



Support for veterans

ON April 25, four Brisbane veterans will attend Dawn Services to honour the Anzac legacy and their mates, as they work to build a better future for the soldiers serving now.

Kevin Hughes, Scott Nuku, Rob Vonk and Mick Turnock are connected by their shared pasts as veterans of Australia's wars and conflicts and their shared salvation in Mates4Mates, an RSL initiative to support current and ex-servicemen and women.

Mr Nuku, of Banyo, was in the RAAF for 16 years, four

in reserve, and was deployed to the Iraq, Afghanistan and the Solomon Islands.

Born in New Zealand, his father was in the New Zealand Defence artillery and his great-uncles were killed in action in WWII.

"I think the Dawn Service is the more crucial point of the day. To think these guys in 1915 were doing what they did, everyone should get out of bed," he said.

Rob Vonk, of Ferny Hills, is an Iraq veteran who served the Australian Army

for 34 years and hoped future generations would remember modern conflicts as

he remembered the Anzacs.

"The poignant things are remembering the guys you served with that aren't here."

Ipswich's Mr Turnock, a Vietnam Veteran agreed: "They never had the chance to live the life that we've had, so you can't let them be forgotten," he said.

For more on Mates4Mates visit: mates4mates.org



Kevin Hughes, Scott Nuku, Mick Turnock and Rob Vonk. PICTURE: AAP/SARAH MARSHALL