



# THE MISSION

**EVERYMAN'S MINISTRY TO THE 8TH/9TH BATTALION,  
THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT, AND THE VETERAN COMMUNITY**

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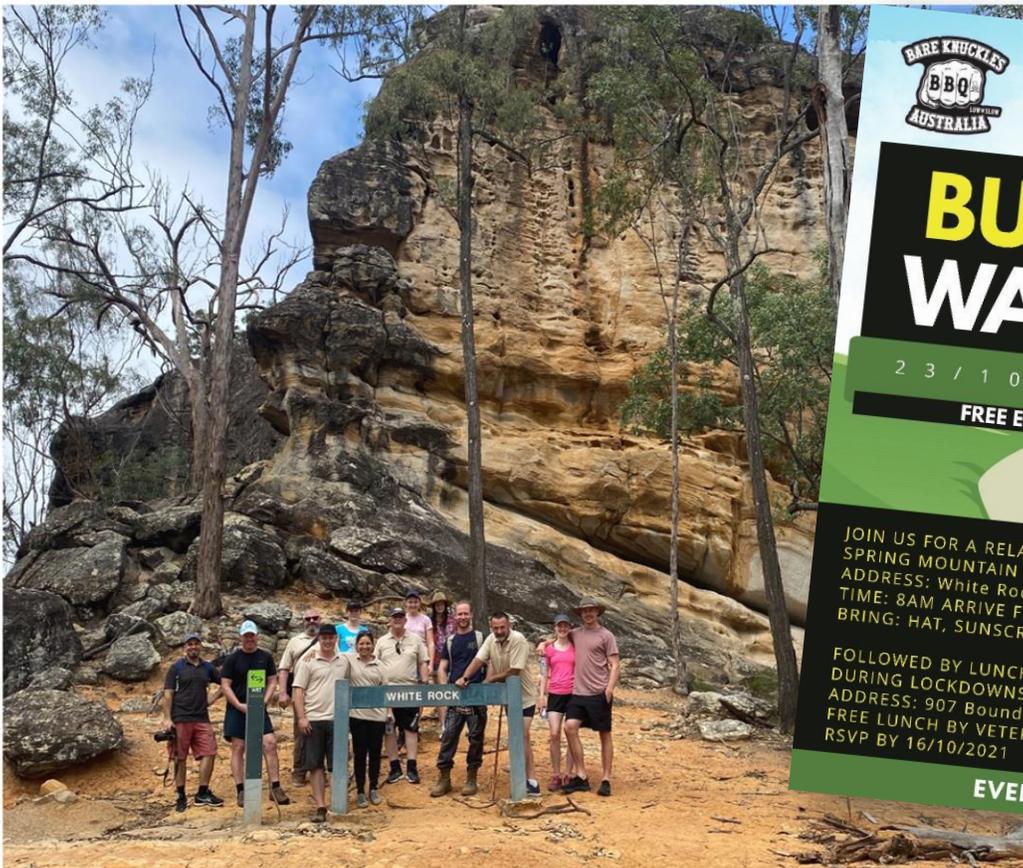
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[www.everymans.org.au](http://www.everymans.org.au) [www.everyvets.org.au](http://www.everyvets.org.au)

*Dear supporters and prayer partners, I trust this newsletter finds you in good health and that you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year celebration. After a busy end of 2021, I struggled to find time to write another newsletter update, and I figured I had better get onto filling you in with some of the events of the end of last year before I start to have many more things to write about for this year!*

## VETERANS HEALTH WEEK 2021



**BARE KNUCKLES BBQ AUSTRALIA** **EveryVETS** Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs  
**VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK**

### BUSH WALK

23 / 10 / 2021  
FREE EVENT

JOIN US FOR A RELAXED 6.5KM BUSH WALK IN WHITE ROCK - SPRING MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION ESTATE  
ADDRESS: White Rock Drive, Redbank Plains  
TIME: 8AM ARRIVE FOR 8:30AM START  
BRING: HAT, SUNSCREEN, WATER BOTTLE

FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AND WORKSHOP ON 'KEEPING FIT DURING LOCKDOWNS' AT THE HISTORICAL EVERYMAN'S HUT  
ADDRESS: 907 Boundary Rd, Wacol  
FREE LUNCH BY VETERAN OWNED 'BAREKNUCKLES BBQ'  
RSVP BY 16/10/2021

**EVERYVETS.ORG.AU**



*Our set up for the day, the weather was perfect! You can see the old Everyman's Hut in the background.*

Veterans' Health Week 2021 for Everyman's Veterans' League (EveryVets) was another great success! With the help of a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the day began with a bush walk to 'White Rock', followed by a free lunch provided by ex-RAN submariner – Jamie, from 'Bare Knuckles BBQ'. Helping him out was ex-Sapper – Andrew, from 'Smokin' Sappers BBQ'. A big thanks was given to those guys, especially Jamie who put on a great feed out of his own pocket! The lunch took place in the gardens of the historical 'Everyman's Hut', in Wacol. It has been decades since Everyman's has had anything to do with our old Rec Centre, which is now in a military museum precinct, but Lord willing, EveryVets will make a lot of use of the place in future!

To finish off the day, we had Major Scott Gayton (rtd) give a presentation on the importance of valuing the maintenance of body, mind, and spirit (especially with the current difficult times), along with a handout, so there are no excuses not to maintain ourselves! On the day, we donated a retro 'Everyman's' sign, and three framed pictures of the Everyman's Hut, being manned by REP Ed Bentley, and filled with many National Servicemen from back in the '50' s. These were presented to the QLD National Servicemen's association's President - Alex Garland. We are hopeful that we will be able to continue to utilise the Hut in Wacol, and perhaps to establish this facility as the 'home base' for the Everyman's Veterans League. There has even been a suggestion from Alex that they may be looking to pass the baton onto EveryVet's to take over as custodians of the facility, this is something that has only been talked about and we are far from anything firm, but it is a big prayer point, so please join us in prayer for this. We need the Lord's guidance, as this would be a huge opportunity, but also a huge responsibility!



# † A Sober Reminder †

In the second half of last year, I had the opportunity to head up to Townsville for a 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade exercise. Along with me was my regular partner in the mission – Richard Gibson. We both looked forward to working up in Townsville, in a change of scene from the usual training area of Shoalwater Bay. I was also excited to see and fellowship with my old friend and brother in Christ – George and his family. George and I served together in the 8th/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion (8/9 RAR) deploying to Afghanistan together. George came to Christ a couple of years after that trip and we have been brothers in Christ, not just brothers in arms since. Richard and I stayed with George and his family whenever we were not out in the bush. The exercise was centred around the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion's (6 RAR) training to



become the 'online Battalion', ready to respond to any incident that the ADF may need to react to around the world. My unit, 8/9 RAR sent up a contingent of soldiers to play as the 'enemy party'. We also had soldiers from the 'French Foreign Legion' (FFL) attached with 6 RAR. We were able to interact with those FFL soldiers which was great because they were all from various countries around the world, this made for some interesting conversations (see above photo). Unfortunately, the exercise did not get off to a good start and a tragic event took place before the exercise had even begun. On the day that Richard and I arrive in High Range Training Area, we were informed that an accident had just occurred, involving an Army truck that had rolled over just outside the training area. The driver and co-driver were mortally wounded and all efforts by the first responders were unable to save their lives. Warrant Officer Second Class Ryan Leslie, and Craftsman Brendon Payne both lost their lives that day. It was the exact road that we were just about to travel down, and we were forced to divert to another location, after the road was shut for a few days, so a full investigation could take place. Upon our arrival to a nearby camp, we encountered two female soldiers who had been at the crash site immediately after the incident. I believe the Lord had us to cross paths with them because we were able to open our trucks up and provide a hot drink and a chat in their distressed state. Of course, we wish that these kinds of situations would never happen, but we thank God that we can be there when they do. I remember several times during my career, having unexpected deaths occur even on training exercises. This of course, is the nature of the beast. We often put ourselves at risk just in the simulation of war, and although great measures are taken to prevent occurrences like this, they still do happen. Apart from that, the rest of the exercise went smoothly. I also hear from my unit that 8/9 will be heading back up to Townsville for at least one exercise this year. I may be doing more travelling!



*Hordes of soldiers looking to get some tasty treats from the 'Brew Truck' up in High Range Training Area'.*

# ...A Thousand Words



1. Mason Eagleton and I, at Wide Bay Training Area, on a new, Army 'Boxer' Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle.
2. Bunnings in West Ipswich, donating tools towards the EveryVets trailer project.
3. With George and Becky and one of their sons -Freddy at a George's Rugby Union grand final in Townsville.
4. BBQ chefs Jamie (left) Andrew (Right) and I at the Veterans Health Week event in Wacol.
5. During our annual Everyman's conference, I was promoted to Senior Rep by Richard Gibson.
6. Also, at the conference I was awarded the 'Defence Long Service Medal' for 15 years of service with Defence.



# ON THE HOME FRONT



*Like so many others these days, our household have recently recovered from Covid-19, which saw us under the weather for a few days. We experienced typical flu like symptoms – aching bones, headache, tiredness, and we also lost the sense of taste, which was rather annoying for Claudia and Vanessa as it lasted quite a few days! Fortunately, we have strong immune systems, and we took a regiment of supplements which are recommended by some leading doctors and scientists around the world. Things such as Ivermectin, Zinc, Quercetin, Vitamin C and D, NAC, as well as few other things. All that meant that we were able to recover very quickly as did our house mates – Panayot and Vanessa. We hope that if you happen to come down with this virus yourself, that you can get a hold of these supplements too, and that your recovery can be as quick as ours was. We have some sad news that Claudia is no longer working for Bethany Christian Care, she was let go due to the vaccine mandates. We prayed about whether we should take the Covid-19 job, and we did not have a peace about it from the Lord, so we decided that we would trust in our heavenly Father for the next step in Claudia's career. Amazingly, before she had even finished working at Bethany, Claudia had been offered a new job with a gentleman from our Church and she is working as a receptionist for a company called Instaco. Isn't the Lord amazing!*

## *Claudia's Corner*

Yes, the Lord is amazing! He is much better than we think He is, and in every aspect of Himself.

It's amazing how we can learn the same lesson over and over again throughout our Christian life. One of them of course is acceptance and surrender. Such simple lessons, but yet when it's time to put into practice it can seem so costly. After Ben and I sought the Lord concerning the vaccine mandate at Bethany, we agreed that it was not God's will for us to take it. For me it was a costly moment of accepting God's will and after I did I receive the peace of God in my heart that I never experienced before. Not that I didn't know it before, but this time it was too deep, too sweet and so powerful that it gave absolute assurance that this was my Father's will. Seeing the Lord work in my life in my last weeks at Bethany, as I left the most amazing job I ever had in my life, it was quite incredible. Ben and I decided to take three weeks off before we step into the new season God has for us, and it was so refreshing to see friends and spend time with people we haven't had many opportunities in the last many months. As I started my new job as a secretary, I remember sitting on my desk on my first day for the first 4 hours of my work grumbling and thinking with my self "what on earth is the Lord doing by putting me here?". As I reflected later on, I felt what Elijah might have felt when God put him sitting by the brook, while the whole Israel was in need of God's message.

But as I went for my lunch break, I felt I needed to talk this through with the Lord, I cannot carry this resentment any longer. As I opened my heart to the Lord, I felt Him saying to me "Trust me, Claudia. Isn't My mind greater than your ways, and My plans better than yours? So, just trust Me". And so I did. I said sorry to the Lord and thankfully accepted whatever He has for me. Isn't that so simple? And yet we need to learn this lessons over and over again. I pray that the peace of God will be your portion in this shaking times. I've been enjoying my new job and praying continually for God to send someone my way that I can be a blessing and shine His glorious light.

### Psalm 46:1-3

*God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.*

### HYMN

♪ *Peace, peace, sweet peace,  
Wonderful gift from above,  
Oh, wonderful, wonderful peace,  
Sweet peace, the gift of God's love.* ♪



*Celebrating Panayot's (third from the left) birthday on Australia Day*



*Vanessa our new house mate*

Here we are at the beginning of 2022, we truly do not know what this year will hold, but we do know the one who holds all things in his hands. I have decided to put even more effort into Everyman's/EveryVet's ministry this year, I feel that this is the Lord's will. I have been working a business part time, but it is a hard juggling act trying to maintain both, especially when there is much work to be done for God's kingdom. I have decided to limit the work with the business to focus as much effort on the ministry as I can. This will mean trusting in the Lord's provision I have said to many that when we die, we will not care about how much money is in our bank accounts, but we will care about how many souls will be coming into eternity with Jesus! This is the goal of our lives, to serve God and to see his kingdom expanded.

*Luke 10:2 And He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest."*

Much love,

Ben and Claudia

P.S. Last year, I released a music video to one of the songs which I wrote and recorded. The song is called "I Am Free". I wrote the song several years ago when I first began to play the guitar. After having the song for a number of years, my friend Clinton and I decided to make film clips for one of his songs and also mine. I had an idea for the film clip, and I set about (with no skill in videography) to film and edit the clip. It was a big learning curve, but I am really happy how it came out in the end. I started a small record label called 'Last Light Records', to publish both Clinton's and my music. We are on all music streaming sites including iTunes and Spotify. You can find us on YouTube and at our website. I hope to record and release more music this year!

[www.lastlightrecords.com](http://www.lastlightrecords.com)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjGSt3mwl8gQEPuXJXBk1kA>

