



# eNews October 2024

## FCMM Standing Ready to Serve in Challenging Times

As the ADF reflects on the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide's report, it was timely that Everyman's had its turn to host the **Forum of Christian Ministries Military (FCMM)** meeting, in Wodonga Victoria, 5 September.

Each of the organisations represented are Christian faith based, but will serve and minister to any ADF members irrespective of their background or belief. The organisations represented this year were Everyman's, Military Christian Fellowship, Red Shield Defence Services, Focus ministries, Navigators, and Solid Rock. We also acknowledge the Bible Society of Australia who was not able to be present this year, but brings immense value to the FCMM with its expertise and resources. The Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching and Service (ACCTS) was also an apology for this year's meeting.

ADF Chaplains stand outside the FCMM, as we are an association of civilian organisations serving Defence, each ministry works alongside the ADF Chaplains on the bases where we operate. At each FCMM, one of the Director Generals of ADF Chaplaincy visits and gives a report on how Chaplaincy is currently situated. This year the DG Chaplain, Army spoke. The need for the FCMM and its associated ministries is becoming ever more acute within the ADF. He noted the fact that the FCMM organisation's complementary role to the Chaplaincy was increasingly recognised and sought after.

CCOMM Ken of Everyman's shared how each member of the FCMM is different in the welfare and support they offer to the ADF. Like the old colonial buildings made up of many river rocks all of different shapes, the FCMM together, forms a "*building*" of welfare and refuge into which any ADF members can enter. As with Chaplaincy, it is difficult for the FCMM to quantify numerically the value they hold to the ADF as our support and counsel is done confidentially person-to-person. But there is no doubt lives have been changed, even saved, because of the encouragement and strength the FCMM member organisations have given to ADF members and their families over many years.

In the wake of the Royal Commission, the FCMM stands ready to do whatever they can to assist in reaching out to any who are distressed and looking for hope. Please take the time to look into each of the ministries of the FCMM to appreciate the essential work each one does for Defence.

(An extract from a report by CCOMM Ken Matthews)



### FCMM 2024 attendees

**Back row:** Sybille Bouzanquet (*Coordinator Solid Rock Ministries*), Thomas Bielenberg (*Ministry Lead Navigators Ministry*), Pete Ritchie (*Ministry Lead Focus Military Ministry*)

**Front Row:** Brett Gallagher (*Chief Commissioner Red Shield Defence Services*), Ken Matthews (*Chief Commissioner Everyman's Welfare Service*), David Coleman (*Secretary Military Christian Fellowship Australia*) not physically present but Zoomed into the meeting, Julie Jaensch (*National Staff Worker/Administrator Military Christian Fellowship Australia*)

## Can you spare the cost of a coffee a month?

The MCF Exec know times are hard for most at present but they're asking for each MCF member and supporter to **give the cost of a coffee a month (or more if you can) to help cover the rising cost of running MCF-A**. The Exec have purchased better insurance to make sure all members and supporters are covered for events and that MCF Reps and others have proper insurance cover for running the Small Groups. ***This is good governance, but it also costs.*** As MCF already expected to run at a loss this financial year the Exec have prayerfully considered options before taking out the cover and they are asking you to prayerfully consider what you may be able to contribute to these rising costs.

**All donations over \$2 are tax deductible .**

You can [DONATE](#) here and follow the options on the middle or right of page, or direct debit into the MCF account remembering to put your name in the description/reference line.

***If all our members gave a cup of coffee a fortnight we'd meet the new budget.***

If you know about business/charity/religious insurance or would like to help the MCF Exec when looking into insurances and the like, please email [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au)

# Are you in Sth Qld or Canberra? You're invited to...

All current and former Defence members and their families are most welcome to both FREE events.



**Every UETS**  
EVERYMAN'S VETERANS LEAGUE

## Trivia Day & Lunch

Everyman's Hut  
907 Boundary rd, Wacol, Qld  
(enter via Nashos Place)

**GUEST SPEAKER: PHIL MARSHALL**  
LAMB SPIT LUNCH

**Saturday 12, October**  
FROM 10AM TO 2PM

TRIVIA STARTS AT 10.30AM  
WIN GREAT PRIZES!

TEAMS OF 5-10 | REGISTER YOUR TEAM  
WITH BEN RIDLEY 0421 913 259

Free Event

VETERANS' Health Week



Australian Government  
Department of Veterans' Affairs

# PICNIC

## VETERANS' Health Week

### IN THE PARK

Join us for an afternoon picnic, lawn games and a friendly game of cricket. Or just relax under the shade and enjoy an afternoon with family and friends.

**SATURDAY 19TH**  
**OCTOBER @2PM**  
**WESTON PARK PLAYGROUND**

<https://www.trybooking.com/CUXOL>  
coordinator@solidrockministry.org.au

Free food/activities. Limited numbers, book now!

## Final Celebration - 40 years of MCF-A – book now!

Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday



**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**, 2024 at St John's Anglican Church Reid, Canberra, 6.30pm for 7pm start. (Casual dress) **Everyone is most welcome, you don't need to be an MCF-A member to attend, so put it in your diary and book now to have a fun weekend in the Nation's Capital with your family and friends!**

*An informal evening of fun, memories and loads of fellowship. Come along and enjoy a variety of finger food (don't forget to let us know dietary requirements when booking), laugh at old photos and meet up with old friends while making new ones as we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> year of MCF-A supporting the Christian Defence community. (This will **not** be a traditional sit down Defence Christians Dinner as in past years.)*

***You may even have a chance to buy some old or limited edition memorabilia.***



Tickets (\$20 each to help cover costs): <https://www.trybooking.com/CTFCX>

*The Exec hope anyone associated with MCF over the years, from all parts of Australia, will attend.*

Questions and more info, contact [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au)

## Bookings now open – in person and online



**Monday, 4th November 2024**

**7:15 am – 8:15 am AEDT, in person or live stream**

**The Great Hall, Australian Parliament House, Canberra**

**Additional streaming at 7:15 am AWST**

Mr David Smith MP and Senator Matt O’Sullivan, co-chairs of the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship, would like to extend a warm welcome for you to join the 35th Australian National Prayer Breakfast. Everyone is welcome!

Leaders from across the political spectrum, of different faiths or none, come together over breakfast as we pray for God’s blessing on all who serve our great country.

We will hear from national dignitaries, Members of Parliament, Senators and other civic leaders, as well as our guest speaker, Priyan (Max) Jeganathan. In a miraculous escape, Max and his family fled Sri Lanka’s civil war and arrived in Australia as refugees in the 1980s. Going on to work as a lawyer, policy adviser, speaker and writer, his journey reflects the transformative beauty of enduring faith, amazing grace and an Australian ‘fair go.’ We are also delighted that the [Sons of Korah](#) will be joining us with their unique musical interpretation of the Psalms (use the booking link below to see further opportunities in Canberra with the Sons of Korah and Psalms as Performance).

This important annual event will be live-streamed from The Great Hall at Parliament House, enabling households, schools, churches, and workplaces to join us as we pray for Australia and its leaders.

Book Now: [Australian National Prayer Breakfast](#)

## Another reason to celebrate, give praise and prayer



On the 20 September 2024 PTE Palmer of 7 RAR was Baptised at Grange Beach by the 7 RAR Chaplain.

He was supported by members of MCF, members of his unit, Army Chaplains and an EWS Representative.

Congratulations PTE Palmer, may you go from strength to strength as you grow in Christ. Please remember him in prayer, and all who are considering baptism, or are newly baptised. Praise be to God!



## ACCTS Day of Prayer for Military Ministries

**October 5th is the annual Day of Prayer and Praise!**

Please join military and civilian Christians worldwide on 5 October to pray for the needs of international military ministry! ACCTS' October newsletter is the Day of Prayer bulletin, containing prayer items from around the globe. Click [here](#) to read it! (or [here](#) and click link on the Prayer photo)

## Save the Date – MCF AGM

**The MCF-A AGM will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in the evening via zoom.**

**More details will be emailed to members closer to the date.**

If you are an associate member or a supporter you are welcome to join the meeting but won't have voting rights. Please contact [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au) to be included in member mail-outs.

## In case you missed it

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September a service to commemorate **25 years** since the start of Australia's deployments to **Timor Leste** (East Timor) was held in Canberra. You can watch a replay of this event on ABC's iView. Please remember in prayer all who have died or been affected by service there and in all other aspects of service in Defence, along with their family members and friends.

Also, RAAF was involved in the recent **visit to PNG by the Pope**. You can read about in the RAAF Service Newspaper - [26 September 2024 \(defence.gov.au\)](#)

Helping to keep those in the **Solomon Islands safe**. You can read about it in the Army Service Newspaper - [September 26 2024 \(defence.gov.au\)](#)

# MCF-A Velcro Patch



The MCF Office has a limited number of **NEW arm patches** available for purchase as a trial. If you'd like to order a patch please use the email below to be sent a purchase form.

*They look great on a cammo cap!*



Please contact: [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au) if you have any questions.

## Other items

**Have you posted or moved house? Are you deploying or away from home for a few months or longer?**

Posted or moved, please update your details [HERE](#)

Deploying or on a long exercise? MCF-A would love to support and pray for you while you're away. Let us know at: [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au)

## Membership

[Membership](#) is free and **open to every Christian**. If you've not had an association with Defence or you don't identify as Christian you can be an associate member via the same link.

## Donations

**MCF is supported almost entirely through freewill donations by members and supporters.** Please look at Supporting MCF in prayer, with your time, and through [financial support](#). (Direct debit preferred – details at right side of the webpage link) ***Note that donations (over \$2) to MCF-A are tax deductible.***

## Prayer requests

To put forward prayer points for inclusion in the calendar please email the MCF Prayer Coordinator Dr Daniel Solomon: [skspjs@aol.com](mailto:skspjs@aol.com)

You can also send through **urgent prayer points** that are sent on confidentially to the MCF Prayer Warriors, or to enquire about becoming an MCF Prayer Warrior, contact the MCF Office or Daniel.

## Contacting the MCF Office

**PHONE:** 02 6132 7845

**EMAIL:** [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au) You can also find us on Facebook and ForceNet.