

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
At the University of Queensland – St Lucia Campus – Brisbane

Symposium Objectives are to:

- 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 historical period.

DAY ONE – SATURDAY 30 AUGUST 2025

THEME: THE ROLE OF THE FOUR ALLIES IN BRISBANE DURING WWII

MC: Paul Budde

8.30am – 8.50am Registration

8:50 – 8:55 am: Acknowledgement of Country by Auntie Theresa, Aboriginal Elder

Traditional Custodian (Yagara Yuggera Turrbal) Brisbane

8:55 – 9:05 am: Welcome to VIPs and delegates and introduction to Camp Columbia and the Camp Columbia Heritage Association - Paul Budde

9:05 – 9:35 am: Short welcome remarks (3 minutes each)

- **Emeritus Professor Ian Lilly, University of Queensland: Research on Camp Columbia, Wacol.**
- **H.E. Mrs Ardi Stoios-Braken, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Australia**
- **The Hon. Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives**
- **Cr Sarah Hutton, Brisbane City Council for The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Cr Adrian Schinner.**

- **Colonel Andrew Clark Army Attache U.S. Mission Australia.**
- **Mr Neville Buch: Eulogy Dr Jack Ford.**

9:35 –10.35am: Keynote Address: Chair Paul Budde

- David Horner, Emeritus Professor, ANU – When War Came to Queensland.
- Q & A

10:35–11.05am: Morning Tea

Session One: 11.05–12.15pm: Allies in Brisbane: Chair Jorien van Beukering

- Roger Marks: Airfields in Queensland during WWII
- David Jones – The British Fleet in Brisbane
- Meghan Adams: Repair, refit and resupply: Brisbane as a naval base during the Second World War.
- Q & A - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged.
- **Includes Five-minute stretch breaks**

Session Two 12.15 -13.05pm: War Intelligence: Chair Nonja Peters

- Dr David Dufty – Central Bureau: Australia's version of Bletchley Park
- Ethan Devereux-Phillips presents the exhibition
- Q & A - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged

13.05–14.00pm: Lunch | View banners, posters, and exhibitions in the conference room. Talk by the curator(s) of the exhibition.

Session 3: 14.00–15.15pm: More Brisbane WWII Stories: Chair Jorien van Beukering

- Gerard Benjamin: Submarine base and Navy 134 facilities at New Farm.
- Alan Graham – Hangar 7 and Allied Technical Air Intelligence Unit at Brisbane Airport.
- Dr Richard Walding – RAN operations in Moreton Bay during WWII
- Q & A - Above speakers. Audience participation encouraged

Afternoon tea 15.15–15.45pm

15.45–16.45pm: Panel Discussion: The Impact on Brisbane of Allied Activities. Paul Budde introduces:

- Emeritus Professor David Horner will guide the discuss 'Lessons Learnt!'
And the Q & A: Panelists comprised of today's speakers.
Audience participation encouraged.

16.45–17.00pm: Close of Day One: Gather for drinks (optional at own costs) at Saint Lucy Caffè e Cucina on the UQ Campus.

DAY TWO – SUNDAY 31 AUGUST 2025

THEME: THE WAR COMES TO AN END AND THE IMPACT OF ALLIED ACTIVITIES.

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.

8:30–9:00am: Registration

9:00–9:10am: Paul Budde Opening remarks

9.10–10.10am: Keynote Chair Paul Budde

- Dr Pauljac Verhoeven, Director Museum Bronbeek (Arnhem, The Netherlands): Museum Bronbeek and decolonisation of the Netherlands East Indies post-WWII in the Pacific.
- Q & A

10.10–10.40am: Morning Tea

Session 1: 10.40–12.00pm Chair: Jorien van Beukering

- Dr Neville Buch on Dr Jack Ford's book – Allies in a Bind: Australia and the Netherlands East Indies in WWII.
- Georgina Devlin – The NEI government archival sources at the National Archives of Australia.
- Robyn Vandyk: Dutch voices in the Australian War Memorial archives.
- Q & A - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged.

12.00–13.00 pm: Lunch | View banners, posters, and exhibitions in the lobby. Informal talk by curator.

Session 2: 13:00–14.10pm Chair: Ethan Devereux-Phillips

- Nonja Peters – The VK-KNIL at Camp Columbia, Wacol.
- Jan Lingard – Formerly of University of Sydney: Refugees and Rebels: Indonesian Exiles in Wartime Australia.
- Adrian Vickers Prof. University of Sydney – Indonesians in Brisbane and the Anti-Fascist Struggle.

- Q & A - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged
- **Includes Five-minute stretch break**

Session 3: 14:10–15.30pm: Personal Stories from the War: Chair Paul Budde

- Frances Larder ‘Buitenkampers’ (translated ‘outsider of camp’) and the relevance of social history museum exhibitions.
- Renee Belloni–My Father’s NEI Story.
- Nonja Peters–Netherlands Indies Welfare Organisation for Evacuees (NIWOE): The Dutch Fairbridgeans.
- Q & A of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged.

15.30–16.00pm: Afternoon Tea

Session 4: 16.00–17.00pm: Panel Discussion: Australia, the Netherlands, Indonesia; Relationships at Camp Columbia. Paul Budde introduces:

- Professor Adrian Vickers, University of Sydney will guide the discussion. Panelists drawn from today’s speakers. Audience participation sought.

17.00–17.10pm: Paul & Nonja discuss the proposed e-book project.

17.10 Symposium Close – Paul Budde

Drinks at the [Regatta Hotel](#) optional - at own cost - please let us know if you are coming.

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