A GIFT in your will

EMERGENCY AND LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SPECIAL FORCES FAMILIES

COMMANDO WELFARE TRUST

A Letter from our Chairman

The Trust started in 2010 because of the fatalities and injuries we were taking in the Middle East, where we found there was a hole in the support being provided and what did come was not reaching families rapidly enough. We built the Trust to close that gap, and we pride ourselves on being able to approve support within hours of learning about a problem.

It is an evolving problem that we are dealing with. Where we were once confronted mainly with soldiers being killed or wounded on the battlefield, we are now dealing with the legacy of that conflict as well, including mental health issues, family breakdowns and real trauma, alongside the risks our people carry today.

Many Australians are not aware of the current tempo of the Special Operations Command community, but last year alone there were 70 or 80 operations conducted throughout the region, on top of training at the highest level we can ask of anyone, which is dangerous by definition. In 2023 the MRH-90 helicopter crash claimed four SOCOMD lives in a single night.

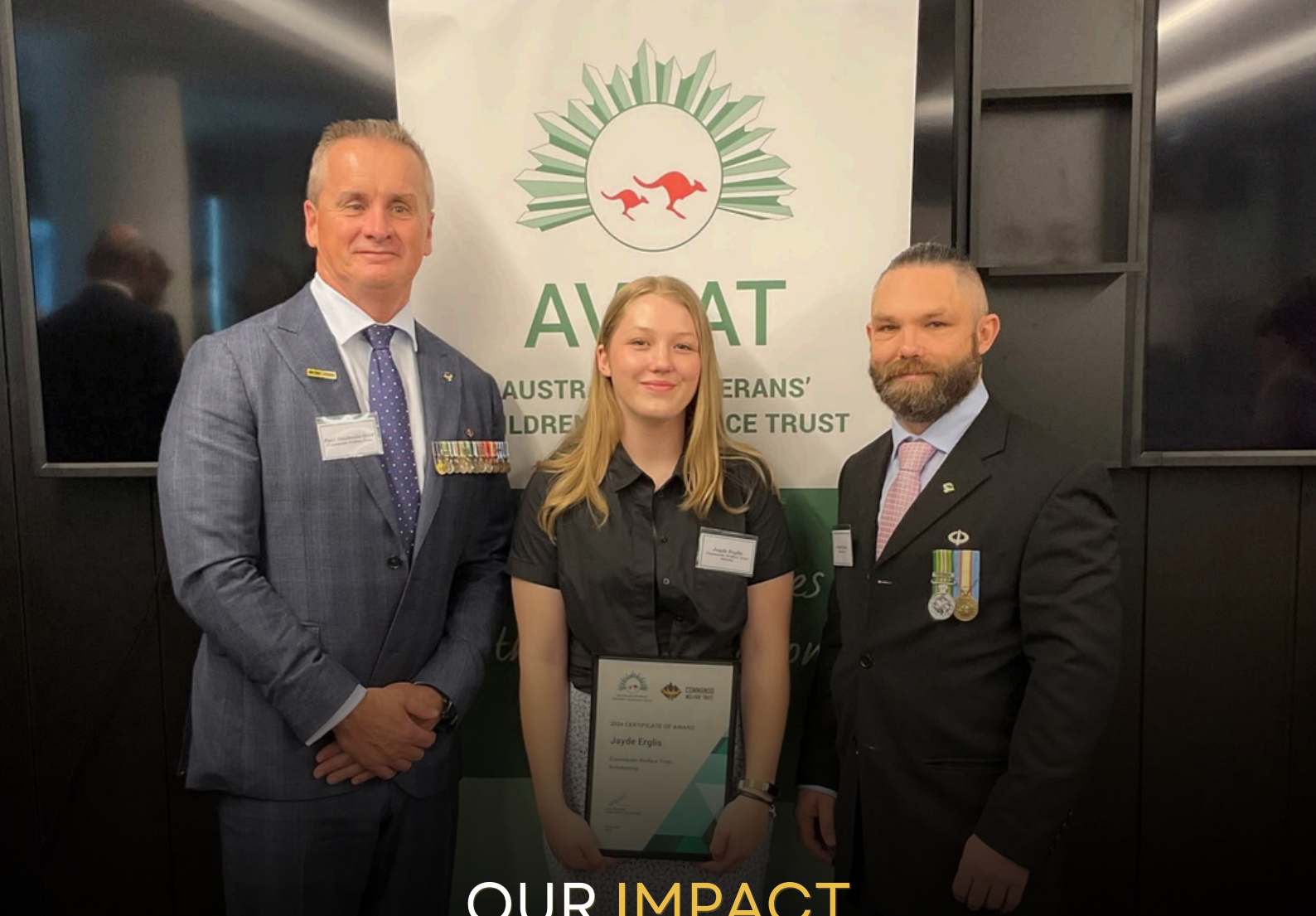
Demand is rising, and we are at record levels of support, with more families still to come onto our books. For 16 years, we have continued supporting families through the long term, with some children now going on to university.

> *"These are commitments measured in years, every one of them funded by donations."*

We cannot predict where the next conflict, training accident or catastrophic event will come from. But we can be ready. A gift in your will helps build the reserve that allows us to support families for the long haul and keeps the Trust ready when the call comes.

Brigadier Mark Smethurst DSC, AM (Retd)

Chairman, Commando Welfare Trust



OUR IMPACT

Since 2010 we have provided emergency and long-term support to Australia's Special Forces community, with 100 percent of funds going to our beneficiaries.

✓**$7** Million
in support to soldiers, veterans and families

✓**60** Australians
currently supported

✓**140** Beneficiaries
over the past decade

✓**2,500** Acts of support
to our community

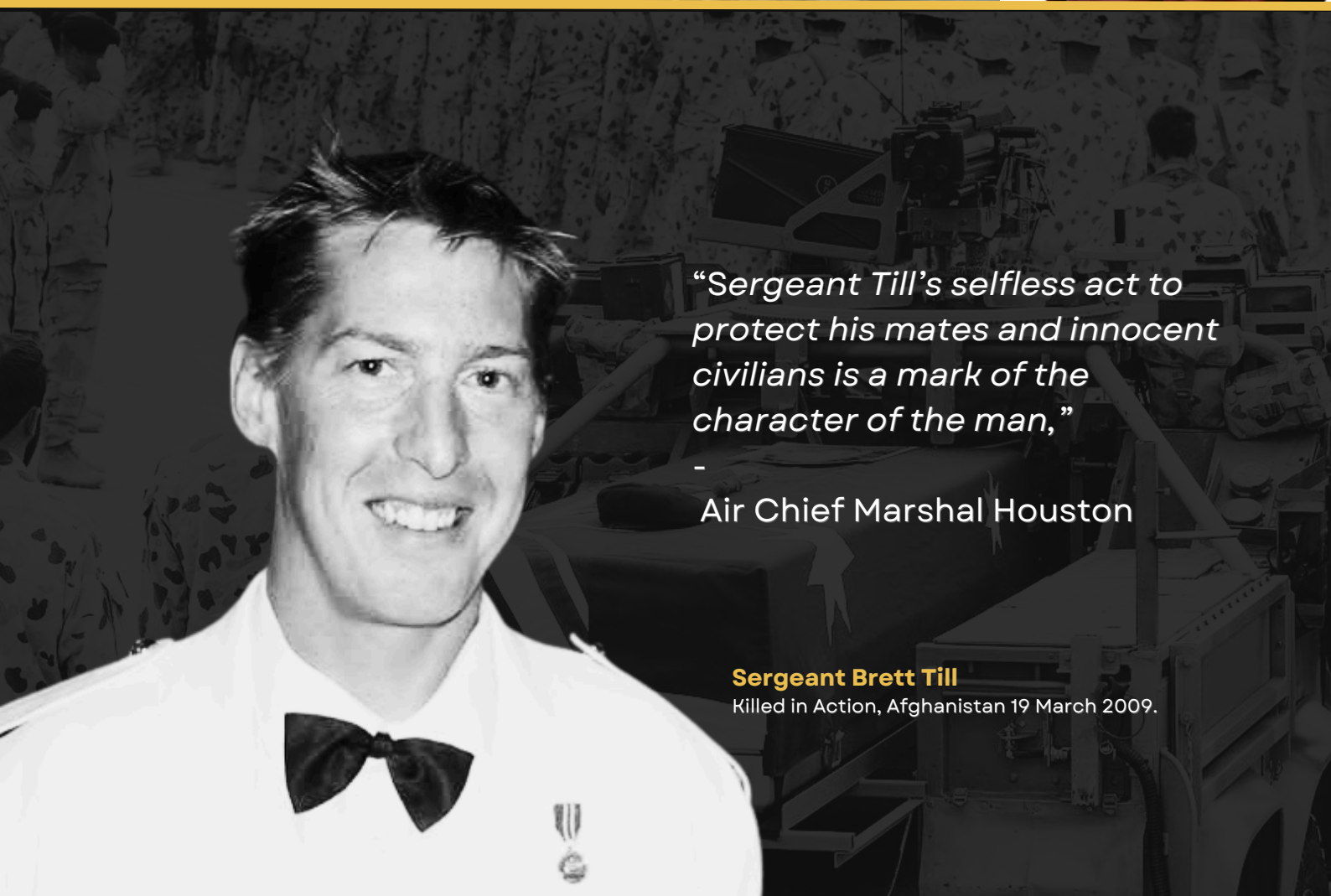
15 Years of Support:
Family Who Lost a Father & Husband

On 19 March 2009, Sergeant Brett Till, was tragically killed while disarming a Taliban IED in Afghanistan. We have been supporting the Till's ever since.

2010

2021

2025



"Sergeant Till's selfless act to protect his mates and innocent civilians is a mark of the character of the man,"

-

Air Chief Marshal Houston

Sergeant Brett Till
Killed in Action, Afghanistan 19 March 2009.

Emergency Care Turns into Long Term Support

In May 2023, an Australian Special Forces veteran, Taraidh Colquhoun, suffered severe injuries leaving him permanently paralysed.

Flew his family to Melbourne & supported a six month stay

Flew Tariadh home to family just in time for Christmas 2023

Supplied a special mobility van 2024 & rehabilitation training in 2026

Taraidh Colquhoun
Australian Special Forces veteran

Five Years Paying Off a War Heroes Mortgage

In 2012, on his second tour in Afghanistan, **Corporal Tim Pereira** was paralysed from the neck down. This resulted in lifelong financial and emotional stress for Tim and his family.

Since 2019 we have been funding Tim's mortgage.

In August 2024, the whole amount was repaid. We also assisted with new wheelchairs, house modifications, medical bills and travel costs.

Future proofing the Trust

The Trust does not get to choose when it is needed.

Following five training deaths over the past 24 months, we worked with the ADF to model what a similar event would cost us if it happened again, so that we would not be caught short.

Ten soldiers,

$5.8 million over five years

Twenty soldiers,

$11.7 million over five years

Thirty soldiers,

$17.6 million over five years

Those figures cover child support and education, economic relief, permanent injury, debt support, HECS, partner education and the years of care that follow. They are what it costs to keep a promise, not what it costs to make one. We currently hold nothing close to that, and a single catastrophic event would consume everything we have and more.

WAYS TO LEAVE A GIFT

You do not need to be wealthy to leave a gift, and you do not need to choose between your family and ours. Most gifts come from people who took care of their loved ones first and then left a share of what was remaining.

- A percentage of your estate, the most flexible option, because the value moves with your circumstances
- The residue of your estate, what remains after your loved ones have been provided for
- A specific sum, straightforward to set and easy for your executor to administer
- A specific asset, such as property or shares

If you already have a will you do not need to start again, as a short codicil prepared by your solicitor is usually all it takes to add a gift.

Most people leave their gift unrestricted, which lets the Trustees direct it to whatever the community needs most at the time. You can also direct a gift towards education, family support, veteran support or transition. If you have something specific in mind, talk to us first so we can make sure your wishes can be met.

SUGGESTED WORDING FOR YOUR SOLICITOR

Residual or percentage gift:

"I give to The Commando Welfare Trust (ABN 17 860 403 129) of PO Box 2035, Maroubra NSW 2035, [___% of the residue of my estate] or [the residue of my estate], free of all duties and taxes, to be paid into the Gift Fund of the Trust. I direct that the receipt of an authorised officer of the Trust shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executors."

Specific sum:

"I give to The Commando Welfare Trust (ABN 17 860 403 129) of PO Box 2035, Maroubra NSW 2035, the sum of $_____, free of all duties and taxes, to be paid into the Gift Fund of the Trust and applied to the general purposes of the Trust. I direct that the receipt of an authorised officer of the Trust shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executors."

This wording is provided for your solicitor and is not legal advice. We recommend you obtain independent advice when making or amending your will.

CONFIRMATION OF A GIFT IN MY WILL

Please complete this form and return it to us. It allows us to thank you properly and to plan for the families who will depend on your gift.

- ☐ I have included a gift to the Commando Welfare Trust in my will
- ☐ I intend to include a gift in my will
- ☐ I would like to discuss leaving a gift and ask that someone contact me
- ☐ Please send me further information

Type of gift, if you wish to tell us:

- ☐ A percentage of my estate
- ☐ The residue of my estate
- ☐ A specific sum
- ☐ A specific asset

ESTIMATED VALUE, IF YOU WISH TO TELL US: $ _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

CONSENT & AGREEMENT

This form is a statement of your intention. It is not legally binding and you may change your mind at any time without telling us. Your details will be held in confidence and will not be shared.

Return to: Commando Welfare Trust, PO Box 2035, Maroubra NSW 2035, or [email address].

Commando Welfare Trust, ABN 17 860 403 129, commandotrust.com. A registered charity endorsed as a deductible gift recipient.

Client Signature: _____ Date of Birth: / /