***Report on The Battle for Australia Commemoration at Chermside Historical Precinct on 2nd Sept 2020***

The Committee decided in May 2020 to go ahead with the Commemoration on Wednesday 2nd Sept 2020 if at all possible and proceeded as such despite limited finances as a funding request had been postponed and another delayed. One reason for going ahead was that it was the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day- End of WW2 . We set up a detailed COVID-19 plan but postponed plans to increase attendance.

In the event we conducted a very successful Commemoration with some emergency funding and a donation from Defence Services Nurses RSL branch. We subsequently received a grant to stabilise our finances.

While numbers were down to around 60 we had all the official guests including the Qld Governor, all 3 Services Reps, all 3 Govt Reps and WW2 veteran of the Battles of Milne Bay and Balikpapan and Committee Member, Frank McCosker. The Band and choir were from Craigslea High School with participation also from Wavell High School and Aspley High School.

The Official Address was from Brig Jason Blain, Commander of 7th Brigade based in Brisbane. He made mention that it was units of 7th Brigade that fought in the Battle of Milne Bay, including Frank McCosker’s 9th Bn Moreton Regiment. His full Address is attached.

Wreaths were laid including one on behalf of the2/31st Battalion and one from the 31st Battalion Assoc.

Morning tea was served in a COVID-19 safe manner following the Commemoration.

Sadly, 6 days after the Commemoration, Frank McCosker, after a fall and short hospital stay, passed away. He was 97 years of age.

LEST WE FORGET

Following the Commemoration at the subsequent AGM I was re elected as Vice President and Merv Hazell re elected as Secretary.

The Commemoration this year will be held on Wed 1st September 2021 at the permanent home of Chermside Historical Precinct just north of the Kedron Wavell RSL car park. Please be seated by 10.45 am.

Mick James

Committee

31st Battalion Assoc (Brisbane branch)