

Our Lady of Dolours Supporting our Troops in Times of Need



Our Lady of Dolours Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA) Kerri Wilson with Kaelan, Declan and dad Sean Mulqueen, who founded the 42 Hours for our 42 Fallen Challenge

OUR Lady of Dolours School, Mitchelton, has again thrown its support behind this year's 42 Hours for our 42 Fallen Challenge.

Now in its second year, the 42 for 42 Challenge, organised by school parent Sean Mulqueen, supports our defence forces; a cause close to the hearts of all in the Our Lady of Dolours community.

Between November 10th and 12th, teams will walk around the concourse of Suncorp Stadium bearing packs weighing 42kg for a period of 42 hours.

Each hour represents and honours one of the 41 soldiers who died serving in Afghanistan, with the 42nd hour representing soldiers who returned home with physical and mental injuries.

On November 11th, the walkers will pause for 10 minutes to commemorate Remembrance Day with support from troops from Enoggera Barracks.

Sean said of the aim was to demonstrate the powerful symbolism of people coming together for a common cause, moving forward in life by sharing our burdens.

"We want to show that, by an entire community helping to carry the weight and taking one step at a time, we can get where we need to be."

"From the funds raised from 42 for 42, we hope to build a memorial garden honouring those who fell in the Afghanistan conflict and create greater awareness of the issues facing those who came home.

"More importantly, though, we want to make it clear to the families of those who didn't make it home that they are still in our thoughts and that we remember their sacrifice."

Sean said he was excited the primary school was again supporting the challenge and parents from the school had volunteered to help, including providing food for the challenge.

"It is very humbling that they are providing their time – it is a testament to the school community."

Principal Patrick Davis was quick to point out what an important cause the challenge is.

"As a school, we absolutely support the efforts of this amazing parent," he said.

"Other than the fact that Sean's sons, Kaelan (Year 1) and Declan (Prep) are rightfully proud of what their dad is doing, we have a large number of defence families at the school.

"This is the perfect way to acknowledge our mums and dads on active service, as well as recognising the sacrifices their families make."

The school recently welcomed a visit by the Queensland Mounted Infantry (2nd 14th Light Horse Regiment) organised by the RSL to mark the centenary of the Battle of Beersheba in WW1.



Students explored ASLAVs, tried on equipment and chatted with members of the 2nd 14th Light Horse Regiment during a visit to Our Lady of Dolours

Soldiers arrived at the school just after midday in two ASLAVs (Australian Light Armoured Vehicles) which were thoroughly investigated by students.

Body armour and heavy helmets were given a test-run and dozens of questions were patiently answered by the soldiers.

“Our Lady of Dolours has many Defence families within the school community, and we are very proud of the close ties we maintain with our Defence forces,” Patrick said.

“This visit by the Light Horse Regiment was not only great fun but strengthens these bonds even further,” he said.