

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: Welcome to Country by Aunty Theresa, Aboriginal Elder**

**Traditional Custodian ( Yagara Yuggera Turrbal ) Brisbane**

**8:55 – 9:05 am: Welcome to VIPs and delegates and introduction to Camp Columbia and the Camp Columbia Heritage Association - Paul Budde**

**9:05 – 9:35 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 Schinner.**

- **Colonel Andrew Clark Army Attache U.S. Mission Australia.**
- **Mr Neville Buch: Eulogy Dr Jack Ford.**

#### **9:35 –10.35am: Keynote Address: Chair Paul Budde**

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

#### **10:35–11.05am: Morning Tea**

#### **Session One: 11.05–12.15pm: 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 breaks**

#### **Session Two 12.15 -13.05pm: War Intelligence: Chair Nonja Peters**

- Dr David Dufty – Central Bureau: Australia's version of Bletchley Park
- Ethan Devereux-Phillips presents the exhibition
- Q & A - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged

**13.05–14.00pm: Lunch | View banners, posters, and exhibitions in the conference room. Talk by the curator(s) of the exhibition.**

#### **Session 3: 14.00–15.15pm: More Brisbane WWII Stories: Chair Jorien van Beukering**

- Gerard Benjamin: Submarine base and Navy 134 facilities at New Farm.
- Alan Graham – Hangar 7 and Allied Technical Air Intelligence Unit at Brisbane Airport.
- Dr Richard Walding – RAN operations in Moreton Bay during WWII
- Q & A - Above speakers. Audience participation encouraged

#### **Afternoon tea 15.15–15.45pm**

#### **15.45–16.45pm: Panel Discussion: The Impact on Brisbane of Allied Activities. Paul Budde introduces:**

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

**16.45–17.00pm: 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.

#### 8:30–9:00am: Registration

9:00–9:15 am: Paul Budde Welcome to VIPs and delegates – Opening Remarks

9:05 – 9:10 am: Special address Dr. Christian Rowan Member for Moggill on Australia's Role in WWII

#### 9.10–10.10am: Keynote Chair Paul Budde

- Dr Pauljac Verhoeven, Director Museum Bronbeek (Arnhem, The Netherlands): Museum Bronbeek and decolonisation of the Netherlands East Indies post-WWII in the Pacific.
- Q & A

#### 10.10–10.40am: Morning Tea

#### Session 1: 10.40–12.00pm 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.

12.00–13.00 pm: Lunch | View banners, posters, and exhibitions in the lobby. Informal talk by curator.

#### Session 2: 13:00–14.10pm Chair: Ethan Devereux-Phillips

- Nonja Peters – The VK-KNIL at Camp Columbia, Wacol.
- Jan Lingard – Formerly of University of Sydney: Refugees and Rebels: Indonesian Exiles in Wartime Australia.

- Adrian Vickers Prof. University of Sydney – Indonesians in Brisbane and the Anti-Fascist Struggle.
- Q & A - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged
- **Includes Five-minute stretch break**

### **Session 3: 14:10–15.30pm: Personal Stories from the War: Chair Paul Budde**

- Frances Larder ‘Buitenkampers’ (translated ‘outsider of camp’) and the relevance of social history museum exhibitions.
- Renee Belloni–My Father’s NEI Story.
- Nonja Peters–Netherlands Indies Welfare Organisation for Evacuees (NIWOE): The Dutch Fairbridgeans.
- Q & A of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged.

### **15.30–16.00pm: Afternoon Tea**

### **Session 4: 16.00–17.00pm: Panel Discussion: Australia, the Netherlands, Indonesia; Relationships at Camp Columbia. Paul Budde introduces:**

- Professor Adrian Vickers, University of Sydney will guide the discussion. Panelists drawn from today’s speakers. Audience participation sought.

**17.00–17.10pm:** Paul & Nonja discuss the proposed e-book project.

### **17.10 Symposium Close – Paul Budde**

Drinks at the [Regatta Hotel](#) optional - at own cost - please let us know if you are coming.

### **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