



# THE MISSION



## Everyman's Ministry to the 8th/9th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment and the Veteran Community

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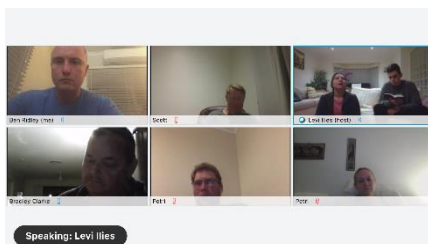
[www.everymans.org.au](http://www.everymans.org.au) [www.everyvets.org.au](http://www.everyvets.org.au)

Dear supporters and prayer partners, firstly, happy new year! It is amazing that we are now into 2021. I must apologise for not getting out a newsletter at the end of last year, as I had planned, but everything got on top of me and I ran out of time before we had our Christmas break. We hope that you are enjoying your holidays and had a pleasant Christmas and New Year. I have a few things to share from last year and Claudia has some big news to share with you all!

## EVERYVET'S LEAGUE GOES DIGITAL

You may notice that in the heading I have included a new web address next to the traditional Everyman's web address. This is the link to our new stand-alone EveryVet's website! This website is something that I created so that we could reach out specifically to the veteran community online, and so that we could share more what the EveryVet's League is all about. We also have photos and videos posted to the site, and we plan to keep expanding it as we develop this important work in the future. As well as the creation of the website, we have begun having online meetings too. This began of course because of the lock downs, but as we began to meet online to encourage one another and catch up, I felt that we should meet with more of a purpose. Out of that we began what we are calling 'EveryVet's Connect Group'. This group is a Bible study and fellowship, which meets weekly, both online and in person at our home. The idea is that we encourage those who can come to our house and those who cannot to join us via video call. This means that no matter where someone is around the world, they can join in with us. It also means that when I am away out bush, I can log in remotely and still participate. We have been studying through the book of Matthew and the format of our meetings is start off with an opening prayer, singing of some songs, then reading the chapter and then discussion of the passage. At the end we have a time of prayer where we can bring prayer requests. We also have people come for dinner beforehand and about once a month we will have a group dinner and breaking of bread/communion together. I know it has been a blessing particularly for one of our Everyman's Reps – Leanne, who was stuck in lockdown in Melbourne and unable to attend church at all for months. For her it was the only real fellowship that she had. We are planning to keep the meetings going permanently.

Check out the EveryVet's website at [www.everyvets.org.au](http://www.everyvets.org.au)



# EVERYVET'S MEETINGS

## EveryVet's Conference with Chaplain Haydn Parsons

2020 was a year that saw me focusing a lot more on the EveryVet's side of the ministry especially in the second half of the year. As the lockdowns eased in Queensland and we were able to meet in person, an opportunity arose for us to apply for a grant from the Department of Veterans affairs to hold an event. I applied and got the grant which enabled us to hold the very first Everyman's Veterans League conference. I invited Chaplain Haydn Parsons who has been a friend of mine for several years. Haydn runs a workshop and has written a book of the same title called 'Keeping Yourself S.A.F.E.R.'. I was invited to one of his workshops that was put on for one of the Army units at Gallipoli Barracks. I was impressed by the workshop, so it made sense to have him come and present to our Veterans. With the funding that we received we organised for a food caterer to come and provide a lunch. The lunch ended up being a gourmet feast and there was so much food left over that we practically had to beg for people to take the leftovers! We also had the whole day filmed, which I was able to create videos so that anyone can view the conference and benefit from the wonderful advice given on the day.

If you would like to see the videos you can view them on the Everyman's Facebook page.





## Uganda Mission Presentation

During the year Petri, who together with his wife Katja, Claudia and I went to Uganda and Finland with, gave a presentation on Kamuge Missions International, the project and NGO that we are involved in together. The presentation went over much of the history of Uganda, the challenges and difficulties that we faced working in Uganda, but also the miracles that the Lord has done in that project. It gave us the opportunity to share our desire to eventually take teams of Veterans over there to help with the various projects that we have going there. The possibility of a trip to Uganda under the EveryVet's was a well-received idea and we have had some expressions of interest already. The idea has a twofold effect, namely, that the people of Uganda would receive help and the Veterans who go will have the benefit of having a purpose to help others in a much poorer condition. Whether or not we can make this plan eventuate is up to the Lord. Now that Covid is a factor in this world, it certainly makes things much more challenging. Already we have not been able to return to Uganda as we had planned and as of this time the only support we can give to our people is prayer and financial.



## End of Year Beach Party

To finish off the year, I wanted to have a bit of a change of scene to our usual venue at Good Shepherd Baptist. I thought that a BBQ at the beach would be a nice change. We organised to go to Caloundra, on the Sunshine Coast, and although in the end we could not find a spot right near the beach (since it was so busy), we did find a perfect spot at a quiet park only a couple of hundred meters from the beach. We had a good turn out and we even ran into a couple, Coen and Catherine, who were taking a holiday across the road that we know. It was amazing because Coen is Veteran, and I had

desired for them to be involved with EveryVet's for some time and after the day had finished, Coen felt that it was God who led them to find us that day and that he wants to be involved from now on!





# VET'S RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM



A good friend of mine Aaron Wallis, who I worked with as a soldier in 8/9 RAR and comes to EveryVet's started a Rugby League football team for Veterans. He was working on this project while I was in the process of getting EveryVet's off the ground. We shared our ideas and now after a couple of years both have come to fruition. Petri and I attended the first official game of their inaugural season. As a way for EveryVet's to sponsor the team, I created their website for them. To thank us they put the Everyman's and EveryVet's logos on the sleeves of the team training jerseys. I had a couple of jerseys signed and will get them framed to put up in our Everyman's Rec Centre at Amberley and I will send one of the jerseys down to the Everyman's HQ in Bandiana.





# ...A Thousand Words

I have put together a few photos from the last months of the year. They are from various 'Brew Runs' and Remembrance Day. I have included a photo of my grandfather – Hew Barnard-Brown who spoke at a school in Adelaide on Remembrance Day. He was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve and is now 93 years old and still going strong!





# **ON 'THE HOME FRONT'**



*We were blessed enough to be able to have some time off to spend with our family. Initially, we were afraid that we would not be able to visit our family as it was uncertain if Claudia would get time off of work. The Lord was gracious to us and we were able to get 10 days visiting our family over Christmas and New Years. We missed out last years Christmas as we were overseas. We spent precious time with our nephews and nieces, something we rarely get. We also helped my parents to do some renovations of their house, we ended up painting the back of their house and fence.*



## Claudia's Corner

Dear friends and beloved in Christ, what a honour is to say 'the work of God continues on'. Yesterday, I visited an elderly man, a brother in the Lord and an actual friend (before he went to Bethany for care). He has advanced dementia, but by the grace of God we were able to have a wonderful conversation about the Lord and how no-one can stop God's work. If He initiated (and He did), so no man, external power or created thing can stop the work of God to go on, that's why the apostle Paul rejoiced that Christ was being proclaimed, the Word of God was not bound in prison chains, and of course our greatest rejoicing, is that the grave and death did not hold of Lord and Saviour Jesus. So, let us go on "marching to Zion, the beautiful, beautiful Zion, we are marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city above" and pray for boldness and strength for the Church of God to stand strong in these evil days and proclaim until the end the salvation that is offered to all men through Jesus Christ our Lord. Dear friends, the good news is that last year Bethany opened an extra position for chaplain, in which they desired a woman to extend the ladies' ministry and 1:1 interactions. By the grace of God, three women were employed, and

I was one of them. I started in December 2020 and I'm still in awe of the Lord and His so rich blessings in our lives, oh blessed be His name. Thank you for your continuous support and perseverance in prayer and hope in the work of God. May God bless you all and your loved ones.





We thank God for the blessing of being able to spend precious time with our family over the Christmas and new year period. We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued prayers and support. As we charge into the year of 2021 our resolve to continue to serve the Lord both in the work with Everyman's and Claudia's important work at Bethany Christian Care. We do not know what this year will hold, but we know the Lord is in control.

*1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

Much love,

Ben and Claudia



**EVERYMAN'S WELFARE SERVICE**  
Serving the Australian Defence Force