



# eNews March 2026

## A word of encouragement from the MCF-A Chair

### Shanah – Change

Once again there is change and turmoil in the world, March is a time of seasonal change from Summer to Autumn or Winter to Spring depending on where you are. Change can be difficult and fearful particularly when it is socio-political change of which there has been much happening over the last few months in the world.

The Hebrew word for change is *shanah*. The prophet Malachi wrote “I am the Lord and I do not change (*shanah*).” when writing of God. It is important with all the change in the world, and around us to remember that God has always been the same – He is an unchanging foundation or rock for us the stand, sit or cling to.

If you are stressed by the changing and war happening in the Middle East, Europe or drums of war from China, throw your cares upon Jesus and cling to Him the true unchanging foundation of our Faith and the Light of the world, take your concerns to Him in prayer.



Godspeed

Steve Neuhaus - MCF Chair.

## Shalom – what does that really mean?

The standard format for an ancient letter was an opening, a body, and a closing. Roman rhetoricians added variety, but even their letters followed consistent patterns. Paul builds on this tradition, drawing on the Greek “greetings” (*chairein*) and the Jewish blessing “Peace to you” (John 20:19), forming his distinctive “Grace (charis) and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph 1:2, Phil 1:2).



The word translated “peace” is εἰρήνη (pronounced ay-RAY-nay), the Greek term used to convey the rich Hebrew idea of *shalom*. Paul uses it in *every single greeting*. Is this simply because *shalom* was a standard Jewish greeting? Perhaps, but I think there’s more to it. Paul is passing on what Jesus, the prince of peace himself, established as our inheritance in John 14:27: “*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*”

Jesus is the ultimate *Shalom*-maker, and He calls us to reflect his same restorative work: “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*” (Mat 5:9). But biblical peace is not merely the absence of conflict. *Shalom* reflects wholeness, completeness, safety, and restoration. It implies healing and right relationship with God, even in the midst of tribulation and persecution (John 16:31-33). *Shalom* is far more than calm circumstances.

So what does this mean for us? Avoiding people who frustrate you might feel peaceful, but it is not shalom. Removing those who disagree with you may create quiet, but not unity. A community where everyone thinks the same may appear peaceful, but that is not the same as shalom. Uniformity is not the same as unity. Let us not confuse the two.

Paul writes in Philippians 2:1–4 that if we are united with Christ, comforted by his love, and sharing in his Spirit, then we are to be “like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.” We must look to others interests above our own, with humility, tenderness and compassion. Paul is not calling us to agree on everything, but to unite around what truly matters: to recognise the same Spirit and love of Christ which binds all of us together. God’s spirit may bear good fruit in some people against our better judgment, perhaps—but not God’s! Beware attributing to Satan what belongs to God’s Spirit (Matthew 12:31).

So here is my proposal. Discerning what matters most is not something we get to invent. We look to the priorities of the New Testament: to know nothing “except Jesus Christ and him crucified,” to come “in weakness with great fear and trembling,” and to rely not on “wise and persuasive words,” but on the Spirit’s power (1 Cor 2:2–5).



My prayer is that we would anchor our unity in what Scripture makes clear, explicit, and consistently emphasises. From that shared foundation, we can have honest, encouraging conversations about what is less clear, learning together from the Scriptures and growing together in our knowledge of the God who made us and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus calls us to more than conflict-avoidance or uniformity. God’s way is restoration. Christians have historically struggled to get along — and given the eternal stakes, that’s understandable — yet we are still called to pursue shalom. For blessed are the shalom-makers; they will be called children of God.

In Christ,

Robbo – MCF Member Rep

## MCF-A Welcome Events and Stalls

A huge thanks to the MCF Reps and other volunteers who’ve held MCF-A Welcome Events, or hosted a stall at DMFS Welcome Days and other events of late. It’s great to spread the word about MCF-A, and meet Christians and others at these events. Many stall holders have had a chance to get to know some ADF Chaplains and other Christian Military Ministries better too. Keep an eye out for an MCF-A stall or Welcome Event near you or organise a National Day of Prayer for Defence event near you to get to know Defence Christians and Veterans and their families in your area! Here’s a selection from what’s been sent in.



MCF-A amongst other stalls at the DMFS Welcome Event Victoria/Melbourne



MCF-A Welcome event at HMAS Albatross



All ready for the Top End DMFS Welcome Day



Victoria Barracks Melbourne Welcome Event



RSL Life Care Community Day – Navy Cadet Bear



RSL Life Care Queanbeyan NSW/ACT – thanked all the Services



MCF Secretary David manning the MCF/Army Chaplaincy stall



Solid Rock Family Picnic and Welcome Day in Canberra where MCF had a table and met many great Defence families

## New MCF-A Small Groups

**MCF-A is excited to announce some new or re-vamped MCF-A Small Groups for the start of 2026.**

If you're not sure if there is a group near you, you can email [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au) Also contact the MCF Office if you'd like help starting a Small Group in your area or at your workplace.

**Brindabella Park (ACT):** Expression of interest (EOI) sought.

**DSTG Edinburgh (Sth Aust):** *Visitors welcome!*

**HMAS Harman (ACT):** *Everyone welcome*

**HQJOC (NSW):** EOI sought.

**Larrakeyah Bible Study (NT) –** *All nations (all ranks/services) welcome.*

**Lavarack Barracks (Nth QLD):** *All welcome*

**Majura Park (ACT):** EOI sought.

**Perth Area (WA):** Anyone wanting to meet up from the wider Perth area, the **HMAS Stirling** group are looking to do this at a central location for people at **RAAF Pearce, all Perth Bases, and other areas** to join together for fellowship.

**Puckapunyal (VIC):** EOI sought.

**RAAF Amberley (Sth QLD):** Fortnightly on Thursdays

**RAAF Richmond (NSW):** EOI sought.

**Veteran's Hub Australia (Sth QLD):** For **Veterans and those in Defence**, see info below in Other Items.

# Save the Date – National Day of Prayer for Defence

This year's National Day of Prayer for Defence has been scheduled on or around  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**



MCF-A Small Groups, Church's, Bible Study groups, schools, and others are encouraged to host a prayer event, or pray for Defence in their group around this time. More information will be available via the April MCF eNews or keep an eye on the MCF-A website for up to date info – booklet added by mid-March, promo video available already. <https://mcf-a.org.au>

Please email [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au) for more information, or to request a copy of the prayer booklet as soon as available.

***Please also remember to use the attached Prayer Calendar each month.***

*Each week's prayers are also posted on the MCF-A Facebook page each Sunday night, along with other items that may be of interest posted throughout the week.*

## Friend of MCF-A is new CEO at Bible Society Australia



***MCF-A Exec and Council are excited about the following announcement. We have worked very closely with Chris for over 10 years developing Christian Defence material and having it supplied 'free of charge' to those in defence through the generous Bible Society donors. We look forward to working with Chris in his new role and congratulate him on this well-deserved appointment. Please continue to pray and give thanks for Chris and the BSA team.***

**The Board of Bible Society Australia (BSA) has appointed Chris Melville as our new Chief Executive Officer.**

You may know Chris through his years of service as our Chief of Mission. Over the past six months he has also been serving as Interim CEO, and the whole BSA team has benefitted from his steady, thoughtful leadership during this time. Chris' deep passion for BSA, his wealth of experience, and his supportive, attuned and collaborative way of working has enabled him to strengthen our team and advance our mission over the last half a year.

### **About Chris**

Chris has served with Bible Society Australia for 21 years, most recently overseeing our mission work across Australia and around the world as Chief of Missions. His deep commitment to opening the Bible with all people — and the strong relationships he has built with mission partners like you — has shaped BSA's ministry in meaningful ways. We're grateful for the wisdom, humility, and vision he brings to this role.

### **Looking ahead**

We're excited for this new season. We trust God's faithfulness, and we look forward to continuing the work we share with you — partnering so that people everywhere can access and engage with God's Word in the language and format they need.

### **Thank you**

Your friendship, prayer, and partnership mean a great deal to us. As Chris steps into this role, we'd be grateful for your continued prayers, for wisdom, strength, and a Spirit-led vision for the years ahead.

Thank you for journeying with us in this mission.

With warm regards,

**Andrew Wiseman**

Chair, Bible Society Australia Board

# 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.*** MCF-A doesn't get funding from Defence as almost all of its funding comes from members and supporter donations.

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

You can [DONATE](#) here and follow the options on the page, or below the big green button if you'd rather direct debit into the MCF account ***remembering to put your name in the description/reference line.***

No donation is too small, and you can do regular or one off donations.

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

## Other items

### Veterans Hub Australia – Sth East QLD

Veterans Hub Australia came to fruition after asking God what I should do to honour Him. I was at the time doing defence advocate work, volunteering, and after 18months of "being still and wait upon the Lord", I (sorry, we) built ***a purpose built facility for veterans.*** Constant disappointment with RSL, meant a lot of veterans were being overlooked and ignored. ***Veterans Hub is run by veterans for veterans.*** There are a number of buildings; museum/ veterans mess, recreation room, metal workshops, timber workshop, kitchen, cenotaph, Q store, and a 737-800 flight simulator. We have a toilet block that's just been completed. We are open 1300hrs to 2100hrs on Fridays, with other days by appointment. ***Open to current and ex service personnel.*** We are now on Facebook for further information and anyone who wants to join. ***I would love to allocate a night for MCF for fellowship, prayer groups or bible studies.***

Phillip Bond - Defence Advocate

***If you're in Defence or a Veteran and are holidaying in the area, you're also welcome to visit.***

*(If you'd like to help Phil get an MCF Small Group up and running at the Hub, please contact Phil directly via details on the flyer below, or via the MCF Office.)*

***Please spread the word about this amazing facility and let's get an MCF group started here!***



# VETERANS HUB AUSTRALIA

SOUTH BRISBANE



## RUN BY VETERANS FOR VETERANS

- ✓ Veterans Mess
- ✓ Flight Simulator
- ✓ Military Museum
- ✓ Metal Workshop
- ✓ Woodworking Workshop
- ✓ Veterans Recreation Room
- ✓ Kitchen with Barista Coffee Machine

Make new  
Friends  
Learn new  
Skills  
in a Safe  
Space

### A PLACE FOR ALL SERVICE PERSONNEL AND VETERANS TO MEET

We meet every Friday for Company, Conversation and a Cuppa.

#### Where

Logan Village, QLD

#### What to bring

Yourself, Good Service Values and a small contribution for refreshments



Find us on:  
**facebook**

#### When

Each Friday from  
1300-2100hrs

#### What Else

We have a Defence Advocate for DVA Claims (VEA, MRCA, DRCA)

Contact Us: Ph. 0411 957 952 ( Phil )  
email: [veteranshubaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:veteranshubaustralia@gmail.com)

ABN 24 266 703 686

# Kookaburra Kids – support & volunteering

## Supporting Defence Kids with the Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation



The Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation (AKKF) is proud to partner with the Department of Veterans' Affairs to support the unique needs of young people aged 8–18 from **current and ex-serving Defence families**. Our free programs—delivered through camps, activity days, and online Connect sessions—combine mental health education with plenty of fun.

We focus on building connection and resilience by bringing together young people who share the lived experience of growing up in a Defence family. Through our programs, participants gain valuable tools for managing big emotions, seeking help, and supporting their wellbeing, all while enjoying exciting and age-appropriate adventures.

Kookaburra Kids are Australia wide and would love for **ADF members to volunteer** to help out and mentor kids through their programs. If you're at a loose end on weekends and love adventure and helping out, why not get in touch with your local Kookaburra Kids and help Defence families be the best they can be.

For more info and programs and volunteering: [Kookaburra Kids](#)

*MCF thank Kookaburra Kids for supporting MCF-A in various ways in the Canberra region.*

## 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 below the big green DONATE button on 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](#) or the MCF Office. 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.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter please contact: [mcf.office@defence.gov.au](mailto:mcf.office@defence.gov.au)