

# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

## Allied Co-operation in Brisbane during WWII: Australia, USA, Netherlands, UK

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

#### Symposium Objectives:

- Commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII in the Pacific.
- Highlight Brisbane's significant role in supporting Allied forces.
- Explore the intertwined histories of Australia, the United States, the Netherlands East Indies (NEI) and Britain during and in the aftermath of the war.
- Facilitate discussions on post-war legacies and their relevance today.
- Share personal stories to deepen public understanding of this critical historical period.

#### Friday 29 August – Civic Reception

Venue: Brisbane Town Hall (TBC)

Hosted by: The Lord Mayor of Brisbane

Details to follow

#### DAY ONE – Saturday 30 August 2025

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

Venue: Griffith University, South Bank

MC: Paul Budde

8:50 – 8:55 am: Aboriginal Welcome

8:55 – 9:00 am: Prof. Charles Sampford (Griffith University, co-organiser) – Welcome to VIPs and delegates

9:00 – 9:15 am: Paul Budde – Introduction to Camp Columbia and the Camp Columbia Heritage Association

9:15 – 9:30 am: Invited Guests:

- H.E. Mrs Ardi Stoios-Braken, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Australia
- Mrs Doris Voorbraak, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Netherlands
- Ms Erika Olson, Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy in Australia (or representative)
- The Hon. Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives
- The Hon. Jarrod Bleijie MP, Deputy Premier of Queensland
- The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Cr Adrian Schrinner
- Cr Sarah Hutton, Brisbane City Council
- Senior representative, Australian Defence Force (TBC)

9:30 – 10:30 am: Keynote Addresses:

- David Horner, Emeritus Professor, ANU – ‘When War Came to Queensland’
- U.S. Representative (TBA) – America’s leadership and presence in Brisbane during WWII

10:30 – 10:45 am: Morning Tea

10:45 -11:15 am: Keynote Address 2 – Robyn van Dyk: Dutch voices in the Australian War Memorial archives

11:15 am – 12:30 pm: Session 1: Australia’s Role in WWII

- Dr David Duffy – Central Bureau: Australia’s version of Bletchley Park
- Ms Meghan Adams – Researcher at the Sea Power Centre
- David Jones – The British Fleet in Brisbane
- Alan Graham – Hangar 7 and Allied Technical Air Intelligence Unit at Brisbane Airport

12:30 – 1:15 pm: Lunch | View banners, posters, and exhibitions in the lobby

1:15 – 2:15 pm: Session 2: More Brisbane WWII Stories

- Dr Richard Walding – RAN operations in Moreton Bay during WWII
- Gerard Benjamin – Submarine base and Navy 134 facilities at New Farm
- Dorothy Carroll

2:15 – 2:30 pm: Afternoon Tea

2:30 – 4:00 pm: Panel Discussion – The Impact on Brisbane of Allied Activities

- Introduced by Emeritus Professor David Horner: ‘Lessons Learnt!’
- Panelists drawn from day’s speakers, audience participation encouraged

4:30 pm: Gather for drinks at the Ship Inn (at own cost)

# DAY TWO – Sunday 31 August 2025

Theme: The War Comes to an End and the Impact of Allied Activities.

Venue: Griffith University, South Bank

MC: Paul Budde

## Day 2 Objectives:

- Facilitate discussion on the preparations for the post-war situation, including the evolving relationships between Australia, the Netherlands, and the Netherlands East Indies.
- Share research and personal stories to deepen public understanding of this complex period.

8:30 – 9:00 am: Registration

9:00 – 9:05 am: Aboriginal Welcome

9:05 – 9:10 am: Prof. Charles Sampford – Opening remarks

9:10 – 9:20 am: Welcome from Allied and local government representatives

9:20 – 9:40 am: Keynote – Pauljac Verhoeven, Museum Bronbeek (The Netherlands): The NEI Army (KNIL) during WWII

## Session 1

9:40 – 10:45 am

- Dr Jack Ford – Allies in a Bind: Australia and the Netherlands East Indies in WWII
- Cara Downes – NEI government-in-exile: archival sources at the National Archives of Australia
- TBA

10:45 – 11:00 am: Morning Tea

## Session 2

11:00 am – 12:05 pm

- Jan Lingard – Refugees or Rebels: Emerging Indonesians in Australia during WWII
- TBA
- Prof. Nonja Peters – Netherlands Indies Welfare Organisation for Evacuees (NIWOE) operating from Camp Columbia.

12:05 – 1:20 pm: Lunch | Informal curator talks alongside exhibits

## Session 3

1:20 – 1:50 pm

- Prof. Adrian Vickers – Australia–Indonesia wartime relations through media

1:50 – 2:30 pm: Panel Discussion

Theme: Australia, the Netherlands, and NEI relationships at Camp Columbia  
Panellists drawn from speakers earlier in the day

2:30 – 2:45 pm: Afternoon Tea

## Session 4: Storytelling – Personal Stories from the War

2:45 – 4:00 pm

- Jarrod Bleijie
- Frances Larder (MPhil)
- Dr Marlene van der Sterren
- Prof. Nonja Peters
- Indo community members

4:00 pm: Symposium Close – Prof. Charles Sampford & Paul Budde  
Includes discussion of the proposed e-book project

## Monday 1 September 2025 – Optional Tour

WWII Brisbane Bus Tour

Guided visit to key wartime sites, including a stop and presentation at Pooh Corner (Camp Columbia)

Limited to 40 participants | Includes lunch | Further details to follow