frank Lamy President, with Rear Admiral Michael [Buzz] Donnelly US Navy 7th Fleet Commander of Carrier Strike Group 5/Task Force 70, and Teresa Pokoj Treasurer of the Australian American Ass, Brisbane.



Happy group of HMAS Moreton - Royal Australian Navy Personnel, following the event.



The Australian American War Memorial Cenotaph is adorned with 51 beautiful wreaths, placed in remembrance of all of those who fought and those who died, throughout this momentous battle that saved Australia from invasion, during our darkest times of 1942.



From left- Event MC Former Senator the Hon Santo Santoro, Hon John Paul Langbroek MP Member for Surfers Paradise, Hon Tim Nicholls MP Member for Clayfield, and Cr David Mc Lachlan Councillor for Hamilton Ward.



At Newstead Park, standing by the Rotunda, Australian American Association, Brisbane members, from left – Chris Elliott and Sally Elliot, have the Coffee, Tea, Sandwiches, Cakes, Biscuits and all the other refreshments ready for the partaking of, at Morning Tea. Thank you Ladies.

We further thank all of our other Association's members and event volunteers - 2nd Vice President Helen Stanley and Maurice Hand, Secretary Alice Langford and Peter Cumming, Board Member Dr Peter Glazebrook, Bill Elliott, and others including - Brisbane City Council's Newstead Park Head Gardner Steve Humphries, whose wonderful service to us on the day of the event is always appreciated.

Our appreciation also to those who supplied photos for this Newsletter, including Mr Peter Lovely.



*The Australian American relationship is linked across both sides of the Pacific Ocean,
with a common heritage and many countless and cherished ties.
We also remember those who paid the price for our freedom.
Lest we forget.*