

For Immediate Release

22/02/22

Telling the story of those who cannot. Commemorate those who served bravely with us.

February 24th is the National Day for War Animals, a day to honour all animals who have served alongside our defence forces in past conflicts and modern operations. The Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO), led by President Nigel Allsopp, promotes awareness, supports memorials and current service animals, and is the force behind the establishment of the day in 2019.

The purple poppy and National War Animal Day honour the animals who have served bravely and without complaint alongside our defence forces in past conflicts and today. Giving time to recognise the extraordinary loyalty and courage of all war animals, to help our communities honour the service and sacrifice of these remarkable companions.

February 24th will be further commemorated this year with 'War Animals Day' in Hervey Bay. With the Hervey Bay RSL, War Animals Day will be commemorated with the unveiling of a plaque presented by AWAMO, and a static display of mounted troop horses and other animals. The event will take place at Freedom Park, commencing at 11am on 24/02/22 with the Light Horse Regiment Hervey Bay Troop present. Australian Light Horse Association National President Lawrence Watts said, "The Australian Light Horse Association Ltd and all our members through their respective re-enactment light horse troops throughout Australia are in full support of the Australian War Animals Memorial Organisation, (AWAMO), National War Animals Day by attending ceremonies commemorating National War Animals Day on the 24th of February as mounted light horse troopers representing those horses that served".

Further support for National War Animal Day comes from the RAAF Dog Handlers Association (RDHA), recognising and assisting past and current dog handlers. Ray Thomas, the Director of International Projects stated "each year we, along with AWAMO, recognise National War Animal Day also known as Purple Poppy Day. This date is very significant to the RAAF Dog Handlers Association, recognising all the War Animals over many years and raising awareness of the intelligence, friendship and sacrifice these animals have brought to the defence strategies and history of our country."

Accepting a donation of \$7,000 as an ambassador for AWAMO from The Purple Poppy team, Dr Kendall Crocker said "AWAMO continues to promote remembering animals in war through various activities throughout the year," he went on to add "the service and sacrifice of our wonderful military working animals shouldn't be forgotten and is important to remember".

Commemorating the National Day for War Animals and continuing to honour their service during other commemorative periods, including Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, helps to honour history, and remember their bravery. Visit thepurplepoppy.com.au to share and support today.

Media Contact:

For further information visit our media page: www.thepurplepoppy.com.au/media.php. For images, please find them here: [Purple Poppy Press Kit](#). If you cannot locate what you need to help us get the word out, please contact media@thepurplepoppy.com.au. For media requests for Nigel Allsopp, Dr Kendall Crocker, Lawrence Watts, or Ray Thomas contact details can be found here: www.thepurplepoppy.com.au/media.php#bio.