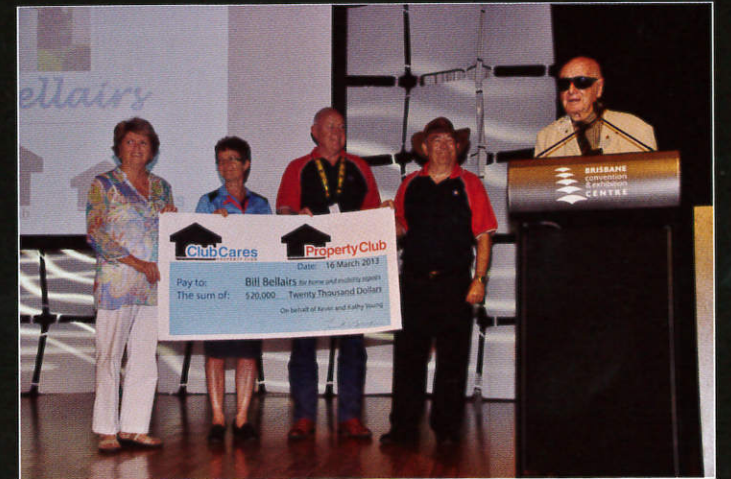




Lending a hand

Bill Bellairs is one of a handful of WW2 Kokoda veterans still with us today.

In the Kokoda campaign he was a Corporal in the signals section and fought in battles at Deniki and Isurava.



He has never forgotten his mates and each year, as the patron of the annual Rotary Kokoda Memorial Walk, encourages others to remember Kokoda and its toll on the thousands of young men that lost their lives. He was again called to remember them just last year, when he was invited by the army with three other veterans to return to Papua New Guinea on Anzac Day 2012 and commemorate Kokoda's 70th anniversary.

And at 94 years-of-age, returning to Papua wasn't so easy. Especially as Bill now walks with assistance.

Which is how Bill and Kevin Young were introduced. Bill needed modifications to his Gold Coast home to make his daily life easier, but the costs were significant.

Kevin said, "When we heard about Bill needing a hand, we had to help. To me, Kokoda was our most significant battle in WW2. It's very important we honour the victory we achieved and the men that made it happen. The Japanese were literally on our door step and the threat of being invaded was very real. If it wasn't for soldiers like Bill, and others like him on the front-line, the war might have made it to mainland Australia. So when you have a chance to help someone who gave so much, you do."

Kevin and Kathy have a long history of stepping in and lending a hand. Together they established a grass roots charity called Club Cares to help the members of their Property Club (a division of The Investors Club).

"Property Club is a business we've run for nearly 20 years that teaches members, with even just the average income, how to make the most out of investing in property. We also provide a range of support and financial services for property investors. But the best part of Property Club is that it's become more like an extended family, with over 130,000 members. If one of our members hears of someone needing assistance, we rally together through Club Cares to make sure they have the right support network available," said Kevin.

Kevin and Kathy have also supported many others recipients across all the states of Australia. Over the last three years they have donated nearly \$1 million dollars to the Red Cross to establish a youth homeless support and service centre in Brisbane. Named the Young Centre in honour of their support to the Red Cross, the facility is designed to assist young people in finding and sustaining employment and learning the life skills necessary to live a better life. It also offers temporary accommodation and job skill training. "The centre's aim is to help young people find employment instead of being on the street," Kevin said. While they are there they will also learn other skills to help them maintain their employment," continued Kevin.

Kevin said: "We're glad our relationship with the Red Cross presented this opportunity to give back to Bill for all that he has given in service to our country".



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