

SOLDIER ON ANZAC APPEAL

Honour veterans of the past and support veterans of today

Private Joseph Buckley and Gabrielle Carey

For many who have left the navy, army, air force, or other national security agencies, they have struggled to not only find a community, but also a sense of purpose after they separate and transition out. For some, they are able to regain this sense of purpose and find a new community. For others, this does not happen. The below two stories showcase how a lost sense of purpose can affect a person.



Australian War Memorial
E0 2790

Private Joseph Buckley, 29th Battalion

Born in Kyneton, Victoria, Buckley enlisted in early 1916. Almost immediately he went absent without leave, and a warrant for his arrest had him returned to camp.

Joseph continued to struggle with military discipline, and although he was a member of the platoon [in the above photograph], he was an extremely reluctant one, having been escorted to join his unit by an armed guard.

After the war he was charged with begging on the streets of London. On his return to Australia, he continued to struggle with alcohol, leading to repeated spells at the Lara Inebriate Retreat near Geelong. He died in Sydney in 1940.



Gabrielle Carey

Gabrielle met Jordan at just 19 in the very first week of his Darwin posting. Jordan's ability to make her laugh won her over, and the rest as they say is history. Over eight years, Jordan and Gabrielle experienced the ups and downs of military life, including a total of seven months apart for deployment preparation training before Jordan was deployed to Afghanistan for 10 months, as well as many interstate moves and 'fresh starts' away from family and friends.

Wanting to explore his potential and build a career as a civilian, Jordan discharged from the Australia Defence Force in June 2014, but was adamant that his next job would allow him to continue contributing to the community and to his and Gabrielle's future. To assist Jordan in the pursuit of his new career, Gabrielle said goodbye to her family and job in media, and together they packed up their life and headed for NSW...then WA.... then back to NT, all before settling in the ACT.

Jordan and Gabrielle started to find stability after contacting Soldier On, largely due to *"the welcome and ongoing support that we received from Soldier On."* This support ranged from social and mental health support, to education and employment support. Whilst their personal journey was at times hard and confronting, and remains a challenge for the both of them, becoming a part of the Soldier On community has given them the chance to build a life and future to get excited about.

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