

Please note TBI (to be invited – up for discussion at tomorrow’s zoom!

DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENT

DAY ONE: BRISBANE@WAR: AUSTRALIA, USA, NETHERLANDS, UK.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the End of WWII in the Pacific

Theme: The role of the four Allies in Brisbane during WWII.

Dates: August 30, 2025.

Venues: Griffith University, Brisbane.

Objectives

The symposium aims to:

1. Commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII in the Pacific.
 2. Highlight Brisbane’s significant role in supporting Allied forces.
 3. Explore the intertwined histories of Australia, the United States, the Netherlands East Indies (NEI), Britain and Indonesia during and after the war.
 4. Facilitate discussions on post-war legacies, including the aftermath in Indonesia.
 5. Share personal stories to deepen public understanding of this critical historical period.
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Proposed Program Structure

MC Paul Budde

8.50 – 8.55.am: Aboriginal Welcome

8.55 – 9.00.am: Charles Stampford/Griffiths: Welcome VIPS and others to the university.

9.00- 9.15 am Paul Budde – Introduction to Camp Columbia and the Camp Columbia heritage Association

9.15 – 9.30.am: Brief presentations from Allied Government and local government dignities.

9.30 –10.00 am: *Keynote Speaker - USA Embassy TBI*

10.00-10.15. MORNING TEA

Session 1

10.15am- 11.15: Australia’s Role in WWII

- **Graham McKenzie-Smith** AM (historian): “The Defence of Brisbane during WWII.”
- **Dorothy Carroll Army History**, which operates out of **Victoria Barracks Brisbane - Army Museum South Qld.**
- **David Dufty**: “Central Bureau – Australia’s version of Bletchley Park.” ???

Session 2

11.15 -12.15: Brisbane authors speak about Brisbane @ War

- **Roger Marks**: Airfields in Queensland during WWII – Zoom accepted
- **David Jones**, The British Fleet.
- TBA

LUNCH: 12.15-1.15: Lunch Perhaps view popup banners, exhibitions & Posters in the lobby. If no to posters banners, then a shorter lunchtime

Session 3

1.15– 2.15: More on War in Brisbane by local authors

- **Dr. Richard Walding**: The RAN stations around Moreton Bay during WWII.
- **Gerard Benjamin**, “Submarine base and the Navy 134 facilities at New Farm.”
- TBA

Afternoon Tea 2.15.pm – 2.30.pm.

Session Four: 2.30 – 3.30: Post-war legacies

Panel Discussion. Panel drawn from today’s sessions - audience participation will be sought.

Symposium dinner – all participants to pay their own at an Indonesian restaurant I suggest.

DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENT

DAY 2: BRISBANE@WAR: AUSTRALIA, NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, INDONESIA

Date: August 31, 2025

Venue: Griffith University

Day Two: WWII's Aftermath: Australia, Netherlands East Indies, Indonesia.

Objectives

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the End of WWII in the Pacific

1. Facilitate discussions on post-war legacies, including the aftermath in Indonesia, Australia's relationship with Indonesia and the Dutch.
 2. Share research and personal stories to deepen public understanding of the complexity of this critical historical period.
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Proposed Program Structure

Registration" 8.30 – 9.00.

MC Paul Budde

9.00 - 9.05: Aboriginal welcome

9.05 – 9.10.am: Charles Stampford/Griffiths: Welcome VIPS and others to the university.

9.10 – 9.20.am: 9.00 – 9.20.am: Brief presentations from Allied Government and local government dignities.

9.20 – 9.40.am: Keynote Address: Pauljac Verhoeven, Museum Bronbeek The Netherlands Indonesian army during WWII.

Session One 9.40.– 10.45 5 minutes for questions

- **Dr Jack Ford, “Allies in a Bind: Australia and the Netherlands East Indies in WWII”**
- **Cara Downes, NAA Office Brisbane – archival holding on the Netherlands East Indies in exile in Australia**

1. Emeritus Professor Robert Elson decolonisation in Indonesia?

10.45 – 11.00 Morning tea

Session Two: 11.00 -12.05

- **Dr Jan Lingard, Refugees or Rebels, Indonesians in Australia during WWII.** University of New South Wales.
- **Peter Nunan: “From Camp Columbia to Merdeka.”**
- **Prof. Nonja Peters, “Dutch Fairbridgeans” in 1945, Australia accepts Dutch children freed from Japanese internment camps 1945. NIWOE (Camp Columbia).**

Lunch: 12.05 – 1.20: Exhibition curators discuss their contributions.

- **Session 3: 1.20 – 2.30. Adrian Vickers ANU Australian-Indonesian relations re national and international media & Panel Discussion** Australia the Netherlands, Indonesian relationships after WWII with above speakers.

Afternoon tea 2.30 - 2.40

Session Four: 2.40 – 4.00 Storytelling - Indo Community in Brisbane

- The above speakers will all provide a particularly poignant story to entice the audience to tell their story. We can have a few people in the audience pre-warned to start the conversation. We are thinking about a max 3 minutes each.
- **Frances Larder –** will approach the people she interviewed for her Masters or at the Maritime Museum if they will hang her wall hangings.
- **Renee Belloni,** author of
- We have others willing to tell their stories and will invite the Dutch Indonesian club and maybe Indonesian club
- **Nonja Peters Depok.**

4.pm Formal close of the conference by Charles Stampford and Paul Budde included discussion of the proposed book. Nonja Peters will look for a publisher for a book on the symposium proceedings.

