

## **The King Island World War 2 War Service Fund**

During World War 2, Donald (Donal) Paterson received a Comfort Package or a Money Order from the King Island (Tasmania) War Service Fund, and then corresponded with the Fund.

In August 1940, the Island Fund was formally approved to operate independently from the State of Tasmania. It was run by a group of volunteers, led by Mr John (Jack) Marshall. John was an ex WW1 soldier, also the President of the local Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen Imperial League of Australia (RSSAILA), founded on King Island in 1919. This is now known as the Returned and Services League (RSL) and the King Island RSL Sub branch is still in operation.

The fund distributed packages to locals who had enlisted and other people who had no connection with King Island. As a mark of respect 139 service personnel wrote letters of thanks, totaling approximately 530 letters – they form the basis of the collection. Further information on the Fund and its operation can be found on the Community Page.

The challenges for a service person during World War 2 to write a letter was to firstly find the inclination (often directly related to their mental condition due to combat), time, paper, a writing implement and a place under cover. Occasionally a letter was typed and the paper ranged from high quality to loose scraps, and as the war progressed supplies dwindled. With letterhead paper, naming a unit or organisation, do not assume that was where the person was when writing. Paper was borrowed and passed on to mates. Occasionally, a Telegram was sent where the emphasis was on brevity as each word added more to the cost.

The standard of writing is directly related to the standard of education and sometimes a friend or a Chaplain would write a letter on a person's behalf. Many of the letters were addressed to Mr Marshall (or just Jack), his wife, a member of the voluntary committee, or the RSSAILA. Some letters are very brief while others are detailed and mention other people, or events they have witnessed. The Marshall's also lost their son John while on Active Service, and some writers asked about John or acknowledged his death to the family.

For most of the war, letters were subject to censorship and this is often observed in a cutout section on a page – if the other side was written on it was also deleted. Many letters have the initials or the signature of the person who checked them prior to posting.

What follows is a scan of the original letter and a typed transcript, based on the original. Grammar or spelling has not been changed or corrected, and if more than one letter was written they follow in date order. Some of the original letters, although stored correctly, are very faint and fragile, but all have been included along with undated letters. They are perhaps the only surviving documents written by this person.

Donal wrote six letters to the Fund; two in 1943, three in 1944 and the last in 1945. His letters mainly express appreciation to the Fund but record the various training locations he was sent to. By 1945 Donal was surplus as an air crew member and selflessly asked that the parcels be sent to those more deserving.

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND  
VICTORIAN DIVISION

With Which is Affiliated

R.S.L. War Service  
Fund

Y.M.C.A.



The Salvation  
Army

Y.W.C.A.

431571 L.R.C. Patterson, D.A.

COURSE 123. No 1 NWS

RHAF MT GAMBIER

The President & Members

R.S. Sub-Branch R.S.S. & R.H.A.

Dear Sirs,

I wish to thank you all for the  
Christmas greeting and donation order  
which I received today.

It is very deeply appreciated,  
and, as you all no doubt know, being  
returned men, always comes in handy.

I would like to take this  
opportunity to wish you all, and  
the League, all the very best for  
Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely

Donald R. Patterson

4331671 L.A.C. Paterson D.R.  
COURSE 12B No1 N.W.S.  
RAAF MT GAMBIER  
[1943]

The President & Members  
K.I. Sub – branch R.S.S.&.A.I.L.SA.

Dear Sirs,

I wish to thank you all for the Christmas greeting and Canteen order which I received today.

It is very deeply appreciated, and, as you all no doubt know, being returned men, always comes in handy.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all, and the League, all the very best for Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely

Donal R. Paterson.



AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND

WITH WHICH IS AFFILIATED

R.S.L. War Service Fund, The Salvation Army and Y.M.C.A.

431671 L.A.C. PATERSON D.R.

COURSE 123 No. 1. NWS.

RAAF. M<sup>r</sup> GAMBIER.

19. 12. 43

The Secretary,

King Is. War Service Fund.

Dear Sir,

This is just a note of appreciation for the parcel which caught me up today. It has been doing quite a bit of trailing, starting at Somers, then to Ballarat & finally here, just missing me at each of the two previous stations.

Even now, I still think it's a great life & wouldn't change it for anything. The course is hard but that's to be expected.

Once again thank you very much for the parcel & all the best to all for Christmas.

Yours sincerely  
Donal. R. Paterson.

431671 L.A.C. PATERSON. D.R.  
COURSE 12B No. 1.N.W.S.  
R.A.A.F. MT GAMBIER  
19.12.43

The Secretary,  
King Isl. War Service Fund.

Dear Sir,

This is just a note of appreciation for the parcel which caught me up today. It has been doing quite a bit of trailing, starting at Somers, then to Ballarat & finally here, just missing me at each of the two previous stations.

Even now, I still think it's a great life & wouldn't change it for anything. The course is hard but that's to be expected.

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Yours sincerely

Donal R. Paterson





# AUSTRALIAN YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Patron: HIS MAJESTY THE KING

Write Home First

Think Clean  
Talk Clean  
Live Clean  
Play the Game



431671 A.A.C. PATERSON D.R.

123 No. 1 N.W.S. R.A.A.F.

MT GAMBIER S. A.

28 / 5 / 44

The Secretary

King Island War Service Fund.

Curra - King Island.

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you and the committee very much for the parcel I received some time ago. This letter is a little overdue but have been on the usual things namely exams. Life seems to be one succession of exams. Still the time will come when they'll all be over. I guess will grumble then because I having nothing to do.

Parcels are very much appreciated by us all. There's always something you are short of or the container has run out, and the R.I. War Service Committee seem to have that happy knack of picking upon the right thing when packing the parcels. Once again thank you very much indeed.

Met Sgt Davey Hays the other day, who is now posted up to Archerfield all being well.

Yours Sincerely

Donald R. Paterson.

IMPORTANT—Any reference to shipping or troop movements will result in the delay or mutilation of your letters.

431671 L.A.C. PATERSON D.R.  
12B No 1 N.W.S R.A.A.F.  
MT GAMBIER. S.A.  
28/5/44

The Secretary  
King Island War Service Fund.  
Currie – King Island.

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you and the committee very much for the parcel I received some time ago. This letter is a little overdue but have been on the usual things namely exams. Life seems to be one succession of exams. Still the time will come when they'll all be over. I guess we'll grumble then because of having nothing to do

Parcels are very much appreciated by us all. There's always something you are short of or the canteen has run out, and the K.I. War Service Committee seem to have that happy knack of picking upon the right thing when packing the parcels. Once again thank you very much indeed.

Met Sgt Darcy Hays the other day, who is now posted up to Archerfield all being well.

Yours Sincerely  
Donal R. Paterson.



N31671 SGT PATERSON D.R.

GROUP 119. RAAF

WILLIAMSTOWN. N.S.W.

25. 9. 44.

THE SECRETARY,

KING ISLAND WAR SERVICE FUND

CURRIE, K. I.

Dear Sir,

It was with very great pleasure that I received your parcel yesterday. Its contents were most acceptable, the tin of fruit in particular. To be quite truthful my room mate and I have just eaten it (the reason I am writing this now, at 2 AM. rather than wait till tomorrow evening is because it was so nice)

I wish to thank you & members of the committee very much for the parcel, the thoughts behind it. and the trouble gone to in packing sewing etc. It makes us realise that we are not forgotten by all but our people - far from it.

Once again. Thanks a lot!!

Yours sincerely

Donal R. Paterson -



431671 SGT PATERSON D.R.  
GROUP 119. R.A.A.F.  
WILLIAMTOWN. N.S.W.  
25 9. 44.

THE SECRETARY.  
KING ISLAND WAR SERVICE FUND  
CURRIE, K.I.  
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Once again, thanks a lot!!

Yours sincerely

Donal R. Paterson

43167/ SGT PATERSON, D.

2A.O.S. R.A.A.F.

MT GAMBIER.

19.12.44

The Secretary.

King Island War Service Fund.

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you very much for the carton order I received some time ago. By rights I should have written this a few days ago but I've been pretty busy & written no letters at all apart from home.

I am back at the Mount for a refresher course. It's of two months duration, during which time you go over briefly all the work you did to get your wing. All nav. work has to do

the closer sooner or later, depending  
on where there are. In my case I  
was sooner unfortunately.

Still I suppose I could be  
doing worse or at least be in a  
worse place. I can't say I like  
the mount particularly - it  
too damned cold. We had  
a temperature of  $9^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit on  
Saturday together with a dust  
storm during which the wind  
velocity reached 80 KTS.

at 4000 feet & even on the  
ground was recorded at  
over 40 K. at times. What a place -  
it's now bitterly cold & raining  
so what can a fellow expect?

Must close now & go to a  
bath. Once again thank you for  
the Carter order. All the very best  
for Christmas & the new year to you  
& the members of the committee  
Yours sincerely Donald R. Patterson

431671 SGT PATERSON. D.  
2 A.O.S. R.A.A.F.  
MT GAMBIER.  
19.12.44.

The Secretary.  
King Island War Service Fund.

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you very much for the canteen order I recieved some time ago. By rights I should have written this a few days ago but I've been pretty busy & written no letters at all apart from home.

I am back at the Mount for a refresher course. Its of two months duration, during which time you go over briefly all the work you did to get your wing. All nav. w's have to do the course sooner or later, depending on where there are. In my case it was sooner unfortunately.

Still I suppose I could be doing worse or at least be in a worse place. I can't say I like the Mount particularly - its too darn cold. We had a temperature of 9 degrees I believe on Saturday together with a dust storm during which the wind velocity exceeded 80 KTS at 4000 feet & even on the ground was recorded at over 40K at times. What a place – its now bitterly cold & raining so what can a fellow expect?

Must close now & go to a lecture. Once again thank you for the Canteen order. All the very best for Christmas and the New Year to you & the members of the committee

Yours Sincerely  
Donal R. Paterson





SERGEANTS' MESS

R.A.A.F.

WILLIAMTOWN

431671 F/Sgt PATERSON, D.

9. Air Force House  
Sydney.

THE SECRETARY.  
KING IS. WAR SERVICE.

Dear Sir,

I was very pleased to receive a parcel from you a couple of days ago. I can assure you the contents were very much appreciated. You seem to have the happy habit of sending just what is most needed & useful.

One thing though - I have now joined the ever swelling ranks of surplus air crew. They have no idea what is to be done with us & as a result we are living right in Sydney. Well I can get all I want there & I was wondering if perhaps my parcel could be sent to some one else who is away & to whom its contents would be much more useful.

When don't get an idea that I don't want parcels etc, but while I'm down here there must be a great number who deserve it more than I.

Wishing you and all those who help pack the parcels all the best & once again thanking you I will close. Yours gratefully  
Donald R. Paterson

431671 F/SGT PATERSON. D.  
C/. AIR FORCE HOUSE  
SYDNEY.  
[1945]

THE SECRETARY.  
KING IS. WAR SERVICE.

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