

A Short history of Quilts of Valour Australia Inc.

Following the tragic loss and injury of Defence personnel in Afghanistan in 2010, a resident of Victoria learnt of the need to reach out to wounded ADF personnel and honour their sacrifice for serving Australia on a combat deployment. It is such a powerful symbol in a traumatic time that it felt an important issue that Australians should be involved. Victorian resident, Helen Comport, learnt how touched an injured soldier was by the warmth of the quilt he was awarded by American 'Quilts of Valor'.

Helen was inspired to establish an Australian organisation . Through consultation with the American group and support from the Victorian Quilters Guild and the Berwick RSL sub-branch, the first official meeting with election of office bearers occurred in February 2012.

We have co-ordinators and representatives in every Australian state and Territory.



Stan Allen (Vietnam Veteran / QOVA co-ordinator NSW), Wyn Roper (President QOVA), Bill Cruwys (Vietnam Veteran) and John Callcott (Vietnam Veteran).

Quilts of Valour Australia Inc. has awarded quilts to Defence personnel touched by war and the immediate families of fallen soldiers since the beginning of 2012.

We supplied quilts to the military in Afghanistan to be awarded by the RSM as soldiers were wounded. We have also sent quilts to the military hospital in Germany. All families of soldiers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan have been made aware of 'Quilts of Valour Australia' and over 100 quilts have been awarded to these family members. We award quilts to veterans from all conflicts as we know that they all carry the scars of war. As we grow around Australia we are hopeful that more quilting groups will learn about our cause and get involved.

The quilts are awarded with a covering letter and certificate to the recipient. The quilt is a powerful gift of love. The top of the quilt with its many colours, shapes and fabrics, represents the communities and the many individuals we are. The wadding, the filler, is the centre of the quilt, its warmth . It represents our hope that this quilt will bring warmth, comfort, peace and healing to the recipient. The backing is the strength that supports the communities, and our nation. Each stitch that holds the layers together represents love, gratitude and sometimes the tears of the maker.

"The quilt awarded to honour our son has become an heirloom to honour his memory."

"What a wonderful surprise and honour... I thought that us Vietnam Veterans were all but forgotten (except for the TPI pension I get from DVA)."

"Many, many thanks for recognising me in this way. My quilt, certificate and letter will stay with me forever."



Ray Heathcote (RSL Berwick), Scott May (Young Veterans), Helen Comport (Founder/Honorary Secretary QOVA) and John Wells (RSL Dandenong /Cranbourne).



Robert Parker WW2 receiving his quilt from Barbara Kenny (QOVA co-ordinator Queensland).



Veterans who participated in the Trojans Trek. Nichole Cunningham, Francis Boyle, Anna Sutcliffe, Wyn Roper (President QOVA) and James Paterson.

How you can become involved.

To learn more or to contact us please visit our website quiltsOfValour.com.au

01. Completed quilts. Minimum 50 inches by 70 inches using cotton fabrics or Patchwork tops.

02. Fabrics to make a Quilt of Valour

03. Wadding and backings for quilt

04. Postage costs.

05. Certificates and Printing costs

One Quilt of Valour can cost \$700 to complete.

Monetary Donations

Please return this section with your gift.

Name

Address

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City

State Postcode

Email

Phone

Make cheques payable to:

Quilts of Valour Australia.

Please send to:

Quilts of Valour Australia Inc.

PQ Box 9057, Harkaway, Vic. 3806.

Direct Debit:

BSB 633 000

Account Number 146 288 378

Include your contact details for receipt.

Donations \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Quilts of Valour Australia Inc.

ABN 38159571141

PO Box 9057 Harkaway Victoria Australia 3806

qovoz@hotmail.com

facebook.com/QuiltsOfValourAustralia

VICTORIA

Wyn: 0418 534 168

Helen: 0418 535 871

vic@quiltsOfValour.com.au

NEW SOUTH WALES

Stan and Sue: 0402844616

nsw@quiltsOfValour.com.au

QUEENSLAND

Barbara and Bill: 0408 721 687

qld@quiltsOfValour.com.au

TASMANIA

Christine: 0408 918 323

tas@quiltsOfValour.com.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Elvira 0885 553 781

sa@quiltsOfValour.com.au

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Pam and Ray: 0413 992 514

nt@quiltsOfValour.com.au

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Kathryn: 0409 043 006

act@quiltsOfValour.com.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Kate: 0418 804 006

wa@quiltsOfValour.com.au

quiltsOfValour.com.au



Daryl Pinner OAM served in 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse mainly in Australia. Daryl now does a lot of work for Legacy. Trevor Pinner, his son, served in Iraq, East Timor and Afghanistan.

Quilts of Valour Australia is a not for profit organisation. The Quilts are awarded to currently serving Australian Forces personnel, veterans and immediate families touched by war. All donations are tax deductible.

quiltsOfValour.com.au