

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

8:55 – 9:00 am: Welcome to VIPs and delegates and introduction to Camp Columbia and the Camp Columbia Heritage Association - Paul Budde

9:00 – 9:20 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 Schrinner.**
- **Mr Neville Buch: Eulogy Dr Jack Ford.**

9:20 – 10.10 am: Keynote Address: Chair Paul Budde

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

10:15 – 10.30 am: Morning Tea

Session One: 10.30 – 11.35: 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 break**

Session Two 11.35 -12.45 pm: War Intelligence: Chair Ethan Devereux-Phillips

- Dr David Dufty – Central Bureau: Australia's version of Bletchley Park
- Alan Graham – Hangar 7 and Allied Technical Air Intelligence Unit at Brisbane Airport
- Ethan Devereux-Phillips presents the exhibition
- Q & A - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged
- **Includes Five-minute stretch break**

12:45 – 1.45 pm: Lunch | View banners, posters, and exhibitions in the lobby. Talk by the curator(s) of the exhibition.

Session 3: 1.45pm – 2.50 pm: More Brisbane WWII Stories Chair Jorien

- Gerard Benjamin: Submarine base and Navy 134 facilities at New Farm.
- Dorothy Carroll title TBA
- Dr Richard Walding – RAN operations in Moreton Bay during WWII
- Q & A - Above speakers. Audience participation encouraged
- **Includes Five-minute stretch break**

Afternoon tea 3.00 – 3.15pm

3.15- 4.20: Panel Discussion: The Impact on Brisbane of Allied Activities: Chair Paul Budde

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

4.20 – 4.30 pm: 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 – 9:00 am: Registration

9:00– 9:05 am: Paul Budde Opening remarks

9:05– 9:25: Welcome from Allied and local government representatives as for Day One.

9.35– 10.40: Keynote Chair Paul Budde

- Pauljac Verhoeven, Museum Bronbeek (The Netherlands): Decolonisation of the Netherlands East Indies post-WWII in the Pacific.
- Q & A

10.40 – 10.55am: Morning Tea

Session 1: 10.55– 12.05 am 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.
- **Includes Five-minute stretch break**

Session 2: 11:25 am – 12.35 pm Chair Ethan Devereux-Phillips Introduces speakers & guides Q & A

- Adrian Vickers Prof. University of Sydney – Indonesians in Brisbane and the Anti-Fascist Struggle
- Jan Lingard – Formerly of University of Sydney: Refugees and Rebels: Indonesian Exiles in Wartime Australia

- Nonja Peters – Adjunct Prof. Affiliated ECU and Curtin Universities Perth: Netherlands Indies Welfare Organisation for Evacuees (NIWOE): The Dutch Fairbridgeans.
- Q & A - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged

12:35 – 1:35 pm: Lunch | Informal curator talks alongside exhibits

Session 3: 1:35 – 2.40pm: Panel discussion introduction by Chair: Professor Adrian Vickers, University of Sydney:

Theme: Australia, the Netherlands, and NEI relationships at Camp Columbia
Adrian Vickers Introduces panels and guides Q & A – Panelists drawn from today's speakers. Audience participation encouraged

- **Includes Five-minute stretch break**

2.40 –2.55 pm: Afternoon Tea

Session 4: 2:55 – 4.00 pm: Storytelling – Personal Stories from the War Chair Paul Budde

- Jarrod Bleijie My family's Story
- Frances Larder (MPhil) "Buitenkampers" (translated "outsider of camp") and the relevance of social history museum exhibitions.
- Nonja Peters – The Women's Corp at Camp Columbia, Wacol.
- Renee Belloni –My Father's NEI Story.
- Q & A of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged.
- **Includes Five-minute stretch break**

4:00 - 4.30pm: Symposium Close – 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