***Report on 104th Battle of Fromelles Commemoration at Ipswich General Cemetery 19th July 2020***

***As COVID-19 restrictions had eased somewhat by July, we were able to conduct the 2nd consecutive Commemoration at the grave of Lt Arthur Adams DCM who fought in the Battle of Fromelles with assistance from both Rosewood and Ipswich RSLs. As previously stated, Arthur Adams DCM was the Founding president of Rosewood RSL. Although outside, we still had to have a COVID-19 plan and abide by it.***

***We were also greatly honoured in having Colonel Mark Plath (Ret’d) a former CO of 9 RQR, our sister Battalion in 11th Brigade give the Official Address. Col. Plath is also a great grandson of the younger brother of Colonel Fred Toll DSO & Bar, MBE VD, the Commander of 31st Battalion during the Battles of Fromelles and Polygon Wood. Col Toll received his DSO & Bar for those 2 Battles.***

***Col. Plath spoke in his address of the early history of the 31st Battalion AIF and the Battle of Fromelles together with Arthur Adams & Fred Toll with the theme of Service above Self.***

***Col. Plath’s full Address is on our 31st Battalion website - https://31bnassn.org/2020/08/***

***After the Commemoration we adjourned for lunch (again under COVID-19 conditions) at the CSI Club in Ipswich. Although our own numbers were down we had 5 from 25th Battalion Assoc and Lt Col Damien Green, CO of 31st/42nd Battalion together with his RSM ,WO1 John Stafford. Maj Pat O’Keeffe OAM (Ret’d), President of the Battle for Australia Commemoration Committee (Qld) also attended as an invited guest.***

***The lunch and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Plans for a Commemoration this year have not been considered to date.***