



**Respect, Gratitude, Admiration**

# *TRIBUTE*

The Newsletter of the Military  
Historical Society Australia,  
Queensland Division

President: Russell Paten  
Website: [www.mhsa.org.au](http://www.mhsa.org.au)

**November 2023 No.27**



Remembrance Day: An important date on the calendar  
in November. (Source: Defence Images)

## **President's Report**

Welcome to the first edition of Tribute produced by our new editor, Alan Quinney. With Alan at the helm, Ian Curtis is now hoping he can drift off into the sunset on his long-awaited Grey Nomad holidays. Having perused the contents, I think Ian will be well satisfied by the quality of his successor. With Alan having over 40 years of experience in the print media, our publication is in good hands.

This month contained Remembrance Day which is, of course, the day we pause to remember. Our members attended services at their respective RSLs and remembered in other ways. Paul Newton laid a wreath on behalf of Legacy at Mudjimba RSL and Russell Linwood conducted a service at the village in which he lives. Well done to Paul and Russell and to all other members who went the extra mile to ensure the value and sacrifices of our fallen are never forgotten.

Next year we hope to introduce some new initiatives in the Qld Division aimed at increasing value to our members. We are working on making the presentations at our meetings available on 'Zoom' or a similar product. If successful, this will allow all members, regardless of location to 'listen in' to them. We have a couple of members who are skilled at this so I'm feeling confident we'll be able to do it. We're also offering free advertising in Tribute to members as long as the services they advertise enhance the goals of our organisation. Areas such as museums, collectables, research services and military history tours are relevant. I'm sure you will point me to other relevant areas as well. The aim of this is to help our members enhance their businesses and interests and to deliver information on their services to all other members who may not be aware of them. I'm keen to hear your feedback on this.

Also, we now have an EFTPOS scanner so credit cards can be accepted for payments going forward.

Thank you for your support over the last five months and for hanging in there while I learn the ropes. More importantly, thank you to the committee for your guidance, support, and hard work. I'm enjoying the role and am keen to see what we can achieve in 2024. I will always value any feedback and guidance you may have.

**Russell Paten**  
**President/Secretary**  
**MHSA Qld Division**

## **From the Editor**

As I have agreed to take over compiling *Tribute*, I would ask that you please bear with me in this, my first edition.

While I never had the opportunity to serve due to medical reasons, I have always had a keen interest in the military and military history.

My grandfather was a soldier in WWI, my father a soldier in WWII and my brother served in the RAAF for 37 years.

And Russell Paten and I have been mates since high school.

My bona fides, if you like, for this task are 42 years as a journalist including editing, sub editing and page design.

With this in mind I have not made many, if any, changes for this edition but just focused on getting it out to you. Hence it may appear a bit higgeldy piggeldy to some but hopefully it gets better over time.

Please keep contributing material and ideas. I am keen to include any articles from “roving reporters” who may have been somewhere and seen something interesting that our society would be interested in. Photographs are certainly encouraged.

I have established [alanq.tribute@gmail.com](mailto:alanq.tribute@gmail.com) for correspondence relating to the newsletter.

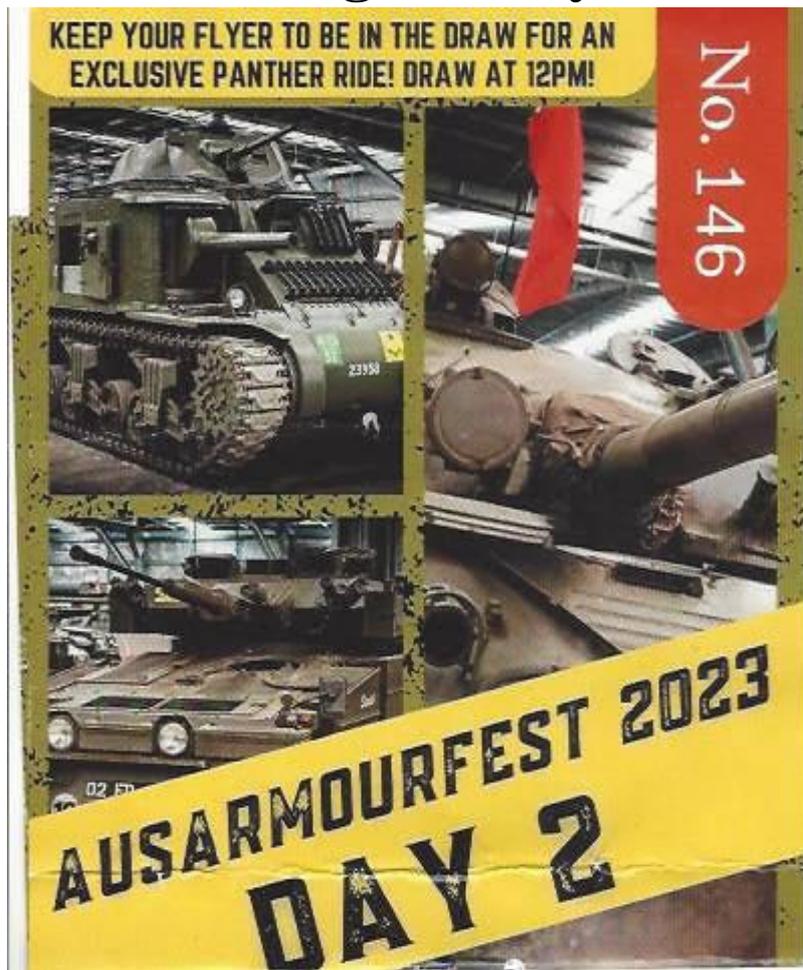
This edition will be the last for this year and we hope to start compiling the next one in January.

Have a happy and safe festive season.

I look forward to a happy relationship.

Alan Quinney.

## Tanks for a great day out



Two members, Russel Gear and Colin Piper flew to Cairns in late August to see the 2023 “tankfest” at the Australian Armour and Artillery Museum.

We will let Col tell the story in his own words.

Well, we were packed, booked and excited. We flew out Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August and arrived to a barmy sunny north Queensland Day.

Early recon -- to find museum and then accommodation secured with a pub meal that night. Rained overnight with light showers next day. Early start next morning. Entry 9.30am.

Wow, 230 tanks and static exhibits to see! Nice crowd, 200-300 people.

We spent the first four hours looking at tanks and some trucks, all under one big roof. We then refreshed on coffee and burgers.

Ventured outside to watch the mobile display of tanks traversing a 500-metre figure-eight track. Wet and muddy all added to the atmosphere.

There was a Grant tank, Sherman, Panzer 68 (Swiss tank from Cold War), Schwimmwagen (German WW2 amphibious jeep), Kubelwagen (German WWII light multi-purpose vehicle) German motorbike with sidecar and a Flakpanzer Gepard (retired German twin cannon anti-aircraft tank). Ten were given to Ukraine as aid from Germany.

You paid a fee and got a ride of your choice. Cost from \$300 to \$100. Russel rode the Panzer 68 and I choose the Grant. Great experience but hard on the body. The original Tankers deserve more praise.

Another two hours inside to complete the tour. The Tiger 1 was massive, deck height was above our shoulders. The Panther was another beast of a WWII German tank, they both dwarfed the more modern tanks.

Re-enactors wandered through the area dressed in various military regalia with repo weapons. We noticed the twin brothers from Eric Compton's Militaria restoration show in England were present. It's reputed that the museum paid \$13million for the restored Panther from this man and the twins did the work.

The museum is privately owned by one man who runs prawn trawlers in north Queensland. It's one of the largest in the world.

Finished 5pm back to accommodation. A plane was stunt flying over Cairns when we got back. Was for the stunt flying association of Australia.

Midday flight back to Brisbane. Two very tired but happy people drove back to the Sunshine Coast.

Russel was a good companion for the trip and we both thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. The staff there were super friendly and work in the workshops restoring and maintaining the exhibits.

A special shout out to Daryl, good on you mate. They have regular shows on U-tube. Highly recommend to all military buffs 5.

## Merchant navy delivers



Queensland's Kenilworth war memorial seems unremarkable to the average passerby. If you blink, you'll miss it, and even if you don't blink, you might still miss it.

But a keener observer would notice that there are four services represented. Along with the navy, army and air force, the memorial honours the merchant navy, acknowledging the role commercial sailors have played in Australia's national defence.

It isn't a military service, but in times of crisis—natural disasters, regional unrest and wars—the merchant navy has delivered food, fuel, medical equipment and arms to military efforts and kept the economy going at home. Merchant vessels have run raw materials to steel mills, fuel to distribution points, and other cargo around the country, often as defenceless targets.

Referring to the Second World War, Winston Churchill said of those wearing a merchant navy lapel badge: 'If you ever meet one of those men, take your hat off to him because we would have lost the war if it was not for them.'

It's no surprise, then, that the UK has made a largely bipartisan commitment since to maintain a strong merchant navy. It proved invaluable in the Falklands War, which couldn't have been prosecuted without a requisitioned fleet of more

than 40 merchant ships. One of them, the *Atlantic Conveyor*, was sunk by an Argentine missile, killing 12 personnel.

Rather than list the OECD countries that have maintained a merchant navy capacity, it's simpler to name the countries that haven't: Australia and New Zealand.

So, where does Australia rank as a shipping nation? We barely earn a mention in world shipping rankings. Even landlocked Switzerland outranks us, and the largest shipping country by tonnage globally is China.

This leaves Australia too dependent on foreign interests to move our international, and even domestic, cargo over sea.

Unsurprisingly, China performs the largest component of our sea trade, despite being unquestionably our biggest potential adversary. What would Australians think if, when they wished to fly from Sydney to Melbourne, their choices were overwhelmingly flights with China Airlines, alongside a smattering of Air India, Indonesia's Garuda or Russia's Aeroflot?

During the Mallecoota bushfires in January 2020, geographical luck meant that one of the few remaining Australian-crewed merchant vessels was in the area supporting the Bass Strait oil fields. It made it to Mallecoota 24 hours before the navy and provided fuel, water, supplies and, critically, a last-resort method for evacuation if needed.

During World War II, 30 Australian merchant vessels were sunk running supplies around our coast. We had the capacity to endure that then. During the 1999–2000 Australia-led operations in East Timor, two Australian-crewed merchant vessels were chartered to run supplies to Dili for some months. But that local supplier no longer exists.

A merchant fleet also provided a maritime training ground that Australia still badly needs. As an island nation dependent on sea trade, Australia needs skilled sailors, harbour masters, marine pilots, tug masters and engineers, safety regulators, port operations managers, and technical managers and marine managers for exports.

Without a strong merchant navy, we put ourselves on the path to importing these skills. It's unacceptable that those who manage our ports, who pilot ships into and out of port, and who manage our maritime safety could be non-Australians.

Costs and industrial relations issues are cited as the reason for the hollowing out of the Australian merchant navy, but that doesn't stop the French and other countries with frequently contested industrial frameworks from achieving ample commercial maritime resilience. The truth is we haven't bothered, because we've been busy enjoying the longest period of uninterrupted economic growth the world has ever recorded. In pursuit of this growth, we accepted offers from the lowest bidder and decimated the fourth emblem on the memorial wall at Kenilworth.

If the federal government is truly seeking to build national resilience, it needs to overcome the barriers to rebuilding a merchant navy.

It can start with the seafarer tax and maritime corporate taxes, which should be aligned with those of comparable countries in the OECD.

Also, ships registered on the Australian international shipping register should be allowed trade on the Australian coast 12 months a year, and all government contracts for commercial shipping should be reviewed to ensure that they include provisions for Australian content and the training of Australian deck and engineering officers.

Finally, it's time the government made good on its election promise of delivering a strategic fleet of 12 vessels with commercial partners for this exact purpose.

These measures taken together may not fix the problem alone, but they will breathe life into an Australian merchant navy that will be strategically critical for decades to come.

**Source:** *The Strategist*, a publication by Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

The author, **Peter Court**, is an internationally experienced master mariner, principal consultant at DNV Consulting and founder of Court Marine consulting. Image: [Brian Rowe](#) via Australian War Memorial.

## **Standing at the Crossroads: Research into the Challenges Faced by Australian Army Reserve Soldiers**

**Mark Schroffel**

Motivated by my own experiences as a veteran and sparked by a growing awareness that there was a more profound complexity to the issue, I began to

probe the hidden battles Australian Army Reserve soldiers face when returning to civilian life after serving overseas. Observing nuanced emotions and adaptive behaviours among fellow veterans amplified my curiosity, prompting a deeper exploration of these hidden struggles.

With the support of Swinburne University professors Chris Mason and Anne Bardoel, my interest in this subject evolved into a PhD research project focusing on the impact of Army Reserve deployments on personal identity. Utilising narrative identity theory, we explored how surrounding stories shape the self-perceptions of these reserve veterans and influence their transition between military and civilian roles.

The Australian Army Reserve is an indispensable part of the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) capability for both domestic and international operations. The 2016 Defence White Paper revealed that approximately 14,000 ADF reservists have served in operational duty since 1999, constituting nearly 18 per cent of all ADF personnel deployed. Over the past two decades, the Australian Government's reliance on reserve personnel has spiked, calling for reservists to fill critical roles in the ADF, whether at home or overseas.

Despite this growing reliance, a vital issue remains largely overlooked: the often poorly supported process of abruptly leaving full-time operational military duty to return to civilian life. This process is uniquely challenging for reservists compared to regular forces due to their dual roles, as they must frequently shift between civilian and military identities, obligations, and social environments.

### **Veterans' Stories: Narratives in the Spotlight**

In our investigation, we interviewed 22 Australian Army Reserve veterans who had served on overseas missions. The richness of their narratives exposed a complicated network of challenges, resilience, and identity struggles.

Within their narratives, we uncovered a profound link between narrative elements and the internal psychology of identity, notably concerning the sense of agency. This relationship is especially complex for individuals like the veterans we interviewed, who frequently shift between civilian and military roles.

One of the pivotal discoveries from our study is the power of storytelling in the reintegration process by reinforcing social connections through shared experiences and providing veterans with a ready script to unify their past

experiences and establish themselves in the present. For instance, meet John\*, a proud veteran and a father. He explained:

*“I always said to my recruits, right, whatever you do for the rest of your life, you’ll always be a soldier. As soon as you march out of this place, you’ll be a soldier for the rest of your life. Whether your career is two years or 20 years, you’ll be a soldier. When you’re 85 years old, you’ll be a soldier.”*

### **Compartmentalisation: A Double-Edged Sword**

Stories have a unique way of affirming and validating experiences. As we dug deeper into their narratives, we observed that some veterans use compartmentalisation to manage the differing demands of their military and civilian roles. It’s akin to storing different parts of oneself in separate boxes, ready to be pulled in the right circumstances. While this strategy may help to soften cognitive dissonance and emotional distress, it comes with the consequence of locking in regressive traits and perpetuating unhealthy coping mechanisms.

On the positive side, Brian\*, an Afghanistan veteran with a successful career in management, explained, *“There’s an army You, and there’s a civilian You”*. Similarly, Katrina\* spoke of *“switching hats”* as a metaphor for changing personas when moving between the military and civilian contexts. She said, *“I know I’m going through it, I have to... like I flick a switch, then I’m ready to go into army mode [and then] back into civvy mode. I don’t know exactly, but something like that.”*

Stephen\*, who had deployed on multiple overseas missions as a reservist, spoke of why putting his identity into the context of his life outside of the military is essential. He offered the following explanation:

*“I consciously try to make it a small part of my identity. There have been times when it has consumed me, and I think it’s been unhealthy for me. If we want to fit back into the community, we’ve got to become more community-focused as opposed to [being] a veteran. I think that’s a big stumbling block for a lot of [veterans]... I’m a big believer that I’m also a part of the community. I want to contribute to the community. I’m a friend, I’m a son, I’m a father and all that sort of stuff. So, I think it’s important to consciously, it’s worked for me anyway, to consciously... Yeah, I’m, I’m a veteran. It doesn’t define me.”*

## **Female Veterans: Confronting Cultural Bias and Tokenism in the ADF**

Our research findings also highlighted the systemic hurdles and adverse experiences that reservists grapple with upon reintegration into civilian life. A significant number of veterans reported difficulties in securing and holding onto jobs post their international service. Simultaneously, several felt a lack of support and understanding from their employers and peers.

Evelyn's\* experiences punctuated these challenges, particularly concerning institutional bias and unintended consequences of policies designed to favour women in the ADF. She expressed frustration over the Army's "disingenuous" efforts to uplift women's prominence, referring to them as "nothing more than tokenism". In her words:

*"The fact that they've put all these policies in place, is the thing that annoys me about the Army, and it's sort of another little undercurrent of why I'm leaving. There is a lot of tokenism in there towards the female side of things. So, they've put a lot of, you know, Band-Aid solutions and interim policies in place, but what they haven't done is actually address the cultural issues of female exclusion in the military.*

Echoing these sentiments, another female participant expressed frustration about how the ADF didn't adequately prepare her for her primary employment yet offered a promotion if she agreed to continue full-time service with the ADF.

These accounts highlight the distinct adversities described by female veterans encompassing issues of tokenism, devaluation of service, and cultural biases that ultimately lead to female exclusion in the ADF. The Australian War Memorial's initiative - the song "[\*On the left\*](#)" by the then-serving female ADF veterans, known as Sisters in Arms, demonstrates attempts to foster public recognition of women's service. However, it is evident from our research that there is an urgent need to address the deep-rooted cultural problems that compound the struggles faced by female veterans in the ADF.

### **The way ahead**

We hope that these empirically-based insights, and other insights we will reveal over the next few months, will be used to shape future support programs and policies for Army Reserve veterans. We propose creating collective narratives by designing programs that promote resilience, empowerment, and agency. By

facilitating veterans to share their stories and experiences, we can help harmonise their past experiences with the present, and in doing so, move towards the construction of positive and empowering narratives.

However, the need to address the institutional failures and negative experiences we uncovered during our investigation is just as crucial. We must challenge key institutions such as employers, government agencies, and media outlets to provide a more supportive environment for our veterans.

### **A collective effort**

Our examination of the lives of Australian Army Reserve soldiers returning to civilian life revealed a complex labyrinth of challenges. But more importantly, it highlighted the strength and resilience within our veterans. Let's use this understanding to provide them with adequate support in this challenging transition. Together, we can ensure that they are supported and that we build evidence-based programs with profound impact. Notably, our research reveals the role of community in developing a collective narrative that promotes resilience and self-agency.

With this article, we hope to inspire you to join the conversation and the cause. Whether supporting a veteran in your community or spreading awareness about these issues, what we say matters.

\*Names have been changed to respect the privacy of the individuals.

**Source: Australian Veteran News**

## **Unmarked graves honoured at unveiling**

The Toowong RSL Sub Branch, in collaboration with the Australian Remembrance Army, has held an official unveiling ceremony to honour 301 WWI veterans whose unmarked graves had recently been identified in the Lutwyche Cemetery.

Toowong RSL Sub Branch President Peter Gow said the Sub Branch had been very passionate about this project, emphasising the importance of this undertaking to recognise veterans who bravely served Australia.

## **Plaque honours RAAF serviceman**

The Malanda RSL Sub Branch has commemorated the crash of a WWII RAAF aircraft by sharing the story of those onboard.

When RAAF aircraft A34-24 crashed into rugged mountains west of Cairns in 1943, three of its crew perished and two were seriously injured. The De Havilland DH-84A Type 2 Dragon plane took off from Cairns on 7 March 1943, but never made it to its destination of Mareeba.

The two survivors – Lieutenant Colonel Philip Heathcote George Cardale and Leading Aircraftman Ronald Henry Appleby – were found days later wandering around the dense bush with serious injuries.

## **Navy**

### **THE SYDNEY EMDEN FIGHT**

**Monday November 9, 1914**

### **INDIAN OCEAN OFF THE COCOS ISLANDS**

At 6.24 in the morning of Monday the 9th the wireless operators in many of the ships in the First Convoy suddenly received a short message. It was very loud and clear and began with a certain callsign addressed to some ship which the operators didn't know.

After a couple more signals there was a general call from Cocos Island 'SOS strange warship approaching'

On receiving the signals HMAS Melbourne left her place at the head of the convoy as if to sail to investigate but the

HMAS Sydney took her place as she was nearest the Cocos. Within an hour she was over the horizon doing 20 knots.

The captain of the Emden determined that he would fight his fight with plenty of sea room and the battle opened with about 6 miles separating them.

It was during these early minutes of the fight that Sydney had all her casualties. The ship was hit 15 times although only five burst. Sydney's fire at first wasn't very effective pretty soon however her shells began to demolish the Emden.

It was like target practice as after the first fifteen minutes of Emden opening fire not one of its shots reached Sydney.

As the third of Emden's funnels went over the side it made for the nearest shore as Sydney put in two more salvos as Emden ran aground on the reef at North Keeling Island at about 11.15 and Sydney signalled 'Emden beached and done for'.

In Emden there were 115 killed and 80 wounded. Sydney had fired 670 rounds as well as a torpedo and had four killed and 12 wounded.

**(Thanks to Garry Saunderson and Noel Selway for this article.)**

## **Important Dates**

November 1, 1914 – First AIF sails for Egypt.

November 1, 1945 – Australia ratifies United Nations Charter.

November 1, 1951 – No. 77 Squadron awarded South Korean Presidential citation.

November 1, 1989 – National Army Memorial dedicated.

November 2, 1942 – Kokoda airstrip reoccupied.

November 3, 1918 – Armistice with Austria Hungary signed

November 4, 1944 – Troops of the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade land at Jacquinoy, New Britain.

November 5, 1950 – Battle of Pakchon, Korea.

November 5, 1950 – No. 77 Squadron supports 3RAR.

November 6, 1971 – *HMAS Sydney* at Vung Tau.

November 7, 1917 – Third battle of Gaza.

November 9, 1914 – Action between *HMAS Sydney* and *SMS Emden*.

November 10, 1942 – Japanese forced from Oivi.

November 10, 1964 – Selective conscription introduced.

November 11, 1918 – Germany signs armistice.

November 11, 1941 – Opening of Australian War Memorial.

November 12, 1943 – Last Japanese raid on Darwin.

November 13, 1965 – Warrant Officer K. Wheatly awarded Victoria Cross

November 14, 1917 – Third battle of Ypres, Western Front.

November 15, 1944 – Government approves sending Women's Army Service members overseas.

November 17, 1943 – Sattelberg attack begins.

November 18, 1916 – Somme campaign ends.

November 18, 1942 – Popondetta captured by Australians.

November 19, 1914 – Sinking of *HMAS Sydney* and scuttling of *HSK Kormoran*.

November 23, 1901 – Lieutenant L.C. Maygar awarded Victoria Cross during Boer War.

November 23, 1944 – Australians relieve Americans at Torokina, Bougainville.

November 23, 1948 – Australian Regiment formed.

November 24, 1943 – Sgt T.C. Derrick awarded Victoria Cross.

November 26, 1943 – Fighting at Pabu Hill, New Guinea.

November 27, 1939 – Inauguration of Empire Air Training Scheme.

November 27, 1941 – *HMAS Parramatta* sunk near Tobruk.

November 28-29, 1942 – Flight Sgt R.H. Middleton awarded Victoria Cross.

November 29, 1950 – Teadong River crossing secured in Korea.

## Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division Committee 2023 – 24

President	Russell Paten
Vice President	Glenn Lyons
Honorary Secretary	Russell Paten
Honorary Treasurer	Kelly Lyons
Committee Members	Scott Meares, Neil Dearberg, David Geck, Wuzzy Alford, Sean Carwadine

<p><b><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS</u></b> <b><u>AND DATE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January 13, 2014 next meeting. Venue to be advised.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>FELLOWS of MHSa</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Meyers (Deceased)</li> <li>Anthony Staunton</li> <li>Donald Wright</li> </ul>
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	Annual Membership Fees Ordinary Member \$50 Family Membership \$55



**MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA**

Australian Business Number (ABN) 97 764 781 363

**Membership Application**

**Queensland Division**

**Membership Fee Ordinary Member \$50, Family Member \$55 (ie 2 or more domiciled at the one address)**

Name/s .....

Postal Address .....

.....

Telephone .....

E-mail .....

Date/year joined the Society.....

Military Interests .....

*I understand the above details will only be used by the Qld Division and the Federal Secretary of the Military Historical Society of Australia to maintain correct records of my membership and for general branch or administrative business, and by the Journal editor to assist with editorial planning. I understand that the Society's Constitution requires the Federal Secretary to maintain a membership register (including the Journal mailing list).*

In addition to information kept for these purposes:

**OPT IN** I agree to my email details being included on the Federal Secretary's contact list which will be used solely to distribute Society business and convey items of interest to members (including members' notices) **YES /NO (cross out whichever does not apply)**

**OPT IN** I wish to be included on the members' interests register and give permission for my military interests and my phone/email/address contact details to be included on it (cross out whichever does not apply). **YES/NO (cross out whichever does not apply)**

I understand that I can revoke permission for inclusion on register and contact lists at any time

As part of your membership you will receive a quarterly edition of Sabretache, the journal of the MHSA. **I require a hard copy (mail) / electronic (via email) version. (circle your option)**

**Cheque/Money Order: Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division - Please send this form and your membership fee to:**

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Or,

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