

communiqué

AUTUMN ISSUE | NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2021



**CEO
MESSAGE**



**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY**

Stacey's Story



ANN ROACH

30 Year Staff Anniversary



**MRA CHARITY
IN PROFILE**

Soldier On



Welcome to the April issue of Communiqué!

“ANZAC Day is almost upon us and we will remember all those servicemen and servicewomen who served and died and the contribution and suffering of all those who have served.”

Lest we forget.

A whole year has passed since COVID-19 disrupted us all in our day to day lives. This also impacted on how we acknowledged and paid tribute during Anzac Day in a very different way.

Over the past year, Defence personnel were tasked with operation COVID-19 ASSIST, and we thank all of those Defence personnel for your support and service during this difficult year.

We have continued to support the Defence community over this past year and through the Military Rewards Account have continued to assist our Charity Partners. Since account inception, over \$230,000 has been donated to our charity partners Soldier On, Mates4Mates, RSL DefenceCare and Legacy Australia.

In this issue we highlight the success of Soldier On's campaign – 'March On'. This campaign is supporting raising money through sponsorship to walk 96km as individuals or in teams, in the month of March. 96km is the length of the Kokoda Trail, the track that was the location for the 1942 World War II campaign. Many of our staff have taken part in fundraising for the challenge and have raised over \$14,500 for our charity partner.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our appreciation to our members for their continuous support of Australian Military Bank.

John Brooks
Chair

CEO Message

I would just like to start off by saying how proud I am of the Bank in dealing with everything that has come our way since I joined 12 months ago. The last 12 months have been challenging to say the least and we have put our members in the centre of all that we do throughout these trying times.

Throughout the past 12 months we have continued to build for the future with member services and since expanding our service offering with the launch of digital wallets*, our members can pay using mobile phones and smartwatches. Our members have used Apple Pay, Google Pay, Samsung Pay, Fitbit Pay and Garmin Pay over 100,000 times since they have been released.

We have also continued our focus on home ownership for the Defence community and their families, supporting the launch of the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme~ and the extension of DHOAS to eligible servicepeople that have retired in the last five years. Our Personal Banker Kate Ellis had recently received wonderful feedback from members Jessica and Aaron Hanley (pictured with their family) on helping them purchase their new home. We would like to offer our congratulations to them, and we are so honoured that they chose us to help them fulfil their family dream.

Yours Sincerely,
Darlene Mattiske-Wood



Jessica and Aaron Hanley's family with their new home.

International Women's Day: Stacey

"We have a proud family history of serving in the Military. My Great Uncles fought in the Battle of Fromelles on the Western Front during the First World War. Over 5,500 Australians lost their lives. Only one of my Uncles returned, it was incredible bravery and dedication to our country. I remember the inspiration it gave me to enlist.

I was immature and reckless (wild child) and lacked direction and structure in my life. The Army provided an opportunity where I could choose to challenge the gender stereotypes and break away from the traditional roles of what was expected from a private school girl in the 80s.

The lessons that have come from my time in service have been many. I feel it has really moulded me as a person. It's given me the strength and character that I take into every aspect of my life today. It's given me understanding of what can be taken for granted, especially in light of the sacrifices that others have made to mould our freedoms.

I became a member of Australian Military Bank (back then ADCU) when I first joined the service. I had my very first credit card as an 18-year-old and now with over 28 years as a member!

The highlight of my military career was being awarded the Soldier's Medallion for Exemplary Service. It has allowed my focus to be aligned to what is really important; particularly respect for others and an understanding of what our service men and women do, and the sacrifices they make each day.

When I saw the role at AMB for Member Service Centre Manager I jumped at the opportunity to assist members, some who have a military background like myself. Speaking to our members every day allows me to understand their perspective from my time being in the service, as service wife and as a civilian."



Stacey



Stacey's uncle Valentine



Stacey's uncle Francis



Happy 30th AMB Anniversary Ann!

We would like to congratulate our staff member Ann Roach on her 30 year milestone with Australian Military Bank.

Having joined AMB (at the time known as ADCU) in 1991 as a part time teller, Ann progressed through the organisation successfully fulfilling roles as our Sydney Regional Manager and now as our RSL Partnership Manager. Our thanks and congratulations to Ann for her wonderful service to our members and our Bank.



Ann with our CEO, Darlene.

Military Rewards Charity in Profile: Soldier On



Soldier On had their March On campaign last month in which we were proud to have many staff participate in. Our staff were challenged to walk the length of the Kokoda Trail (96kms) during the month of March, raising over \$14,500 for veterans and their families.

One of the many worthy veterans that Soldier On supports, with funds raised from the March On campaign is, Jason who had a 4-year career in the Australian Army starting at the age of 17. Jason had his career in the Army come to an end as he was medically discharged from service.

Post service, Jason worked in several sectors while he searched for his true career purpose. It was then that Jason reached out to Soldier On. Soldier On provides veterans and family members with practical career and job search assistance. From updating resumes, upskilling, and interview preparation, the Pathways team help enable veterans and family members to find and secure meaningful future employment opportunities.

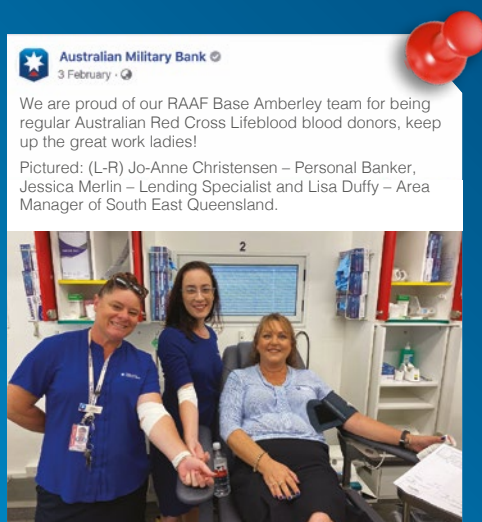
Jason is now a member of the Soldier On Pathways team in a role which will help enable other veterans and their families to secure their future careers. "Through the guidance of the Soldier On Pathways team, I found that my passion actually lies with helping other people in the same position as me," Jason said.

To donate or find out more information about Soldier On and the great work they do please visit, soldieron.org.au.



Jason proud to be working at Soldier On, in their Pathways Program.

Supporting the Defence Community



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*Read our Terms and Conditions for Digital Wallets, before making a decision and consider if it is right for you. Available for eligible cards.
The First Home Loan Deposit Scheme is only available for eligible applicants. For more information please visit, rhlfc.gov.au/what-we-do/first-home-loan-deposit-scheme.
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