

Editor's Note: Chaplain Jim Cosgrove wrote and submitted this poem to Macca's Australia All Over program. Macca read it out in August 2007 by way of introduction to his Why we live where we live section. Jim kindly allowed us to reprint it here and it was intended for the Summer 2007-2008 edition.

WHY WE LIVE WHERE WE LIVE!

G'day Macca, I'm a soldier and I guess it's time I told ya

In regard to all our postings and the service that we give

As our skills do keep improving it involves a lot of moving

And that's why I thought I'd tell you why we're living where we live

First they send you to Kapooka and that's where they try to spook ya

For the army life is different from your normal nine to five

As your hair is cut much shorter and they tell you how you oughta

Trust your mates 'cause they're the ones who're gonna help you stay alive

So you struggle through your training and it's nearly always raining

And you're wishing for a beanie 'cause it's always freezing cold

And the food – the way it looks the way it's cooked by army cooks

Makes you wonder if you'll ever have the chance of growing old

And your favourite residence is not some comfy army tent

It's just a little bit of plastic which might stop a bit of rain

But within the helter skelter it provides a bit of shelter

And you're grateful for the respite till you head off once again

Yes it helps relieve the tension, this ingenious invention

And imagination sees it as a palace in the sky

'Cause your hutchie might be sighted on a hill where you're delighted

By a panoramic vista that no earthly wealth could buy

When your training is behind you then the next thing is you find you

Will be wond'ring where they'll send you with some mild anticipation

Be it Darwin, Townsville, Sydney, Puckapunyal, Perth or Brizzie

You will start to get a feeling for the vastness of our nation

As you move from town to town you get a chance to look around

And you wonder at the beauty that's unique in every place

There's the people and their history, there's the land with all its mystery

There's a welcome and a friendship in the smile of every face

But for families it is grueling when you think of children's schooling

And the problems that occur when you get posted each few years

For some kids it's like life ends when they must farewell special friends

And the loss of home support brings carers to the brink of tears

But despite that pain within you, our good families continue

To provide our nation's soldiers with support and love each day

And a sight that brings a tear - is when a family gathers near

To embrace and welcome home their soldier who's been far away

Yes a soldier gets the chance to serve in far off distant lands

The Solomons or Timor Leste, Iraq, Afghanistan

Knowing pain of separation we are proud to serve our nation

And we trust our efforts help to build a safer, fairer land

And our fine accommodation in some far off distant nation

Could mean that we are sharing with a lot of other guys

Though it's never really boring this cacophony of snoring

We've been known to greet the morning with some sleepy, bloodshot eyes

Someone forgot to tell us there'd be sixteen other fellas

All sharing in the comfort of a crowded little dorm

But as the months continue you can sometimes find within you

A private 'Inner Place' affording quiet in the storm

It's one of life's great breaks when you are certain that your mates

Will always be beside you in the midst of any fray

There's nothing that you lack with a mate to watch your back

And True blue friends to help you and to back you all the way

And so Macca, you might find us with our comforts left behind us

But resolute in giving of the best that we can give

That's the life of every soldier and we're grateful that we've told ya

*All about the varied reasons **why we're living where we live.***