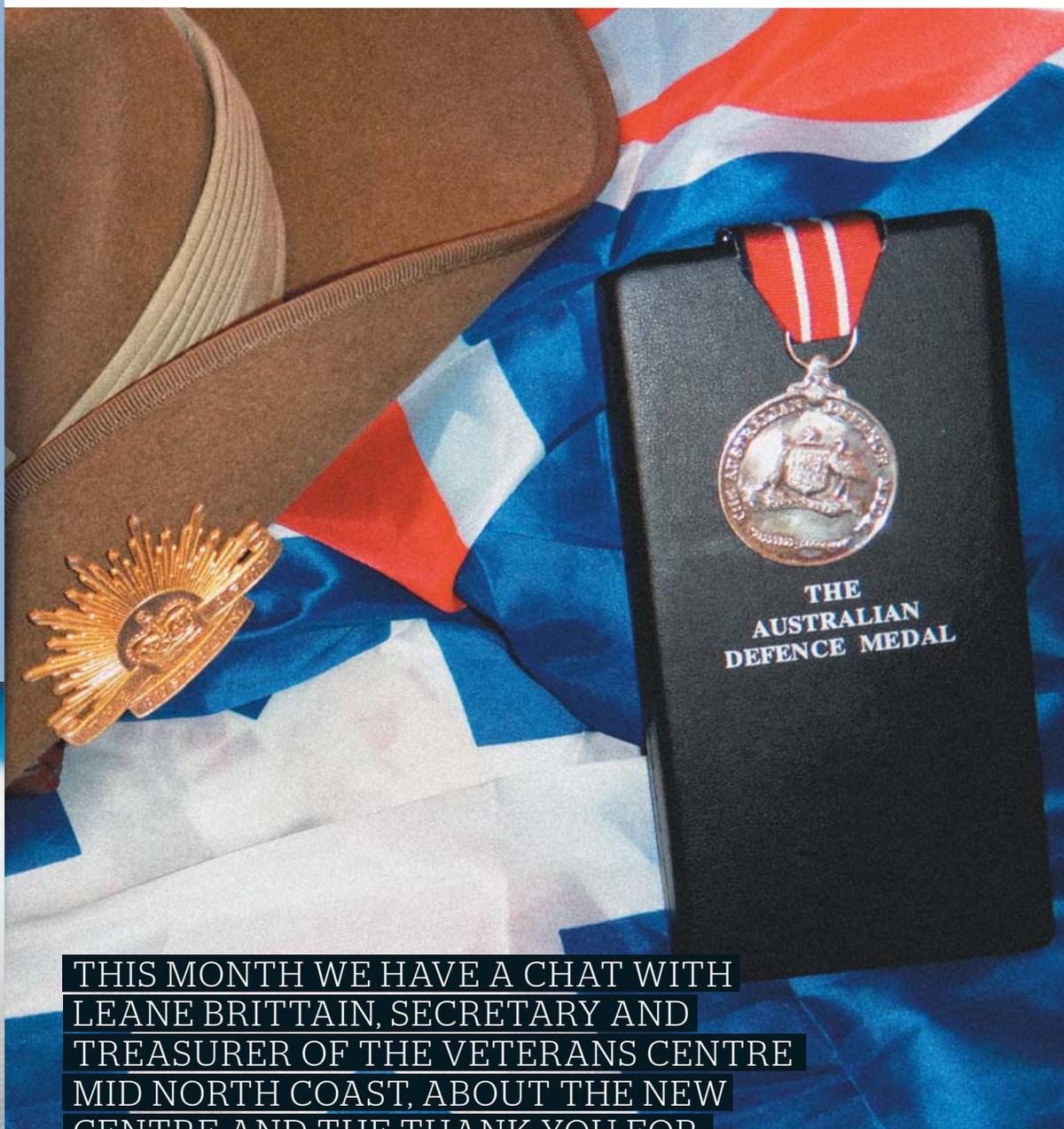


THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



THIS MONTH WE HAVE A CHAT WITH LEANE BRITTAIN, SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF THE VETERANS CENTRE MID NORTH COAST, ABOUT THE NEW CENTRE AND THE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE CAMPAIGN IN THE LEAD UP TO ANZAC DAY ...

So Leane, tell me about the Thank You for Your Service Campaign ...

The Veterans Centre Mid North Coast, or VCMNC, looked at ways we could support the services provided by the various local RSL sub branches. After some discussion, we came up with the idea of how the community can show their gratitude to all those ex service and serving members who have served our nation.

Background for the campaign ...

With the Thank You for Your Service campaign, we want to show the men and women from the past and present, who served in our Defence Forces, that we will always have their backs.

Today, with multiple deployments both combat related and aid to civil communities around the world, many ex-service members are feeling the effects of their service, with injuries that are both seen and unseen. It is reported that 20% of Defence personnel are facing issues with mental health problems, which includes experiencing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety and many other serious issues.

Many of these brave men and women's

suffering goes untreated - they are disconnected from support and as a result, suffer family breakdowns, unemployment and homelessness. We want them to know that we are here to help them.

How can we support this new and exciting campaign?

In last month's edition of the magazine, we started our campaign with a story on the Australian Defence Medal, letting everyone know what the medal stood for and how it is worn on the left side by those who have served or are serving. This was a very important step and leads us into this story.

The goal of Thank You for Your Service is to raise awareness of veteran issues and to raise vital funds to allow the VCMNC to continue to assist and support veterans and their families.

Commencing in March and continuing in the

lead up to ANZAC Day, we will be selling Thank You for Your Service badges. These badges are \$5 each, and 100% of the funds raised will go to supporting our local veterans and

to Veterans 360 Australia, who assist with veteran homelessness.

We would ideally like members of the community to purchase a badge to say thank you, and badges are limited to 500 only.

What can we all do make this a success?

I would like to encourage all ex-service men and women to be a part of the ANZAC Day services and to march alongside us to commemorate not only their service, but those before them.

Always remember that you have served the Commonwealth of Australia with unwavering loyalty and determination. No matter your branch

of service, rank or job title, you took oaths and made promises to keep Australia safe, and for that we say, "Thank You for Your Service".

We need to let all of our ex service men and women know how we feel and that we not only acknowledge the ultimate sacrifice some have made, but also the service of these people to our country.

In closing, what message would you like to leave our readers with?

Help inspire others to say thank you, and share this campaign with family and friends.

We also ask the local community to purchase a badge and attend any of the services on ANZAC Day and when you see any person with the ADM worn on the left hand side, extend a hand and say, "Thank You For Your Service".

For further information, please contact us on 0459 759 922, visit our drop in centre at 4 Scarba Street, Coffs Harbour or like us on Facebook at Veterans Centre Mid North Coast.

For more information on the initiatives being undertaken on veteran homelessness, please visit V360.org.au and

Thank-You-for-Your-Service.com.

**Thank You for Your Service.
Thanks Leane.**

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