



## THE JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE FUND OF THE RSL

In June 1966, the Returned & Services League celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a national organisation. Throughout Australia the event was commemorated in many different ways by State Branches and Sub-Branched. In many cases community gifts, including swimming pools, libraries, scholarships, and park and playground equipment were made to the Australian public.

At the national level, the RSL undertook four projects, including in many respects, the major national project which was the establishment of the Jubilee Commemorative Fund of the RSL. This Fund would enable the League's welfare work that had been carried out in Australia for the past half century, to be also projected into the international area.

The Jubilee Commemorative Fund of the RSL is now the workhorse of the RSL Australia National Trusts & Funds.

The Objects of the Fund include:

- alleviating through education the effect of war on the youth of the Asia/Pacific region;
- assisting the families of ex-servicemen in the Region who are in need, and the relief, care, welfare and education of persons in the Region or elsewhere, including assisting families of ex-servicemen of countries presently or formerly members of the Commonwealth of Nations;
- to further the knowledge of young Australians specifically in the study of social problems in neighbouring countries;
- to provide financial assistance to indigenous Australians while undertaking tertiary studies through the Reg Saunders Scholarship program; and
- to provide assistance to dependants of veterans through RSL Scholarships.

The Jubilee Commemorative Fund presently supports:

### RSL SCHOLARSHIPS

RSL Scholarships are offered to the children/grandchildren of serving/ex-serving members of the ADF in necessitous and deserving circumstances while they undertake tertiary education in Australia. Two new scholarships are awarded each year for up to 3 years of study provided that the student continues to meet academic and other qualifications and eligibility criteria.

These Scholarships are administered through the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust. Applications can be made through their website:

<https://avcat.org.au/scholarships/>

### REG SAUNDERS SCHOLARSHIPS

Reg Saunders Scholarships are awarded to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander child or grandchild [under the age of 25 when applying] of a veteran who is now ex-

serving and had operational service as a member of the ADF. At the moment, two one year scholarships are awarded each year but the possibility to increase the scope of these scholarships is currently under consideration.

These Scholarships are administered through the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust. Applications can be made through their website:

<https://avcat.org.au/scholarships/>

## **MEDICAL STUDENT EXCHANGES**

Two grants each year are provided in association with the Northern Clinical School of Sydney University for medical student exchanges to Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

One grant each year is provided in association with the Hoc Mai Foundation for medical student exchanges to Vietnam.

## **RSL NEW GUINEA CAMPAIGN TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP**

One of the major objects of this scholarship scheme was to enable deserving students in New Guinea in necessitous circumstances to proceed to tertiary education, either at university or in vocational training. It is hoped that the selected student will not only display academic capabilities but also leadership potential such that they may eventually be a positive influence within the wider PNG community. The scholarship can be provided for up to 3 years of study provided that the student continues to meet academic and other qualifications and eligibility criteria. The Port Moresby RSL Sub-Branch has agreed to facilitate this scholarship on behalf of RSL Australia.

## **KAPYONG SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Kapyong (Gapyeong) Scholarships are presented by the Australian Ambassador in South Korea to deserving children based on academic ability and economic need. These scholarships are facilitated through the Defence Attaché at the Australian Embassy Seoul for scholarships to students attending the Gapyeong High School and the Gapyeong Middle School.