



ASC Veteran Australian Cameron Mapstone.

Horror of US '9/11' triggered life shift

Thomas Stewart

Joining the army fresh out of high school to now working on the next generation of Aussie subs, Cameron Mapstone's journey to Osborne was born from the 9/11 terror and wanting to be part of something bigger.

Spending eight months on tour in Afghanistan from 2012 to 2013, Mapstone, 35, said the events of 9/11 and reading the extensive coverage in Time Magazine reinforced his desire to join the army.

"They ran a huge piece on basically the invasion of Iraq I think it was at that time, kind of seeing it all come together was something that really solidified what I wanted to do," Mr Mapstone said.

"It reinforced my desire to join the army ... be part of something bigger and obviously with the issues that we saw across the world at that time with terrorism.

"It was always something I was quite interested in growing up."

After serving, Mr Mapstone spent time working through different jobs before landing with ASC in November 2025, saying the skills he developed during his time with the 7th Battalion as a rifleman certainly transfer across.

"I just wanted to be back in that defence space and ASC is arguably the most important strategic company in the country right now," he said.

"But thinking in systems and being orientate yourself within a bigger picture quite rapidly is a real strength that veterans bring, and its something that has helped me and definitely helps me here."

As for Anzac Day, he says the day is a great way to check in with those he served with and reflect on those who could not make it back.

TOBACCO TIN REVEALS HERO

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST WWII VETERAN FINDS A FALLEN SOLDIER'S MEDAL THAT WILL BE RETURNED TO HIS GRAVE ON ANZAC DAY

Rebecca Whitfield-Baker

More than 85 years after signing up to serve his country, the state's oldest surviving World War II veteran is still doing his bit for the nation.

Adelaide Hills centenarian Colin Wagener is ensuring a fallen soldier, who died in 1917 while fighting on the Western Front near Ypres, in Belgium, is reunited with his medal at his resting place on Anzac Day.

The soldier, who died at just 24, was an old scholar at the same city school Mr Wagener, who turns 109 this year, attended about two decades later.

In a "serendipitous find", the medal belonging to Arthur Hollow, a private in the 16th Infantry Battalion, was discovered in an old tobacco tin.

Mr Wagener discovered the tin – and the contents – while sifting through items in search of letters sent home by his great-uncle, Trooper Herbert Goodes, who died in 1901 during the Boer War and is commemorated by a Jamestown monument.

The tin was found in some belongings of his late moth-

er and also contained medals awarded to a family member, Private Walter Charters, who also died near Ypres in 1917.

The soldiers died within days of each other, but it is not known how their medals came to be in the same tobacco tin.

Mr Wagener shared the unexpected find with nephew Michael Kelly, a military historian and former assistant curator at the Australian War Memorial.

After the Pulteney Grammar School connection was uncovered, it prompted the class of 1933 school-leaver to present the long-lost British War Medal to his and Private Hollow's former school.

It will be kept in the school's war memorial but only after it travels in the careful hands of current students back to where its owner now rests at Tyne Cot Cemetery, the world's largest Commonwealth war cemetery, in Belgium.

"I am pleased to have played a small part in returning Arthur's medal to him, even though the event happened so long ago," Mr Wagener said.

The treasured local war veteran – he refuses to be referred to as a hero – has previously told The Advertiser he tried to block his experiences in World War II from his mind, choosing not to speak about it for more than 65 years.

His own medals, which include the Pacific Star and Efficiency Medal for "loyalty and dedication to safeguarding Australia and its interests", sat untouched, hidden away in boxes.

"Before the war, I used to see the World War I boys marching, and they'd have two, sometimes three medals, and I'd think how wonderful it would be to wear medals," he said.

"When I finally got them, I didn't want them – I didn't want to know about it (the war)."



He has shared, too, how words he read on a visit to the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, in Thailand, many years ago resonated strongly with him.

"When you go home, tell them that we gave our tomorrow for your today' ... that is powerful," he said.

"I salute them (those who died) by covering my medals, because their sacrifice was greater than mine."

Mr Wagener was in the signals unit – responsible for "telling them when to start firing or turn on the searchlights" – with the 2/3rd Anti-Aircraft Regiment (9th Division) in Borneo.

He was there when Japanese war criminal Lieutenant General Masao Baba – tried for his involvement in the horrific Sandakan death march – surrendered, capturing the key moments on camera.

Private Hollow's war story has been pieced together by Mr Kelly, who discovered the young soldier was evacuated from the frontline twice suffering shell shock, only to re-



Private Arthur Hollow, and (inset) his British War Medal.



Arthur Hollow's service number: 1745

Enlisted: August 1, 1915,

Adelaide

Last rank:

Private

Last unit: 16th

Infantry Battalion

Born: Adelaide, August 5, 1893

Home town: Adelaide

Schooling: Currie Street School and Pulteney Street Grammar School

Occupation: Tank-maker

Died: Killed in action, Belgium,

October 15, 1917

■ Source: Australian Virtual War Memorial

Most Gen Z believe world war is coming – but many

Stephen Drill

Young Australians believe a world war will happen in the next five years – but many refuse to make any personal sacrifices to protect the nation.

A national survey on our attitudes towards Anzac Day – for The Advertiser – has revealed a disturbing trend among Gen Z.

More say they will attend

boozy two-up events on Anzac Day over dawn services to remember the sacrifices made by Australian soldiers.

As many as three-quarters of Gen Z – aged from 14 to 29 – say that a world war is imminent, but 26 per cent will refuse to get involved if Australia is under serious threat.

That figure has grown dramatically since last year, when

16 per cent of Gen Z said they were not willing to make any personal sacrifices to protect Australia, and it contrasts with the 16 per cent of Gen X (aged from 46 to 61) and 7 per cent of baby boomers (from 62 to 80) who say the same thing.

Gen Z also trashed Australia's longstanding alliance with the US, with almost two-thirds saying we should not follow

America into a war. One in 10 young people also thinks Australia should spend less on defence, while 79 per cent of boomers say we should be spending more.

However, there was surprising support for compulsory national service, with 49 per cent saying young adults should spend at least a year in a defence or civil service role.

The responses to the Growth Intelligence Centre survey of 1292 people – conducted in April against the backdrop of the Iran War – have raised the alarm about how school students are taught about the defence of Australia.

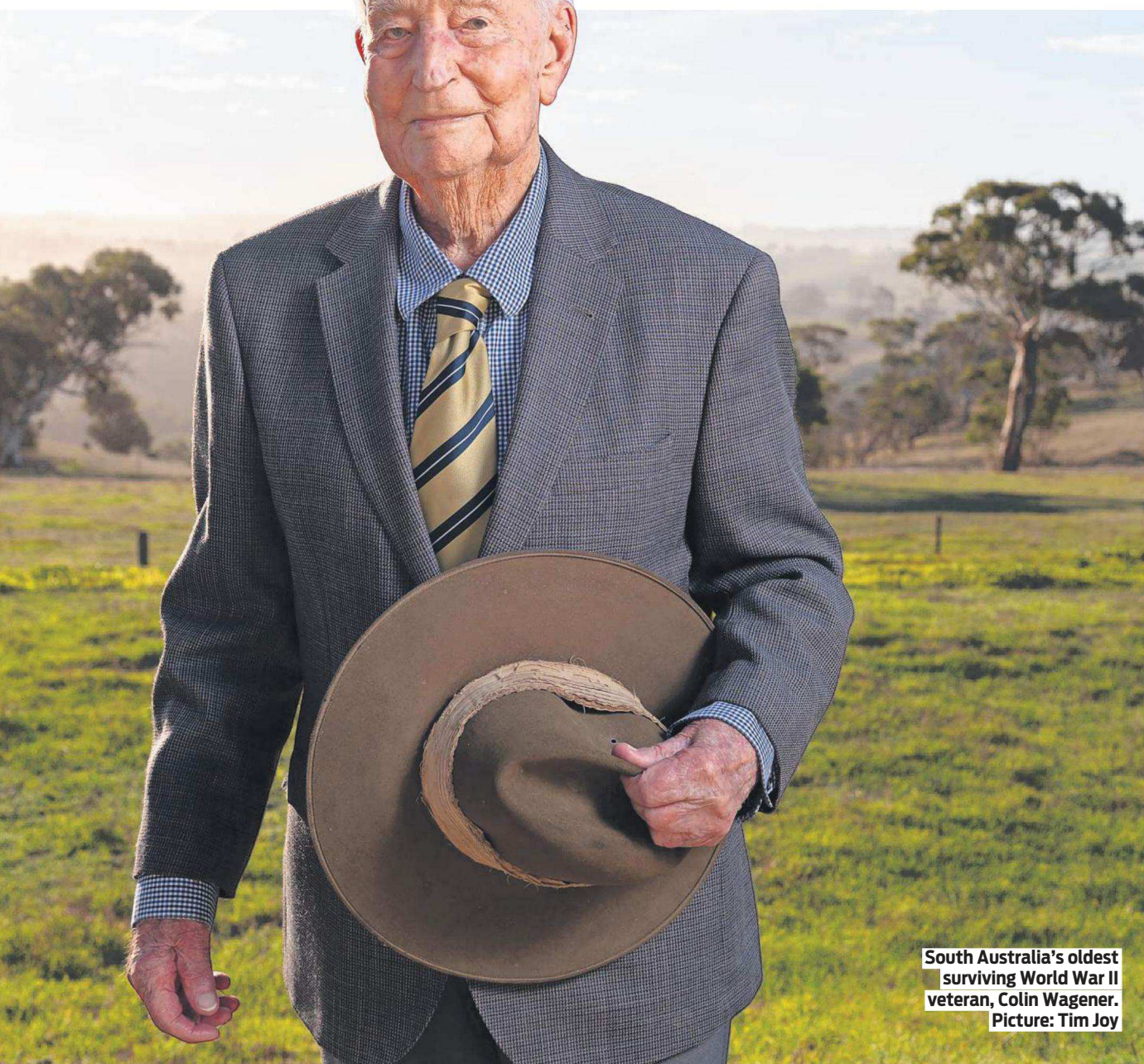
Opposition defence spokesman James Paterson said Anzac Day was sacred.

"One of the best parts about it

is the school kids who attend to lay a wreath on behalf of their school," he said.

"But we must do a better job of educating future generations about the service and sacrifice of all our ADF personnel and how it has secured modern Australia."

One Nation leader Pauline Hanson said she was "not surprised at most young people



South Australia's oldest surviving World War II veteran, Colin Wagener. Picture: Tim Joy

Gina's \$200m veteran pledge

Matthew Benns

Australia's richest person, Gina Rinehart, is spending \$200m – one of the nation's largest single philanthropic donations – to pay for emergency accommodation for homeless veterans and war heroes.

The mining magnate said she was "shocked" to discover there were almost 6000 homeless veterans in Australia and was compelled to act.

"This is unacceptable," she said. "I hope that others will also actively and generously help to lessen this tragedy."

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that 5800 veterans were homeless every year – making them almost three times more likely to be homeless than the broader population.

"The housing crisis, which is a crisis made critical by government approvals and permits delaying new housing and the ability to extend houses, high government taxes adding to costs, and record high immigration causing hosting shortages, has affected many Australians," Ms Rinehart said. "But maybe not enough are aware that more than 6000 of our veterans are now sleeping in the streets."

Ms Rinehart said her \$200m contribution would be used to buy suitable accommodation to house veterans with a focus on existing buildings such as hotels, motels and apartment blocks.

"A different approach to the veterans housing crisis is badly needed, a crisis also affecting many other Aussies too," she said.

"Firstly, military barracks currently unused or hardly



Mining magnate Gina Rinehart

used such as Leeuwin and Irwin in West Australia, and others around the country, the government should consider the veterans, and immediately open those doors to homeless veterans."

She called on the state and federal governments to cut duplication and use the spare office space that would be created to provide more rent-free accommodation for homeless veterans.

Ms Rinehart has already underwritten \$10m of refurbished units in South Perth called Sir Valston Hancock House for dedicated emergency veteran accommodation. It has provided 3500 nights to veterans who would otherwise have slept on the streets.

Michelle Fyfe, chief executive of the Air Force Association WA, said the facility had reached full capacity within three months of opening in 2024.

"Since opening, the program has delivered thousands of nights of safe accommodation, supported veterans into employment, reconnected individuals with their families, and most importantly, helped people rebuild their lives," she said.

"Sir Valston Hancock House works because it is more than housing.

"It is part of an integrated model of care, connecting accommodation with advocacy, health services, employment pathways and long-term housing solutions."



Pulteney Grammar School captain Patrick Longden and classmate Isadora Tribe, both 17, with the medal belonging to fallen soldier Arthur Hollow, which they will take to his Belgian grave.

turn each time several days later. He was hospitalised in England after suffering frostbite before returning for duty.

"On October 14, the battalion moved up to support positions on Westhoek Ridge (near Ypres)," Mr Kelly said.

"The following day, men were supplied for carrying parties, and to lay and dig in

signal cables for the front line. "German artillery fire was constant and caused several casualties.

"The 16th Battalion's war diary entry for the day stated, 'casualties for 24 hours – five wounded'. Hollow was most certainly killed by a shell during the day."

Mr Kelly said it was fitting

Private Hollow's ultimate sacrifice was being recognised by later generations.

"Having Arthur's medal go to his old school is something I think he'd have liked," he said.

The honour isn't lost on Pulteney Grammar School's captain, Patrick Longden, 17, who is part of his school's

Anzac Commemorative Study Tour.

"It is incredibly grounding to think we are here visiting the resting places of other Navy Blues (former students) who made the supreme sacrifice, at the time just a few years older than us, more than 100 years ago," he said.

won't sign up to defend Australia

being unwilling to serve if we were at war".

"They're taught everything about Australia that is negative," she said.

RSL national president Peter Tinley dismissed suggestions younger Australians did not show enough patriotism.

He said he still had confidence in the next generation observing a "quiet patriotism".

"I remember Anzac Day marches in the 1970s when you could shoot a cannon down St Georges Tce (in Perth) and not hit anyone – now they're 10 deep on Anzac Day," Mr Tinley said.

"Young people have got a different view of the world. They are very questioning, and some people aren't used to being questioned, but I don't think it's a bad thing."

Mr Tinley said he was also confident in the young people in Australia's military.

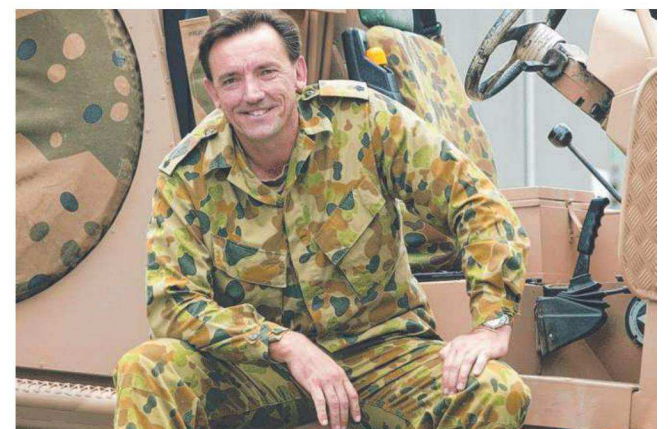
"They're a tremendous group. I look at people who graduate from Duntroon and Kapooka – we're in tremendous shape," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles said that despite the responses to questions about young people's attitudes, they

would still "pause to honour, acknowledge and commemorate those who have served in times of war, conflict, peace and humanitarian operations" on Anzac Day.

More than 75,000 applied to join the ADF in the 2025 financial year – the highest number in five years.

Retention is also higher than the 10-year average.



RSL national president Peter Tinley.