

ROSE GARDEN TO BLOOM IN SPRING

A very wet July morning provided perfect conditions for a working bee at the Memorial Rose Garden, with volunteers under the guidance of horticulturist Edwina Rowe improving irrigation, planting new rose bushes and spreading a good layer of mulch.

"We want the roses to be looking at their best for the VP Day service," said Edwina, "although they won't be in full bloom just yet."

Maintaining the rose garden is a constant challenge and any financial support is always welcome to purchase new bushes and the manure and mulch to improve the soil. Visitors to the Walkway are encouraged to spend time in the circular rose garden opposite the entrance to Concord Hospital, where dozens of men, women and units are honoured with plaques.



DONATION TO KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALKWAY

TITLE	FIRST NAME	INITIAL	LAST NAME
COMPANY		POSITION IF APPLICABLE	
ADDRESS		STATE	POSTCODE
		COUNTRY	
PHONE	EMAIL		
DONATION AMOUNT			
\$			
All donations are tax deductible.			
PAYMENT DETAILS			
Please attach a cheque made out to "Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway" or complete the credit card details below. The form and cheque should be mailed to: Alice Kang, Co-ordinator Veterans Services, Concord Hospital, Hospital Road, CONCORD NSW 2139			
NAME ON CARD:			
CARD NUMBER:		<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard CARD NUMBER EXPIRY (MM/YY)	
CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE:			
Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway is grateful for your donation and undertakes NOT to disclose your contact details to any other organisation.			



JULY 2019

MEMORIAL WALKWAY NEWS

OUR GUARDS GO ON DUTY

Visitors to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway on ceremonial occasions will soon be offered the assistance and guidance of the memorial's own detachment of guards.

Eight men and women who were members of the now disbanded RSL Corps of Guards have volunteered to form a new unit based at the Walkway, where they will play an important role, commencing with the VP Day service on 15 August.

They will act, as required, as ushers for VIP guests, as marshals for wreath laying ceremonies, as flag bearers, and in assisting veterans who have mobility problems.

The group of eight met KTMW chair Jennifer Collins and secretary Alice Kang at the



JENNIFER COLLINS AND ALICE KANG MEET THE VOLUNTEERS IN THE RALPH HONNER EDUCATION CENTRE

Walkway in early July to discuss their duties and potential uniforms, and to learn about the history of the Walkway. Over the past 20 years visitor numbers have increased dramatically, to around 118,000 annually, of whom at least 5000 are children on organised school visits.

HOMES FOR HEROES MANAGER TO SPEAK ON VP DAY

Adrian Talbot, an Afghanistan veteran well known in the defence community for his contribution as Executive Manager of the Homes for Heroes program at RSL Life Care, will be the guest speaker at the Memorial Walkway's VP Day service on Thursday 15 August.

Adrian spent eight years with the Royal Marines before being medically discharged with injuries and severe osteoarthritis in both hips. After coming home to Australia Adrian underwent two years of operations and rehabilitation, and was diagnosed with anxiety, depression and PTSD.

The support of his wife Emily and two children was important, but the turning point in Adrian's recovery came in 2014 when he was selected to represent Australia in cycling and swimming at the Invictus Games in London. This led to him working with Soldier On to assist wounded and damaged veterans and their families to deal with the challenges they faced in returning to civilian life.

For the past four years he has focused on the enormous problem of homelessness in the veteran community and its causes, such as alcohol and drug addiction and the breakdown of

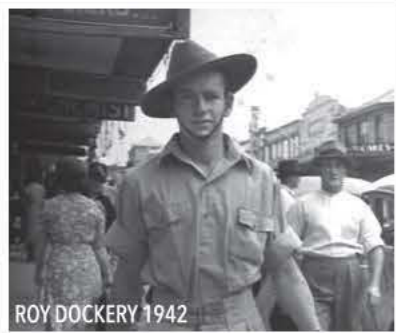


personal relationships. Homes for Heroes is the first program of its kind in Australia, making a huge difference to the lives of dozens of veterans and their families. Adrian has recently embarked on a new career as a violence prevention management consultant with the St Vincent's Hospital group.

The VP Day Service will commence at 2.00 pm on Thursday 15 August.

ROY DOCKERY

2 AUGUST 1921 - 2 JUNE 2019



ROY DOCKERY 1942

Everyone associated with the Walkway was saddened to hear of Roy Dockery's death, aged 97. Roy had been a stalwart among the ranks of our guides, giving freely of his time to talk to students and distinguished visitors alike.

Roy had enlisted in his home town of Wollongong at the age of 21 and served throughout the New Guinea campaign, primarily with the 14th Field Regiment, being discharged in May 1946 with the rank of bombardier and attached to the 1 Naval Bombardment Group. He had earlier been repatriated home with scrub typhus, and after recovering had volunteered for a second tour of duty, serving in Morotai, Tarakan and Borneo.

Apart from his late wife Jeanne and daughter Robyn, Roy's great love in life was greyhound racing, having first attended a meeting at the age of 15. Until a fall last year prevented him from attending, Roy had hardly missed a greyhound meeting at Wentworth Park since the end of WWII. His decades of service to the sport were recognised last year with the launch of the Roy Dockery Anzac Stakes.



LOVE THE MESSAGE FOR ANZAC DAY SERVICE

As many as 500 people attended the commemorative service held at the Memorial Walkway on 24 April, the eve of ANZAC Day.

Guest speaker Gary Wilson, a 20-year Army veteran and a survivor of the 2010 fatal Black Hawk crash in Afghanistan which killed three Australian commandos and one US soldier, told the gathering of his determined battle to overcome physical and mental injuries.

"What was it that pulled me back from the brink?" he asked.



JENNIFER COLLINS WITH GUEST SPEAKER GARY WILSON

"I believe it was love – the love of those around me enabling them to find hope, objectively, when there was none. From the medic in the field who saved the lives of seven Australians and three Americans, to the other Blackhawk pilots who helped to evacuate us. The doctors and nurses in the hospital who stabilised me. My boss who notified my wife, waiting patiently for the phone call that would see him need to activate a bereavement response instead. My wife who decided this would not be the end of our journey.

"Like so many before me I faced odds that were stacked against me, I faced a situation I wasn't supposed to survive - but I did. Not

unlike those men on the Kokoda Track- stories of intense struggle and survival of Australians who have faced some of the most harrowing situations that fill our history.

"What is it that drives Australians overseas time and time again to contribute to maintaining peace and stability in the world?

"I believe it is something simple and something within all of us – love – for their brothers next to them, for their young country, for their families, knowing if they laid down their lives it was a small price to pay for the safety of those they loved.

"Love transcends all wars, it is what is common among every story of loss, grief, survival and pain. The lessons that are learned in war help us to appreciate what matters and what doesn't."



NSW GOVERNOR DAVID HURLEY RECEIVES THE PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION FROM JENNIFER COLLINS

KTMW chair Jennifer Collins presented a plaque expressing gratitude to General the Hon David Hurley, for the support he has given during his term as Governor of NSW. This was the final visit to the Walkway by General Hurley before he took up his appointment as Australia's Governor-General.

1939

- A YEAR THAT HERALDED CHANGE AND SACRIFICE

When Nazi Germany invaded Poland 80 years ago this September, and Neville Chamberlain declared Britain to be at war, there was no debate in Australia about joining the conflict. Australia, said Prime Minister Robert Menzies, was an associate of the United Kingdom and he asked the British government to notify Germany accordingly.

It was only 20 years since Australia had lost 61,000 men in WWI and families were still struggling to cope with those many thousands who had returned wounded physically or mentally. There was little enthusiasm for a second war in Europe, rather a resigned acceptance that sacrifices would follow.

Australia was ill-prepared for war. There were no tanks, no

battleships, and no modern bombers or fighter aircraft. In 1939 there was no standing Army, just a permanent force of about 3000 men and another 80,000 part-time militia who had volunteered to train in the Citizen Military Forces. The Navy possessed two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, five outdated destroyers and miscellaneous small ships. The RAAF had 246 aircraft, few of which were equipped for aerial warfare.

The defence of Australia depended heavily on British sea power and "fortress Singapore", with the government relying on Britain's promise to send a fleet to Singapore if Japan were to enter the war. Although Menzies quickly announced an expeditionary force of 20,000 men it wasn't until the fall of France in June 1940 that Australians enlisted in

substantial numbers.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Sunday 7 December 1941, and Japan's rapid advance through south-east Asia, energised Australia's war effort. Rationing was introduced for essential goods and foodstuffs, taxes were increased on luxury items, petrol and tyres were hard to find and many cars were put in storage for the duration of the war. But industry and technology were booming. A nation that had not built a single car pre-war was now producing four-engined bombers.

The arrival of American troops brought cultural changes too; some 10,000 Australian women were to marry American servicemen.

Japanese bombing raids on Darwin, Broome and Townsville reinforced the sense that Australia had its back to the wall. Allied naval victories in the Coral Sea and Bismarck Sea turned the tide while our soldiers fighting in New Guinea proved that Japan's army could be defeated.

By war's end Australians had grown in confidence and pride. The nation had come of age. The men and women who had survived the privations of the Great Depression and then fought in WWII or worked in the industries that supported the war effort became known as the "Greatest Generation." Today their ranks are thinning but they can look back in amazement at the way in which Australia has been transformed in 80 years.

FOR YOUR DIARY in 2019:

VP Day Service
Thursday 15 August, 2:00pm

Kokoda Day Service
Sunday 3 November, 10.30 am

