

WELCOME TO **AMBERLEY**



ANNUAL GUIDE 2026

RAAF BASE AMBERLEY, IPSWICH & SURROUNDING REGION

ABOUT THE BASE

History, operational units
and community

FAMILY ESSENTIALS

Services, housing, health
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Army Reserve soldiers from 41st Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment board a RAAF KC-30A aircraft at RAAF Base Amberley to deploy to northern Western Australia as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025. PHOTO: Private Hamid Farahani.

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PHOTO: Tourism & Events Queensland



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WELCOME TO AMBERLEY



**WING COMMANDER
TANYA EVANS**
Senior ADF Officer (SADFO)
RAAF Base Amberley

WELCOME TO ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE AMBERLEY.

As the Senior Australian Defence Force Officer at Amberley, I have the privilege to represent our Defence people and their families in the wider South-East Queensland community and to concurrently ensure our base is ready to support the range of operational, training and industry capabilities that call Amberley home.

To begin, I want to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which RAAF Base Amberley lies; the Yuggera and the Ugarapul People. Further to the south where we operate the Evans Head Air Weapons Range is Bandjalang country. I pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging and I'm genuinely grateful for the warm relationship we enjoy with the Elders of these communities.

If you're new to RAAF Amberley or South East Queensland then, welcome. I really hope you (and your family) enjoy your time here. This Air Force base, RAAF Amberley, is our largest operational air base. Large in geographical area, but also incredibly diverse in the roles it supports. There is a range of Air Mobility and Air Combat aircraft stationed here, as well as the engineering and logistics enterprises that support them; a noteworthy Army footprint; along with

a significant number of Combat Support Group capabilities; industry and contractor operations; logistics, training and, importantly, myriad services that support the welfare and wellbeing of our people. There's a lot going on at RAAF Base Amberley! All these different components combine to deliver airpower and joint capabilities to support Australia's national interests.

Construction on RAAF Station Amberley began in 1939, with Station Headquarters Amberley forming on 17 June 1940. The base continues to grow in size and in the range of tasks it performs. For those interested in the history and evolution of the base, there's an article on pages 6-7 of this publication, or take a look at the storyboard at the Astra Centre (the main conference facility on the base) and you'll be able to better understand how the base has changed over its proud history. For the future, we've mapped out an Estate Base Plan which will deliver the right balance of operational and support infrastructure while concurrently meeting expectations for how we protect our people, our assets, our environment and the communities in which we live.

Again, welcome.

• Please note, there will be a change of command with a new SADFO appointed for RAAF Base Amberley in 2026.



WELCOME TO COUNTRY

The Traditional custodians of this land, the Yuggera and Ugarapul people, welcome you to RAAF Base Amberley.

← Members of the Yuggera Dance Group conduct a smoking ceremony during the unveiling of RAAF Base Amberley's 85th Anniversary plaque in June 2025.



TERESA HARDING
Mayor, City of Ipswich

WELCOME TO IPSWICH, one of the most liveable and fastest growing cities in Queensland. From beautiful parks and natural areas to world-class heritage sites and exciting entertainment options, Ipswich has it all.

You have chosen the perfect time to call Ipswich home – our city is thriving. Our population has recently surpassed 265,000 and it remains on track to grow to more than 500,000 by 2046.

The city's economy is also strong, defying state and national trends with more jobs than ever.

Ipswich is a proud garrison city whose past, present and future is entwined with the Defence sector.

We are proud of the contributions RAAF Base Amberley and its personnel make not only to our nation's security but also our local community through involvement in community and sporting groups.

I encourage you to join our local community, you will be warmly welcomed.

My personal link to Defence is strong. I served in the Army and worked in the APS in Defence, my husband completed almost 35 years of service in the RAAF, our son is a serving member of the RAAF, and our other son has also served in the Army.

On behalf of Ipswich City Council, I welcome you to Ipswich and I hope you enjoy your posting at RAAF Base Amberley and living in Ipswich.



WENDY BOURNE
Member for Ipswich West

AS YOUR LOCAL State Member of Parliament, and proud representative for this region, I warmly welcome you to Amberley—home to one of Australia's most vital defence installations, RAAF Base Amberley.

This area has a proud history of service and community spirit. The men and women stationed here, past and present, have contributed not only to our national security, but also to the heart of our local identity. Your presence here continues that legacy, and we're honoured to have you as part of our community.

Amberley and its surrounds offer more than just a base of operations—they offer a place to live, connect, and belong.

Thank you for your service, your commitment, and the sacrifices you and your families make. Please know that you are deeply valued—by our community, by your country, and by those of us in public service who work to support you.

Whether you're newly posted or a long-time resident, you'll find a warm welcome and a strong support network. If you ever need assistance with any state government matter, my office is here to help. Please feel free to call us on (07) 3447 3100 or email ipswich.west@parliament.qld.gov.au



SHAYNE NEUMANN
Federal Member for Blair

WELCOME TO THE federal electorate of Blair, covering most of the Ipswich region, the Somerset region and the Karana Downs area.

Ipswich is my hometown, as well as home to the RAAF Base Amberley. I am proud to represent local ADF personnel, veterans and their families. I understand the sacrifices you make, and I thank you for your service to this nation.

I am here to help and provide information and support. Please contact me if I can make your time in the Ipswich region even better. Contact my office on 07 3201 5300 or follow me on Facebook and Twitter. I look forward to hearing from you and meeting as many of you in the community.



↑ RAAF Base Amberley flight line and hard stand.

AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST RAAF BASE

Since opening in 1940, RAAF Base Amberley has developed into a 'super base' with an increasingly diverse defence role.

RAAF BASE AMBERLEY is Air Force's largest base, employing approximately 6,000 military personnel, Commonwealth public servants and defence aviation contractors. Located in the Ipswich local government area, 8km south-west of the Ipswich CBD and 50km west of Brisbane, Queensland, the base incorporates approximately 2,500 hectares adjacent to the suburbs of Leichhardt and Wulkuraka to the east, Walloon to the northwest, Yamanto to the southeast and Karrabin to the northeast.

The site includes the Main Operating Area on Ipswich Amberley Road and Attached

Property 2 on Haigslea Amberley Road. The base also incorporates the adjacent Hansen's Farm Conservation Area, Pascoe's Farm, Purga Small Arms Range and five buffer zones (varying in size). The management of RAAF Base Amberley also includes the co-management of the Evans Head Air Weapons Range with NSW Parks and Wildlife.

Prior to European settlement, the RAAF Base Amberley site and surrounding area were home to the Yuggera and Ugarapul clans.

The present-day RAAF Base Amberley provides permanent facilities for five military aircraft types: F/A-18F Super Hornet, EA-18G Growler, C-17A Globemaster III, KC-30A Multi-

Role Tanker Transport and C-27J Spartan.

The base also accommodates a range of joint capabilities, including RAAF Force Element Groups, Army units, Defence organisations, Australian Air Force Cadets, aerospace companies, retail outlets, base support contractors and the RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre.

HISTORY

Commencing in 1939, construction of RAAF Station Amberley was described as one of the largest projects undertaken in Queensland at that time. The Station Headquarters was formed on 17 June 1940 and air operations began soon after.

The first aircraft at the Station Headquarters was the Moth Minor No.A21-26, followed shortly by four CAC Wirraway aircraft. By the end of 1940, there were 54 aircraft based at Amberley. Over the next two years, the base was transformed into a centre of excellence for the assembly, maintenance and salvage of aircraft, which was the primary focus of the base during World War II.



↑ A parade at RAAF Base Amberley circa 1965.

While essential infrastructure works continued in order to support the assembling of aircraft for the United States Army Air Force and south-western Pacific operations, Amberley became part of a quiet revolution, with the RAAF leading the way in introducing women to the Defence workforce. By the end of WWII, the RAAF was the fourth largest air force in the world and RAAF Base Amberley had accommodated the CAC Wirraway, Lockheed Hudson, Martin B-26 Marauder, Curtiss P-40 Kittyhawk, Vultee A-31 Vengeance, Bell P-39 Airacobra, Republic P-43 Lancer and Boston Bombers, as well as Spitfires and B-24J Liberators.

In 1948, a Lincoln A73-11 crashed in the north-east corner of the airfield, bursting into flames on impact and killing all 16 service personnel on board.

Three years later, the first bomber in RAAF service to be fitted with ejection seats, the GAF Canberra Mk 20, arrived at the base, remaining in service, first as a bomber and then in target towing and photo reconnaissance roles, until 1982.

Prior to the Canberra bomber reaching the end of its service life and the eventual arrival of the much-awaited F-111C, the Australian Government accepted an offer from the United States Government to lease 24 McDonnell-Douglas F-4 Phantoms as a stopgap measure from 1970 to 1973. Sadly, only 23 of the 24 Phantoms were returned to the US as one was lost at sea with both crew members following an exercise at the Evans Head Air Weapons Range on the NSW Far North Coast.

In June 1973, the first six F-111C aircraft arrived at Amberley. This was followed a few months later with the formation of No.12 Squadron comprising CH-47 Chinook helicopters.



↑ A CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopter over RAAF Base Amberley.



← A GAF Canberra Bomber viewed from the tower at the base. BELOW: The arrival of the F-111 circa June 1973.



↓ Aerial view of RAAF Base Amberley circa 1940s.



The transfer of the battlefield helicopters from the RAAF to the Army in 1989 provided the opportunity for further expansion of aircraft capability on the base and three years later, 10 Caribou aircraft were relocated to Amberley.

The 1990s also saw the parade ground, which had been the heart of the base since the 1940s, converted to a car park and a new entrance gate installed, complete with a memorial garden and a static Canberra Bomber A84-201 that was the first Australian built GAF Canberra. It also came second in the 1953 London to Christchurch Air Race.

In 2000, redevelopment works commenced with the relocation of Combat Support Group (CSG) from Glenbrook, NSW, and new headquarters for No.82 Wing, while the base also hosted several operational combat support units and security and fire training capabilities.

Development of the 'super base' continued over the subsequent years, including the construction and refurbishment of accommodation, airfield upgrades, combined mess, gym, military working dog facilities, security and fire training and the Headquarters CSG building.

In 2010, after 37 years of service, the F-111 was retired, with two remaining on display, one at the main entrance to the base and the other at the RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre.

Throughout its life, RAAF Base Amberley has hosted elements of the Australian Army. From 1960 to 1973, it was home to Army Aviation and since 2006 has supported a variety of Army and joint force units.

In 2015, the Joint Logistics Facility was opened on a 22 hectare site in the centre of the base.

Today, RAAF Base Amberley plays a more diverse Defence role than ever before.

COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP



FORMED IN 1998, COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (CSG) is the largest force element group (FEG) in the RAAF with more than 5,600 full-time and reserve personnel from 56 different musters and specialisations.

CSG personnel are employed in Headquarters CSG, Combat Support Division and across 27 squadrons in No.95 Wing, No.96 Wing and Health Services Wing.

As Air Force's most diverse FEG, CSG's motto is *Project and Protect*, which it achieves through the force projection of air power from airbases within Australia and globally as part of the

joint force. CSG provides airbase operations and aerospace health capabilities, with CSG's airbases producing agile and integrated outcomes, regardless of the task.

Headquarters CSG provides the collective aim point for Australia's airbase network, providing the lead for CSG wings and units. Headquarters CSG affirms FEG preparedness for the joint force through dedicated personnel capability, force generation, capability management and development elements. CSG's logistics capability and airbase airworthiness is underpinned by the headquarter's safety assurance, logistics and engineering capability cells.



NO.295 SQUADRON

No.295 Squadron is CSG's training unit. The squadron was formed in 2014 from elements of the 395 Expeditionary Combat Support Wing to serve as a central training element within CSG.

The squadron facilitates the force generation of CSG units through two main lines of effort. Firstly, through conducting individual training for airbase, aviation safety and baseline combat

skills. Secondly, by facilitating mounting, force preparation course, and mission specific training activities. Both of which support the preparation of CSG Task Elements for exercises and operations.

COMBAT SUPPORT COORDINATION CENTRE

Combat Support Coordination Centre (CSCC) conducts FEG-level tactical planning for employment of CSG capabilities during exercises and operations. CSCC is a component of Combat Support Division (CSD), an operational-level division within the Air Operations Centre at Bungendore. CSCC and CSD promote effective employment of CSG force elements throughout activity planning and execution. CSCC is a critical link to consolidate a broad range of CSG capabilities for projection of air power domestically, regionally and globally.



HEADQUARTERS NO.95 WING

The wing's origins can be traced back to Headquarters Operational Support Wing in Townsville in 1991. It was reorganised as No.395 Expeditionary Combat Support Wing

in 1999, moved to Amberley in 2008 and more recently was renamed to Headquarters 95 Wing in January 2014.

While the headquarters resides at RAAF Base Amberley, 95 Wing is responsible for a number of Air Force's airbases and specialist units across Australia. This includes a headquarters element, five airbase operations squadrons across seven airbases, two contingency response squadrons, No.2 Security Forces Squadron and No.65 Airbase Recovery Squadron.

Headquarters No.95 Wing is responsible for providing airbase operational capabilities and the planning and execution of exercises and operational activities. It strives to deliver agile, short-notice, combat support effects to help generate and sustain air power across the national airbase network and deployed locations in single service and joint coalition environments.



PHOTO: CPL Andrew Sleeman

← A RAAF aviator from No.2 Security Forces Squadron prepares to defend RAAF Base Curtin in northern Western Australia during Exercise Austral Shield.



↑ **United States Air Force 36 Contingency Response Squadron Team Chief plans air base operations with RAAF No.382 Squadron Air Base Operations Centre Team Lead during Exercise Talisman Sabre 25 at RAAF Base Curtin.**



NO.2 SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

Providing close combat and specialised reaction force capabilities, 2 Security Forces (2SECFOR) Squadron plays a pivotal role in protecting Air Force personnel and assets, to project air and space

power as part of the integrated force.

The squadron originated with the creation of a Defence Pool in the Netherlands East Indies towards the end of 1944. Defence Pool's role was to provide close protection of RAAF installations under the command of the First Tactical Air Force. From this start, 2SECFOR has built a distinguished heritage of battle honours and contributions to operations; from World War II, on Morotai Island, Malaysia, Brunei, Borneo, Indonesia and the Philippines, through deployment in the Vietnam War, then to East Timor in 2000 (receiving a unit meritorious citation). Recent operations include Sumatra, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

As a specialised close combat unit, 2SECFOR is equipped with armoured Bushmaster and Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicles and Ultra-Light Tactical All-Terrain Vehicles to enhance air base mobility capabilities.

The squadron continues in the proud traditions of its past while continuously evolving to be ready and meet emerging threat challenges. It employs a mix of close combatant and protective security experts trained to operate in high threat environments.

It provides the Air Force with agile security and

combat options throughout the threat spectrum. 2SECFOR is ready to protect air operations against any adversary, anytime, at any airfield.



NO.382 SQUADRON

382 Combat Support Squadron was formed in February 1999 and renamed No.382 Squadron (382SQN) in 2013. It is one of three Air Force Contingency Response Squadrons. The squadron provides Air Force

with the ability to project air power from airbases within Australia and globally where there is no permanent airbase footprint. 382SQN thrives in the provision of agile, rapid, responsive and effective air power projection at short notice.

The squadron maintains a readiness that allows for deployment where needed in a very short time frame. While the squadron is responsive globally, it has the capacity to also provide Defence assistance to the civil community in response to civil disasters.



HEADQUARTERS NO.96 WING

Originally established in November 2000 as 396 Combat Support Wing in Darwin, the wing was renamed Headquarters 96 Wing and relocated to RAAF Base Amberley in January 2014. While the

headquarters resides at RAAF Base Amberley, 96 Wing is responsible for a number of Air Force's

airbases and specialist units across Australia. This includes a headquarters element, seven airbase operations squadrons across eight airbases, one contingency response squadron, No.1 Security Forces Squadron and No. 1 Combat Communications Squadron. Headquarters 96 Wing is responsible for providing airbase operational capabilities and the planning and execution of exercises and operational activities. It strives to deliver agile, short-notice, combat support effects to help generate and sustain air power across the national airbase network and deployed locations in single service and joint coalition environments.



NO.1 COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

Originally formed in September 1965 as the Air Transportable Telecommunications Unit before being renamed in July 1999, No.1 Combat Communications Squadron

(1CCS) provides communications and information systems in domestic and deployed environments. From humble beginnings with 12 members, 1CCS has grown to over 350 personnel and can support communications and information systems from established Air Force bases to very remote locations anywhere in the world. They are often required to provide tactical field and temporary communications support during disaster relief operations, both in Australia and overseas.

With a headquarters at RAAF Base Amberley, 1CCS also has three flights situated at RAAF bases Amberley, Williamtown and Edinburgh.



PHOTO: LAC Campbell Latch

↑ Aviators from No.23 Squadron Air Movements Section load equipment onto a RAAF aircraft for Operation Beech 2025 at RAAF Base Amberley.



NO. 23 SQUADRON

No. 23 Squadron (23SQN) is the airbase operations support squadron at RAAF Base Amberley.

23SQN was originally formed as a Citizen Air Force unit at Laverton, Victoria in May 1937. The unit moved

to Archerfield, near Brisbane, in August 1939 (the first squadron to move to Queensland)

and, after several more moves, relocated to Amberley in April 1946 to be re-equipped with Liberator aircraft.

23SQN provides a wide range of capabilities that are coordinated through the 23SQN Air Base Operations Centre. These capabilities include airfield engineering, catering, chaplains, aviation and structural firefighting, physical training instruction, weapons training, base armoury, airbase security, logistics services, mechanical equipment operations and maintenance, air movements, aviation safety management, visits coordination, road movements, aviation refuelling and base armament management.

23SQN also has a RAAF Safe Advisor, Base Warrant Officer and an Indigenous Liaison Officer who provide specialist support to other units on RAAF Base Amberley.



HEALTH SERVICES WING

Health Services Wing (HSW) formed in December 2001 and its headquarters moved to RAAF Base Amberley in January 2003. HSW is responsible for generating and sustaining agile and scalable aerospace health capabilities for the joint

force. These capabilities include expeditionary medical treatment facilities, a global strategic aeromedical evacuation system and aerospace health support to enable airbase operations. The wing employs a mix of permanent and part-time health, medical specialist and support personnel to deliver aerospace health capability at the right place and at the right time to support joint operations.

→ 1EHS team conducts RESUS scenarios in the Role 2B Medical Treatment Facility at the Amberley APOD during Exercise Viper Walk 2025, a large-scale medical training exercise conducted by Army's 2nd Health Battalion.



NO.1 EXPEDITIONARY HEALTH SQUADRON

No.1 Expeditionary Health Squadron (1EHS) delivers deployable aerospace health support to RAAF and ADF operations. Headquartered at RAAF Base Amberley, 1EHS

also has detachments at RAAF Bases Townsville, East Sale and Richmond. As the lead for the deployable Air Force Role 2 Medical Treatment Facility and resuscitative surgical capabilities, 1EHS maintains specialist health elements to support sustained operations or short-notice contingency deployments.

Its deployable capabilities include primary health/emergency departments, surgery, intensive care, dental, environmental health, general wards, pathology, medical imaging, logistics and a deployable health facility command and control element.

At permanent air bases, 1EHS also contributes to base health effects with personnel undertaking Garrison Clinical Duty within Joint Health Command health centres.



NO.3 AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON DETACHMENT AMBERLEY

No.3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (3AES) provides a specialised global aeromedical retrieval

capability for the ADF. The squadron was originally formed in 1940 as No.3 RAAF Hospital, providing dedicated hospital services for more than 60 years before evolving into an expeditionary capability in early 2000s, then specialising in aeromedical evacuation from 2013.

With its headquarters at RAAF Base Richmond, NSW, and a detachment at RAAF Base Amberley, the squadron comprises a cadre of medical, nursing, paramedical, specialist critical care professionals and support personnel dedicated to the conduct of aeromedical evacuation missions on a variety of civilian and military aircraft including the C-17A Globemaster, C-130J Hercules and C-27J Spartan.



PHOTO: SQUADRON Shaun Robertson



PHOTO: LAC Campbell Latch

↑ Aviators from 3AES monitor a simulated lower acuity patient on board a C-17A Globemaster III during the FORGEN Culminating Activity at RAAF Base Amberley.



HEALTH OPERATIONAL CONVERSION UNIT

The Health Operational Conversion Unit (Health OCU) serves as a specialised medical training Unit dedicated to equipping healthcare professionals with the necessary competencies for delivering healthcare in operational and austere settings. This is achieved through an array of medical conversion courses that encompass tactical, strategic and critical care aeromedical evacuation, trauma management, operational health support, health management and high-acuity, high-consequence assurance training. By providing extensive instruction in these crucial areas, Health OCU ensures its participants across the Air Force, Navy, Army and our international partners acquire the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively deliver healthcare in demanding and high-risk operational environments.



PHOTO: ACW LAURA FLOWER

↑ A No.1 Squadron F/A-18F Super Hornet aircraft takes off from the Nellis Air Force Base runway during Exercise Red Flag Nellis 25-1.

AIR COMBAT GROUP (ACG) is one of the largest Force Element Groups in the ADF, with more than 2,000 personnel across three wings, comprising nine squadrons. The group operates the F-35A Lightning II, EA-18G Growler, F/A-18F Super Hornet, Hawk 127 Lead-In Fighter and Pilatus PC-21, as well as maintaining the Combat Control Team capability.

ACG units are located at RAAF Bases Amberley, Pearce, Tindal and Williamtown, where the Headquarters (HQ) is also located. There is a detachment of HQ ACG personnel at Amberley who are co-located with Headquarters No.82 Wing and perform engineering and fleet management, logistics, training support, and maintenance training activities to support 82WG operations.



HEADQUARTERS NO.82 WING

No.82 Wing (82WG) is the RAAF's air combat and electronic attack wing.

82WG was first formed on 25 August 1944 at Ballarat, before moving to Fenton, NT later that year.

With detachments

moving to various locations including Darwin, Morotai and Balikpapan, the wing eventually relocated to Amberley in early 1946.

Headquartered at Amberley, the wing comprises No.1 Squadron and No.6 Squadron. HQ 82WG provides resources, support and governance to the squadrons of 82WG, and higher headquarters. The wing has a high tempo around the globe with personnel frequently deployed overseas on, and in support of, international operations.



NO.1 SQUADRON

No.1 Squadron (1SQN) was formed as a part of the Australian Flying Corp in 1916 and served with distinction in the Middle East during World War I.

In 2010, 1SQN took delivery of the F/A-18F Super Hornet, becoming

the first squadron to operate that aircraft outside of the US Military. Since then, 1SQN has completed two operational deployments to the Middle East with the Super Hornet as a part of Australia's commitment to the fight against ISIL, employing kinetic effects in support of local and coalition forces.

Although the F/A-18F Super Hornet was originally intended as a bridging capability as the RAAF phased out the F/A-18 'Classic'

Hornet fleet and transitioned to the fifth-generation F-35A Lightning II, the Super Hornet has since become a key air combat capability for the RAAF and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future.



NO.6 SQUADRON

No.6 Squadron (6SQN) formed in England in June 1917, providing vital training for Australian fighter pilots prior to their posting to the Western Front.

Today, 6SQN's mission is to deliver a scalable, agile and dependable airborne

electronic attack capability that enhances the survivability and lethality of joint and coalition forces.

As an airborne electronic attack aircraft, the EA-18G Growler is capable of disrupting, deceiving and denying a broad range of military electronic systems such as radars or communications.

6SQN operates a fleet of 12 EA-18G Growlers in conjunction with the ADF's air, land and sea forces with its initial operational capability being declared in February 2019.

AIR MOBILITY GROUP

Air Mobility Group (AMG) was originally formed as Air Lift Group on 2 February 1987, although many of the units within AMG can trace their history back to World War II. Air Lift Group was renamed Air Mobility Group on 1 April 2014, recognising that the term 'air mobility' encompassed both airlift and air refuelling, and better described the group's scope of operation. Today, AMG is responsible for preparing and conducting air mobility operations for Defence force projection. AMG squadrons are often the first on the scene when deploying Defence assets in times of crisis.

On Defence operations, AMG specialises in providing air logistics support and air-to-air refuelling, as well as conducting airborne operations support. During Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, AMG is frequently deployed in support of the civilian community to provide evacuation and resupply of vulnerable communities. That includes the delivery of specialist equipment and personnel, or search and rescue missions for those in need.

Although Headquarters AMG is located at RAAF Base Richmond in NSW, RAAF Base Amberley is home to a number of subordinate units – Headquarters No.86 Wing, No.33 Squadron, No.35 Squadron and No.36 Squadron. RAAF Base Amberley is also home to three of the six aircraft types flown by AMG – the KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport, the C-27J Spartan and the C-17A Globemaster III.

HEADQUARTERS NO.86 WING

No.86 Wing was formed on 9 January 1945 at Kingaroy, Queensland. It is responsible for transport of VIP, government and senior Defence leadership through No.34 Squadron (based at Defence Establishment Fairbairn in Canberra), the command, control and management of the KC-30A through No.33 Squadron and the C-17A capability through No.36 Squadron.



NO.33 SQUADRON

No.33 Squadron was officially formed in February 1942 at RAAF Station Garbutt (renamed RAAF Base Townsville in 1951) and served in World War II, initially equipped with Empire Flying Boats.

Re-formed at RAAF Base Richmond in 1983, it flew the Boeing 707 until its retirement in June 2008, relocating to RAAF Base Amberley.

In June 2011, the squadron received its first KC-30A aircraft, a heavily modified Airbus A330 airliner capable of air-to-air refuelling with compatible aircraft, and able to provide strategic airlift of up to 270 passengers and over 37,000kg of cargo. Seven KC-30As are operated by No.33 Squadron from RAAF Base Amberley, which are continuously active in supporting exercises and operations, including Operation OKRA in the Middle East Region from October 2014 to September 2020.



NO.35 SQUADRON

No.35 Squadron was formed as a transport squadron at RAAF Base Pearce in WA, in March 1942, serving throughout World War II. It was re-established in 1966 to fly Caribou transport

aircraft during the Vietnam War, returning to Australia in 1972 and continuing to fly the Caribou until 2000. It was re-established again in January 2013, prior to the arrival of the first C-27J in 2015. In early 2019, No.35 Squadron relocated to RAAF Base Amberley, and today operates a fleet of 10 C-27J Spartans.

With the ability to provide airlift of people,

equipment and supplies into the most remote and least prepared airstrips in Australia and our region, the C-27J Spartan complements the ADF's existing air mobility fleet as its light tactical fixed wing capability.



NO.36 SQUADRON

Formed at RAAF Base Laverton in Victoria in March 1942, No.36 Squadron flew Dakotas in New Guinea during World War II and into the post-war years. In March 1953, No.36 Squadron was

based in Japan, carrying freight to and from Korea, evacuation casualties and providing VIP transport capabilities for the United Nations Command. The unit left Japan and returned to Australia in 1955. In 1958, it became the first international operator of the C-130A Hercules transport aircraft, converting onto the C-130H in 1978.

In addition to its role as a strategic airlifter, the Hercules also proved highly suited to civil aid tasks such as fodder drops during floods, air sea rescue work and medical evacuations. With the escalating commitment of Australian forces in Vietnam during the mid-1960s, No.36 Squadron found itself operating a regular courier service, carrying troops and equipment, and evacuating wounded soldiers back to Australia. In December 2006, the squadron converted onto the C-17A and relocated to RAAF Base Amberley. The C-17As play an integral role in the ADF's strategic airlift capability, supporting international deployments as well as disaster relief and humanitarian missions. No.36 Squadron accepted delivery of their final C-17 Globemaster in November 2015, creating a fleet of eight C-17As which allow Australia to rapidly deploy personnel, supplies, combat vehicles, heavy equipment and helicopters anywhere in the world, as well as conduct aero-medical evacuation.



↑ No.35 Squadron Loadmasters push cargo alongside members of the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Defence Force to load onto the RAAF C-27J Spartan during the Defence Pacific Air Program 25-3.

PHOTO: LACW Paris Rigney

SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE GROUP



SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE GROUP

(SRG) was formed in 2004 when Maritime Patrol Group and Surveillance and Control Group were amalgamated. It incorporates No.41 Wing (Air Defence

and Battlespace Management), No.42 Wing (Electronic Warfare and Airborne Early Warning & Control), No.44 Wing (Joint Battlefield Airspace Control) and No.92 Wing (Maritime Air Power).

Under the motto *Foremost Sentinel*, SRG is structured for its individual roles comprising of four wings operating as one team to deliver excellence in observing, informing, impacting and controlling the battlespace.

While retaining the individual combat capabilities of both maritime patrol and surveillance and control, SRG is also developing and delivering intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and electronic warfare

capabilities to prepare the Air Force for the introduction of new platforms including maritime unmanned aerial systems. SRG also supports the ongoing development and enhancement of cyber and space capabilities to ensure Air Force and the ADF are mission-ready across multiple domains.

SRG has approximately 2,000 personnel serving across the organisation and is headquartered at RAAF Base Williamtown.



NO.452 SQUADRON

No.452 Squadron (452SQN) was originally formed on 8 April 1941 in the UK, under Article XV of the Empire Air Training Scheme.

452SQN Headquarters is located in Darwin with flights spread across the northern half of Australia. There are two 452SQN flights at RAAF Base Amberley: 452SQN Amberley Flight

(AMB FLT) and 452SQN DAT FLT. 452SQN AMB FLT is responsible for the safe and expeditious processing of aircraft transiting the Amberley airspace to/from Brisbane, Archerfield, Toowoomba, Wellcamp and upwards of 40 other civilian airfields located in the South-East Queensland and northern New South Wales regions. In addition to air traffic control (ATC), the flight also has communications electronic technicians (CETECHs) who maintains the ATC radar, communication equipment and a number of vital navigation aids.

452SQN DAT FLT is a high-readiness unit responsible for the provision of deployed ATC and air navigation services in support of ADF operations and national tasking. 452SQN is comprised of ATC, CETECHs, engineering, ground support equipment technicians and supply personnel. These personnel are responsible for the maintenance and readiness of deployable air traffic management systems, such as deployable ATC towers and radars. 452SQN DAT FLT is capable of deploying around Australia and overseas in support of a variety of operations from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to combat operations.

↓ A Joint Battlefield Airspace Controller from No.452 Squadron coordinates the air operations at the RAAF Base Amberley airfield.



PHOTO: CPL Colin Dadd

AIR FORCE TRAINING GROUP



THE AIR FORCE TRAINING GROUP (AFTG) was formed on 1 July 2006, but its heritage can be traced back to Training Command which was first formed in September 1953. Its mission is to deliver essential, effective and efficient education and training and promote the

RAAF to meet Air Force needs. AFTG uses best practice training and education philosophies, methods and tools to deliver innovative training to Air Force members as well as some Navy, Army and overseas defence personnel. With the headquarters at RAAF Base Williams, Victoria, AFTG has two schools at RAAF Base Amberley.

later, RAAFSFS conducts initial employment and post-graduate training for Defence personnel engaged in protection and security duties in the ADF, including the Air Force's ground defence, security (including ADF military working dogs) and fire and rescue capabilities.

The school has trained aviators and soldiers to work in and manage some of the most dangerous and physically demanding work environments in Air Force and the broader ADF.



SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES – DETACHMENT AMBERLEY

The School of Postgraduate Studies (SPS) mission is to deliver professional military education (PME) to

aviators to enhance their ability to grow and influence change back in their units. Delivering PME Levels 1 and 2 to over 300 students per year, the small team at the SPS detachment at Amberley challenges our junior aviators to invest in their own professional mastery, develop a combat mindset and enhance the decision-making skills essential for success in our rapidly evolving strategic, operational and tactical environments.

Through Program Wirraway, SPS develops aviators by building resilience and emotional intelligence, developing their ability to innovate and adapt to complex environments, and challenging them to succeed in the contemporary operational environment. Critically, SPS empowers Air Force people to return to their units prepared to influence change and operate effectively under pressure to achieve Air Force objectives. Through a combined program covering leadership, military management and air and space power, aviators are armed with the knowledge, practical and cognitive skills to succeed across the spectrum of operations.



↑ Security Forces trainees conducting strength testing at RAAF Base Amberley.



RAAF SECURITY AND FIRE SCHOOL

The RAAF Security and Fire School (RAAFSFS) mission is to deliver security force and fire fighting specialists, in order to support the joint force. Originally established in 1982 as the Defence and Security

Training School before being renamed five years

AIR WARFARE CENTRE



AIR WARFARE CENTRE (AWC) was established in January 2016 around the Aerospace Operational Support group, as a key priority of Plan Jericho. The Air Force's newest Force Element Group, the AWC was established to ready the warfighter for complex

air warfare in a fifth-generation context. It is designed to drive innovation and integration across Air Command. The AWC comprises a Headquarters AWC, responsible for the coordination and implementation of common and integrated functions across the AWC, and specific capability focused directorates providing electronic warfare, intelligence, test and evaluation, Air Force Ranges management and advanced air warfare tactics and training (located at RAAF Williamtown).



TEST AND EVALUATION DIRECTORATE

Test and Evaluation Directorate (TED), within the RAAF AWC has responsibility for managing aircraft stores compatibility, as well as test and evaluation for Air Force. These capabilities contribute to the mission success, safe performance, safe operation and survivability of ADF aircraft and aircrew. TED is comprised of the Aircraft Research and Development Unit, Air Warfare Engineering Squadron and Directorate Headquarters.



AIRCRAFT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT

For over 80 years, the Aircraft Research and Development Unit (ARDU) has been at the forefront of RAAF aerospace technology and capability planning, conducting flight test, analysis and evaluation of new and existing air power capabilities. ARDU comprises three Test and Evaluation Flights (TEFs) located at RAAF Bases Amberley, Edinburgh (SA) and Williamtown NSW). Each TEF is staffed by qualified test pilots, flight test engineers (engineering officer graduates of test pilot school) and flight test system specialists (air combat officer graduates of test pilot school). The unit collaborates with flying units domestically and abroad in conducting trials on all RAAF aircraft and operates its own fleet of Pilatus PC-21 aircraft. Through its engaged, agile and highly skilled test and evaluation workforce, ARDU continues to play a critical role in the delivery of timely decision-quality data to enhance Air Force capability.



ARMY UNITS



6TH ENGINEER SUPPORT REGIMENT

Formed in January 2003, the 6th

Engineer Support Regiment (6ESR), which is under the command of the 6th Brigade, is the largest unit within the Royal Australian Engineers with an excess of 400 soldiers spanning 29 different trades. The regiment comprises the 17th Construction Squadron, the 21st Construction Squadron, the 20th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron and an Operations Support Squadron. From RAAF Base Amberley, the two construction squadrons provide enabling support to the joint force with vertical construction, horizontal construction and resource acquisition capability while Operations Support Squadron provides logistics support to the other sub-units and the regiment's headquarters. The two construction squadrons can trace their lineage back more than 70 years, with 17th Construction Squadron formed in 1949 and 21st Construction Squadron formed in 1950.

6ESR's operational history includes Operation Slipper in Afghanistan, Operation Render Safe on multiple occasions and numerous individual deployments to most theatres. 6ESR also leads Army's commitment to the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program each year, which delivers health, training and construction effects to remote Aboriginal communities.



PHOTO: SGT Roger Tang



9TH FORCE SUPPORT BATTALION

The 9th Force Support Battalion (9FSB) is an Australian Army logistics battalion that provides

heavy transport, warehousing, bulk fuel, air cargo delivery and parachute rigging support to the joint force. Formed in August 1998 and part of the 17th Sustainment Brigade, 9FSB brings together a number of supply, maintenance and transport sub-units to 'general' support within an area of operations. Based at RAAF Base Amberley since 2008, 9FSB comprises the following sub-units:

- Battalion Headquarters
- 9th Theatre Maintenance Company
- 26th Transport Squadron
- 37th Combat Supply Company
- 176th Air Dispatch Squadron (RAAF Richmond).

↑ Air dispatchers from 9th Force Support Battalion hook up a Mercedes-Benz G-Wagon to an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter as an underslung load in Shoalwater Bay training area during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025.

← A soldier from 6th Engineer Support Regiment, attaches railing to a Fixed Modular Bridge during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 at Townsville Field Training Area.

LAND 121 TRAINING WING

Land 121 Training Wing (L121 TW) is part of the Army School of Transport. L121 is a multi-phased project providing the ADF with current- generation, high-capability field vehicles, modules and trailers. L121 TW is the home of Introduction into Service (IIS) training for the L121 fleet of vehicles. Its role since 2011 includes delivery of both operator and maintainer training to Army, RAAF and other selected Defence personnel.

While the team's main effort is the delivery of IIS courses, Defence's L121 capability is enhanced through the establishment of regional driver training (RDT) in key locations across Australia. The focus of the RDTs is the delivery of L121 initial sustainment courses.

L121 TW teams are located across Australia with dedicated training facilities at Amberley, Enoggera, Puckapunyal, Bandiana, Townsville and Darwin.

DEFENCE ORGANISATIONS

SECURITY AND ESTATE GROUP

Security and Estate Group (SEG) develops and sustains the Defence Estate, and is the consolidated security and service delivery organisation for Defence. SEG designs and delivers Defence infrastructure and manages the complex Defence Estate – maintaining environmental stewardship of over 2.8 million hectares, the largest landholding in the Commonwealth with 70 major bases, 100 plus training ranges, and more than 1,000 leased or owned properties. It has a budget of about \$7 billion and approximately 1,900 APS and 150 ADF staff, along with professional service providers.

SEG provides Defence protective security, manages the Defence Industry Security Program and delivers security clearances for Defence, the government and industry through the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency. It delivers base services including access control, catering and hospitality, accommodation, building and grounds maintenance, firefighting, cleaning and laundry. SEG is leading integrated and digital service delivery for Defence.

HEAVY AIR LIFT SYSTEMS PROGRAM OFFICE

Formed in January 2007, the Heavy Air Lift Systems Program Office (HALSPO) consists of elements distributed across RAAF Base Amberley, Robins Air Force Base in the United States, Fairbairn in the ACT and a Technical Liaison Officer in Spain.

A lean Systems Program Office comprised of uniformed members, Australian public servants and specialist contractor staff, HALSPO is responsible for the cost-effective sustainment of the Air Force's C-17A Globemaster, the KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport aircraft and the special purpose aircraft (Boeing Business Jet and Dassault Falcon 7X), each supporting Air Mobility Group to achieve its mission.



JOINT MILITARY POLICE UNIT

The Joint Military Police Station - RAAF Base Amberley Detachment plays an integral part in supporting the Senior Australian Defence Force

Officer - Amberley, Base Manager and Air Base Executive Officer. The Military Police undertake a range of duties, including general policing, law enforcement, criminal investigations and support to emergency management at the base.



PHOTO: CPL Adam Abela

↑ A RAAF C-17A Globemaster III aircraft delivers cargo in support of Joint Task Force 661 during Exercise ALON 25 at Antonio Bautista Air Base in the Philippines.



PHOTO: CPL Jesse Kane

↑ An officer from JLU(SQ) oversees the fitting of armoured plating to the first of 14 M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carriers bound for Ukraine from RAAF Base Amberley.

JOINT LOGISTICS UNIT – SOUTH QUEENSLAND

Sitting centrally at RAAF Base Amberley and supporting over 64,000 unique items of Defence materiel, Joint Logistics Unit – South Queensland (JLU(SQ)) and its industry partners Linfox and Ventia, deliver essential warehousing, distribution and maintenance support at both the local and regional level, with reach from Gladstone to Grafton.

JLU(SQ) performs an essential role in the sustainment of Defence operations, platforms and activities across many diverse locations including RAAF Base Amberley, Damascus Barracks (Brisbane), Wallangarra Stores Depot, Gallipoli Barracks and Schwartz Barracks at Oakey and provides a regional service delivery function Retail Store Services at Cararlal, Canungra and Enoggera. JLU(SQ) is the key sustainment unit for more than 38 different capabilities, including small arms, PMV Bushmasters and the C-27A Spartan aircraft.

The JLU(SQ) Amberley facility delivers dedicated specialist vehicle and weapon maintenance, alongside Queensland's Cargo Consolidation Point for the on-forwarding of operational stores and equipment. With over 70 regional customer units, JLU(SQ) prides itself on the delivery of everything from complex aircraft components to ADF retail clothing. JLU(SQ) has provided direct support to regional and domestic humanitarian assistance operations, and has played a significant role in preparing and moving Bushmasters, M113s and other equipment in support of the Australia Government's assistance to Ukraine.



AIR COMBAT ELECTRONIC ATTACK SYSTEM PROGRAM OFFICE

The Air Combat Electronic Attack Systems Program Office (ACEASPO) provides materiel acquisition and sustainment support for the air combat and electronic attack capability for Defence. In close partnership with 82 Wing, Australian industry and the United States Navy, through its unique enterprise arrangement, ACEASPO delivers the F/A-18F Super Hornet, EA 18G Growler platforms and the Mobile Threat Training Emitter System, and supports Air Combat Group in the achievement of its mission.

Located at RAAF Base Amberley with a small team in the United States, ACEASPO is staffed by ADF personnel, Australian public service members and industry partners.

It has functions spanning logistic support assurance, delivery of major projects, governance of major upgrade programs, requirements and product management, airworthiness, safety and regulatory compliance, commercial and foreign military sales arrangements management, and enterprise support.

EXPLOSIVE MATERIEL BRANCH

Explosive Materiel Branch (EMB) manages the acquisition, in-service sustainment and disposal of all guided and non-guided explosive ordnance for the ADF. The branch comprises a number of business units that are geographically dispersed. RAAF Base Amberley is home to the Bombs Integrated Product Team and Missile Maintenance Facility Amberley which deliver bomb sustainment capabilities and missile system maintenance. RAAF Base Amberley also hosts EMB Governance staff who provide explosive ordnance and logistics assurance capabilities.

↑ Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Stephen Chappell DSC, CSC, OAM, speaks with aviators from the Air Combat Electronic Attack System Program Office during a visit to RAAF Base Amberley.

DEFENCE AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY

The Defence Aviation Safety Authority (DASA) is responsible for enhancing and promoting the safety of military aviation. DASA's Directorate of Aviation Engineering, Non Destructive Testing and Composite Technologies is based at RAAF Base Amberley. They provide:

- Initial employment training for non-destructive testing
- Post initial employment training for aircraft composite technologies
- Non-destructive testing engineering services including Instructions for Continuing Airworthiness and developing new procedures
- Centre of Expertise advice for non-destructive testing and aircraft composite repair.



INDIGENOUS LIAISON SERVICES

AS THE INDIGENOUS LIAISON OFFICER for RAAF Base Amberley, No.23 Squadron's Leading Aircraftman Andrew Hunter assists in building relationships with local Aboriginal communities, liaises with RAAF Base Amberley's Aboriginal Elders, delivers cultural awareness activities on the base and provides advice on supporting Air Force's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander personnel. LAC Hunter also Assists Air Force develop and maintain ongoing and enduring partnerships with traditional owners in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in remote areas of Queensland where Air Force utilises strategic outposts.

As a proud Iwaidja man from the top end of Arnhem land in the Northern Territory, LAC Hunter has ties to Eastern Arrernte (Alice Springs),

Kaytetye (Neutral Junction) and the Tiwi island (skin name Pandanus). Additionally, he has north-western European, Germanic and Scottish heritage. His cultural heritage and upbringing have enabled him to be culturally diverse, recognising and respecting others.

LAC Hunter's decision to join the Air Force as a Firefighter was fuelled by a desire to push himself to a new level and set an example for his family and friends. His strong work ethic and leadership qualities did not go unnoticed, culminating in his nomination for the prestigious role of Indigenous Liaison Officer for RAAF Base Amberley. LAC Hunter aspires to develop and maintain, genuine and impactful partnerships with traditional owners and Air Force, acknowledging that their



↑ **LAC Andrew Hunter.**

knowledge, skills and connection to Country add significant strategic value to Air Force's capabilities. LAC Hunter provides professional and personal support to Air Force's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander personnel to ensure they are succeeding in their chosen military roles. His role as an Indigenous Liaison Officer is vital in ensuring Air Force creates an inclusive, educated and culturally respectful workplace for all.



PHOTO: Kaymar Kreations/Delence

↑ **The 30 squadrons of the South Queensland region came together for the AAFC 2 Wing ceremonial parade.**

THE AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS (AAFC) is a community-based youth development organisation sponsored by the RAAF. The AAFC offers a wide range of activities, including flying, field craft, adventure training, firearms safety training, drill and ceremonial, service knowledge, aeromodelling, navigation and gliding.

The AAFC aims to foster Cadet's personal qualities that enhance their ability to develop

into responsible young adults who make valued contributions within their community.

AAFC Squadrons in the Ipswich area

- 208 Squadron parades at RAAF Base Amberley from 1800 to 2130 Friday nights.
- 225 Squadron parades at West Morton Anglican College from 1745 to 2130 Tuesday nights.
- 230 Squadron parades at Springfield Anglican College from 1745 to 2115 Monday nights.

Other facilities located at RAAF Base Amberley

- 2 Wing Logistics Flight
- AAFC Elementary Flying Training precinct with dedicated Diamond DA40 aircraft.

To find out more about joining the AAFC, visit the official website which contains detailed information about the organisation's activities and structure, and contact information for joining at airforcecadets.gov.au/how-to-join.

CHAPLAINS' WELCOME

RAAF Base Amberley is served by a team of chaplains – Air Force and Army – who provide chaplaincy to Defence Force personnel and their families.

GURUMBA BIGI! That means hello and welcome in the language of the local Yuggera people. This is also the name of the Amberley chaplaincy centre; the Gurumba Bigi Chaplaincy Centre. As chaplains, we are here to care for all ADF members with your families. We are respectful of everything that makes you unique, as well as all that brings us together in community. As your local chaplaincy team, we hope your time at Amberley will be one where you can connect with other Defence members and the community in which you will live, and enjoy the company of family and friends. We trust that you will find deep satisfaction from your work and enjoy the many blessing of life.

RAAF Base Amberley is served by a team of Air Force chaplains (five full-time and five part-time) as well as two full-time Army chaplains (posted respectively to 6ESR and 9FSB). The Army chaplains can usually be found within their units, while the Air Force chaplains will either be at the chaplaincy centre or providing wellbeing support around the various workplaces.

The Gurumba Bigi Chaplaincy Centre is located behind the Base Physical Fitness Centre. Feel free

at any time to drop in for a chat and a coffee.

The key roles of chaplains are:

- to pastorally care for all members and their families regardless of faith group – or none.
- to facilitate religious and spiritual needs for those of other faith groups
- to provide religious ministry to those who share our specific faith group.

We are here to help you and your family to work through the full range of life issues, especially as they apply to military service. Those life issues include, but are not limited, to:

- marriage and relationships
- workplace issues
- relocation on posting
- being posted unaccompanied
- deployments
- practicing faith
- leaving the ADF
- offering moral and ethical counsel
- conducting religious rites such as baptisms, weddings and military funerals
- attending to the spiritual, emotional and welfare needs of all members with their families.

Our pastoral care and counselling are protected

by privacy and confidentiality. Brochures outlining privacy and confidentiality with chaplains are available upon request. To talk to a chaplain, or to make an appointment, please contact us directly during business hours (0730-1630). Alternatively, we are available after hours for emergencies via the Amberley on-call chaplain mobile phone on 0439 301 844. To access a local chaplain when away from Amberley, please call the Defence switch on 1300 333 362 and ask for the on-call chaplain at your nearest ADF base.

Your local Air Force chaplains can also assist in the application process for RAAF Welfare Trust Fund (RWTF) loans. The loans are approved and administered by Canberra-based trustees. The RWTF provides a variety of low-cost loans including home improvement, professional development, long service and emergency loans. Group Life Insurance is available through the RWTF which includes access to loans covering any worthwhile purpose. More details about the loans and how to access the scheme can be found on both the internet and intranet through searching for the RAAF Welfare Trust Fund. Alternatively, contact your local Air Force chaplain.

NO.464 SQUADRON DETACHMENT AMBERLEY

No.464 Squadron was re-established in January 2021 under the Information Warfare Directorate of the Air Warfare Centre, providing public affairs and imagery support. In July 2023, No. 464 Squadron's command and control transferred to the Chief of Staff Branch under Air Force Headquarters. Headquartered at HMAS Harman in Canberra, the squadron has evolved with Military Public Affairs flights that encompass high-readiness deployable military camera teams at RAAF Bases Richmond, Williamtown, Amberley, Darwin, Edinburgh and Canberra. It also coordinates and trains the highly skilled Specialist Reserve Public Affairs Officer workforce across the country.

The squadron provides public affairs and imagery support to high profile public events, Air Force and wider Defence exercises and operations, including significant support to HQJOC activities as directed by CAF and CDF.

The squadron was originally formed in September 1942, flying Ventura bombers from bases in England. It later re-equipped with Mosquito fighter bombers, which were flown



PHOTO: CPL Jesse Kane

in precision attacks on German targets at low level. That included attacking the Amiens Prison in France – also known as Operation Jericho – and other similar raids which led the squadron to be nicknamed The Gestapo Hunters.

Imagery support requests for RAAF Base Amberley can be made by emailing 464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au.

↑ Air Force Imagery Specialists from No.464 Squadron take imagery of No.6 Squadron EA-18G Growlers from the ramp of a No.36 Squadron C-17A Globemaster III while conducting air-to-air formation flying off the coast of South East Queensland.

BASE COMMUNITY

WOMEN'S INTEGRATED NETWORKING GROUPS

It is not unusual for women in Defence to find themselves in roles traditionally filled by men, so it helps to have a little support from like-minded peers. The Women's Integrated Networking Groups (WINGs) is a program that not only supports women in the Air Force by providing an open forum for discussion, but also offers mentoring and role models, allowing women to see how much they can achieve.

"Essentially, the program is about ongoing engagement with all Air Force women throughout aspects of their career. It offers professional development and personal growth – not to mention opportunity to meet other Air Force women on the base in a friendly, non-judgemental environment," says Wing Commander Sue Yates, WINGs National Program Coordinator.

WINGs gives opportunities to Air Force women to be mentored, meet other Air Force women from a variety of ranks and specialisations, and to seek guidance and advice from other Air Force career women, with the aim of giving them a sustainable and long-term career. "Sessions are organised by the WINGs Committee and open to all AF women in the region. Session may include a guest speaker from either within Defence or an external organisation to share their career challenges and highlights or provide strategies and tools useful to career females," Wing Commander Yates says.

"Those Air Force women who have attended sessions have described WINGs as rewarding, relevant, inclusive and worth an investment of their time. Having a good cross section of ranks and experience adds to the networking and sharing of career experiences, as does the inclusion of male colleagues at some sessions to contribute to discussions and understand the challenges facing an under-represented element of our workforce."

Amberley WINGs regularly works with other support agencies on base, including the Amberley Maternity Support Network.

"Working closely with other support agencies at Amberley and promoting those through our vast WINGs network is an important way to help support women at different stages of their career," says Squadron Leader Alison Diete, WINGs AMB OIC. Amberley WINGs also has a successful mentoring program which is run on an annual basis.

Information on AMB WINGs (including newsletters issued) can be found at <http://drnet/raaf/AirForce/AMB/FACILITIES/Pages/WINGs.aspx> or by emailing ambwingscommittee@dpe.protected.mil.au.

DEFENCE FAMILIES OF AUSTRALIA

Defence Families of Australia (DFA) is the official ADF families advisory body to the Minister for Defence Personnel and the Chief of the Defence Force. DFA advocates for and provides advice to Defence and other stakeholders for ongoing improvement in policy and practical support in the best interests of ADF families across three core areas:

Family readiness. Supporting families to be well-prepared in the face of the unique demands of Defence life. This includes advocating for systems and resources that equip families to manage absences, deployments, and relocations with confidence and stability.

Contemporary families. Recognising and championing evolving family structures within the Defence community. Modern families are diverse, and current policies and supports do not always reflect this. DFA is committed to ensuring inclusive representation that acknowledges single-parent families, blended families, same-sex couples, and other non-traditional configurations.

Family wellbeing. Advocating for services and supports that enhance the overall wellbeing of Defence families. This includes ensuring access to mental health resources, community connection, employment support, and family-friendly policies that are fit for purpose and responsive to real-world challenges.

Follow DFA on social media for advocacy updates or go to our website at dfa.org.au.

DEFENCE SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP

Defence Special Needs Support Group Inc. (DSNSG) is a not-for-profit organisation that supports current Defence and ex-serving members and their special-needs families. It is available Australia wide at Defence locations.

Volunteers assist local members through advocacy, information pathways and local activities. DSNSG members have access to regular local events organised by the DSNSG Coordinator, along with access to a variety of programs.

To find out what is happening in your area, email amberley@dsng.org.au or brisbane@dsng.org.au. For further information, see dsng.org.au or call the DSNSG National Helpline 1800 037 674.

AMBERLEY DEFENCE FAMILIES

Amberley Defence Families is designed for Permanent Serving Defence members and their spouses posted at Amberley and offers the opportunity to chat with other Defence families. Members who have been in the area for a while can share their knowledge of all things local and share any of your experiences as a Defence family. See www.facebook.com/groups/AmberleyDefenceFamilies

DEFENCE WAGS OF AMBERLEY

Defence WAGs of Amberley is private group which fosters social connections and friendships. It is designed to take the hard part out of making friends for partners of ADF members. See www.facebook.com/groups/1527622821482331



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HISTORY AND HERITAGE – AIR FORCE



HISTORY AND HERITAGE – AIR FORCE

(HH–AF) was formally established in May 2017. The branch collects, preserves and displays important RAAF historical artefacts to enhance the knowledge and understanding of RAAF history and heritage both within the Air Force and the broader community while meeting government and the Australian public's expectations. The branch engages the broader community and enhances Air Force reputation through its research program, historical publications and displays of the RAAF heritage collection at the RAAF Museum and the RAAF Aviation Heritage Centres.

Creation of the branch brought together functional areas associated with Air Force history and heritage, which were previously widely dispersed within the RAAF organisation. The branch has seven major functional elements in addition to the management, curatorial standards and governance tasks, namely: Directorate of Air Force Heritage Projects; Directorate of Air Force Museum; Directorate of Historic Unrecovered War Casualties; Directorate of History and Heritage Services; Air Force Historian; Senior Air Force Heritage Collection Manager; and Executive Officer Historical Research and Reviews. The branch has a unique workforce consisting of Air Force reservists, a small cadre of public servants, volunteers (both technical and museum and heritage staff) and permanent Air Force members.

Through the years the directorate has led the restoration and preservation of the Air Force's static display fleet of historic aircraft and in provision of support to the Air Force heritage

centres. Much of the aircraft restoration is conducted by a mixed team of reservists and technically minded volunteers, many of whom are former Air Force members.

HH-AF AT AMBERLEY

The following HH–AF sections are located at RAAF Base Amberley:

- Headquarters HH–AF: responsible for the operational management of all of HH–AF's organisational, personnel, administrative, finance, logistics, safety and business planning
- Static Display Aircraft Support Section: responsible for displaying static aircraft around Australia
- Restoration Support Section: responsible for restoring aircraft and other ADF assets prior to putting them on display in aviation heritage centres around Australia.

AMBERLEY AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE

The RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre is a must-see attraction for residents and visitors in South East Queensland, particularly for those interested in military aviation history. Since June 2011, it has boasted a growing range of static historical aircraft, including a World War II Boston era Canberra bomber, Caribou, Douglas Dakota and Lockheed Electra L-10 transport aircraft, Sopwith Camel replica, Boomerang and replica Spitfire fighters, Sabre and F-111 fighter jets, Winjeel, Pilatus Porter, Sioux, Iroquois and Blackhawk helicopters.

Occupying four Bellman Hangars which were part of the group of 14 identical hangars



↑ Anson W2472 undergoing restoration by HH–AF's Restoration Support Section.

↓ Max Johnson, a volunteer at HH–AF's Restoration Support Section.



built in 1942, the centre endeavours to add to the collection as more aircraft and artefacts are restored, loaned or donated for display that tell the story of military aviation in South East Queensland.

The Aviation Heritage Centre is run by a team of Air Force Reservists and supported by local volunteers, each with a keen interest in military aviation history and in particular that of South East Queensland. When you visit the centre, those dedicated people will tell you about each display and the story behind it.

Admission to the Aviation Heritage Centre is free, however, donations are gratefully accepted. Due to the centre being located inside the secure zone of RAAF Base Amberley, access is tightly controlled. See raafamberleyheritage.gov.au for opening hours and call 1800 623 306 or email RAAF.AAHC@defence.gov.au to confirm visit details.

PHOTO: WOFF Darren Whitford

PHOTO: LAC Stewart Gould

SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUBS

You don't need to feel left out at your new posting. Joining one of the recreation clubs or groups at the base will keep you busy.

WATER SKI CLUB

Water skiing is available at RAAF Base Amberley through with the RAAF Amberley Water Ski Club (RAWSC). New members and visitors are always welcome at picturesque Lake Moogerah, about 50km southwest of RAAF Base Amberley. Club also operates at other locations including along the Brisbane River (Jindalee and Karana Downs) and Lake Dyer/Bill Gunn Dam at Laidley. The club also owns a shack at Lake Moogerah which is in a prime waterfront position and is a great place to meet with other club members or family. The shack has facilities including a barbecue, television, refrigerator, microwave and the necessities to self-cater for an overnight or weekend stay. There are clean, modern toilet and shower facilities a short walk from the shack. Just bring your own drinking water, linen and food. For contact details, visit the RAAF Base Amberley homepage or email RA.WSC@dpe.protected.mil.au. The club caters for all waterskiing/wakeboarding abilities and all apparatus and safety equipment is available for getting started.

FISHING CLUB

The RAAF Amberley Fishing Club (RAFC) is open to all ADF, APS, defence contractors and reservists serving at RAAF Base Amberley. The club promotes safe boating and sustainable fishing in a family friendly social environment. The RAFC has boats and camper trailers for hire.

Whether you are new to the area, needing a few tips to get you started, or looking to plan your next fishing adventure, the clubhouse is open every Monday from 4pm. The club runs regular fishing/camping trips so get in touch to check on the latest activities. For more information see facebook.com/groups/965170380239191 or contact the committee at amb-rafc.inbox@defence.gov.au.

SCUBA CLUB

Membership to the RAAF Amberley Scuba Club (RASC) is open to all Defence and civilian employees working at RAAF Base Amberley, and their dependants. RASC members meet regularly at the 'scubashack' to plan dive trips and hire equipment. The scubashack is located in the welfare precinct, near the base gymnasium.

Scuba diving adventures take place regularly at popular dive spots from Tweed Heads to Noosa. The club also takes members further afield to other dive locations such as Byron Bay and Hervey Bay.

Visit the RASC Facebook page, 'Amberley Scuba Club' for more information including upcoming dives, and to view photos and videos of past club activities. For more information, please visit the RASC DPN intranet site accessed via the RAAF Base Amberley homepage.

TOUCH FOOTBALL CLUB

The RAAF Amberley Touch Club (RATC) provides serving members, APS, defence contractors and reservists with game time each week aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle, friendly competition, and a chance to meet new people and build friendships. Currently the club meets all year round on Thursdays between 1145-1245, catering to all ages, fitness levels, and abilities. For more information email ambtouchclub@dpe.protected.mil.au or visit the RAAF Amberley Touch Club DPN intranet site accessed through the RAAF Base Amberley homepage.

FLYING CLUB

The RAAF Amberley Flying Club (RAFC) was formed to provide serving ADF members, APS, and reservists, who have a passion for recreational flying, access to 'hire-and-fly' and flying training resources via its fleet of aircraft based at RAAF Base Amberley. For more information visit the RAFC website at www.rafc.net.au or visit the RAFC DPN intranet site accessed via the RAAF Base Amberley homepage.

MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

The RAAF Amberley Model Aircraft Club operates out of Hanson's Farm, just down the road from RAAF Amberley. Members of the club fly remote-controlled aircraft including electric and gas-powered fixed wing, scale, gliders, pattern, turbines and helicopters and the club is inviting current and retired ADF members, APS and reservists who have an interest in model aircraft to an introductory visit to the club's activities. More information and contact details can be found by visiting the RAAF Amberley Model Aircraft Club DPN intranet site accessed through

the RAAF Base Amberley homepage or via amb.ramac@defence.gov.au.

PIPES AND DRUMS

Piping and drumming with the Amberley Pipes and Drums is both personally rewarding and supports service and civilian communities via a wide variety of local and national events. Membership is open to all service personnel and civilians. If you are a playing piper or drummer, or wish to learn and are interested in being a member of the band, please contact the Pipe Major on ambpb99@gmail.com or by visiting the RAAF Amberley Pipes and Drums DPN intranet site through the RAAF Base Amberley homepage.

AMBERLEY BRASS BAND

Amberley Brass is an element of RAAF Amberley Band and is a modern brass band proudly based at RAAF Amberley. We are a mix of serving Air Force members, APS staff, Defence contractors, retired ADF members, ADF spouses and dependents, and civilians.

Amberley Brass Band is a community band providing music for service, civic, as well as community events. Rehearsals take place on Monday nights, 1930 to 2130 in building 31 adjacent to the base gym.

For more information contact the band secretary at amberleybrass@gmail.com or 0406 170 201 or visit the RAAF Amberley Brass Band intranet site accessed through the RAAF Base Amberley homepage.

CHESS CLUB:

The RAAF Amberley Chess club is a casual, inclusive space for all skill levels - from curious beginners to seasoned players. We meet fortnightly on Thursdays at 1600 in the Airman's club for friendly games, puzzles, and good banter.



Join our signal group for updates and events or send us an email at raaf.chess@defence.gov.au. Conquer the board, Command the sky.



PHOTO: CPL Sam Price

↑ The RAAF Amberley Brass Band performs during Bomber Command commemoration ceremony held at RAAF Base Amberley.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

The operating squadrons at Amberley cannot carry out their functions without the support of industry partners.



↑ A Transportable Air Operations Tower at RAAF Base Curtin, Western Australia.

ROHDE & SCHWARZ

Rohde & Schwarz Australia is a subsidiary of a German company founded in 1933 as a small radio frequency test and measurement company. It now develops and manufactures electronic goods for Defence, industry, infrastructure operators and government customers. Rohde & Schwarz is also among the global technology leaders in integrated secure communications solutions, including air traffic control and military communications, spectrum monitoring, UAV/drone detection, cybersecurity and network technology.

The company employs more than 12,000 people including 100 Australians in Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra, Adelaide, Melbourne and Williamstown.

Three Transportable Air Operations Towers (TAOTs) delivered and maintained by Rohde & Schwarz provide the RAAF with a deployable Air Traffic Control capability to support remote military operations and provide aid to the community. A tower (pictured above) was deployed to RAAF Curtin during Exercise Talisman Sabre 23.

The Rohde & Schwarz team works closely with the Surveillance and Control Systems Program Office at RAAF Williamstown, and is currently performing major mid-life upgrades to the TAOTs, which are based at RAAF Amberley unless deployed. Rohde & Schwarz is proud to continue its support to the RAAF and No.44 Wing into the future. rohde-schwarz.com/au

ROLLS-ROYCE

Rolls-Royce is extremely proud to have powered the Australian Defence Forces for the past 100 years. Its relationship with the Australian Defence Forces began with the Rolls-Royce Eagle 8 engine fitted to the Fairey IID in service with the RAN in 1920 and the RAAF in 1921.

Today, No.35 Squadron's C-27J Spartan is powered by the Rolls-Royce AE2100D2A engine, while the AE2100D3 variant powers No.37 Squadron's Hercules C-130J. The engines are supported on-site by Rolls-Royce Field Service Representatives embedded within the relevant RAAF squadron.

Rolls-Royce is proud to be a long-term partner of the Australian Defence Forces. It is committed to strengthening Australia's military capability to support the security and stability of the Commonwealth of Australia.

BOEING

Boeing started at RAAF Base Amberley in 1995, supporting the venerable F-111, transforming it into one of the world's most formidable strike aircraft of its time. In those early days on base, Boeing also delivered B707 tanker/transporter through-life support and converted four 737-700 aircraft into the Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning & Control configuration.

Today, it sustains the RAAF F/A-18F Super Hornets and EA-18G Growlers, delivers RAAF C-17

Globemaster III logistics support, maintenance and training, and provides Wedgetail modifications and deeper maintenance. Boeing also provides services ranging from an aircraft paint shop and non-destructive testing to electromagnetic environmental effects testing and design services.

CAE AUSTRALIA

Since 2009, CAE Australia has sustained critical instructional, operational and maintenance support on the RAAF KC-30A MRTT training program, including a KC-30A Part Task Trainer and KC-30A Full Mission Simulator (FMS). The FMS was the world's first A330 MRTT simulator formally qualified to Level D, the highest qualification for flight simulators, and delivers unique advantages for its operators by offering interoperability between CAE devices for collective and joint training. The provision of simulated training ensures aircrew train in a safe, immersive and high-fidelity setting, experiencing the effects and complexities of air-to-air refuelling and critical flight operations across every mission.

CAE is the custodian of the C-27J Training Systems Facility managing training services and courseware. Under contract by Leonardo, CAE will design and manufacture a C-27J flight training device for delivery in 2025, to support critical initial, recurrent and mission training for RAAF C-27J aircrew.

CAE Australia is proud to be a leader in ab-initio and advanced training for ADF personnel for over 29 years, from providing entry-level training devices and courseware to the networking of advanced full-mission simulators operating in a joint environment.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Northrop Grumman Australia (NGA) works alongside RAAF to deliver long-term aviation maintenance support for its KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport and C-27J Spartan aircraft.

In partnership with No.86 Wing, No.33 Squadron and the Heavy Air Lift Systems Program Office, NGA provide all aspects of through-life support to the KC-30A MRTT fleet, including overall stewardship of the platform, 24/7 logistics, supply chain and engineering services, heavy aircraft maintenance, fleet planning and operational support, training services, capability development and project management support. NGA employees work with No.35 Squadron to provide through-life support to the fleet of C-27J Spartans.

NGA also contributes to the security of RAAF Base Amberley through maintenance and training support for the Expeditionary Tactical Automated Security System. This mobile security system is utilised as a force multiplier for RAAF SECFOR units to protect ground and air assets, both on base and in the field.



It's a new dawn for TAOT

We're now completing mid-life upgrades to the Transportable Air Operations Towers, having delivered the capability more than 10 years ago as prime systems integrator.

These upgrades ensure the RAAF has the latest technology to support deployed operations in defence of Australia for years to come.

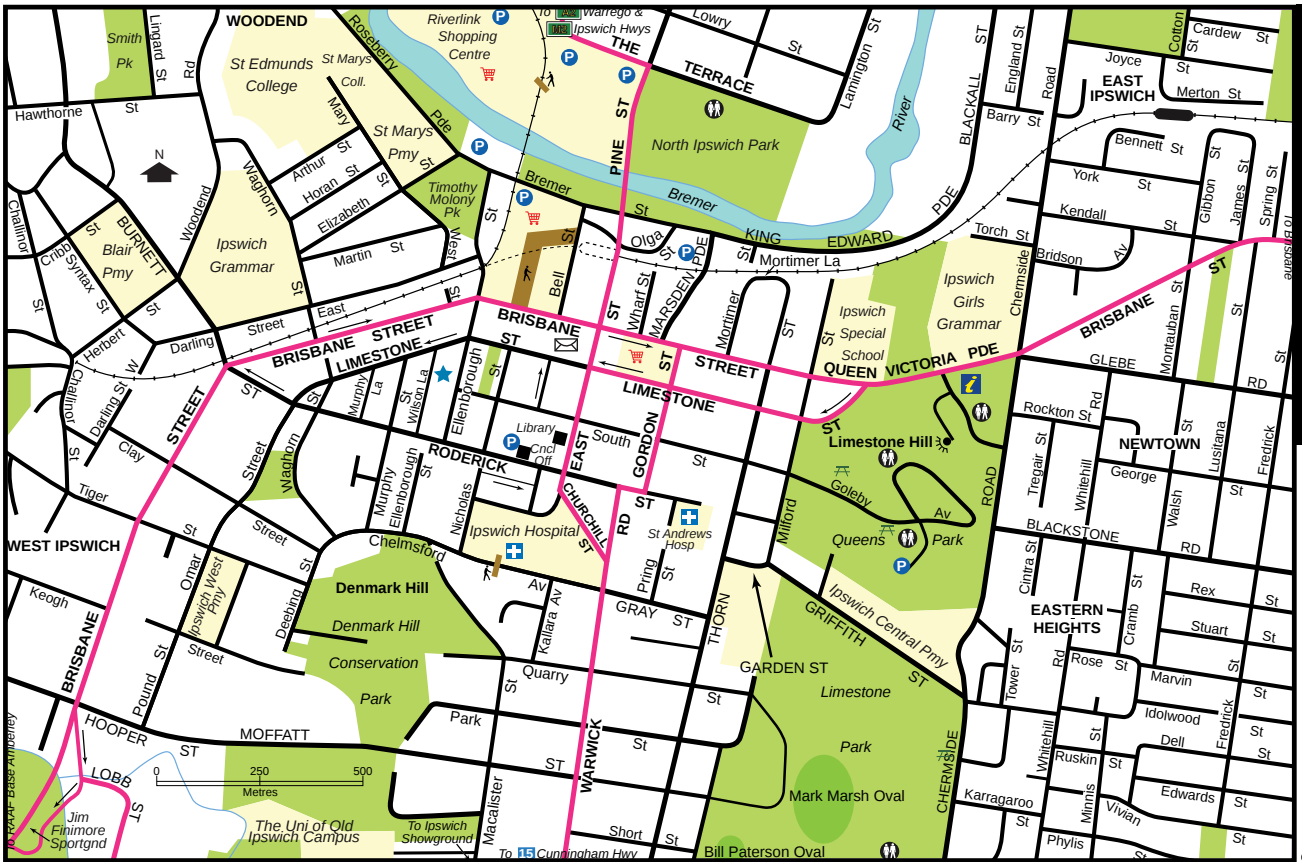
PROTECTED. CONNECTED. TRUSTED.

ROHDE & SCHWARZ

Make ideas real

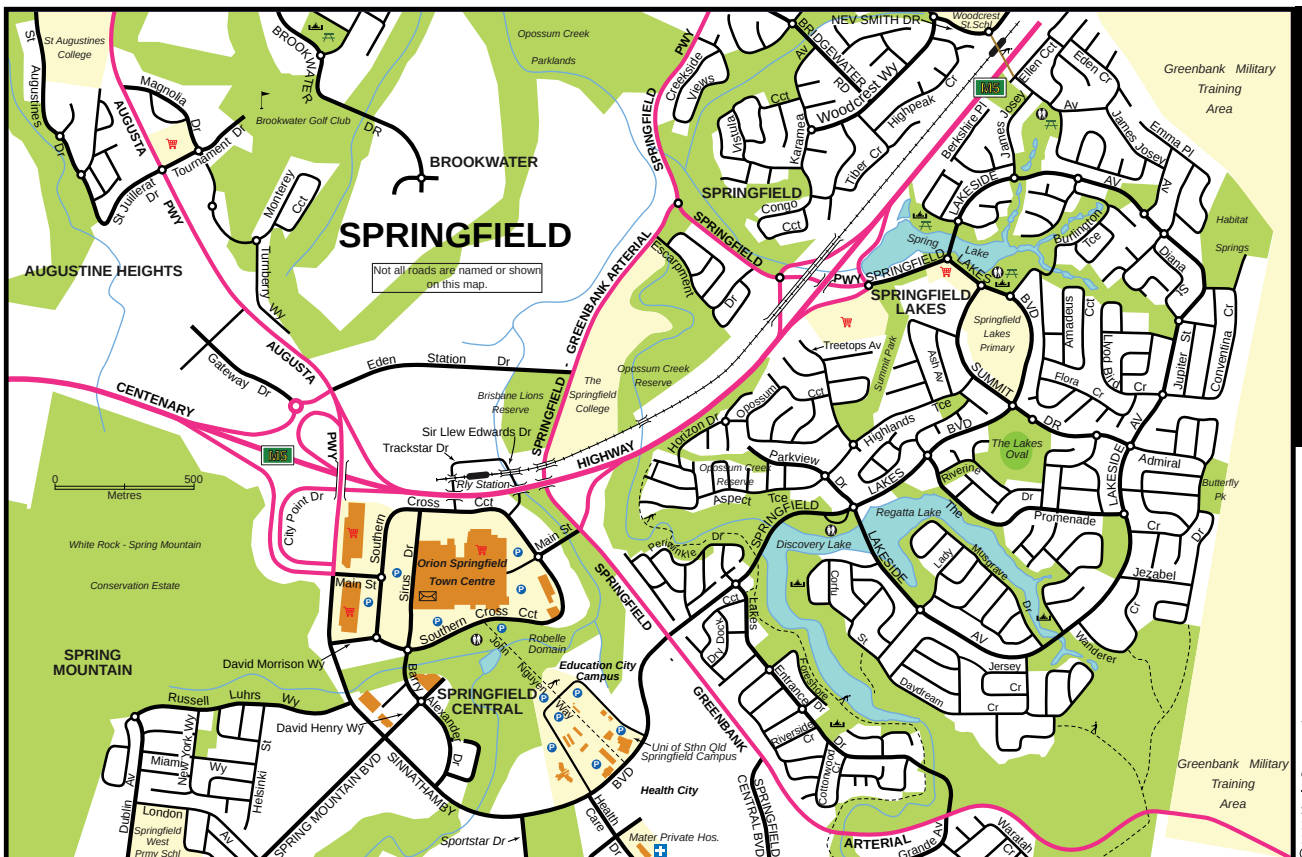


MAPS OF THE AREA



IPSWICH CBD

©2020 Koala Cartography



SPRINGFIELD

©2020 Koala Cartography



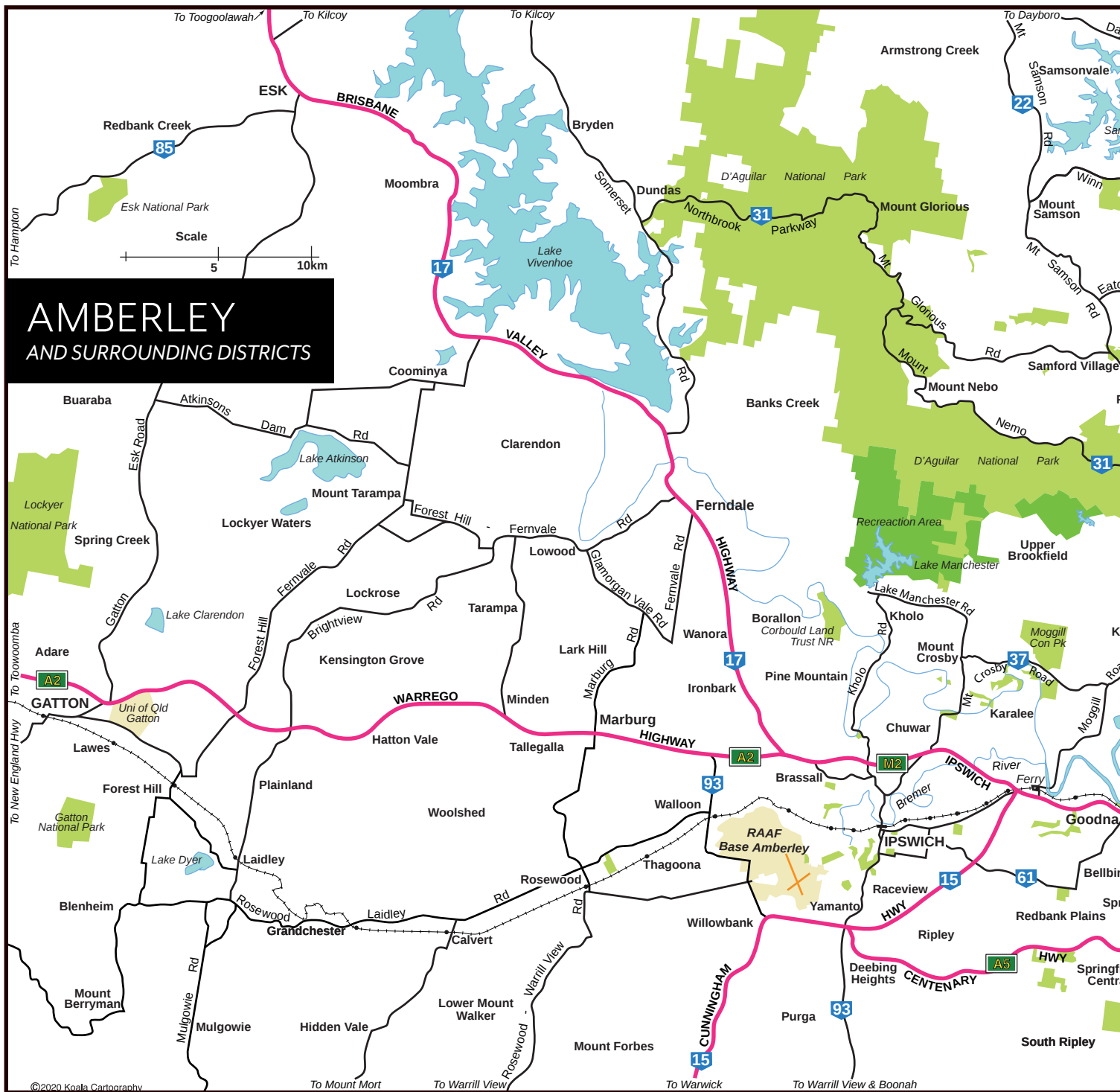
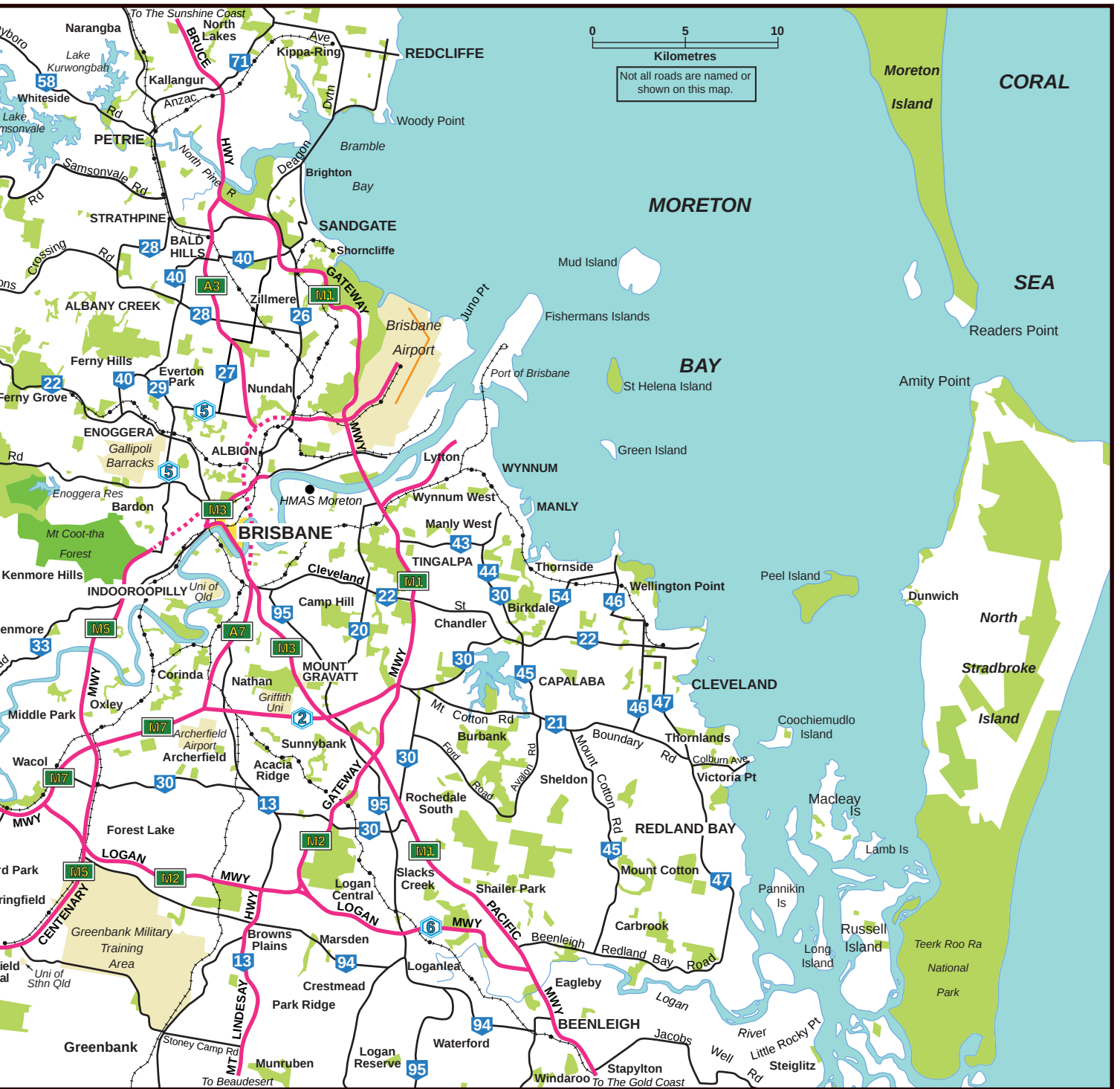


PHOTO: Jewels Lynch



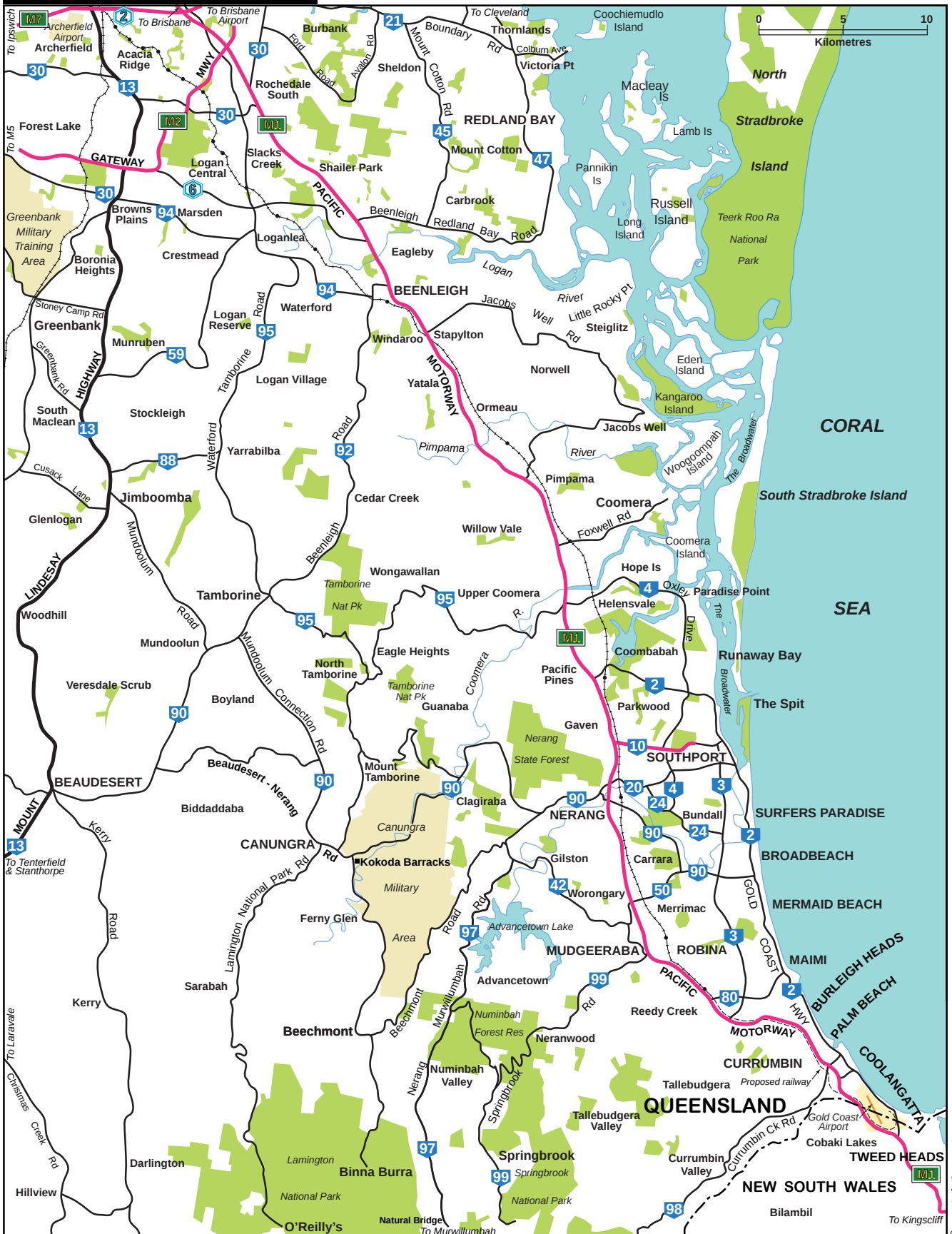
PHOTOS: Tourism and Events Queensland



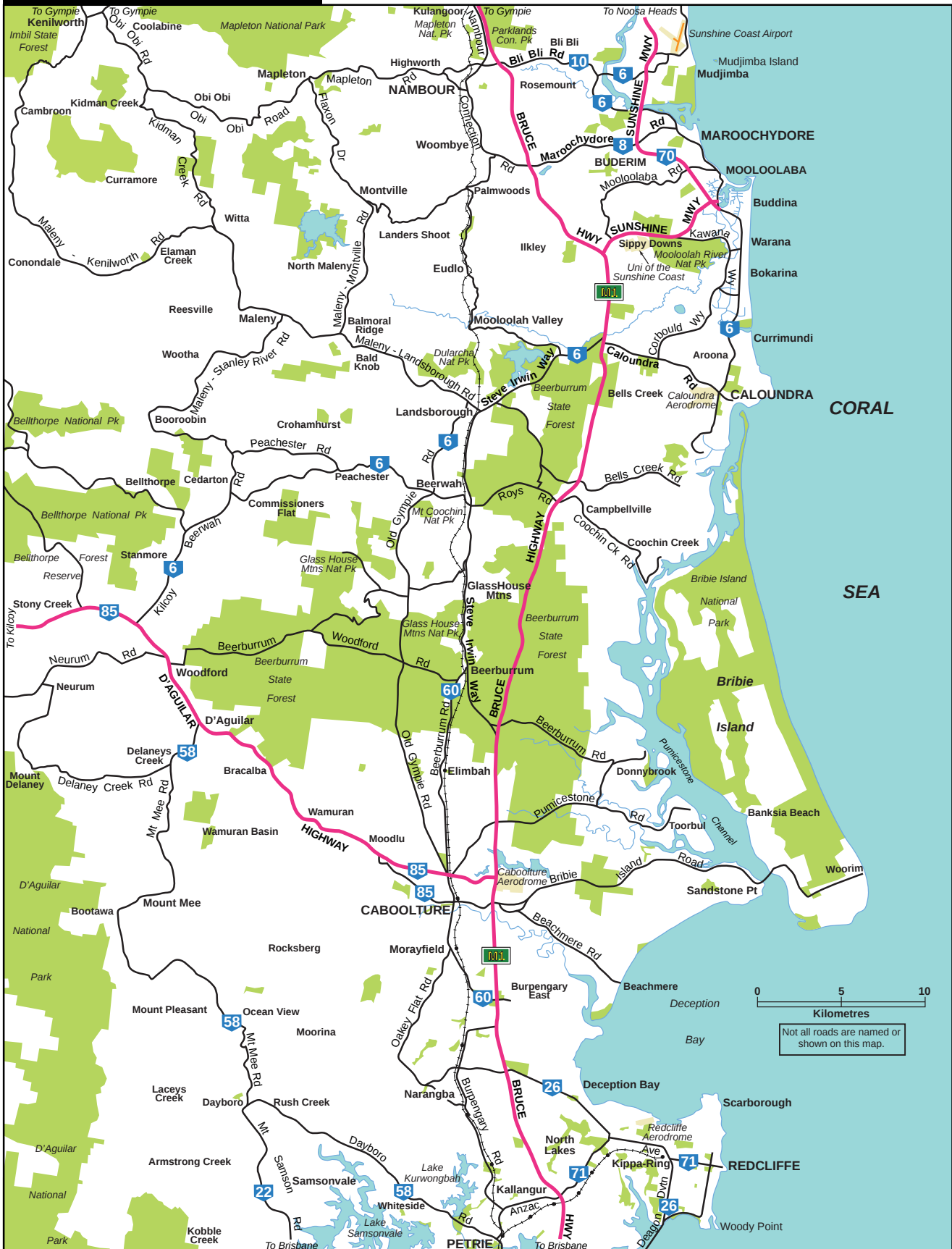
PHOTOS: Tourism and Events Queensland

GOLD COAST

Adjoins Amberley & Surrounding Districts map (p28-29)



SUNSHINE COAST



©2020 Koala Cartography

Adjoins Amberley & Surrounding Districts map (p28-29)

LOCAL SERVICES

To help you and your family settle in, there's a quick guide to the essentials.

RAAFBASE AMBERLEY is 40km south-west of Brisbane on the outskirts of the City of Ipswich, so it is likely many personnel with a posting here will live in one of these two council areas.

Other nearby local government areas include:

Logan 1300 156 426, logan.qld.gov.au

Scenic Rim 07 5540 5111,

scenicrim.qld.gov.au

Lockyer Valley 1300 005 872,

lockyervalley.qld.gov.au

Somerset 07 5424 4000,

someset.qld.gov.au.

LOCAL COUNCILS

Ipswich City Council office hours

& emergencies all hours 07 3810 6666,

ipswich.qld.gov.au. Council offices, 1 Nicholas

Street, Ipswich, Mon-Fri 8am-4.30pm;

Rosewood Library Council Connect, 15 Railway Street, Rosewood, Mon-Fri, 9am-4.30pm

Brisbane City Council Contact Centre (24 hours daily) 07 3403 8888. Brisbane City Council has five customer centres. brisbane.qld.gov.au

GETTING AROUND

South East Queensland is well serviced by a bus, ferry, train and tram network. For timetables, tickets and a journey planner see translink.com.au, or call Translink in on 131 230.

Taxis: blackandwhitecabs.com.au, 133 222.

13cabs.com.au/locations/ipswich, 132 227

HOSPITALS

Ipswich Hospital, Chelmsford Ave, Ipswich, 07 3810 1111, is the major public healthcare facility in the West Moreton region. For information and to find other hospitals and services, see westmoreton.health.qld.gov.au.

Metro South Health (metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au) is the major provider of public health services in the Brisbane south side, Logan, Redlands and Scenic Rim regions. For more, see health.qld.gov.au/maps.

CHILDCARE

There is a variety of childcare options in the area. Turn to page 38 for information.

SCHOOLS

The Amberley posting has a wide range of schooling option. It is important to arrange your housing prior to finalising your schooling choices. Defence does not regard a choice of school as grounds to limit your search for a property. For information on schooling in Queensland turn to the Education section, page 40.

HIGHER EDUCATION

There are a number of quality universities in the region, including the University of Queensland (uq.edu.au) and University of Southern Queensland (usq.edu.au), as well as TAFE campuses (tafeqld.edu.au). For a full list, see queensland-australia.com/tertiary-education-qld.html.

FLOOD, FIRE & EMERGENCY

In the event of a life-threatening emergency call 000 to connect to Police, Fire and Ambulance.

For assistance or information for:

- Floods or storm assistance, State Emergency Service ses.qld.gov.au, 132 500
- Bushfire updates and information, emergency assistance, contact Queensland Fire & Emergency Services qfes.qld.gov.au
- Health advice, talk to a registered nurse 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 13 HEALTH (13 432 584)
- Disasters and alerts see www.qld.gov.au/alerts

UTILITIES

You will need to arrange your own utilities such as electricity, gas, pay TV and internet. You should contact your local service providers, or take advantage of the free Fast Connect service, which will arrange for the disconnection and reconnection of utilities on your behalf. Contact them on 1300 661 464, at fastconnect.net.au, or access the service via Online Services on the Defence Housing Australia website at dha.gov.au. Also see the Housing section, page 36.

SHOPPING

Ipswich and the surrounding areas have a good variety of shops and services, and RAAF Amberley is less than 50 minutes' drive from the centre of Brisbane. Here are a few of the larger shopping centres in the Ipswich area.

Centuria Yamanto 512-514 Warwick Road, Yamanto, about 6km from RAAF Base Amberley. Woolworths, Super Amart, Priceline and specialty stores. retail.centuria.com.au

Yamanto Central 488 Warwick Road, Yamanto. Coles, Kmart and a variety of retail stores. yamantocentral.com.au

Ipswich River Link Shopping Centre Cnr Downs Street and The Terrace, North Ipswich. Coles, Woolworths, Aldi, Kmart, Target, cinema, restaurants, cafes, and a range of retail stores and services. riverlink.net.au

Indooroopilly Shopping Centre 322 Moggill Road, Indooroopilly. Aldi, Coles, Woolworths, David Jones, Myer, Kmart, Target, cinema, and a wide range of retail stores and services. indooroopillyshopping.com.au

Orion Springfield Central 1 Main Street, Springfield Central. Aldi, Coles, Woolworths, Big W, Target, cinema, retail stores and services. orionspringfieldcentral.com.au

Brassall Shopping Centre 68 Hunter Street, Brassall. Aldi, Woolworths, retail stores and services. brassallsc.com.au

Ipswich Homebase 339 Brisbane Street, West Ipswich. IGA, furniture and other retail stores. retail.centuria.com.au

Silkstone Village 83/81 Blackstone Road, Silkstone, Newtown. Coles, retail stores

PHOTO: Tourism and Events Queensland

and services. silkstonevillage.com.au

Booval Fair Shopping Centre Cnr South Station and Brisbane Roads, Booval. Woolworths, Big W, JP, retail stores and services. boovalfair.com.au

Winston Glades 259 Ash Street Flinders View, Ipswich. Drakes supermarket, banks and retailers. winstongladesipswich.com.au

Ripley Town Centre 20 Main Street (off Ripley Road), Ripley. Coles, BWS, gym and specialty stores. ripleytowncentre.com.au

LIBRARIES

Ipswich Libraries have an extensive range of books, movies, music, internet access, workshops, programs for kids and MakerSpace, for crafting, 3D-design and printing, and a mobile library. Free library membership also gives you 24/7 access to the virtual library for ebooks, audiobooks, music, stream movies and more. 07 3810 6815; ipswichlibraries.com.au

Ipswich Central Library & Children's Library
Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich.

Redbank Plains Library
Moreton Avenue, Redbank Plains.

Redbank Plaza Library
Redbank Plaza Shopping Centre.

Rosewood Library
15 Railway Street, Rosewood.

Springfield Central Library
Cnr Main Street and Sirius Drive,
Orion Springfield Central.

Brisbane City Council operates 33 libraries. To find your nearest one, go to brisbane.qld.gov.au and search 'libraries'.

SWIMMING POOLS

Ipswich has five public swimming pools. For opening times, see ipswich.qld.gov.au/Live/Healthy-Lifestyle

Bundamba Swim Centre
256 Brisbane Road, Bundamba. 07 3282 2801.

Georgie Conway Leichhardt Community Swim Centre
21 Toongarra Road, Leichhardt. 07 3281 8743.

Goodna Aquatic Centre
137 Brisbane Terrace, Goodna. 07 3381 8240.

Rosewood Aquatic Centre
Mill Street, Rosewood. 07 5464 1246.

Orion Lagoon
155 Southern Cross Circuit, Springfield Central.

Brisbane City Council has a number of pools and aquatic centres. The closest to Amberley are

Bellbowrie Pool, 47 Birkin Road, Bellbowrie, and Carole Park Pool, corner Boundary and Waterford Roads, Wacol. For more locations see, brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/outdoor-activities/council-pools

FREE PLANTS

To help residents develop a greener, more beautiful environment, Ipswich Council endeavours to give away 120,000 plants a year. Species are chosen to suit local climate and soil conditions and are propagated in the council's nursery. ipswich.qld.gov.au/about_council/initiatives/free-plant-program

MORE INFORMATION

Queensland Globe (qldglobe.information.qld.gov.au) is a handy resource if you are looking for a new home, with valuations and school catchment data available on the Globe map, and a titles search a few clicks away. It can also be used to map parks, trails or other information for your area.

For more information, see www.qld.gov.au/about/moving-to-queensland. Find community organisations, sporting teams, facilities, events and more at mycommunitydirectory.com.au.

SALES | SERVICE | PARTS & ACCESSORIES

YOUR EXPERTS IN

- BT-50 EXPERTS
- MAZDA FINANCE
- NOVATED LEASE

TALK TO US FIRST



Ipswich Mazda
15 Brisbane Road Bundamba 4304
ipswichmazda.com.au
07 3817 3600

 **mazda**
IPSWICH MAZDA

DEFENCE SUPPORT

Defence offers a range of programs and services to help ADF members and their families.

DEFENCE FAMILIES play a vital role in the wellbeing of our ADF members and the success of their missions. Defence Member and Family Support (DMFS) provides support for ADF personnel and their families to prepare for and respond to military life. DMFS provide services to assist families with member absence, posting cycles, childcare, children's education, crisis situations, family wellbeing and special needs. It also holds information sessions and events to connect you with your community throughout the year. For more information about the services and programs, visit defence.gov.au/members-families, contact the 24/7 Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 or email memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au.

Your local DMFS team includes military and civilian staff, working across a range of roles to provide services designed to support Defence families, including:

- support in times of crisis
- deployment and absence support
- relocation support
- access to social workers
- information sessions, social or support groups
- local education advice and assistance for school-aged children
- information for families with special needs
- partner employment assistance
- help finding childcare.

Stay connected with your local Defence community by attending events hosted by DMFS. These are a great way to meet others and strengthen your support network. Visit the events page to register for free tickets to ADF family events: www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/local-services-events/events.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and keep up-to-date with the latest news and events.

WHO CAN YOU MEET AT THE LOCAL OFFICE?

When you visit or call your local DMFS office, you'll meet a dedicated team who understand the unique challenges and lifestyle of Defence families:

- **Defence social workers** are qualified professionals who understand the military lifestyle and support families.

- **Family liaison officers** have in-depth knowledge of the local area, and help families connect with community groups and support services. They also coordinate information sessions, welcome events and social activities to help you feel part of the local community.
- **Education liaison officers** support families with school-aged children by providing guidance on local education options, school transitions, and special education needs.
- **Military support officers** are uniformed members who provide advice, assistance and practical support in relation to military matters.

DMFS PROGRAMS & SERVICES

If you need support, information or advice, contact the Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608. The helpline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is staffed by qualified human services professionals.

PARTNER EMPLOYMENT

The Partner Employment Assistance Program enables eligible partners of ADF members to claim reimbursement of up to \$1,500 per financial year for services including career support and coaching, professional licensing checks and registration and employment-related training.

FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

ADF members who have a recognised family member with special needs can access practical assistance to reduce the impact of relocation and minimise interruption to established services. This includes funding for specialist services, pre-posting visits and valet unpack. Defence also works with the Defence Special Needs Support Group which provides a national support network for Defence families with special needs (www.dsns.org.au).

SUPPORT DURING DEPLOYMENT

DMFS provides a range of services, practical assistance and products to help inform and prepare

ADF members and families for every stage of deployment. Support includes advice and referral to local support services, access to resilience programs, assistance in emergencies and crisis, and connection to community groups. Families can also opt in to receive regular deployment support calls by registering with the helpline on 1800 624 608.

ACCESS TO CHILDCARE

Defence maintains a network of childcare centres around Australia, with priority placement for ADF families. Families who are facing difficulties accessing childcare, such as when they move to a new area or change their work or care arrangements, can also access Childcare Connect – a free support service designed to help families find child care, especially after relocating.

EMERGENCY AND CRISIS SUPPORT

DMFS provides practical and emotional support programs for families facing emergency or crisis, including assistance in time of illness, injury, domestic crisis or bereavement. Members and their families can access 24-hour support by calling the helpline on 1800 624 608.

TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE

Joint Transition Authority delivers support to members and their families transitioning to the Reserves or separating from the ADF. There is a range of support programs to assist ADF members and their families when they transition to civilian life, enabled by a transition coach. The coach helps to build a personalised package of support based on the circumstances and post-transition goals of the member and their family, and remains with the member for up to two years post-transition.

SUPPORT FOR RESERVIST FAMILIES

Families of Reserve members can access support services when the Reservist is on continuous full-time service or away on deployment or exercise.

PARENTS

DMFS offers information and support services for the parents of ADF members to help them understand and manage the challenging aspects of having a family member in the services.

CONTACT DMFS

The Defence Member and Family Helpline is your first point of call for support, information and connection with your local community. It is staffed by qualified human services professionals who can assist you 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Phone 1800 624 608

Email memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au

Website defence.gov.au/members-families

DMFS AMBERLEY WELCOME EXPO

The Welcome Expo is an opportunity for Defence families to get to know their local DMFS team, the services and support provided in the region, and to build community and social networks with other ADF families. The 2026 Amberley welcome Expo will be held early in the year. For information about the expo and other events, see the DMFS Amberley Eventbrite page: eventbrite.com.au/o/defence-member-and-family-support-amberley-17817356514 or email dmfs.amberley@defence.gov.au.



HEALTH MATTERS

There are a number of services to help manage your family's health in a new posting.

ADF MEMBER HEALTH

Defence provides essential healthcare to all ADF members, on and off base, including medical and dental, mental health, ambulance transport and hospitalisation. ADF members do not need a Medicare card.

AMBERLEY HEALTH CENTRE

07 5362 6003; ambhc.registry@defence.gov.au
Mon - Thu 7.30am-4.30pm; Fri 7.30am-2.30pm

Medical and physio sick parade

Mon - Fri 9.30-11am

Dental sick parade Mon - Fri 7.30-8am

24-HOUR HEALTH SUPPORT

ADF members needing urgent medical treatment when away from base should call 1800 IM SICK (1800 467 425). The IM SICK line is a toll-free, all-hours service for ADF personnel to discuss health concerns over the phone and receive immediate advice on where they need to go to receive appropriate treatment. The service is provided by BUPA under the ADF Health Services Contract.

RECOGNISED DEPENDENTS

Members need to make arrangements for the healthcare of their families, but note that financial assistance is available (see under: DEFENCE FAMILY HEALTH CARE).

FINDING A GP

To find a GP in your locality, a good place to start is the 'find a health service' tool on the

Australian Government's Health Direct website, healthdirect.gov.au/australian-health-services, which allows you to filter out GPs who don't bulk bill. GPs who don't bulk bill will charge you for the visit. You can claim the 'schedule fee' from Medicare, but it will probably be less than the GP's account, leaving a residual cost. Many doctors now offer a service called HICAPS that allows you to claim your Medicare rebate when you pay at the doctor's surgery. Joining a social group to connect with others in your area is also good way to glean advice on local GPs and medical centres.

DEFENCE FAMILY HEALTH CARE

The National ADF Family Health Program will reimburse dependants of ADF members for out-of-pocket expenses for all GP visits. Specialist services will also be reimbursed, up to a total allocation of \$800 per dependent which can be shared between dependents. For more information visit adffamilyhealth.com or phone 02 6266 3547.

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

Medicare makes adequate provision to cover all Australian citizens for their essential health needs. However, Medicare doesn't cover many 'extras' such as ambulance services, most dental services, spectacles, contact lenses, hearing aids and cosmetic surgery.

You may choose to take out private health insurance to provide your family with a wider range of options and more comprehensive

cover. Health insurance policies can be either hospital or general treatment (extras) or a combination of both. Your decision to purchase private insurance is a personal one and will be based on a number of factors:

- The advantages of having more choices, for instance the ability to choose your surgeon/obstetrician/specialist and the hospital you prefer from the private health insurer's agreed providers
- The probability of obtaining treatment faster than you might do on a public hospital waiting list
- Your desire to be covered for the extras
- The cost of private health cover for different options that are offered by the numerous providers in the health-insurance market.

With respect to the cost, you will also need to consider the tax implications of the Medicare Levy surcharge, which (as distinct from the Medicare Levy) is an additional tax imposed on those with a taxable income above a certain threshold who do not have a prescribed level of private health insurance.

The cost of your private health insurance policy will also be influenced by your age when you commence your policy. Once you turn 31, a Lifetime Health Cover (LHC) loading of two percent is added to your hospital cover premium for every year you're without hospital cover, e.g. if you delay until age 40, your LHC would be 20 percent. Note that permanent ADF members are considered to have had private hospital cover while serving.

This article is published as general education and should not be taken as professional advice.

SOME USEFUL WEBSITES

Health insurance

- www.accc.gov.au/consumers/specific-products-and-activities/private-health-insurance
- www.privatehealth.gov.au
- choice.com.au/money/insurance/health

Medicare Levy

- Go to the Australian Tax Office website, ato.gov.au, and search 'Medicare Levy'.
- See the Pay and Conditions Manual at <https://pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/pacman/tax-alerts/div-4>



HOUSING

MOVING HOUSE CAN be both an exciting and daunting prospect – some big decisions need to be made, the most important one being where you are going to live. Children's education, distance to work for both the member and spouse/partner, health care, lifestyle preferences and the amenity of available housing are all factors to be considered.

SERVICE RESIDENCES

Unless you own a suitable home in your new posting locality, your first port of call is Defence Housing Australia (DHA). DHA provides housing and related services for Australian Defence Force members and their families through its portfolio of service residences (SR). DHA's portfolio comprises modern houses, townhouses and apartments in selected locations. The majority are off-base, integrated throughout the local community and in reasonably close proximity to Defence bases and establishments, amenities and services. DHA maintains the currency of its portfolio by upgrading existing properties, sourcing new properties through a variety of construction activities, acquiring properties through traditional real estate markets and directly sourcing and leasing properties from private owners. You are eligible for a SR if you fit into any of these groups:

- You have a spouse, recognised interdependent partner or children who live with you (Accompanied Resident Family)

- You are a member with unaccompanied resident family and your dependants need housing (Unaccompanied Resident Family)
- You have Recognised Other Persons who normally live with you.

More detailed information on entitlements can be found in the Pay and Conditions Manual, Chapter 7, pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/pacman/chapter-7, and/or on DHA's website, dha.gov.au.

SINGLES

DHA also holds some apartments suitable for single members – called Members Choice accommodation. The process for accessing Members Choice or private rental under Rent Allowance (RA) is the same as for families accessing SR, outlined below.

FINDING A SERVICE RESIDENCE

As soon as you know you require a Service Residence, call DHA on 139 342 to obtain a username and password to access Online Services, a unique online tool that will allow you to select your new home. Online Services will show you:

- Homes within your entitlement
- Interior and exterior photos of the homes
- Property details for each home
- A floor plan
- A map showing the location of the home and nearby facilities.

Once you have researched your options, you can reserve a home on Online Services. Note that, whether you are an Accompanied Resident Family

or a single, if you own a home in your current posting location which is suitable for you to live in, you will not be eligible for a SR or RA.

PRIVATE RENTAL

If DHA cannot provide you with a suitable SR, you may be eligible for RA. While DHA will manage your RA application, it is up to you to find a suitable rental property. Rental properties in the region can be sourced from local real estate agencies or on any of the following commercial websites:

- realestate.com.au/rent
- domain.com.au/rent
- rent.com.au.

BUYING A HOUSE

You may feel it's time to enter the housing market or wish to sell your home in your losing locality and purchase in the gaining locality. Assistance for home purchase may be available through:

- The Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme pays a monthly subsidy on a member's home loan interest. The scheme is administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, for details see dhoas.gov.au.
- The Home Purchase or Sale Expenses Allowance reimburses reasonable buying and selling costs. For details see the Pay and Conditions Manual, pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/pacman/chapter-7/part-3.

Note that a decision to purchase your own home in your new locality does not need to be made before you proceed on posting, you can decide at any time during your posting. However, if you are in RA accommodation, you will need to consider the penalties in your lease for early termination.

MORE INFORMATION

For information on all accommodation options, application forms and to access Online Services, visit DHA's website, dha.gov.au.

At times, finding the right housing solution can be challenging. The Directorate of Relocations and Housing is responsible for the provision and delivery of quality housing and related services to ADF members under national contracts and in accordance with Defence policy. If you require additional support please email DRH.DRHM@defence.gov.au with your enquiry and your local Defence Relocation Manager will be in touch.

POSTINGCONNECT

PostingConnect provides direct access to posting services, including Toll and DHA, and allows members and their families to navigate the many aspects of a posting within one application. See defence.gov.au/about/staff-resources/serviceconnect for more information.

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EARLY LEARNING

Choosing the right childcare or early learning service will depend on your family's needs and where you and your child will feel most comfortable.

AS WELL AS PROVIDING CARE, childcare and early learning services provide an opportunity for your child to develop social, emotional and learning skills. There is a range of care and play-based learning options available for babies and children up to six years of age. Some childcare providers also offer before- and after-school care to school-aged children.

Child care may be offered by private providers, community groups, government agencies, individuals, babysitters or nannies. It's important to research the type of early education and care that best suits you and your children well in advance.

LONG DAY CARE

A good option for those who work long days and need care for their children during business hours, long day care operates for at least eight hours a day, typically Monday to Friday, in a childcare centre and caters for children from birth to school age. It provides preparation for school through a play-based learning curriculum.

FAMILY DAY CARE

For parents who want their children to learn and play in small groups in a home-like environment, family day care caters for children from birth to 12 years, and is held in the home of a registered educator. They may also offer outside-school-hours care.

KINDERGARTEN

Aimed at children aged three to five years, kindergarten (or preschool) prepares children for school through play-based learning. It can be a standalone service or part of another care service or school.

The Queensland Government's Free Kindy program is offered for the year before children start school (i.e. children aged at least four years of age by 30 June in the year before

they start school). It is designed to help them develop important early learning skills and build confidence. Free Kindy gives eligible children 15 hours per week for up to 40 weeks per year in a government-approved program. Free Kindy programs are offered in long day care services and sessional kindergarten services. To find a service, see earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/freekindy.

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Operating before and after school and/or during school holidays, this service works well for working parents with school-age children who need care outside of school hours. It provides education and care with a play-based curriculum.

OCCASIONAL CHILDCARE

Offered on a casual basis for short periods of time, occasional childcare caters for children, from birth to school age and is useful for parents with short-term or last-minute needs.

CHILDCARE RATINGS

Kindergarten, long day care, outside-school-hours care and family day care services are assessed and rated under the National Quality Framework, which provides a national approach to regulation, assessment and quality improvement for early childhood education and care. To check a providers' rating go to acecqa.gov.au/resources/national-registers. The Queensland Government monitors all services to ensure they meet their legal requirements, regardless of whether they have been assessed and rated.

SPECIAL NEEDS

The Australian Government's Inclusion Support Program (education.gov.au/child-care-package/inclusion-support-program) and the Queensland Government's Kindergarten Inclusion Support Scheme (see earlychildhood.qld.gov.au) may provide funding to childcare or kindergarten

services to help them provide:

- specialist equipment and resources
- training and professional development for teachers
- extra teacher aide time
- more educators or carers.

FIND AN EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICE

Search the Starting Blocks website (startingblocks.gov.au/find-child-care) to find a kindergarten, long day care, family day care and outside schools hours care, captured under the National Law and National Quality Framework.

HOW TO CHOOSE A SERVICE

Consider your child's needs and your family circumstances when choosing childcare. While you can expect national or state-approved services to meet minimum standards, try to visit a selection to compare what they offer before making a decision. Many services have a waiting list, so it is best to make a decision well in advance. Check with your chosen service to find out whether:

- their operating hours and days suit your family
- places are available for new enrolments
- the fees suit your budget
- there are any costs over and above the fees
- there is a fee to be on a waiting list
- children with additional needs are supported
- they offer an education program (such as kindergarten or long day care)
- the staff are well qualified and experienced
- the routine will suit your child
- meals are provided (ask to see a sample meal plan)
- the carer-to-child ratio suits your needs
- you can claim the Child Care Subsidy to help cover the costs of the service.





Visit the service to meet the staff, see the facilities and experience the atmosphere. Make an appointment to ensure someone is available to talk to you. Ask questions and share information about your child. The service should be able to give you written information that may include:

- days and times when the service is open

- all fees you will have to pay (including public holidays, late fees, holidays and when your child is away sick)
- pick-up and drop-off procedures
- how your child's day will be organised and their individual needs met
- excursions and outings
- how injuries, illness and infectious diseases are dealt with (including storing and giving medicine)
- hygiene, safety and emergency procedures
- staffing, staff development and child-free preparation times
- how you can participate in the decisions affecting your child and how the service will respond to complaints and concerns.

For more advice on what to look for see acecqa.gov.au/resources/national-registers.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

The Australian Government provides families with financial assistance to help cover the costs of approved childcare, under the Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy. The Child Care Subsidy is income tested and is usually paid directly to approved Child Care Services to reduce the fees that eligible families pay. You can apply for the Child Care Subsidy

online or in person through Centrelink. To apply online, visit servicesaustralia.gov.au.

CHILDCARE CONNECT

One Tree Community Services (OTCS) offers a free service called Childcare Connect to help Defence families find appropriate child care, especially after relocating.

Childcare Connect considers individual needs and will engage with local registered child care providers to provide available solutions, including: long daycare; family daycare; the Australian Government In-Home Care Support Agencies; before and after-school care; and vacation care. Additionally, OTCS can provide information on unregistered informal care providers.

ADF families finding it difficult to secure child care in a new location can find out more about Childcare Connect by contacting the Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

MORE INFORMATION

To find childcare services: startingblocks.gov.au/find-child-care

For more advice: earlychildhood.qld.gov.au; www.qld.gov.au/families/babies/childcare/finding/assessing

Why Choose Us ?

Ally's Kindy offers the Ipswich Community and the Amberley RAAF Community a family orientated learning experience for your children.

- Our mission is based on combining detailed and specific information about your child with our own professional knowledge about children's education and development.
- We have 3 large grassed play areas with forts, bike track and sand pit with lots of shade.
- Our glass security door gives our parents peace of mind that their children are completely safe, with access only by our buzz in system.
- Our Educators are all long term and most have been with us well over 7 years.
- We supply our children with nutritionally balanced, home cooked meals everyday by our qualified chef and we happily cater for any dietary requirements your child may have.
- Ipswich City council has also awarded Ally's Kitchen a 5 STAR Food Safety Rating!
- For our many RAAF families, we are only 5 minutes from the back gate of the base, so many of our families can pop back to the centre, if they have a break during the day, if we have a special event happening with the children.

We welcome all prospective parents to come and inspect our Centre to feel the warmth and caring we share.

Please give our Director, Donna a call to make a time to come visit us on **07 3282 8888**. Alternatively you can visit our web page www.allyskindy.com.au

Follow us on facebook | info@allyskindy.com.au





SCHOOLING

There's a lot to learn about how primary schools and high schools function – especially as different states have different arrangements in place. Here's some information about schooling in Queensland.

IN QUEENSLAND it is compulsory for children to attend school from the age of six years and six months until they turn 16, or they complete Year 10 (whichever comes first). You can choose to send your child to a state/public school (education.qld.gov.au), independent school (www.isq.qld.edu.au) or Catholic school (qcec.catholic.edu.au).

Publicly funded state education includes early childhood development programs; primary schools, secondary schools and P-10/12 schools.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

To enrol in Prep (the first year of primary school), children must be five years of age by 30 June in the year of proposed attendance.

Starting school is a major milestone for children and their families, so the decision you make about their education is important. The Department of Education Schools Directory (schoolsdirectory.eq.edu.au) will help you

find state and private schools in your area.

Children attending state school usually go to the school closest to where they live. However, parents can send their children to the state school of their choice, depending on available places. Some schools have a School Enrolment Management Plan, which means students may not be able to attend unless they live within the designated catchment zone.

To help you choose the best school for your child, look at the school websites for information about performance, mission, staffing, funding and resources. You can also get information and compare schools at the My School website (myschool.edu.au). Once you have a shortlist, make an appointment to meet the principal and staff and see the school facilities.

To help decide which school is best for your child, consider the following:

- What are your child's needs and interests? Will the school be able to cater for them?

- Is the school reasonably close to home, work and carers?
- What facilities does the school offer? Are you comfortable with the feel of it?
- What are the school policies on homework, discipline and safety?
- Are other services available, such as after-school care?

Parents may wish to ask schools about:

- the size of the school
- when to enrol
- teaching methods and classroom environment
- uniform policy
- school hours
- levies
- assessment and reporting procedures
- available resources
- extracurricular activities
- communication between home and school
- student participation, e.g. school council
- parental involvement, such as parents and citizens' association.

Copies of the school rules or code of conduct, newsletters, prospectus and annual report will give you further information about the school and its activities.

STARTING SCHOOL

Enrolment forms and details of school enrolment processes are generally published on school websites. Usually, a child can be enrolled a year ahead for state schools and up to two years for non-state schools.





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TO BOOK A PERSONALISED TOUR OR FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE [IPSWICHGRAMMAR.COM](https://www.ipswichgrammar.com)

Before starting school, children are usually invited to visit their new school so they can become familiar with it. There are also lot of things families can do to help make a child's transition to school successful, including:

- getting to know as much about the school as they can
- talking with their child about school
- taking their child to the school to meet the teachers and to find out where things are
- making sure their child knows the transport arrangements for getting to and from school
- getting to know other families with children who will be in the same class as their child
- talking with their child about eating, toileting and hygiene at school
- making sure their child has had experiences of public toilets, libraries and public transport
- if appropriate, ensuring their child knows how before- and after-school-hours care will work
- answering their child's questions about school
- reading some children's books about starting school with their child
- always being positive and realistic about starting school.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Secondary or high school, Year 7 to 12, is the final period of compulsory education for Queensland students. Students are eligible to enter the first year of secondary school, Year 7, after completing primary education (Prep or Year 1 to Year 6). You may enrol your child in the local secondary school by contacting the school directly. Secondary schools have different ways of introducing primary students to their school. Most students settle in quickly in response to the carefully designed transition programs initiated by schools. Primary and secondary schools cooperate to ease students through the transition.

The senior years of education (Year 10–12) are important for students wishing to progress to university or further study. Students who have completed all 12 years of compulsory education from Year 1 to 12 will be eligible to qualify for the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). Year 12 students applying for tertiary study will generally be assessed on their Australian Tertiary Admission Rank.

ADJUSTING TO A NEW SCHOOL

If your child is transferring to a new school, the principal will have processes to help them adjust, such as buddy systems. Even for students who are looking forward to it, a change in school may cause distress. Signs of stress include irritability, reluctance to talk, sleep disturbance, stomach aches, headaches and not wanting to go to school. The teacher or principal can provide support and advice if your child is having difficulty settling in.



If your child is moving from a non-state school to a state school (or vice versa) in Queensland, the new school can request a transfer note from the previous school. There is no need for parents or carers to complete any additional forms.

If your child has moved to Queensland from interstate, the new school can request consent from you to obtain your child's information from the previous school using the interstate student data transfer note. This system enables the new school to support the educational placements of new students. A transfer note is not required for students transferring their enrolment from one Queensland state school to another (including primary to secondary). Students who change schools during Year 11 or 12 can receive a credit transfer and their previous study at a school in Queensland, interstate or overseas may count towards their QCE.

When changing schools:

- consider the timing of the move and if the move can coincide with the change of term
- involve your children in discussions and decisions about moving – this may help allay any fears or concerns they have
- discuss the forthcoming move with your current school and collect documentation outlining student achievement levels and education history – this will help with appropriate placement at the new school
- prepare a list of your children's particular needs e.g. preferred subjects, transport needs, sporting and other interests
- consider subject choices, special education provisions, transport to and from school, vocational education programs, and cultural and sporting opportunities
- consider behaviour management, discipline and uniform policies.

MORE INFORMATION education.qld.gov.au; myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au

SCHOOL DATES FOR 2026

This information is relevant to Queensland state schools. Independent and Catholic school term dates can vary so check with the relevant school. Queensland state schools have four 10-week terms.

PERIOD	START	FINISH
Term 1 School Holidays	Tuesday 27 January Friday 3 April	Thursday 2 April Sunday 19 April
Term 2 School Holidays	Tuesday 20 April Saturday 27 June	Friday 26 June Sunday 12 July
Term 3 School Holidays	Monday 13 July Saturday 19 September	Friday 18 September Monday 5 October
Term 4 School Holidays	Tuesday 6 October Saturday 12 December	Friday 11 December Tuesday 26 January 2027



**IPSWICH GIRLS'
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**
— & —
IPSWICH JUNIOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL



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SUPPORT FOR DEFENCE KIDS

If you're keen to minimise any disruption to your child's education as a result of your family's relocation, talk to Defence Member and Family Support.

DEFENCE MEMBER AND FAMILY SUPPORT

(DMFS) provides information, resources and programs to help with the transition between schools and education systems when ADF members and their families move, and provides support for the unique needs of Defence kids.

ADF EQUIP

The ADF Equip Program is designed to help children manage the challenges associated with Defence life. The program supports children to learn appropriate strategies to help them manage the challenge of parental absence and relocation related to service. It includes facilitated sessions tailored to age group and is open to children aged between five and 18 years.

EDUCATION LIAISON OFFICERS

Education liaison officers are experienced staff who help Defence families as they move around the country, providing information, advice, referral and specialised assistance. They are located in each state and territory and have extensive knowledge about the local schools and education systems as well as the challenges faced by Defence children. The assistance provided includes:

- Informing families about local schools and education systems
- Linking families with special education providers, resources or support agencies

according to their children's individual needs (including special needs students)

- Working with schools to ensure a supportive education environment and to raise awareness of issues facing Defence children
- Informing families about Defence support services available, such as financial assistance under the Education Assistance Scheme.

DEFENCE SCHOOL MENTORS

DMFS's school mentor program provides support to the children of ADF members, particularly when moving in and out of a school on posting or when a parent is absent from home. Under the program, mentors in primary and secondary schools support Defence students transitioning from school to school and during times of parental absence. Mentors help schools, families and children to develop strategies to successfully integrate into the school and community. Their role also includes:

- Coordinating appropriate welcome and farewell activities
- Smoothing the transition between different schools and different education systems (including minimising the impact of relocation on learning outcomes)
- Monitoring the social, emotional and academic wellbeing of Defence students

- Helping students develop self-confidence, self-reliance and resilience
- Referring students to services or school community programs that meet their needs.

To find out which schools in your area are currently funded under the program, see www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/family-programs-services/support-for-children/defence-school-mentor-program

CHILDCARE

DMFS maintains a network of childcare centres around Australia and has a range of programs to support the availability of childcare services to Defence families, who might face difficulties accessing childcare. That includes access to an individual case management service to help them find registered childcare services in their local community.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

Defence families can access a range of financial support to help minimise the disruption to schooling caused by posting and relocations. The support available includes:

- Tutoring assistance
- Boarding school allowance
- Tertiary accommodation
- Students with special needs
- Reimbursement of a lost scholarship
- Reunion travel.

The aim is to provide students with educational stability or short-term assistance to help overcome any immediate difficulties with education or emotional wellbeing as a result of relocation.

CONTACT DMFS

For more information about these services, contact the 24/7 Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608, visit defence.gov.au/members-families or email memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au.



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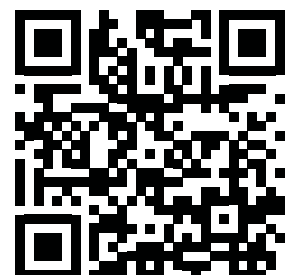




PHOTO: LACW Neil Bradbury

↑ **RAAF No.2 Security Forces Squadron marches through Brisbane's CBD during the Anzac Day 2025 commemorations.**

There is wide range of support available to veterans of all ages.

THE VETERAN COMMUNITY is a critical part of the broader Amberley Base community. As the majority of Amberley Defence staff are veterans themselves, having served overseas and in Australia, our staff and units appreciate the vital role veterans' organisation have in supporting our serving and ex-serving veterans.

The organisations are critical to supporting and advocating for our veterans and their families, ensuring the sacrifices of those who have served before us are appropriately remembered and providing a community for veterans to be part of after they leave the defence forces. RAAF Base Amberley works in partnership with those organisations by supporting, promoting and assisting them to deliver the support our serving and ex-serving veterans need and value.

Commemorations are a key support activity for our units where we work with community partners in commemorating those who have served in the defence of our nation. While members participate as a priority in key national commemoration events such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, they also support a variety of commemorations throughout the year.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS (DVA)

DVA services include:

- financial support
- health care
- rehabilitation
- mental health care
- help returning to civilian life
- commemoration and recognition
- home-care assistance
- help with housing
- historical information.

DVA has been supporting the veteran community in Australia since the end of World War I. Today, the government invests more than \$11.5 billion a year to support veterans and families. The department's services and supports are continually evolving to ensure that DVA looks after veterans, not just during their service, but through their transition into civilian life, and beyond.

Mental health support

DVA has a strong focus on mental-health treatment. Under a program called Non-Liability Health Care, DVA funds treatment for all mental-health conditions, whether related to service or not, for those with at least one day of continuous full-time service in the ADF, as well as eligible Reservists. Search for 'Non-Liability Health Care' at dva.gov.au. In addition, mental-health support

including free and confidential counselling 24/7 is offered through Open Arms (see page 48).

Finding employment after the ADF

For ADF personnel transitioning back into civilian life, there is an information page for veterans on the government's Workforce Australia website (workforceaustralia.gov.au) to help translate service training and skills to the civilian workforce. There is also an optional 'Defence Force experience desirable' flag for vacancies listed on the website.

The government's Veteran Employment Program website offers information and advice on moving to civilian employment or starting your own business. veteranemployment.gov.au

On-base support

Veteran Support Officers (VSOs) can offer members information and advice about the support and entitlements they may be able to receive through DVA. The levels of support range from information on MyService through to instructions on how to submit a claim while you are still enlisted. VSOs are DVA staff located on Defence bases. To make an appointment, email vso@dva.gov.au. For general enquiries, DVA can be contacted on 1800 838 372.

Connect with DVA online

Through DVA's online portal, MyService, you can update your personal and contact details, submit claims and view your veteran profile. To register visit dva.gov.au/myservice.



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION QLD

Who we are

The Air Force Association (AFA) is the peak veterans

support organisation for RAAF and ex-RAAF members and their families in Australia. As the peak body, the association is recognised by government and other veteran's organisations as the representative organisation for ex-RAAF members, with a primary goal of providing assistance to fellow members. As one of the oldest veteran support organisations, the AFA has been influential in advocating for ex-RAAF members' needs resulting from service in World War I, World War II, post-war Southeast Asia, peacekeeping operations and in more recent years, the high operational tempo of today's modern Air Force.

In Queensland, the AFC and Royal Australian Air Force Association Queensland Division comprises 14 active branches and a headquarters. The AFA is well positioned to interact with other veterans' organisations, advocate to the

Queensland Government and coordinate Air Force ceremonies throughout the state.

Our Mission

The AFA exists to support the welfare of the Air Force family through advocacy, assistance, camaraderie and commemoration.

1. Advocacy. At the federal and state government levels, we provide an influential voice in representing ex-Air Force members' needs on veterans' issues. We work with our national board, state and federal veteran's authorities and other veterans' support organisations in ensuring the needs and interests of those who have served in the Air Force and their families are met. We also assist Air Force veterans in interpreting veteran policy and entitlements supporting them in their development of compensation claims and appeals.

2. Commemoration and Heritage. Recognising the importance of commemorating the deeds of those who have served before and fostering the legacy they have left for generations to come, we partner with the RAAF at Amberley and Townsville and other stakeholders, including the Australian Air Force Cadets, conducting Air Force-specific ceremonies, the preservation of Air Force heritage and educating Queenslanders on the Air Force

story and Queensland's contribution to that story.

3. Assistance. We appreciate ex-serving members and their families of various ages will require assistance and support at times and we can be there for them when needed.

4. Camaraderie. We hold various events, functions and activities across Queensland providing avenues for our broader Air Force family to remain connected. While these activities are popular with our aged members, we also place much importance on bringing our younger veterans together with our older members to share stories, support each other, and provide mentorship and foster values.

Our Priorities

- To provide advocacy in partnership with the broader veteran's support community
- To provide better representation and support for the Air Force family
- To gain recognition as a respected, effective and leading ex-service organisation
- To ensure Queensland has a better understanding of the Air Force story and the state's contribution to that story.

Contact

Email: statesec@raafaqlld.org raafaqlld.com



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RSL QUEENSLAND

If you've ever served in the ADF, RSL Queensland is here for you and your family. For more than 100 years, it has supported veterans, current serving Defence members, and their families in real and meaningful ways. Its mission is to provide care, commemoration

and camaraderie to enable veterans and their families to live with dignity and respect.

Whether you're after employment support, social activities with fellow veterans, or help with finances or DVA claims, RSL Queensland has services to help you and your family every step of the way.

Along with a vibrant and supportive community at RSL Sub Branches across the state, you can also access services and support from Mates4Mates, plus many RSL peer-led programs – providing opportunities for meaningful connection and support.

Free support for DVA claims is now available in person or virtually at RAAF Base Amberley. To book, call 134 775 or email vs@rslqld.org. Find out more at rslqld.org.

MATES4MATES

Here for those impacted by service.

Mates4Mates is proudly part of RSL Queensland and is here for those impacted by service.

As one of Australia's leading veteran charities, Mates4Mates supports current and ex-serving Defence Force members and families through mental health and physical rehabilitation services, skills-based recovery programs and social connection activities.

Whether you're a veteran or family member experiencing physical injuries, mental health impacts or social disconnection, Mates4Mates understands the challenges of transitioning from the Defence Force and is here to support you.

With services accessible through Mates4Mates Ipswich Centre, Mates4Mates is also located in Brisbane and Maroochydore within South East Queensland. Online skills-based recovery programs and telehealth clinical appointments are also available to support veterans and families no matter where they live.

Since Mates4Mates was established in 2013, more than 14,000 veterans and families have directly benefited from its services. To access support today, make the call that makes the difference on 1300 4 MATES (62837) or visit mates4mates.org.



PHOTO: RSL Queensland



Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling is Australia's leading national provider of high quality, free and confidential counselling

and support services for Australian veterans and their families. Similar to other community-based mental health services, Open Arms clients experience depression, anxiety, substance use challenges, workplace struggles, relationship concerns and parenting and family issues. The difference with Open Arms is that staff members have specialist training in the military experience. And, while they support families experiencing the routine daily challenges, they also understand the unique stressors military and veteran families experience relating to the posting cycle, training exercises, deployments, partner employment, and more.

A unique service offered by Open Arms is its Community and Peer Program. The program connects veterans and family members with peers that have served in the Australian Defence Force – or had family members who have served – and have had the experience of accessing mental health services for their own wellbeing. Peers work collaboratively with veterans, family supports, community agencies and mental health clinicians to complement other services.

Open Arms has a network of professional providers across metropolitan and regional areas. For Amberley, the nearest Open Arms office is at 10 Brisbane St, Ipswich, and there are also two offices in Brisbane.

If you or someone you know wants someone to talk to, even just for a chat, Open Arms is available 24/7 by calling 1800 011 046. The service is free and confidential and there is always a team member, who understands the military experience, available to answer your call. openarms.gov.au

WOUNDED HEROES

Wounded Heroes Australia is a national charity providing 24/7 crisis support for current serving ADF members, veterans and their families. It assists those in financial crisis, who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

In 2023, Wounded Heroes supported 2,910 veterans and their families in crisis. In 2024, that number increased to 4,223. Wounded Heroes Australia spends \$40,000 a month on Crisis Calls and is determined to reduce the high rates of Defence and veteran suicide.

The Wounded Heroes Australia - Veterans Centre Ipswich is a dedicated space where veterans, members of the ADF, and their families, can access a comprehensive support system and connect with both current and former serving personnel. In addition to providing vital services, the centre also houses our head office, an Op Shop and Jim's Café. All proceeds from the Op Shop and Jim's Café contribute directly to funding our crisis support services for veterans and their families.

For information, see woundedheroes.org.au. For crisis support, call 1300 532 112.



Legacy was established in 1923 and founded on a promise made by one digger to

another, to "look after the missus and the kids". Legacy advocates to ensure beneficiaries receive the government benefits or pensions they are entitled to. If needed, Legacy will provide a one-off payment to assist during an emergency.

Legacy strives to ensure that no person faces social isolation. It has clubs, local events, holidays and camps where widows, children and families can come together to bond and create friendships.

To find a local Legacy club, see legacy.com.au.

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TIME OUT

There's plenty to see and do in beautiful South East Queensland.

PHOTO: Tourism & Events Queensland

IPSWICH

THE OLDEST PROVINCIAL CITY in Queensland, Ipswich was established in 1827 as a convict outstation for quarrying limestone and farming. It became a busy port on the Bremer River and grew in importance with the development of coal mines and railways.

The city has more than 6,000 heritage-listed sites, and there are also some charming townships within the western rural areas. Discover Ipswich's heritage through the historical parks and gardens, galleries and antique stores that scatter the city.

HERITAGE

Ipswich Antique Centre is a multi-dealer antique centre in the 1895 Heritage-listed Congregational Sunday School Hall. Its ever-changing collections ranges from Australian and English antiques to retro furniture to jewellery and glassware. 86 East Street, Ipswich. ipswichantiquecentre.com.au

Top of Town is a historic stretch of Brisbane Street bordered by Ellenborough and Waghorn Streets, with cafes, restaurants, vintage stores, boutiques and collectibles on offer. Original shop facades and heritage buildings include the Old Flour Mill Building, designed by George Brockwell Gill, which is now a retail centre.

Cooneana Heritage Centre is the place to learn about Ipswich's mining history. Home to the Ipswich Historical Society, the centre contains historical photographs, artefacts and mining displays. 1041 Redbank Plains Rd, New Chum. ipswichhistoricalsociety.com

Explore the City of Ipswich's history with one of its self-guided heritage trails and tours. discoveripswich.com.au/heritage-trails-you-can-explore-in-ipswich

Ipswich Art Gallery, in the old town hall, has a collection of more than 2,000 works and presents a program of exhibitions and heritage displays, performances and workshops. Nicholas Street, d'Arcy Doyle Place, Ipswich City. ipswichartgallery.qld.gov.au

The Workshops Rail Museum features beautifully restored locomotives, Queensland's largest model railway and interactive exhibitions. North Street, North Ipswich. museum.qld.gov.au/rail-workshops

The Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway runs trips from Swanbank Station. Swanbank Coal Rd, Swanbank. qpsr.org

THEATRE & ENTERTAINMENT

Studio 188 (studio188.com.au) in the former Ipswich Baptist Church is a creative performing arts space for comedy, music and theatre, while **Ipswich Civic Centre** (ipswichciviccentre.com.au) hosts bigger live events. **Ipswich Little Theatre** (ilt.org.au) runs out of the old Incinerator building and award-winning **Ipswich Musical Theatre Company** (ipswichmusicaltheatrecompany.com.au) stages popular productions. To find out about local art trails, events and festivals, see ipswichfestivals.com.au. **Tivoli Drive-in Theatre** (tivolidrivein.com.au) shows movies on Saturday nights and **Limelight Cinemas** (limelightcinemas.com.au) shows new releases and cult classics.

SPORT

The City of Ipswich is home to more than 60 sport and recreation facilities and 150 clubs and groups. To find a local team or group go to mycommunitydirectory.com.au.

ADVENTURE

For a bird's-eye view, take a hot air balloon flight (floatingimages.com.au) or a helicopter tour (pterodactylhelicopters.com.au).

Willowbank Raceway (willowbankraceway.com.au) has a program of drag racing including the Winternationals. An array of events is held at **Queensland Raceway** (qldraceways.com.au), where you can get behind the wheel of a supercar.

OPEN SPACES

Ipswich has more than 550 parks and reserves covering more than 8,500ha. To find a park, see ipswich.qld.gov.au/Explore. The Naeus Explore app (naeus.com) can make it easier to locate and explore some of the many tracks within conservation areas, with GPS guided maps, weather details and more.

Hillview Drive Reserve is 37.2ha of undulating bushland. Part of a trail network across four nature estates, the shared-use trail is ideal for walking and mountain biking. 4 Leslie Drive, Muirlea.

Kholo Gardens at Pine Mountain has lush gardens, a lily pond, walks, giant kauri trees and hoop pines. 243 Riverside Drive, Muirlea.

Queens Park has a playground, flying fox, cafe, Japanese gardens and the Ipswich Nature Centre, with a range of wildlife. 10A Milford Street, Ipswich.

Robelle Domain is 24ha of boardwalks, sports fields, playgrounds and walking tracks, plus a zero-depth water play area, cafe and Orion Lagoon.

155 Southern Cross Circuit, Springfield Central.

Lobley Park has an aviation-inspired playground.

White Rock Spring Mountain Conservation

Estate is 2,500ha of bush with trails from 200m to 19km.

Denmark Hill Conservation Reserve has a trail leading to a water tower where you can enjoy 360-degree views of Ipswich.

Hidden Vale Adventure Park has 80km of trails for mountain biking, running and hiking. Park access is \$20. hiddenvaleadventurepark.com.au

Castle Hill Blackstone Reserve has more than 15 International Mountain Biking Association-rated mountain bike trails for all levels.

7 Mary Street, Blackstone.

Flinders Peak is a tough 7km return from the Flinders Plum recreation area, with 500m of vertical climb. The summit offers views of the Scenic Rim and RAAF Base Amberley.

Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, one of South-East Queensland's 14 rail trails, runs 161km from Wulkuraka Station, Ipswich to Yarraman.

brisbanevalleyrailtrail.com.au

Other useful links: ipswich.qld.gov.au/Live/Healthy-Lifestyle/Ride-Ipswich; parks.des.qld.gov.au/things-to-do/activities/railtrails.org.au.

ON THE WATER

Ipswich has some great canoeing, kayaking and fishing spots. On the **Brisbane River**, Colleges Crossing Recreation Reserve (Mt Crosby Rd, Chuwar) is the most accessible place for a paddle,

with a canoe launch area and barbecue facilities. Be aware that there are bullsharks and stonefish in that part of the river. The 21km paddle from Burton's Bridge (East Summervilles Rd, Borallon) to Kholo Bridge is popular. There are numerous sets of rapids as well as long, still sections where you may see platypuses.

The **Bremer River** has 25km of water suitable for kayaking. Safe access points include: Shapcott Park, Gladstone Rd, Coalfalls; Cribb Park, Norma Brown St, North Ipswich; and Joseph Brady Park, Riverside Avenue, Barellan Point. From Joseph Brady Park you can explore the junction of the Bremer and Brisbane Rivers.

OUT OF TOWN

The historic village of **Marburg**, about a 20-minute drive west of Ipswich, has some beautifully restored heritage buildings including the old German Baptist Church, Bielefeld's Store and the historic hotel (circa 1879). Rosewood Scrub Historical Museum has lots of early photos of the area. The pretty villages of Haigslea and Rosewood are also of historical interest.

At **The Llama Farm** in Pine Mountain (thellamafarm.com.au), you can take a llama for a walk or book into a Little Llama Farmer school holiday program. Feed and pet a range of animals at the **Haigslea Ewe Nique Hobby Farm** (eweniquehobbyfarm.com.au) and see newborn lambs in lambing season. For a camel ride or camel milk produce, visit **Summer Land Camel Farm** (summerlandcamels.com.au).

MORE INFORMATION: Ipswich Visitor Information Centre, Queens Park, 14 Queen Victoria Parade, Ipswich. Phone 07 3281 0555. discoveripswich.com.au



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PHOTO: Tourism and Events Queensland

- ↑ Eat Street Northshore.
- ↘ The Wheel of Brisbane.
- ↓ Streets Beach, South Bank.

BRISBANE

WITH A WARM CLIMATE and an average of 283 days of sunshine a year, it's no surprise Queenslanders spend lots of time outside. Brisbane has plenty of opportunities with open-air produce markets and green spaces such as Brisbane City Botanical Gardens, Roma Street Parkland and New Farm Park, plus the Brisbane River winding through the city centre. Outdoor dining precincts are also expanding, including Fortitude Valley's James Street (jamesst.com.au) and popular Howard Smith Wharves (howardsmithwharves.com).

For a little adventure, brave the Story Bridge Adventure Climb (storybridgeadventureclimb.com.au) or try a kayaking tour, abseiling or rock climbing (riverlife.com.au).

South Bank (whatsonsouthbank.com.au) has 17ha of riverside parklands, eateries and some of Brisbane's best cultural offerings, including the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art (qagoma.qld.gov.au), SparkLab Sciencentre (sparklab.qm.qld.gov.au), the State Library (slq.qld.gov.au), Queensland Museum (museum.qld.gov.au/queensland-museum) and Queensland Performing Arts Centre (qpac.com.au). You can also swim at the man-made Streets Beach or relax at the cafes, parks and boardwalks. Little Stanley Street and Grey Street are lined with restaurants, hotels and bars, and The Wheel of Brisbane offers panoramic views of the river, city and mountains. The precinct is also home to regular markets (collectivemarkets.com.au), a community garden – Epicurious Garden, and high-end riverside dining at River Quay (eatsouthbank.com.au).



PHOTO: Tourism and Events Queensland



PHOTO: Tourism and Events Queensland



- ↓ Story Bridge at dusk.

PHOTO: Tourism and Events Queensland

MORE INFORMATION: Brisbane Visitor Information & Booking Centre.
The Regent, 167 Queen Street Mall, Brisbane, 07 3006 6290.
South Bank Visitor Centre, Stanley Street Plaza,
South Bank Parklands, 07 3867 2111. visitbrisbane.com.au





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↑ Bongaree Foreshore, Bribie Island.

SURROUNDING REGIONS

MORETON BAY REGION

Just north of Brisbane, the Moreton Bay Region stretches from the lush hinterland to the coast and out to Bribie Island. Take a drive along mountain roads through the forest, stopping off at a boutique winery, or head for the water to swim, spot dolphins and explore seaside villages. visitmoretonbayregion.com.au

ISLANDS

Bribie Island is the only Queensland island connected to the mainland by bridge and is about an 80-minute drive from the Brisbane

CBD. It has national parks (some with camping facilities), surf beaches, calmer, protected beaches, good fishing and a variety of restaurants and accommodation. Pumicestone Passage is a protected marine park, home to dugongs, turtles, dolphins and birdlife, while Bribie Island National Park is the spot to see goannas, kangaroos and emus.

Moreton Island, 75 minutes by ferry from Brisbane, is the third-largest sand island in the world and can be explored only by 4WD. The sandhills are perfect for sandboarding and further inland there are several freshwater lakes

for a dip. The Tangalooma Wrecks, a cluster of deliberately sunken ships, are home to colourful sea life and popular with kayakers, snorkellers and divers. Tangalooma Island Resort offers accommodation, day tours and a wild-dolphin feeding experience. There is also a range of campgrounds and bookable glamping tents.

North Stradbroke Island, a 15-minute boat ride from the Redlands Coast or 45 minutes from Brisbane by car ferry, has a rich Indigenous culture, abundant wildlife and a laid-back community. Dive with manta rays, turtles and reef sharks at Manta Bommie, spot humpback



whales in the cooler months or swim in the tea-tree infused waters of Brown Lake. There are some good nature walks and plenty of cafes and markets for sampling the local fare, including seafood straight off the trawler.
stradbrokeisland.com

SOMERSET

Less than an hour north of Ipswich, Somerset features expansive lakes, mountain forests and tranquil valleys. Travel along winding valley roads to Lake Wivenhoe and Lake Somerset for a picnic, birdwatching, fishing or water sports, or explore the region's wine trail. Cycle, walk or horseride along Australia's longest recreational rail trail, the 160km Brisbane Valley Rail Trail following a former train corridor from Fernvale to Yarraman or follow the art trail.
experiencesomerset.com.au

LOCKYER VALLEY

At the foot of the Great Dividing Range, 70km west of Ipswich, the Lockyer Valley offers a laid-back atmosphere, stunning valley views and the perfect mix of town and country. Explore markets, galleries and restaurants, and stunning national parks. The Cobb & Co Tourist Drive follows the 1860s Royal Mail coach route

with stops at heritage-listed pubs and hotels, historic buildings, villages and lookout points.
luyvalockyer.com.au

TOOWOOMBA

At the top of the Great Dividing Range, about an hour's drive from Ipswich, Toowoomba has been dubbed the Garden City for its numerous parks and gardens, and its four-week Carnival of Flowers held every spring (**tcof.com.au**).

State-heritage-listed Queens Park and Botanic Gardens (43-73 Lindsay Street, East Toowoomba) covers more than 25ha and features stunning plantings and towering trees, barbecue facilities, playgrounds and an off-leash dog park. The University of Southern Queensland's 4.5ha Ju Raku En Japanese Garden is Australia's largest, most traditionally designed Japanese 'stroll garden' and has a mountain stream and waterfall, 3km of paths and 230 species of Japanese and Australian trees and plants.

Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery (531 Ruthven Street) houses three permanent collections that include some of Australia's most famous painters. The interactive, child-friendly exhibits at Cobb+Co Museum (27 Lindsay Street, Toowoomba) include a hands-on science area, play space and a life-sized horse and carriage.



PHOTO: Tourism and Events Queensland/Jason Charles Hill

↑ **Stradbroke Island.**

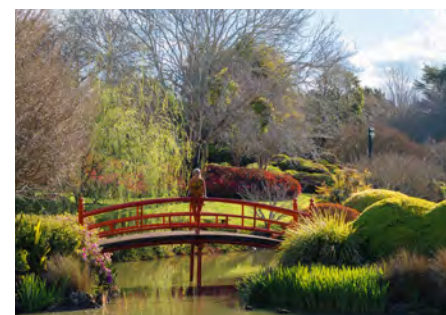
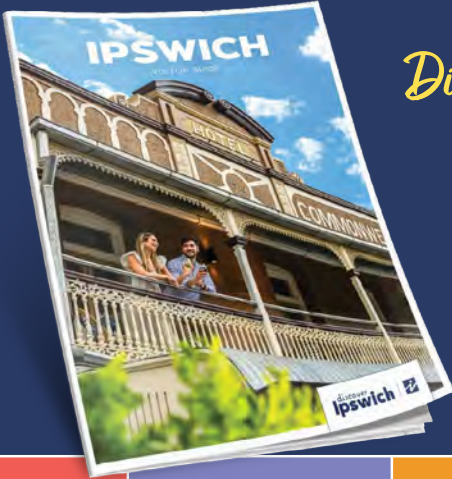


PHOTO: Tourism and Events Queensland

↑ **UniSQ Japanese Garden, Toowoomba.**



Discover Ipswich... your own back yard

From hidden gems to rich history, mouthwatering local flavours and unforgettable adventures, there's so much to explore.

Scan here to stay in the loop on Ipswich's must-do events and experiences.



FLAVOURS	HERITAGE	ADVENTURE	COUNTRY	CULTURE
				




For panoramic views to the Lockyer Valley, Picnic Point (Tourist Road, Rangeville) is a short drive from the CBD, and has a cafe overlooking the escarpment, a waterfall, playgrounds and short bushwalks.

GOLD COAST

Encompassing iconic Surfers Paradise beach, the dining precincts of Main Beach and Broadbeach, a host of theme parks and lush, green hinterland, the Gold Coast attracts millions of visitors a year.

Experience some of the world's tallest and fastest rides and slides at Dreamworld (dreamworld.com.au), meet movie characters and superheroes at MovieWorld (movieworld.com.au), swim with dolphins and sharks at Sea World (seaworld.com.au), cool off with waterslides at Wet'n'Wild (wetnwild.com.au), step into the future at Infinity Attraction (infinitygc.com.au), or cuddle a koala at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary (currumbinsanctuary.com.au). There's also plenty of interactive adventures, ropes courses, treetop challenges and walking trails in the national parks of the hinterland. destinationgoldcoast.com

GRANITE BELT

Known for its distinct seasons and regional flavours, the Granite Belt is the place for a cosy winter getaway or a spring escape to enjoy the wildflowers and blossoming orchards. The heart of the region is Queensland's Big Apple,

Stanthorpe, surrounded by apple and stone-fruit orchards.

The region is also home to Queensland's burgeoning wine scene, with restaurants serving local produce and delis and farm stores offering treats for a picnic among the vines.

At Girraween National Park, prehistoric boulders rise out of the landscape and there are plenty of hikes to explore. The Queen Mary Falls circuit in Main Range National Park is a spectacular 40-minute walk through Gondwana rainforests, from the lookouts at the top of the falls to the creek below. southerndownsandgranitebelt.com.au

THE SCENIC RIM

Known for its spectacular scenery, the Scenic Rim also has vibrant art galleries, craft breweries, boutique wineries and bushwalking tracks through national parks. Explore lush rainforests, spectacular waterfalls, rugged mountain ranges and breathtaking lookouts from Mt Tamborine, Lamington National Park, Mt Lindesay and Mt Barney.

Lake Moogerah is popular for boating and jet skiing, with views out to Mt Greville, Mt Alford and the Main Range National Park.

The country roads are dotted with stalls and farm-gate shops offering fresh produce. Take a pub crawl of the country hotels, visit an award-winning winery or relax over a local craft beer. There are numerous driving routes that will take you to charming towns and villages. visitscenicrim.com.au



PHOTO: Tourism and Events Queensland

↑ Wonder Reef, Gold Coast.

SUNSHINE COAST

Less than two-hours' north of Ipswich, the laid-back Sunshine Coast boasts 100km of sandy coastline, lush hinterland and sweeping views from the volcanic peaks of the Glass House Mountains.

There is a variety of seaside towns and villages, from sophisticated Noosa and urban Maroochydore to easy-going Caloundra.

The hinterland is dotted with charming villages such as Maleny and Montville. visitsunshinecoast.com



PHOTO: Tourism and Events Queensland

↑ SUPing at sunrise on Lake Cootharaba, Noosa, Sunshine Coast.



PHOTO: Tourism and Events Queensland

↑ Beechmont Estate, Scenic Rim.



PHOTO: Tourism and Events Queensland

↑ Girraween National Park, Granite Belt.



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Ally's Kindy is a family-owned centre in West Ipswich, five minutes from Amberley RAAF Base. We have been caring for children in the area for more than 16 years. Our mission is based on combining detailed, specific information about the children with our professional knowledge of children's education and development.



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CONTACT 07 3454 4447, iggs.qld.edu.au



IPSWICH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

With over 160 years of experience teaching boys, we understand what makes them tick. Ipswich Grammar School is one of Queensland's leading independent non-denominational, day and boarding schools for boys from Prep to Year 12. With passionate teachers and a nurturing pastoral care approach, boys are encouraged to develop their character and the confidence and skills to succeed beyond school.

CONTACT 07 3813 9600, ipswichgrammar.com



ONE GIANT LEAP

One Giant Leap Australia has been established to advance education by providing opportunities for students and educators to develop and build their knowledge and understanding of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The continuation of studies in primary, secondary and tertiary education is encouraged by various activities, including providing education programs about space science, technology and exploration.

CONTACT 0412 326509, www.onegiantleapaustralia.com



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CONTACT wmac.com.au, info@wmac.com.au, Keswick Road, Karrabin.



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CONTACT Debbie Summerville, debbie.k.summerville@nab.com.au, 0436 630 230, nab.com.au/defence



SMART

Smart™ is the exclusive provider of salary packaging benefits to the Department of Defence. We've proudly supported over 50,000 Defence members for more than 20 years. As one of Australia's leading salary packaging providers, we're here to help you take home more of your pay by making it simple to access the potential financial advantages of salary packaging and novated leasing.

CONTACT www.smart.com.au/defence



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CONTACT www.floatingimages.com.au



MATES4MATES

Mates4Mates was established by RSL Queensland in 2013 and has since supported more than 14,000 current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members and families impacted by service. If you're looking to reconnect and recover, Mates4Mates offers mental health and physical rehabilitation services, skills and wellbeing programs, and social connection activities. Reach out to the Ipswich team today.

CONTACT 1300 4 MATES (62 837), mates4mates.org



RSL QUEENSLAND

Our mission is to provide care, commemoration and camaraderie to enable veterans and their families to live with dignity and respect. That is our guiding light and underpins all that we do. Whether you're after employment support, social activities with fellow veterans, or help with finances or DVA claims, RSL Queensland has services to help you and your family every step of the way. Free support for DVA claims is now available in person at RAAF Base Amberley.

CONTACT Call 134 775, email vs@rslqld.org or visit rslqld.org



IPSWICH VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The award-winning Ipswich Visitor Information Centre is home to passionate volunteers who know the region better than anyone and are available seven days a week to assist visitors. The centre provides free booking services for tours and accommodation, free maps, brochures and wi-fi access. It has a cafe and stocks a wonderful selection of local art, gifts and produce.

CONTACT 07 3281 0555, Queens Park, 14 Queen Victoria Parade, Ipswich
Email: info@discoveripswich.com.au, Web: Discoveripswich.com.au





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Anglican College
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Where Defence families feel at home

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