REPAT
HEALTH PRECINCT

Veterans' Memorial Trail

A guide to the sites

Veterans' Memorial Trail

ROCKVILLE DRIVE

GOODWOOD ROAD

DAWS ROAD

1   **REPAT Museum**

2   **Coral and Balmoral**

3   **Lancaster**

4   **REPAT Chapel**
– Stained Glass Windows

5   **Darwin Place**

6   **Tim Hughes Stadium**
– Timothy Hughes MBE MM

7   **Café 105**

8   **SPF Hall**
– SA Nurses Honour Boards
– HMAS Adelaide 3
– Poppy Canopy

9   **Bob's Lane**
– Robert Macintosh AFC OAM

10   **REPAT Veteran Wellbeing Centre**
– Guy Bowering OAM
– George Gosse GC
– Murray Crittenden
– Warren Featherby OAM
– Bob Cowper DFC & BAR OAM
– Pat Deal
– Ronald Coxon OAM

11   **2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion**

12   **Bill's Place**
– William Schmitt AM

13   **Lone Pine Tree**

14   **Peter's Lane**
– Dr Peter Murray Last OAM
MB BS FRCP FRACP FRACMA

15   **Freddy's Lane**
– Col. Frederick Neill Le Messurier

16   **Long Tan**

17   **Bangka Strait**

The Repat was first established in 1942 and operated as the 105 (Adelaide) Military Hospital until 1947 when it became the RGH (Springbank).

In 1967 the name was changed to Repatriation General Hospital and in the 1970s the hospital began accepting community patients and became a teaching hospital.

During its 75 years of dedicated service as a hospital, 'The Repat' as it is affectionately known, earned a reputation for excellence and a unique quality of care. Today we see the precinct transformed into a thriving health and wellbeing precinct, whilst still retaining the historical values and traditions that the site remains a valued symbol of past achievements.

We are honoured to launch the Veterans' Memorial Trail, which is designed to acknowledge the important and meaningful connection our veteran community has had with the site and the important relationship is honoured and continued.

1 Repat Museum

The Repat Museum – entirely run by volunteers – contains a wealth of memorabilia relating to the hospital's history as well as both world wars and other major conflicts.

The museum opened in 1992 on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Repatriation General Hospital in Daw Park, and was originally based in the hospital post office, a corrugated iron building, as were many of the original buildings on the site. It was established by volunteer David Ennis, and his late wife Maxine. In 2012 the museum moved into the building next door to make room for the growing historical collection.

During World War II, the hospital was the 105 Adelaide Military Hospital. The army camp and hospital were set up on part of Cudmore Farm on Daws Road. From 1947-1995, the hospital was under the control of the Repatriation Commission.

There is a display of heritage medical equipment relating to the hospital's history as well as items used and made by returned soldiers undergoing occupational therapy. The collection also includes memorabilia from various theatres of war such as uniforms, medals, documentation, photographs, souvenirs, and trench art. In particular, there are several pieces connected to Prisoners of War including from the Thailand Burma railway and Changi Prison.

The museum is not just important to Repat, it is important to the veterans as well as the wider community. It is not just a Repat Museum – it is community heritage.

It lets the generation of today learn and be educated on our important history.

2 Coral and Balmoral

The actions between the Australian forces and the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong over the 25 days of fighting were among the largest and most protracted battles fought by Australians during the course of the Vietnam War.

The battles at Coral and Balmoral took place between May and June 1968. The battles involved almost 3,000 men, and this was the first Australian all-arms brigade-sized operation since World War II.

On 13 May 1968, a regiment of the North Vietnamese Regular Army attacked Fire Support Base (FSB) Coral. The force penetrated defences but determined resistance and courage by Australian and New Zealand forces pushed North Vietnamese back. Over the coming weeks the base was attacked repeatedly by large enemy forces. On 25 May, two enemy battalions attacked FSB Balmoral only to be stopped by Australian Infantry and tanks. The fiercely determined attacks continued until 6 June and when the North Vietnamese ceased its actions. When the battles finally ended, 26 Australians had been killed in action, with almost 100 wounded.

Australian Army regiments involved in the series of battles were later awarded one of the five battle honours approved for the Vietnam War.

Lest We Forget.

❸ Lancaster

For the last three years of World War II, the Avro Lancaster was the main heavy bomber used by Bomber Command to take the war to the heartland of Nazi Germany.

With an impressive performance and excellent flaying characteristics, it soon established its superiority over other allied four-engined bombers operating in Europe.

The industrial and military organisation needed to build and operate the Lancaster was huge. Six major companies built 7,377 aircraft at ten factories on two continents; at the heigh of production over 1,100,000 men and women were employed working for over 920 companies. More service personnel were involved in flying and maintaining it than any other British aircraft in history.

The Lancaster's operational carrier is littered with impressive statistics, but it is worth remembering that the average age of the seven-man crew was only 22 years. They endured danger and discomfort, and many showed great courage in continuing to fly knowing the odds against survival were high. Bomber Command suffered the highest casualty rate of any brand of the British services in World War II.

On average, Lancasters completed 21 missions before being lost.

❹ Repat Chapel pictured below & page 6
Stained-glass windows

The Repat Chapel opening in 1944, and commemorates those who have served in the various conflicts in which Australia has been involved in.

VIGILANCE   COURAGE   LIBERTY

The chapel is open daily from dawn to dusk and offers visitors of all faiths to pause, reflect and remember.

On entering the chapel, the most striking feature are the stained-glass windows. Coruscating light streaming through them creates an interesting kaleidoscope of argent colours over the orderly pews.

The stained-glass windows do not portray scenes of a religious nature but instead depict a variety of scenes, many of which have a military sentiment. The bottom of each stained-glass windows describes the emotion of the scene above. Such descriptors include 'compassion,' 'vigilance,' 'sacrifice,' 'liberty,' 'love' and 'courage.' Many small commemorative shields also adorn the walls.
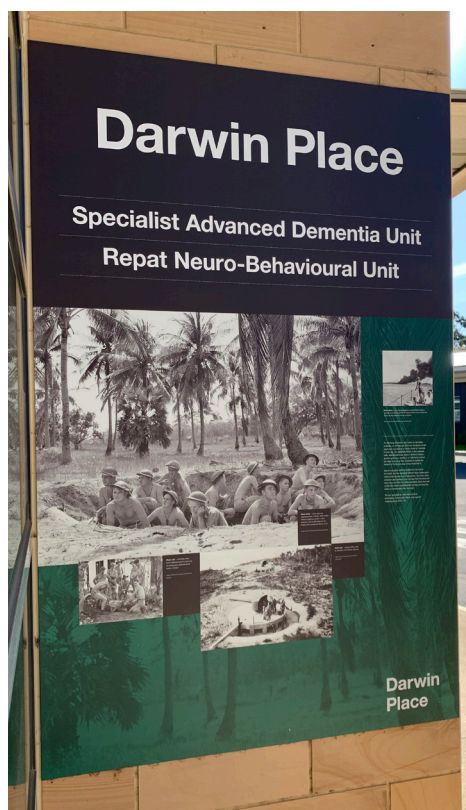
One other interesting feature of the chapel is that it is bifid, with the pews able to face different directions to provide services for Catholics where the pews face the western end and Anglican and other services facing the eastern end.

5 Darwin Place

The Bombing of Darwin on 19 February, 1942 – also known as the Battle of Darwin – was the largest single attack ever mounted by a foreign power on Australia. On that day in two separate raids, 242 Japanese aircraft attacked the town, ships in Darwin's harbour and the town's two airfields in an attempt to prevent the Allies from using them as bases to contest the invasion of Timor and Java during World War II.

Darwin was lightly defended relative to the size of the attack, and the Japanese inflicted heavy losses upon Allied forces at little cost to themselves. The urban areas of Darwin also suffered some damage from the raids and there were a number of civilian casualties. More than half of Darwin's civilian population left the area permanently, before or immediately after the attack.

The two Japanese air raids were the first, and largest, of more than 100 air raids against Australia during 1942 – 1943.

6 Tim Hughes Stadium
pictured below and page 23

Timothy Hughes MBE MM

Timothy Hughes was born on 28 April 1919 at Point Pearce Aboriginal Mission, South Australia. His father was of Narungga descent and his mother of Yankunytjatjara heritage.

Tim was educated to fifth grade before working for his father as a contract shearer. He enlisted in the Second Australian Imperial Force on 4 December 1939.

Posted to the South Australia-raised 2/10th Battalion, Tim took part in the defence of Tobruk, Libya, between April and August 1941, and fought in the Battle of Milne Bay in Papua during August and September 1942.

In December the unit joined Allied forces assaulting Buna on the north coast of Papua. On the 26th, during the advance along the old airstrip, his platoon was pinned down by machine gun fire. He climbed on top of a dispersal bay and, despite coming under concentrated fire from three directions, threw grenades at two Japanese posts. Using a sub-machine gun, he then protected his comrades while they took cover. He made three sorties to silence the enemy's weapons, enabling the platoon to consolidate its position. For these actions he was awarded the Military Medal. Many in his unit believe his action merited consideration for the award of the Victoria Cross.

Hughes was wounded in the left arm at Sanananda on 19 January 1943. He returned to Australia in March 1943, was promoted to substantive corporal

in June. After several spells in hospital with malaria, he was discharged on 5 September 1945.

He resumed share-farming for four years at Point Pearce, then in 1953 leased a 987-acre soldier-settler block at Conmurra in the south-east of the state which he worked successfully for 22 years. He was the first chairman of the Aboriginal Lands Trust and was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1970. Tim Hughes died in April 1976 and is buried at Centennial Park.

Tim Hughes is one of many Aboriginal soldiers who have rendered service in every conflict our nation has fought from the Boer War to the present day.

Lest We Forget.

7 Café 105

Named after the days Repat was known as the 105 Adelaide Military Hospital

For seventy-five years the Repatriation General Hospital at Daw Park delivered care to South Australian veterans and war widows. 'The Repat', as it is affectionately known, was a vital community asset and a valued symbol of past achievement.

Construction on the site dates from early 1942, when it was established by the Commonwealth Government as one of three repatriation general hospitals set up in South Australia around the time of World War II to cater for returned service men and women. The Repat was initially set up as an Army hospital and was referred to as the 105 Adelaide Military Hospital before becoming administered by the Repatriation Commission (now the Department of Veterans' Affairs).

The hospital's prime objective – to care for wounded veterans – was overwhelmingly fulfilled as servicemen and women returned from World War II. In 1943 and 1944, the hospital's capacity peaked at 1000 beds and the nearby Springbank Camp swelled with servicemen and women.

In 1947, the hospital became the Repatriation General Hospital (Springbank) and then in 1967, the name was changed to Repatriation General Hospital Daw Park.

In the early 1970s the hospital's role broadened as it began accepting community patients and became a teaching hospital affiliated with the Flinders University of South Australia.

In the mid-1990s, the Commonwealth Government divested itself of the Repat and it became a public hospital under State Government administration.

In the latter part of its life, the Repat was a modern, acute care, teaching hospital with 300 beds. It provided care and support for veterans, older people and the southern community, and worked closely with Flinders Medical Centre and Noarlunga Health Services as part of the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network.

In more than half a century of dedicated service, the Repat earned a reputation for excellence and a unique quality of care.

8 SPF Hall pictured above

The Schools' Patriotic Fund (SPF) Hall holds special significance as it demonstrates the contribution of civilians to the war effort and the support of veterans. It was built using funds raised by the Schools Patriotic Fund and the Red Cross, for the benefit of patients of the hospital, and was opened in August 1943.

Most of the money came from the contributions of school children throughout the state from selling badges and sweets, to collecting old tins and paper and also included producing 'homely goods' for soldiers by knitting socks and constructing Christmas Boxes.

During the war years the hall was a venue for theatrical performances, concerts and films for the entertainment of inpatients, and helped keep up morale and relieve the boredom which often accompanied lengthy hospital stays.

Many popular entertainers volunteered their time to perform here and visit patients. The annexes once housed a library and reading rooms and recreation rooms for the use of ambulatory patients. Over the years it has been used for ceremonies and special events, staff meetings and training sessions. The hall retains its proscenium arch stage and fixtures and is still used regularly today.

Inside the hall hangs SA Nurses Honour Boards which honour the South Australian Nursing Sisters who have served with distinction in wartime. The honour boards are on permanent loan from Keswick Barracks and were dedicated at the Precinct in 2022.

9 Bob's Lane
Wing Commander Robert (Bob) Macintosh AFC OAM

Wing Commander Robert Macintosh served in the RAAF from 1951 to 1978. He was a Mustang and Meteor pilot in Korea in 1953 and a helicopter pilot on the Thai/Malaya border in 1965/6 and in Vietnam 1966/7 where he was Mentioned in Dispatches.

In 1969, Bob was decorated with the Air Force Cross for his work in developing the instructor's course for the "Huey" Iroquois Helicopter.

On retirement from the RAAF Bob trained for the Uniting Church ministry and in 1985 was sent to Meekatharra WA as a "Flying Padre" with Frontier Services. He and his wife Jenny flew the church Cessna C182 serving an area of more than 450,000 square kilometres, or nearly half the size of South Australia. Bob retired (again) in 1994 and settled in Adelaide.

Bob was a tireless servant of the Royal Australian Air Force Association (RAAFA) SA Division, including service as President of its Mitcham Branch. He worked as a Pension and Welfare Officer and as an Honorary Chaplain for numerous ceremonies and commemorative services.

Having served in theatres of war in Korea and Vietnam, Bob saw first-hand the effects military service has on those who serve and those who support them. He was a passionate advocate for the need to find solutions other than military conflict to the world's problems as evidenced in an opinion piece he penned during the centenary of Anzac period titled 'We must find a way to genuine and lasting peace'. Bob regularly made himself available to speak to community groups to promote understanding of the meaning and importance of military service.

Bob served on South Australia's Veterans' Advisory Council for three years from 2014 to 2016 where his common sense and passionate advocacy on behalf of the veteran community was greatly valued.

On 8 July 2015 Bob was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for service to the community, particularly through church and veterans' organisations.

Bob was a true gentleman and the consummate professional.

Lest We Forget.

⑩ Repat Veteran Wellbeing Centre pictured below

Guy Bowering OAM

Flight Lieutenant Guy Stuart Bowering was born in Melbourne and raised and educated in Adelaide, graduating from the University of South Australia and South Bank University, London to work as a Radiographer.

Guy began his early involvement with the forces as an Army Cadet with 27th Warradale Cadet Unit, then progressed to the Army Reserve and the 10/27th Royal South Australian Regiment before joining 24 Squadron RAAF. He deployed overseas on a number of occasions.

In 1987 he left the RAAF to join British Aerospace in England and was subsequently deployed to work with the Royal Saudi Air Force and then the Royal Air Force during Operation Desert Shield / Desert Storm in 1991.

He subsequently rejoined the RAAF Reserve and was commissioned as an Operations Officer. His last deployment was a return to the Middle East as part of the Special Operations Task Group on Operation Slipper in 2011.

One of Guy's later roles in the RAAF was as an Aide–de-Camp to the former Governors of South Australia, firstly Marjorie Jackson-Nelson AC CVO MBE followed by Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR.

In the latter years of his life, Guy was a tireless advocate of the Repat, Ward 17 and for the mental health and wellbeing of veterans. Guy was also a valuable contributor to the development of the Specialist Mental Health Services Model of Care for The Jamie Larcombe Centre and was an active member of the Royal Australian Air Force Association (RAAFA), Mitcham Branch.

Guy's compassion, integrity and advocacy

was exceptional. He was recognised with great respect and affection by the veteran community and the community at large.

In 2019 Guy was posthumously awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for service to veterans and their families.

Lest We Forget.

10 SQNLDR Bob Cowper DFC & Bar OAM, Legion of Honour (Fr)

Squadron Leader Bob Cowper was a true "ace" of World War II. A title achieved by shooting down at least five enemy aircraft. He finished the war as Commanding Officer of 456 Squadron, Australia's only Night Fighter Squadron.

Bob survived two crash landings – one when his Beaufighter crashed in the Sahara Desert and another off the coast of Malta. This latter crash was consequent upon his first victory. He shot a Junkers 88 light bomber out of the sky. The Junkers exploded directly in front of Bob's plane and brought Bob down with it. For his distinguished service in the Malta action Bob was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

On 6 June 1944 (D-Day) 1944, Bob flew with 456 Squadron. He later spoke of the view of the channel, completely covered with thousands of boats.

He was subsequently awarded a Bar to his DFC for consistently displaying a high degree of skill on two tours of operations. The insignia was presented by His Majesty

King George VI, at Buckingham Palace on 2 February 1945.

After the war Bob was a prominent farmer and was active in Local Government with the Council of Willunga. He was also a member of Legacy and became State President. He was on the Bloodstock Breeders Board and was very active in the horseracing arena.

Bob retained an enormous loyalty to the members of his unit and their families. He was asked to step in after the last of the Australian Battle of Britain pilots died, representing them in England at a memorial service in 1995.

In 2011 Bob coordinated a memorial Honour Board remembering the service of our Australian Battle of Britain Pilots. The Honour Board is proudly displayed at the RAAF Base Edinburgh Officers' Mess.

In 2004, Bob was awarded France's highest military decoration, the Legion of Honour. The award was bestowed to a small number of veterans representing Allied nations of World War II, in recognition of their contribution to D-Day operations and the liberation of France.

Bob was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2012 Australia Day Honours list for service to veterans and their families through a range of ex-service organisations.

In June 2014, Bob returned to France on a Commonwealth DVA commemorative mission to mark the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day landings.

A biography of Bob's amazing life titled:

Chasing Shadows was written and published by Stephen Lewis in 2007.

Bob was a tireless advocate for veterans.

Lest We Forget.

10 Matron Patricia Deal

Patricia (Pat) Deal, served as Director of Nursing at the Repatriation General Hospital, Daw Park from February 1975 until her retirement in January 1994. She was recognised as a visionary leader within the Commonwealth Repatriation Department, the state health system and the hospital. She was a formidable advocate for nursing other staff.

Pat held a strong affiliation with veterans, serving as a member of the reserve of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corp from 1961 to 1986, rising to the rank of Major. She served in Long Xuen in Vietnam as a member of a civilian surgical team from 1968 to 1969.

Some of Pat's many achievements included the evolution of Repat as a genuine teaching hospital affiliated with the university sector and was personally involved in the design and refurbishment of the wards and departments ensuring that any project undertaken in the hospital was to the ultimate benefit of patients.

Pat played a key role in negotiations regarding the future of the Repat within the State system, reminding many of the obligations that Repat had to have to serve the veteran community. Her vigilance for raising standards and evaluating care taught many the true meaning of their responsibilities in providing excellence in patient care.

Her encouragement, foresight and honesty won the respect of staff, patients and the community alike.

Pat was instrumental in organising the commissioning of the Repat Chapel's stained-glass windows, by artist, Cedar Prest, acknowledging those who served. The windows now stand as a stoic reminder to future generations of the many men and women who fought for this country during war.

Pat's skills were acknowledged through the receipt of an Efficiency Decoration, the Queens Jubilee Medal and the awarding of the Florence Nightingale Medal by the International Committee of Red Cross in 1977.Pat's support for members of the returned services extended far beyond her work at Repat and she was always recognised with great respect and affection by the veteran community and their families.

Lest We Forget.

10 George Gosse GC

Lieutenant Commander George Gosse was born in Harvey, Western Australia but following the unfortunate death of his parents during childhood both he and his sister moved to Adelaide.

After George completed his education at St Peter's College, he entered the Royal Australian Navy. In 1931 George was loaned to the Royal Navy for training. However, after twice failing his

promotional examination, he was sent home to Australia and his appointment terminated in October 1933.

In 1940 George joined the Royal Australian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RANVR) for service in World War II. Quickly sent back to the United Kingdom, he served on several shore establishments before being sent to British India as a naval mine clearance specialist. He returned to England in late 1944, and in April 1945 he was given command of a naval party responsible for mine clearance in the recently captured Bremen Harbour in Germany.

George made history when he was awarded the George Cross for his actions in disarming mines in Bremen Harbour during May 1945. The George Cross was named by King George VI as a "new mark of honour for men and women in all walks of civilian life." The George Cross was created in 1940 and ranks next to the Victoria Cross.

The mines George found in Bremen Harbour were new and deadly. George identified them as a GD pressure or "oyster" mine. He chose to tackle his task underwater and only had improvised tools at his disposal. The citation for his George Cross noted "This type of operation called for exceptionally high standards of personal courage and also a high degree of skill. The conditions were always arduous and were combined with the presence of known mines and with all forms of underwater obstruction – human corpses – which together with the lack of visibility produced a set of conditions which would deter the boldest. This officer

displayed courage and zeal far in excess of the usual course of duty and contributed greatly to the success of a most difficult and important operation."

George was known to be the "life and soul" of any party. It was said that "he always lived right on top of the world, as though every day was his last." (Quote attributed to Brigadier Sir John "Jacky" Smyth VC.)

George was demobilised in March 1946. In 1953 he was chosen as a member of the coronation contingent which went to England in HMAS Sydney. George died in Adelaide in 1964, aged 52.

George's medal set is displayed in the Hall of Valour at the Australian War Memorial.

Lest We Forget.

10 Warren Featherby OAM

Since 2000, Warren Featherby has worked as a volunteer TPI visitation officer at Ward 17 at Repat, and later at the Veterans' Mental Health Precinct, The Jamie Larcombe Centre located at the Glenside Health Service Campus.

Soon after he became the President of the 9th Battalion Association in South Australia, he initiated and co-ordinated The Spirit of Gallipoli project, which brought five Turkish War Veterans to SA for ANZAC Day in 2005.

In 2007, Warren was deservedly recognised for his tireless work with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community through a range of Ex-Service Organisations.

Warren, a retired policeman, served with the Australian Army in Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam.

Warren was also a long serving member of the Ward 17 Consumer Carer Advisory Group. His time spent visiting veterans at Repat and the Jamie Larcombe Centre, providing support and friendship, has always been appreciated and valued.

Warren's contribution gœs way beyond that which one might expect, and his work has had a significant impact on services for veterans and older people in South Australia.

10 Murray Crittenden

Murray was born in Port Adelaide and lived most of his early years at Plympton Park. He was educated at the Forbes Primary and Mitchell Park High Schools. On leaving school Murray was employed at the Advertiser and left after a short time to enlist in the Australian Army on 28 January 1969.

After completing his recruit training, Murray was posted to the Infantry Centre until 10 December 1970 when he was on active service in South Vietnam firstly with the 1 Australian Reinforcement Unit and then with the 3 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. During his service in South Vietnam he was wounded in action and assisted a member of his section who was struggling in water from drowning. He returned to Australia with the rank of corporal on 16 October 1971.

On returning to Australia, Murray remained with 3RAR until 26 February 1973 when he transferred to the Medical Corps based at Keswick South Australia until his discharge on 27 January 1978.

Murray commenced his voluntary work as an Advocate for the Vietnam Veterans Federation in the Glenelg RSL in 1996. He continued this work spending thousands of voluntary hours supporting veterans and their families until his death on 7 April 2018; a total of 22 years voluntarily and freely giving his time supporting veterans and their families. He appeared before the Veterans Review Board on behalf of veterans and their families on over 300 occasions seeking reviews and further consideration of matters that the Department of Veterans Affairs had initially declined

In 2001, the Glenelg RSL premises were compulsorily acquired by the City of Holdfast Bay resulting in Murray and other Advocates moving to the newly formed Plympton Glenelg RSL and establishing the Plympton Glenelg RSL Pensions Office which was one of the first established independent Military Advocates' Practices in Australia. Murray played a key role for in the organisation's formation and development and mentoring many of the new advocates appointed to keep up with the increasing demand. The Plympton Glenelg RSL Pensions Office is now named the Plympton Veterans Centre.

In addition, Murray initiated and mentored the rebuilding of military advocacy services in the country areas of Mt Gambier, Port Pirie and Port Lincoln and often travelled to these locations in his own time at his own expense.

In recognition of his contribution Murray was awarded the Pride of Australia Medal in 2005.

Many of Murray's clients were also patients in Ward 17 of the Repatriation Hospital and he visited them on a number of occasions. He often took the particulars of their claims, researched how the claims could be substantiated and then talked through the claims process with the claimant before submitting the claim to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Lest We Forget.

⑩ Ron Coxon OAM

Ron was born and educated in Adelaide. Just prior to his 21st birthday he joined the Citizen Military Forces and was posted to 13 Field Regiment Light Aid Detachment. Eighteen months later Ron enlisted in the Australian Regular Army and after the normal stint at 1st Recruit Training Battalion he was posted to 1 Medium Workshop in 1963 / 64.

Ron was posted to 1st Armoured Regiment Light Aid Detachment in December 1964 and remained until July 1970 when he was posted to 102 Field Workshop in South Vietnam. During his time in the Regiment Ron was an active member of the Light Aid Detachment Aussie Rules Football team.

Ron returned to Australia on 19 August 1971 and was posted to Central Command Workshops in Adelaide. Just under 12 months later he was posted to Adelaide Workshop Company where he

remained for around four years until he discharged in April 1977.

After discharge Ron was very active in the Vietnam Veterans' Association and was Secretary from 1998 to 2002 and then President of the South Australian Branch from 2000 until 2006, followed by National President from 2005 until 2013.

Ron was a fearless advocate for his fellow veterans and their families for over four decades. During this time, he also contributed greatly to the development and success of the Repatriation General Hospital, Daw Park.

In 1994, he voluntarily trained and commenced his work as a military advocate in both the welfare and claims areas. He dedicated himself to building a reliable well-trained team of pension officers so they could help the veterans when needing direction and support to complete the maze of paperwork. He wanted the team to be professional and business like when dealing with all parties. He gave over 25 years of service as a voluntary advocate including numerous appearances before the Veterans Review Board and Administrative Appeals Tribunal on behalf of veterans and their families.

In 2004, Ron was deservedly recognised for his tireless work with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to veterans and their families.

After completing his national presidency with the Vietnam Veterans Association in 2013, Ron continued with his voluntary advocacy work for veterans and their families whilst living in Huonville Tasmania.

Lest We Forget.

11 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion *pictured above*

The 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion was raised in Adelaide in June 1940 under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Blackburn VC. Although raised in South Australia, B Company came from Victoria, C Company came from Tasmania and D Company came from Western Australia. Indeed, it was not until April 1941, that the whole battalion was brought together as a whole on board the troopship taking them to the Middle East.

The 2/3rd served in the Middle East in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria until Japan entered the war. In 1942, three of its four companies began to return to Australia before being swept up in the Japanese push through South East Asia. The 2/3rd landed in Java in late February 1942 with the intention of defending the island. They joined other Australian, American and Dutch units to form Blackforce, and waited for the Japanese to land.

Blackforce went into action on 4 March but were ordered to surrender only five days later. Those who survived spent the next three years as prisoners of war. 139 men from the 2/3rd would die in prison camps or working on the Thai-Burma railway while others endured a harsh and dangerous sea voyage to Japan, where they worked in the most primitive conditions as slave labourers in coal mines.

The remaining B Company returned to Australia in March 1942 and became the core of a new 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion. They spent 1942 and most of 1943 stationed in Australia, including at Cowra's prisoner of war camp. They went on to support the 6th Division in the Aitape-Wewak campaign, fighting as individual infantry companies rather than a machine gun battalion.

The battalion was disbanded January 1946.

12 Bill's Place
Mr William Hurtle (Bill) Schmitt AM pictured below

Bill was a fearless advocate for his fellow veterans for over six decades. During this time he contributed greatly to the development and success of the Repatriation General Hospital, Daw Park.

A regular soldier, Bill enlisted in 1940 as a 22-year-old and became a member of the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion in the 2nd Australian Imperial Force. He served in the Middle East in the Syrian Campaign of 1941. In early 1942 the Australian Imperial Force was recalled to Australia and the 2/3 Machine Gun Battalion sailed aboard the "Orcades" on 1 February. They arrived in Java on 17 February, two days after the fall of Singapore. On 28 February the Japanese landed in Java and Bill became a Prisoner of War. He spent three and a half years in prisoner of war camps in Java and Changi, Singapore.

Bill was first admitted to the Repat as a patient in 1945 – to recover from his ordeal as a prisoner of war. Much of Bill's post war life was dedicated to serving his fellow veterans, especially former prisoners of war. In 1994, through his work with the Prisoner of War Association, Bill was made a Member of the Order of Australia. In 2001 he received a Centenary Medal for service to the veterans' community in South Australia. Bill maintained a close association with the Repat until his death in 2015. Bill was a treasured member of the veteran community. He was a generous, popular, modest man and a loyal friend to many.

Lest We Forget.

⓭ Lone Pine

The Lone Pine Memorial is the main Australian memorial on Gallipoli, commemorating the 3,268 Australians and 456 New Zealanders who died in the campaign and have no known grave, and the 960 Australians and 252 New Zealanders who were buried at sea.

In April 1915 a single pine tree was growing on the site and the Australians called it 'Lonesome Pine' from the title of a popular song of the day, 'The Trail of the Lonesome Pine'. The tree was destroyed in the early fighting but seeds from a pinecone sent back to Australia from the Turkish trenches at Lone Pine, Gallipoli were used to generate the Lone Pine tree planted at the Australian War Memorial. Seeds from this tree were used to grow the present tree in the cemetery at Lone Pine.

In early August 1915 Lone Pine was the site of some of the bloodiest fighting on the Peninsula during the famous bayonet attack on the Turkish trenches by the 1st Australian Infantry Brigade. On reaching the enemy's positions the Australians found the trenches covered by heavy logs; they broke into the trenches and, after fierce hand-to-hand fighting and resisting Turkish counterattacks over several days, they captured them. Lone Pine Cemetery adjoins the memorial and is located over the original Turkish trenches and tunnels, some of which were filled in as mass graves. The cemetery contains the graves of soldiers who died over the entire campaign from the first day's fighting to the last deaths amongst the Lone Pine

garrison in late November. Over 500 of the graves are unidentified.

As we honour the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who were involved in the Battle of Lone Pine, we also acknowledge more than 6,000 Turkish soldiers who were wounded or died in this Battle.

The Lone Pine that is planted here is a direct descendant of the present tree in the cemetery at Lone Pine.

⓮ Peter's Lane
Dr Peter Murray Last OAM MB BS FRCP FRACP FRACMA

Dr Last was born and educated in South Australia. He followed his brother John through Saint Peter's College and the University of Adelaide, where he graduated MB BS in 1952, culminating as Everard Scholar, being top student of his year.

After a number of medical posts in Adelaide, Melbourne and England he took up a Senior Specialist Physician at the Repatriation General Hospital, (Springbank) Daw Park from 1964 to 1972. During this period he also spent time with the Civilian Surgical Team in Bien Hoa, South Vietnam.

Under Dr Last's leadership the Repatriation General Hospital became an elite geriatric hospital. Best practice was the least that was acceptable.

Dr Last was much involved with direct patient care and clinical administration, as well as teaching, which brought him into contact with a generation of senior medical students and young doctors,

especially those who aspired to become consultant physicians.

Dr Last went on to become a medical administrator in the South Australian Health Commission and was the first Clinical Superintendent of the Julia Farr Centre. He retired in 1990 and in 1991 was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to medicine.

Outside of medicine Dr Last was a keen yachtsman and was elected to Life Membership of the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron.

Dr Last went on to spend more than three years compiling the history of the Repatriation General Hospital. The book was released on the hospital's 50th anniversary which many of the Repat community purchased and continues to cherish today.

Dr Last is remembered by generations of South Australian doctors, veterans and staff as an outstanding clinician, teacher and administrator.

15 Freddy's Lane: Col. Frederick (Freddy) Neill Le Messurier

Frederick Neill Le Messurier was born on 12 January 1891 at Semaphore, Adelaide, and was educated at the Collegiate School of St Peter.

After graduating from medicine from the University of Adelaide with a distinguished academic and sporting record he was just in time to set off to the Great War.

In October 1914 Frederick was appointed captain, Australian Army Medical Corps, Australian Imperial Force. He served at Gallipoli and in Egypt before joining the 12th Field Ambulance on the Western Front in March 1917. In August 1918 in East of Hamel, France, he evacuated wounded soldiers while under fire and won the Distinguished Service Order. Next month he was promoted temporary lieutenant colonel and placed in command of the field ambulance. Mentioned in dispatches, he returned to Adelaide where his A.I.F. appointment terminated on 17 April 1919.

Mobilised in 1940, Frederick began full-time duty in command of the 105 Adelaide Military Hospital in December 1941. He was promoted temporary Colonel in October 1942. His task was to establish the unit and supervise the construction of what later became the Repatriation General Hospital, (Springbank) Daw Park. His personal contacts, including members of his family, were useful in obtaining building materials for the hospital, beyond those provided under contract, and his efforts and sense of purpose led to the successful completion of the project. He remained in command of the hospital until 1946. In an attempt to make the RGH self-sufficient and to provide a form of therapy, staff and patients grew food and raised animals. Among his other achievements were the enclosure of eight sunrooms for the wards, and the construction of a bowling-green, bathing-box and canteen.

Frederick was a stocky man, widely known as Freddy and sometimes irreverently as 'Freddo the Frog'. Although gifted with

a keen sense of humour. He remained a strong disciplinarian, obsessed with detail and reluctant to delegate. Despite being considered fastidious, he was a kind and considerate gentleman, who was held in very high regard by the staff and patients.

Lest We Forget.

16 Long Tan
Hammond Care Cottage

The Battle of Long Tan was one of the largest battles fought by Australians in the Vietnam War.

On 18 August 1966, Delta (D) Company, Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR), fought an 'encounter' battle to defeat enemy forces in the Long Tan rubber plantation. The plantation was only a few kilometres from the 1st Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat. D Company suffered 42 casualties, including 18 dead – more than one-third of its strength – and some 245 enemy troops were killed. D Company's 105 men and 3 New Zealanders from 161 Battery, Royal New Zealand Artillery, fought for almost 4 hours against soldiers of the North Vietnamese Army, who outnumbered them by 10 to 1.

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War from 1962 – 1975 involved almost 60,000 Australians of whom 521 made the ultimate sacrifice. 58 were South Australians. More than 3,000 were wounded and many thousands returned home to battle a variety of illnesses as a consequence of their service in Vietnam.

This cottage not only pays homage to our Vietnam veterans but to Ward 17 (Long Tan) which once stood on this site and was a place where veterans and others could find solace, which helped them to heal.

Lest We Forget.

17 Bangka Strait

The Bangka Island Massacre was one of several significant events of the Second World War that claimed the lives of Australian nurses.

After the Japanese sank several Allied vessels escaping from Singapore, around one hundred survivors washed up onto Radji Beach on Indonesia's Bangka Island, including twenty-two Australian nurses who had survived the sinking of the Vyner Brooke, some of whom were wounded.

The group quickly decided to surrender to the Japanese in order to ensure their survival, but their offer of surrender was ignored. On 16 February 1942, the Japanese soldiers first killed the unwounded men, then forced the nurses and a civilian woman into the sea, where they were machine-gunned from behind. Finally, they killed the wounded men.

All but one of the nurses were killed, with only Sister Vivian Bullwinkel surviving. Wounded, she avoided captivity for several days, alongside a British soldier, Patrick Kingsley, who was badly wounded. They surrendered and were interned in a prisoner of war camp.

After three-and-a-half year's internment, Bullwinkel was released in September 1945. She went on to play a crucial role alongside other returned nurses in establishing the Australian Nurses Memorial Centre, while also going on to enjoy a long career in nursing.

Timor
Wards 5 & 6

Before East Timor's referendum for independence from Indonesia in August 1999, and after the return of the overwhelming "yes" vote, pro-Indonesian militias unleashed a campaign of violence, murder, arson, looting, and intimidation upon the Timorese people. With the support of the international community, the first Australians from INTERFET arrived in Dili on 20 September 1999. The peacekeepers quickly secured Dili before moving out to other areas, disarming militia and at times having tense stand-offs with the Indonesian military. INTERFET liaised with Falintil, the military wing of Timorese independence party, and provided medical assistance to the East Timorese. By October the Oecussi enclave on the north coast of West Timor had been secured. With calm restored, INTERFET handed over command of military operations to UNTAET (United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor) on the 28th February 2000.

UNTAET was established as an integrated, multi-dimensional peacekeeping operation, fully responsible for the administration of East Timor during its transition to independence. Australia continued to support the UN peacekeeping operation in Timor with between 1,500 and 2,000 personnel, as well as landing craft and Blackhawk helicopters. East Timor became an independent country on 20 May 2002, and on that day UNTAET was succeeded by the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET)

In May 2006, approximately 2000 Australian Defence Force personnel deployed to Timor Leste (East Timor) in Operation Astute following unrest between elements of the Timor Leste Defence Force. Australia's military involvement in this conflict ended with the close of Operation Astute in 2013.

Tarin Kowt
Wards 3 & 4

The Australian contribution to the war in Afghanistan has been known as Operation Slipper (2001-2014) and Operation Highroad (2015-2021).

Australian Defence Force (ADF) operations and the size of the forces deployed have varied and ADF involvement has included two major areas of activity in Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf. These activities have seen the deployment of naval, air and land forces that have taken part in combat and combat support operations as part of America's Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Resolute Support Mission (RSM).

More than 39,000 Australians have served in the Middle East Region since 2001. The major concentration of Australian forces were based at Multinational Base Tarin Kowt. Protected by wire and concrete blast walls, "TK" provided a haven for Australian combat troops and support staff for more than a decade.

Repat Health Precinct
216 Daws Road
Daw Park SA 5041

**For more information about the
Veterans' Memorial Trail, please contact:**

Darren Renshaw
Veteran's Health Advocate
Email: darren.renshaw@sa.gov.au

This document has been reviewed
and endorsed by consumers.

Interpreter

BY NC ND
creative-commons.org.au

**Government
of South Australia**

SA Health

R E P A T
H E A L T H   P R E C I N C T