

Our fallen sons return to our soil



Corporal Mathew Hopkins was farewelled by family, friends and many mourner in Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, in late March. Corporal Hopkins, of 7 Battalion RAR, was killed in action in Afghanistan on 16 March while on patrol. He was a well-respected section commander of the 1st Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force, on his second tour of Afghanistan. Here, *Corporal Hopkins's mother, Bronwyn, shares memories of her son at the remembrance service.* **See report, page 10.**



Sergeant Till, 31, was killed in action in Afghanistan last month while trying to defuse a roadside bomb. A C-17 Globemaster returned his body to RAAF Richmond on 25 March. He had been serving in southern Afghanistan. His sombre welcome home began when his family, accompanied by military dignitaries, met the bearer party on the RAAF Richmond apron. The party was piped into a reception area for a short indoor service. CO IRR presented Sergeant Till with his posthumous awards, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the ICAT Clasp and the Army Combat Badge. Above: *The ceremony was attended by family and friends; the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Minister for Defence; Mrs Louise Markus MP, representing the shadow spokesman for Defence; Chief of the Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston; the Chief of the Army Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, and Special Operation Commander Australia, Major General Tim McOwan.* **See report: Page 10**