

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, where relevant, to deepen public understanding of this critical historical period.

DAY ONE – SATURDAY 30 AUGUST 2025

THEME: THE ROLE OF THE FOUR ALLIES IN BRISBANE DURING WWII

MC: Paul Budde

8:50 – 8:55 am: Welcome to Country Ceremony. - Aunty Theresa, Aboriginal Elder, Traditional Custodian (Yagara Yuggera Turrbal) Brisbane

8:55 – 9:00 am: Welcome to VIPs and delegates and introduction to Camp Columbia and the Camp Columbia Heritage Association - Paul Budde

9:00 – 9:20 am: Short welcome remarks (3 minutes each) by some of the invited dignitaries

- 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 Schrinner.
- Dr. Neville Buch – Eulogy Dr. Jack Ford

9:20 – 10.15 am: Keynote Address

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

10:15 – 10.30am: Morning Tea

Session One: 10.30 – 11.30: Allies in Brisbane

- U.S. Representative (TBA) – America’s leadership and presence in Brisbane during WWII.
- Robyn Vandyk: Dutch voices in the Australian War Memorial archives
- David Jones – The British Fleet in Brisbane
- Q & A - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged.

11.30 – 11.35. Five-minute stretch break

Session Two 11.35 -12.35: War Intelligence

- Dr David Dufty – Central Bureau: Australia’s version of Bletchley Park
- 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 - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged

12:35– 1.45 pm: Lunch | View banners, posters, and exhibitions in the lobby. Talk by the curator(s) of the exhibition.

Session 3: 1.45pm – 3.00 pm: More Brisbane WWII Stories

- Gerard Benjamin: Submarine base and Navy 134 facilities at New Farm.
- Meghan Adams: Repair, refit and resupply: Brisbane as a naval base during the Second World War.
- Roger Marks: Airfields in Queensland during WWII
- Dorothy Carroll
- Q & A - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged

Afternoon tea 3.00pm -3.15pm

3.15- 4.15: Panel Discussion: The Impact on Brisbane of Allied Activities

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

4.15-4.30pm: 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 – 9:00 am: Registration

9:00– 9:05 am: Paul Budde – Opening remarks

9:05– 9:20: Welcome from Allied and local government representatives as for Day One.

9.20– 10.10: Keynote

- Pauljac Verhoeven, Museum Bronbeek (The Netherlands): The NEI Army (KNIL) during WWII.
- Q & A

Session 1: 10.10am – 11.10am

- Dr, Neville Buch – Dr. Jack Ford's book: Allies in a Bind: Australia and the Netherlands East Indies in WWII -
- Cara Downes – NEI government-in-exile: archival sources at the National Archives of Australia.
- TBA
- Q & A - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged.

11.10 – 11.25am: Morning Tea

Session 2: 11:25 am – 12.25 pm

- Adrian Vickers Prof. University of Sydney – Indonesians in Brisbane and the Anti-Fascist Struggle
- Jan Lingard – Formerly of University of Sydney: Refugees and Rebels: Indonesian Exiles in Wartime Australia
- Nonja Peters – Adjunct Prof. Affiliated ECU and Curtin Universities Perth: Netherlands Indies Welfare Organisation for Evacuees (NIWOE): The Dutch Fairbridgeans.
- Q & A - Of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged

12:25 – 1:25pm: Lunch | Informal curator talks alongside exhibits

Session 3: 1:25 – 2.25pm: **Panel discussion introduced by Professor Adrian Vickers,** University of Sydney.

- Theme: Australia, the Netherlands, and NEI relationships at Camp Columbia
Q & A - Panelists drawn from today's speakers. Audience participation encouraged

2.25 –2.40 pm: Afternoon Tea

Session 4: 2:40 – 4.10 pm: Storytelling – Personal Stories from the War

- Jarrod Bleijie My family's Story
- Frances Larder (MPhil) "Buitenkampers" (translated "outsider of camp") and the relevance of social history museum exhibitions.
- Nonja Peters–Joan Butler and the Women's Corp at Camp Columbia, Wacol.
- Renee Belloni, My Father's NEI Story
- Q & A of the above speakers. Audience participation encouraged.

4:10-4.30pm: Symposium Close – Paul Budde

Includes discussion of the proposed e-book project

Symposium drinks and dinner (optional at own costs) at Saint Lucy Caffè e Cucina on the UQ Campus.

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 | [Click here for more info](#)