



RSL

Returned & Services League of Australia

National Annual Report 2006



RSL

.servingthenation info
RSL 90th Anniversary 1916 - 2006 Youth



RSL www.servingthenation.info
RSL 90th Anniversary 1916 - 2006 Youth Program

The Returned & Services League of Australia decided that the centrepiece of our 90th Anniversary would be a gift to the nation in the form of a Civics and Citizenship Youth Education Program – an interactive web-based resource focussing on the contribution to Australia over the years of those who have served in our Defence Force. Apart from the enhanced understanding which our young people will develop, through this program, of the contribution of the Defence Services to our nation, the long-term value is in ensuring that future generations remain actively aware of the special place veterans have in our community.

The Hon Bruce Billson MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, launched the RSL's 90th Anniversary Youth Program at ANZAC House in Melbourne on 6 June 2006, 90 years to the day since the formation of the RSL. The flagship of the youth program is an interactive educational website - www.servingthenation.info - that encourages young Australians to understand why the RSL was established and what it has achieved over the years. As well as providing a wealth of curriculum resources that may be used in History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, Art and English classes, the website allows the user to interact with the past and to make some of the decisions that faced many veterans returning from war and peacekeeping missions.

The website has been produced by Ryebuck Media, specialists in the production of educational multimedia and youth public awareness programs. Ryebuck has worked extensively on projects dealing with military history and this website is a resource that all Australians should explore to get a true sense of what are Australian values and what has been done to preserve these values.

Other elements of the program include curriculum units in the STUDIES educational magazine that is sent free of charge to all secondary schools three times a year and a special CD-ROM classroom friendly version of the site which will be sent to all schools.

Front Cover

Photographs from the National Launch of the RSL 90th Anniversary Youth Program in Melbourne.
(courtesy of Ryebuck Media)

2006 National Annual Report

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National President's Report – 2006



I have pleasure in providing a summary of the principal activities and achievements with which the League has been associated during 2006.

Our 90th Anniversary

June 2006 marked 90 years since the first formal meeting in Melbourne of those associations willing to join in what then became known as the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia. In reflecting back over 90 years, much has been achieved, and of course much has changed. But significantly, the key objectives of the League, set out by our founding fathers, have endured to this day:

- commemorating the actions in which our servicemen and women have been engaged, and remembering those who did not return;
- providing welfare support, comradeship and assistance to all those with the common bond of having served their nation;
- advocating a strong and capable defence force for the nation; and
- ensuring that all of our citizens appreciate the responsibilities and privileges which come with citizenship, including pride in our nation.

The fourth of these objectives, paraphrased above, has been an area in which the League has taken a particularly active role in recent years. We have done so very much in parallel with our commemorative endeavours because, as we move further away from involvement in major conflict, it is important to offer our younger people in particular a clearer appreciation of the sacrifices made by others so that we all may enjoy freedom and prosperity. In turn, we seek to inculcate a sense of pride in our nation and an understanding of the importance of service to the nation.

Against this background, the League decided that the centrepiece of our 90th Anniversary would be a gift to the nation in the form of a Civics and Citizenship

Youth Education Program – an interactive web-based resource focussing on the contribution to Australia over the years of those who have served in our Defence Force. We accepted a proposal from Ryebuck Media, a specialist in educational material development, to work with them on this endeavour. We were delighted with its outcome and record our appreciation both to the Company for the product, and to our State Branches for funding the project, launching it locally, and ensuring a strong take-up within our secondary school system. Quite apart from the enhanced understanding which our young people will develop, through this program, of the contribution of the Defence Services to our nation, the long-term value is in ensuring that future generations remain actively aware of the special place veterans have in our community.

A range of other more localised celebrations, commemorations and special activities were conducted to mark this significant milestone in the life of the League. I make particular mention of only one of these – the production of sub-branch histories.

During late 2006, I received copies of a history of the Maroochydore Sub-Branch (and RSL and Ex-Services Club), the former founded in 1932, and the 85 year history of Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub-Branch. I had earlier received an updated copy of the History of Coolamon in Southern New South Wales. These invaluable records bring to life the magnificent achievements of many past and present members, and the often difficult circumstances faced by our members in fulfilling our obligations to fellow veterans. There is a strong identification with local communities, and it is fair to suggest that, as with many other sub-branches, particularly in regional areas, the life and development of those communities depended heavily on the energy of sub-branch members.

Commemoration

Recognition of the huge losses of Australian lives on the Western Front in 1916 added impetus this year to a growing appreciation of Australia's involvement in World War I beyond Gallipoli. While there were several specific commemorative services to mark the major Western Front battles of Fromelles and Pozzières, public awareness was raised through the Australian War Memorial exhibitions and the publication of major works covering this theatre of conflict.

The 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in Vietnam became the focus for a year of substantial commemoration of our involvement in the Vietnam War. Working with the

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia, and supported by substantial government funding, commemorative services and other major events were held Australia-wide on and around 18 August 2006. Significantly, community support for Vietnam veterans was strong, and both sides of Federal Parliament paid tribute to the contribution of Vietnam veterans, and acknowledged the difficulties of the past.

Welfare

While the 2006 Federal Budget contained only modest new veteran-specific funding provisions, we welcomed the substantial (\$1.9billion) injection into community-wide mental health initiatives. These will significantly enhance the quality of mental health care to veterans, underpinning the 'Broadening the Base Initiative' introduced earlier in the year by the Department following consultation with the National Veterans' Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum. Further enhancements to the ADF Mental Health Strategy increased confidence that veterans of the future should have reduced incidence of mental health problems.

The most significant outcome this year was the Government's announcement, at our 2006 National Congress, to better resource medical, dental and allied health care for veterans through an additional \$625million over four years. This out-of-budget decision was in direct response to the League's forceful expressions of concern over at least two years, and highlighted as the top priority in our last two annual Budget submissions. The announcement followed significant discussions with the League, and strenuous efforts by both DVA and Minister Billson to garner the medical profession's support and Cabinet endorsement.

In early 2006, DVA implemented its 'OneDVA' reorganisation and adjustments. While we have regularly complimented the Department on the quality of its service to veterans, we have this year expressed our concerns that 'OneDVA' has led to unacceptable delays in the processing of a number of claims, and other tensions. We have also represented our concerns at the need for ongoing attention on the issue of staff empathy with veterans' needs.

An RSL Aged Care Forum has now been set up and met for the first time in November. This Forum is intended to strengthen the League's focus on aged care issues. This allows us to effectively contribute to rather than merely relying on the outcomes of the National Ex-Service Round Table on Aged Care (NERTAC). The committed Chair of NERTAC, Past President Peter Phillips, welcomed the development and the input our Forum is expected to be able to provide.

I referred above to sub-branch histories published this year. One of the dominant messages from those histories is the focus our sub-branches have placed, and continue to place on veteran welfare, pension support and advocacy. This is the heart of the League's effort to help those in need, and our sub-branches are at the coalface. I would record

the League's collective thanks to our many volunteers and staff who give so generously of their time and expertise in caring for and supporting our fellow veterans.

Defence

In his separate report, Chairman National Defence Committee has summarised the considerable work of this Committee as it engages with Government on Defence capability, personnel and operational issues. The Committee has been most active in its formal representations to Parliamentary enquiries in such diverse areas as Shipbuilding Policy, and Treaties. A submission was also made to the Defence Management Review.

There are now several organisations and individuals making regular public comment on Defence issues. However, the League's views continued to be sought by the media on such issues as our deployment to Iraq, the perceived relaxation of Defence Force enlistment standards, equipment issues, military justice, fatalities, and recruiting shortfalls. We were warmly welcomed to express our views to incoming Defence Minister Dr Brendan Nelson, and continue to enjoy excellent access to the Service Chiefs and the Department.

Our National Conditions of Service Committee also interacts effectively with Defence, Comsuper, and the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal. The League is well placed to offer constructive views on Service conditions issues. This will become increasingly important into 2007 with the demise in December 2006 of the Armed Forces Federation of Australia.

Our RSL AFOF parcels to deployed forces and police officers continue to be well received, as are the concert tours arranged by the staff supporting the Forces Advisory Council on Entertainment which I continued to chair. I welcomed also my continuing involvement with the Defence Reserve Support Council, and the Australian Defence Force Academy Advisory Council.

The League's presentations to outstanding cadets at the Defence Force Academy and RMC continue to be highly regarded. These offer an opportunity to make known the League's continuing interest in and involvement with our serving men and women.

The RSL/ADF Cadet of the Year tour this year was to the Kokoda Track in PNG. This was a tour of great significance and impact on the selected cadets, while noting that there were some concerns about the conduct of this particular tour.

The League

Our 2006 National Congress was conducted in Perth, with the considerable assistance and support of our Western Australia State Branch. His Excellency the Governor-General opened the Congress and offered a challenge for the League to take a more active role in a youth mentoring program of which he is the Patron.

It was significant that the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, representing the Prime Minister, used our Congress Opening to announce the Government's funding boost to support veteran health care. In doing so, he gave credit to the League for our active representation and engagement on this issue.

Our relationship with our New Zealand colleagues in the RNZRSA grew even stronger in 2006. RNZRSA also celebrated its 90th Anniversary and, with our South Australian State President, I participated in those celebrations and the annual National Council meeting in Wellington. RNZRSA, with considerable NZ Government assistance, also celebrated 2006 as 'The Year of the Veteran', raising further their community profile.

The League continues to work effectively with other major ex-service organisations. While the emphasis and priority of issues amongst ESOs will differ, much can be achieved by sharing of information and broader representation on matters of concern to all. It is, however, regrettable that a few individuals, not necessarily members of ex-service organisations, take comfort in publicly vilifying the efforts of office bearers and in many cases, the RSL as a whole. Sadly, they are often misinformed in their criticisms and unreasonable in their expectations. There is evidence that these vitriolic exchanges have undermined the standing of veterans in the eyes of politicians and the public.

Notwithstanding these developments, the RSL is still widely regarded as the most effective and enduring ex-service organisation. It is seen as reasonable and responsible in its approach and as providing comprehensive community support across Australia. Our task as the present stewards is to strengthen further this reputation.

During her visit to Australia in March to open the Commonwealth Games, Her Majesty the Queen, our Patron, attended a Commonwealth Church Service in Sydney and a reception at Admiralty House. I attended these activities, along with the National Secretary and Deputy National President. Unfortunately, there was not an opportunity to express our thanks to Her Majesty for her patronage, nor to engage with the Duke of Edinburgh.

Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League

RCEL is at a critical point in its history. As the numbers of veterans in Commonwealth countries who served the Crown declines, so it is necessary to review the future of the League.

The Founding Members, including Australia, have expressed some concerns at the high affiliation fee, and have sought some rationalisation of the operations. Consequently, a phase-down plan has been developed and options for us to take greater regional responsibility have been canvassed.

It was intended to discuss these matters at the next Triennial Conference in Fiji in 2008, with a Founding Member pre-conference session in 2007 in Hong Kong. Recent political developments in Fiji have thrown doubt over the future of this conference. While Australia has been seen as the natural fall-back host nation, it has had to be advised that we are not prepared to host an expensive conference of the scale conducted in Canada in 2005.

I record here our sincere gratitude for the contributions made by our London-based RCEL representatives – The Right Honourable the Lord Slim and Colonel Kevin Farrer.

Australian War Memorial

I was appointed to the Council of the Australian War Memorial in April 2006. While this is a personal appointment rather than ex-officio, it does maintain the opportunity for the League's concerns to be raised directly with the Council and Director, and for a deeper understanding of policy and planning intentions.

From Council meetings attended this year, I can attest that the Australian War Memorial is exceptionally well led, and its staff are thoroughly committed and professional. It is an inspiration to be actively involved in such an institution.

Two issues deserve special mention:

- The development of the Post World War II Galleries is proceeding, with completion due by end 2007. Several challenges, including staff changes and technical issues have arisen, but have been competently managed. The unavailability of access to Korean and Vietnam displays over the period has been met with widespread understanding and acceptance.
- The Victoria Cross won by Captain Alfred Shout at Gallipoli, the only Gallipoli VC not held by the AWM, was presented to the Memorial in August by Mr Kerry Stokes AO. This was facilitated by the RSL – Mr Stokes being an Honorary Life Member of the League. It was Mr Stokes's wish that the League receive credit for what can only be described as his exceptional generosity and conviction.

Conclusion

2006 has again seen the League hold true to its objectives in many ways. Our strength continues to be in the work of our sub-branches, delivering much needed support, assistance, advice and advocacy for veterans, while providing a positive and highly regarded contribution to local communities. Our State Branches provide the capacity and support for these activities, and have retained excellent relationships with their State Governments.

Nationally, the League has enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the new Minister for Defence and Minister for Veterans' Affairs. Our relationship with the Department of Veterans' Affairs continues to afford us

regular access, comprehensive consultation, and mutual respect. We have worked to retain our influence over those matters vital to the welfare of our veterans.

It has been a good 90th Anniversary year – our forefathers would be pleased with what our members have achieved in honouring their legacy.

In 2007 we need to do at least three things:

- Resolve, once and for all, many of the issues which have been around for many years and which distract us from responding adequately to more pressing contemporary issues.
- Take a leading role in coming to terms with the issues affecting younger veterans.
- Seek a clear government commitment on the need to retain the value of the Special Rate Pension, and a mechanism to do so.

I record my thanks to the League's staff, office bearers and members, for the time and commitment so clearly given to the League's work; and to the many stakeholders whose support to our objectives is so critical.

BILL CREWS
National President

National Congress

– 2006

The 91st Annual National Congress of the Returned & Services League of Australia was officially opened by His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Official Opening was held in the Ballroom of Government House, Perth.

Guest Speakers included The Hon Bruce Billson MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, representing the Prime Minister of Australia, and Mr Allan Griffin MP, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, representing the Leader of the Opposition. The National Secretary, Mr Derek Robson AM, read the Queen's message to the Congress.

Among local and interstate guests present were Sir Charles Court AK KCMG OBE, Lady Court, Mr Keith Payne VC OAM and Professor Ian Constable, who was presented with the ANZAC Peace Prize for 2006 by His Excellency the Governor-General, for the devotion of his professional talents to the betterment of mankind by reducing blindness and visual impairment on a global scale.

The National President in his Report to Congress, acknowledged the milestone of the 90th Anniversary of the League whose objectives, set out so clearly in 1916, have endured to this day. He reported that the RSL's 90th anniversary gift to the nation was a Civic and Citizenship Education Program, which was developed in conjunction with Ryebuck Media and made available to Australia's 900,000 secondary school students. The program is designed to urge our young people to reflect on the contribution servicemen and women have made in Australia over 90 years and, in particular, their contribution to our security and well-being.

The National President concluded that the three themes which continue to encapsulate the enduring objectives of the League are, Reaching Out to the Community, Quality Welfare, and Committed Membership.

A wreath laying ceremony was held at sunset in Kings Park, and the business session of the Congress was held in ANZAC House, Perth.

During the Congress, the following national officers were returned:

National President:

Major General Bill Crews AO (Retd)

Deputy National President:

Mr Don Rowe OAM

National Treasurer:

Mr David Sinclair

Overseas Guests

- Mr John Campbell, National President of The Royal New Zealand Returned Services Association;
- Mr Pat Herbert, Chief Executive Officer, Royal New Zealand Returned Services Association;
- Mr Alex Pluck, District President, Royal New Zealand Returned Services Association.

Motions

148 Motions were tabled and debated, covering the following topics:

- Constitution of the RSL
- Veterans' Affairs Matters
- Social Security and Taxation
- Defence Service Homes
- Preference in Employment
- The League
- ANZAC, Commemoration, Ceremonial and Memorials
- Defence and Foreign Affairs
- Conditions of Service
- Security
- Population and Immigration
- Education
- Australian Youth
- General Standing Policy on Various Matters, and
- Aged Care in the Veteran Community

Messages

Messages for a successful Congress were received from:

- Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League
- Royal Canadian Legion
- Royal British Legion
- The American Legion
- Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
- Legiun Veteran Republik Indonesia
- Veterans Federation of the Philippines
- South African Legion of Military Veterans
- Veterans Affairs Commission, Republic of China, Taiwan, and
- Ex-Services Association of Singapore;

Functions

Three functions were held in conjunction with the Congress. The Hon Mark McGowan MLA, representing the

Premier of Western Australia, hosted a State Reception for RSL National Executive and Delegates at Parliament House, and Dr Peter Nattrass, Lord Mayor of Perth, hosted a Civic Reception at Council House. The National Congress Dinner was held in the Ballroom of Government House.

The general arrangements for the conduct of the National Congress are regularly organised by the National Headquarters staff in Canberra, but any successful Congress could not be achieved without the direct assistance of the host State. Our sincere thanks go to Mr Shane Seers OAM and his wonderful staff at the Western Australian State Branch. Their efforts were very much appreciated.

I am very grateful for the help and assistance given to me by Jan Ormerod, Denise Howard, Linda Munro, Jean Xiao and Mickey Michaelis, the staff of National Headquarters, all of whom made enormous contribution to the smooth running of this National Congress.

2007 National Congress

This Congress resolved that the 2007 National Congress would be held in Melbourne, Victoria.

HELEN BRITTEN
Assistant National Secretary

National Secretary's Report

– 2006



The National Headquarters has been particularly involved this year with the many activities related to the 90th Anniversary of the League. The National Executive had decided that the focal point to acknowledge this significant occasion would be a lasting educative Youth Program which would be made available as a gift to all Schools across Australia and through the World Wide Web. The National Launch of the RSL 90th Anniversary Youth Program was held in ANZAC House Melbourne on 6 June, that being the anniversary of the first meeting of the league in Melbourne on 6 June 1916. Various State launches followed this initial launch and all of these were well attended and supported.

The Youth Program has been very well accepted by the State Governments, Education Departments and the general community. It is concerned with and actively promotes civics and citizenship, and how the RSL has contributed to Australian society. The RSL acknowledges the significant contribution made by Ryebuck Media in producing the program and the various Education Departments and History Teachers Associations for their encouragement and support. It will be a useful tool in the various School curriculum and will be maintained at www.servingthenation.info, with direct linkage to the main RSL site at www.rsl.org.au.

The Headquarters has continued to support and represent League activity at every level. The National Congress was held in Perth and the tremendous support given by local Sub-Bran­ches and individual members to the various aspects of the program ensured that this was a most memorable Congress. The Headquarters hosted the regular meetings of the National Executive in March and November, and supported the June meeting which was held in conjunction with the Youth Program Launch in

Melbourne and the September meeting which was held in conjunction with the National Congress in Perth.

The National Executive was well supported by the National Advisory Committees relating to Veterans' Affairs, Veterans' Health Care, Defence, Youth, Heritage and Citizenship, Conditions of Service, National Tribunal, ANZAC Awards, National Membership and Finance. The National Committees are regularly called on to comment on particular subjects and their well considered views are very much appreciated by the National Executive as the RSL strives to articulate its position on these topical issues. The Committee members are all volunteers and their loyalty and dedication is very much respected and appreciated.

The Headquarters regularly deals with the constant flow of enquiries from the veteran and general community across Australia and from overseas and has also hosted many study groups from overseas seeking to build their knowledge on our experience. Responding to enquiries is a particularly important part of our service and fulfils the requirements of our Objects to ensure the preservation of the memory of all that has gone before. While our staffing is small, we are committed to this element and we are now considering ways to better provide this information through an enhanced website and other lines of communication.

The National Headquarters is a meeting place for a number of other related bodies; the Committee Rooms regularly host meetings of RSL Sub-Bran­ches and other Ex-Service organisations, and the venue is regularly used for book launches and receptions related to Commemorative activities. The much anticipated redevelopment of the National Headquarters building is progressing well. We are now involved in a formal relationship with a development team and we have together proposed an innovative building design which has received initial support. We believe the redevelopment will enhance the presence of the RSL in the Nation's Capital and it is hoped that we will progress to the building phase late next year.

The National Headquarters has had an interesting year and looks forward with some anticipation to the coming challenges.

DEREK J ROBSON
National Secretary

National Treasurer's Report

– 2006

The following Financial Report is the audited financial statements for the National Headquarters of the League for the year ended 30 June 2006.

The net result of the year's operations on an accrual basis was a deficit of \$81,000 compared with a surplus of \$12,084 for the previous year. The deficit situation was brought about by a large lag in receipt of capitations income from one State Branch as well as a delay in receipt of term deposit income as contribution to the National Headquarters' welfare-related expenses. Had these two delays not occurred the end of year result would have been a surplus of about \$27,000.

Neither of these slippages is expected to occur in future years.

Also, on the income side, Unibic commissions increased by over \$18,000. On the expenditure side variations to line items were almost self-cancelling, with overall expenditure increasing by only \$5,000 compared to the previous year's results. Salaries and superannuation, together with provisions for long service leave and annual leave continued to comprise the largest expenditure item at 51% of total expenditure.

The Headquarters' budget was once again heavily reliant on the good will of some State Branches for their generous additional contributions.

The principal long-term liability is the building which is secured by the leasehold certificate for the National Headquarters' building at 81 Constitution Avenue, Campbell, ACT. The balance of this loan will be fully extinguished in 2006/2007. There were no changes to the financial policies of the Headquarters during the period.

The notes to the audited statements also show the balances of the various Trust Funds managed by the National Trustees.

Finally, I would like to record my grateful appreciation to the Headquarters' staff, particularly Derek Robson, Helen Britten and Jean Xiao, and to our auditor, Kim Hanna, whose assistance, guidance and support in shouldering the bulk of the financial work make my own involvement a pleasure.

DAVID SINCLAIR
National Treasurer

HOUSTON & HANNA CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

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INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

Scope

The financial report and directors' responsibility

The financial report comprises the statement of financial position, statement of financial performance, statement of cash flows, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and the directors' declaration for the Returned & Services League of Australia Limited, for the financial year ended 30 June 2006.

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

Audit approach

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the company. My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal controls, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

I performed procedures to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the company's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows.

My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates made by the directors.

While I considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Independence


In conducting my audit, I followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements and the Corporations Act 2001.

In accordance with ASIC Class Order 05/83, I declare to the best of our knowledge and behalf that the auditor's independence declaration set out on page 17 of the financial report has not changed as at the date of providing my audit report.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of the Returned & Services League of Australia Limited is in accordance with:

- (a) the Corporations Act 2001, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2005 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Accounting Standards in Australia and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
- (b) other mandatory professional reporting requirements.


Kim D. Hanna
Registered Company Auditor
28/8/06

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The National Executive of The Returned & Services League ("RSL") of Australia Limited, submit herewith the annual financial report for the financial year ended 30 June 2006. In order to comply with the provisions of the Corporations Act 2001, the directors report as follows:

The names and particulars of the directors of the Company during or since the end of the financial year are:

NAME	EXPERIENCE	MEETINGS HELD	ATTENDED
W E Gaynor OAM RFD	Member National Executive – 4 years, 11 months	5	5
D J McLachlan AO JP	Member National Executive – 4 years, 1 month	5	5
W J Crews AO	Member National Executive – 2 years, 9 months	5	5
D E J Rowe OAM	Member National Executive – 2 years, 7 months	5	5
G I Brodie OAM	Member National Executive – 2 years, 2 months	5	5
J H Statton OAM	Member National Executive – 2 years	5	5
A J Scott OAM	Member National Executive – appointed 12 May 2006	1	1
D A Formby	Member National Executive – appointed 17 June 2006	0	0

The following changes of Directors occurred during the financial year:

I J Kennett OAM JP	Member National Executive	- resigned 5 March 2006
G W Mason	Member National Executive	- resigned 24 March 2006
D Moles DFM	Appointed 6 March 2006	- resigned 12 May 2006
C Gilbert OAM	Appointed 24 March 2006	- resigned 17 June 2006

The RSL is a company established in Canberra to conduct the operations of the National Headquarters of the League.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Principal activities of the National Headquarters during the course of the year were:

- (i) the continued care and welfare of ex-service personnel;
- (ii) representing the views and opinions of its members to governments, to the public generally and to organisations with interests similar to those of the RSL;
- (iii) the provision of representation before statutory Boards and Tribunals;
- (iv) the liaison with overseas ex-service organisation; and
- (v) overseeing the conditions of service of serving personnel in the Australian Defence Force.

During the year there was no significant change in the nature of those activities.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

The net amount of loss of the National Headquarters for the year was \$(60,988) (2005: \$12,010).

DIVIDENDS

In accordance with the Constitution, the National Headquarters is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly no shares or debentures have been issued and no dividends have been recommended or paid.

CHANGES IN STATE OF AFFAIRS

During the financial year there was no significant change in the state of affairs of the National Headquarters, other than those referred to in the accounts or notes thereto.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There has not been any matter or circumstance, other than referred to in the accounts or notes thereto, that has arisen since the end of the financial year that has significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the National Headquarters, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the National Headquarters in financial years subsequent to this financial year.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

No significant future developments which may affect the operations or results of the National Headquarters, are envisaged.

INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND AUDITORS

During the financial year, the RSL paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring the directors of the company against a liability incurred as such a director to the extent permitted by the Corporations Act 2001. The contract of insurance prohibits disclosure of the nature of the liability and the amount of the premium.

The RSL has not otherwise, during or since the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify an officer or auditor of the company or of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such an officer or auditor.

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

A copy of the Auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 is attached to this report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors

On behalf of the Directors

Director

Director

Date:
Canberra, ACT

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

2005 \$		Notes	2006 \$
716,142	Revenue from ordinary activities	3	648,313
64,580	Administration expenses		79,537
368,717	Employee benefits expense		358,755
37,631	Occupancy expenses		33,116
6,741	Borrowing costs		3,902
33,335	Depreciation		34,074
45,122	Meeting and conference expenses		57,097
30,900	Insurance costs		23,323
20,670	Accounting and auditing fees		9,935
1,043	Loss on disposals of assets		221
12,832	Commissions - to States for UNIBIC sales		12,690
82,562	Other expenses from ordinary activities		96,651
<u>704,132</u>	Total Expenses		<u>709,301</u>
<u>12,010</u>	(Loss)/Profit from ordinary activities before income tax	1	<u>(60,988)</u>
-	Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities		-
<u>12,010</u>	Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners		<u>(60,988)</u>

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2006

2005 \$		Notes	2006 \$
	Current Assets		
242,841	Cash assets	4	214,118
64,354	Receivables	5	23,179
7,195	Other	6	21,845
29,417	Inventory		29,379
150,438	Investments	7	158,240
<u>494,245</u>	Total Current Assets		<u>446,761</u>
	Non-Current Assets		
879,585	Property, plant and equipment	8	858,942
<u>879,585</u>	Total Non-Current Assets		<u>858,942</u>
<u>1,373,830</u>	Total Assets		<u>1,305,703</u>
	Current Liabilities		
45,729	Payables	9	68,090
61,678	Provisions	10	74,178
42,000	Interest-bearing liabilities	11	42,000
<u>149,407</u>	Total Current Liabilities		<u>184,268</u>
	Non-Current Liabilities		
48,000	Interest-bearing liabilities	13	6,000
<u>48,000</u>	Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>6,000</u>
<u>197,407</u>	Total Liabilities		<u>190,268</u>
<u>1,176,423</u>	Net Assets		<u>1,115,435</u>
	Equity	15	
115,523	Reserves		-
<u>1,060,900</u>	Retained earnings		<u>1,115,435</u>
<u>1,176,423</u>	Total Equity		<u>1,115,435</u>

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED
A.C.N. 008 488 097

CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

2005 \$	Notes	2006 \$
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
694,860	Receipts from customers	636,589
(744,785)	Payments to employees and suppliers	(609,680)
15,035	Interest received	11,724
(6,471)	Interest paid	(3,902)
<u>(41,361)</u>	Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>34,731</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
(76,710)	Payments for property, vehicle & equipment	(25,919)
<u>18,653</u>	Proceeds from sale of vehicle, plant & equipment	<u>12,267</u>
<u>(58,057)</u>	Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(13,652)</u>
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
<u>(42,000)</u>	Payments of borrowings	<u>(42,000)</u>
<u>(42,000)</u>	Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(42,000)</u>
(136,060)	Net Increase/(Decrease) In Cash Held	(20,921)
<u>529,339</u>	Cash At The Beginning Of The Financial Year	<u>393,279</u>
<u>393,279</u>	Cash At The End Of The Financial Year	<u>372,358</u>

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED
A.C.N. 008 488 097

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

NOTE 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views, and complies with other requirements of the law.

The financial report covers The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited as an individual entity. The Returned & Services League of Australia is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The financial report of the Company complies with all Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in their entirety.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the economic entity in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of Preparation

First-time adoption of Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards.

The Company has prepared financial statements in accordance with the Australian equivalents to international Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) from 1 July 2005.

In accordance with the requirements of AASB 1: First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards, adjustments resulting from the introduction of AIFRS have been applied retrospectively to 2005 comparative figures excluding cases where optional exemptions available under AASB 1 have been applied. These accounts are the first financial statements of the Company to be prepared in accordance with AIFRS.

The accounting policies set out below have been consistently applied to all years presented. The Company has elected to adopt the exemptions available under AASB 1 relating to AASB 132: Financial Instruments: Disclosure and Presentation and AASB 139: Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.

Reconciliations of the transition from previous Australian GAAP to AIFRS have been included in Note 2 to this report.

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

Accounting Policies

a. Income tax

No provision has been made for income tax as the Company is exempt from taxation under Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006**b. Inventories**

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and current replacement cost in accordance with *Aus9.1 of AASB 102: Inventories* as the Company is a not-for-profit entity. Costs are assigned to inventory on hand based on the first in first out method.

c. Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Where an asset is acquired at no cost, the cost is its fair value as at the date of acquisition

The carrying amount of the assets is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows is discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a diminishing value basis over its useful lives to the Company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The estimated useful lives used for each class are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Useful Lives
Buildings	77 years
Plant and Equipment	5-13 years

d. Leases

Leases of fixed assets where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership that are transferred to the Company is classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely that the Company will obtain ownership of the asset or over the term of the lease.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease incentives under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006**e. Financial Instruments****Recognition**

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below and details have been disclosed in Note 18 to this report.

Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management. Derivatives are also categorised as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of these assets are included in the come statement in the period in which they arise.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Held-to-maturity investments

These investments have fixed maturities, and it is the group's intention to hold these investments to maturity. Any held-to-maturity investments held by the group are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets include any financial assets not included in the above categories. Available-for-sale financial assets are reflected at fair value. Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken directly to equity.

Financial liabilities

Non-derivative financial liabilities are recognised at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

Derivative instruments

Derivative instruments are measured at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken to the income statement unless they are designated as hedges.

Impairment

At each reporting date, the Company assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether an impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

f. Impairment of Assets.

At each reporting date, the Company reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the group estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

g. Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

h. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

i. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

j. Revenue

Capitations

RSL has an ongoing agreement with the State Chapters in regard to Capitation Revenue. Revenue is recognised on notification from the States as to the number of new memberships, or membership renewals, for a financial period.

Government Grants

Government grants are recognised as income on a systematic and rational basis over the periods necessary to match them with the related costs.

Commissions and Donations

Commissions and donations revenues are recognised when they are received.

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

Sale of Goods and Disposal of Assets

Revenue from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets is recognised when the entity has passed control of the goods or other assets to the buyer.

Interest Revenue

Interest is recognised on an accrual basis.

k. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amounts of goods and services tax (GST), except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or
- for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

l. Trust Funds

The financial transactions of the Company are recorded in thirteen separate funds, each being represented by separate net assets and shown either in the balance sheet or notes to the financial statements as follows:

- General Fund (Statement of Financial Performance - Cash)
- Special Funds
- Jubilee Commemorative Fund

m. Comparative Figures

When required by accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

NOTE 2: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

On transition to AIFRS, there are no adjustments to equity or profit or loss between previous Australian GAAP and AIFRS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

2005	NOTE	2006
\$		\$
	3	
	PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	
	Profit from ordinary activities before income tax includes the following items of revenue and expenses:	
	a) Operating revenue	
421,095	Capitation fees	367,835
101,985	Commission - UNIBIC	120,389
46,481	Grants	40,000
65,929	Donations	74,737
19,527	Royalties	19,866
15,035	Interest	11,724
46,090	Other revenue from ordinary activities	13,762
<u>716,142</u>		<u>648,313</u>

	b) Expenses	
	Depreciation of Non Current Assets:	
10,102	Buildings	10,102
11,855	Equipment, furniture and fixtures	10,599
8,597	Motor vehicles	9,522
2,321	Computer hardware and software	1,442
460	Library, plaques & RSL march	2,409
<u>33,335</u>		<u>34,074</u>

	Net transfers to/(from) provisions:	
2,647	Employee entitlements	8,000
3,708	Annual leave	4,500
6,355	Long service leave	12,500

	Borrowing Costs:	
6,471	Interest - Loans	3,902
<u>12,721</u>	Operating lease rental expenses	<u>12,667</u>

	Government Grant - Contributions towards:	
3,000	- National Executive	3,000
6,000	- National Congress	6,000
1,000	- Reg Saunders Scholarship	1,000
18,481	- National President's Expenses	12,000
12,000	- National Headquarters Travel	12,000
6,000	- Stand To Costs	6,000
<u>46,481</u>		<u>40,000</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

2005	NOTE	2006
\$		\$
	4	
	CASH ASSETS	
	Cash on hand	500
242,341	Cash at bank	213,618
<u>242,841</u>		<u>214,118</u>

2005	NOTE	2006
\$		\$
	5	
	CURRENT RECEIVABLES	
60,174	Trade receivables	13,751
3,586	GST receivable	9,428
593	Other receivables	-
<u>64,354</u>		<u>23,179</u>

2005	NOTE	2006
\$		\$
	6	
	OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	
7,195	Prepayments	21,845

2005	NOTE	2006
\$		\$
	7	
	INVESTMENTS	
150,438	Current	158,240
	Term deposits	

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

NOTE 8	PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT						
	Buildings at cost	Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures at cost	Motor Vehicles at cost	Computer Hardware & Software at cost	Library, Plaques & RSL March at cost	TOTAL	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance as at 30 June 2005	822,896	194,377	51,093	16,557	21,260	1,106,183	
Additions	-	5,041	20,878	-	-	25,919	
Disposals	-	(3,754)	(20,768)	-	-	(24,522)	
Balance as at 30 June 2006	822,896	195,664	51,203	16,557	21,260	1,107,580	
Accumulated Depreciation and Amortisation							
Balance as at 30 June 2005	(80,692)	(106,916)	(10,295)	(12,926)	(15,770)	(226,599)	
Depreciation	(10,102)	(10,599)	(9,522)	(1,442)	(2,409)	(34,074)	
Disposals	-	4,670	7,365	-	-	12,035	
Balance as at 30 June 2006	(90,794)	(112,845)	(12,452)	(14,368)	(18,179)	(248,638)	
Net Book Value							
As at 30 June 2005	742,204	87,462	40,799	3,631	5,489	879,585	
As at 30 June 2006	732,102	82,819	38,751	2,189	3,081	858,942	

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

NOTE	2005 \$	2006 \$
9 CURRENT PAYABLES		
Trade creditors	5,608	36,690
Other payables	22,764	18,802
Accruals	17,358	12,598
	45,729	68,090
10 CURRENT PROVISIONS		
Annual leave (note 14.)	30,376	38,376
Long service leave (note 14.)	31,303	35,802
	61,678	74,178
11 CURRENT INTEREST-BEARING LIABILITIES		
Secured loan (i)	42,000	42,000
(i) Leasehold certificate for the National Headquarters building 81 Constitution Avenue Campbell ACT		
12 NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS		
Long service leave (note 13.)		
13 NON-CURRENT INTEREST-BEARING LIABILITIES		
Secured loan (i)	48,000	6,000
(i) Leasehold certificate for the National Headquarters building 81 Constitution Avenue Campbell ACT		
14 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		
The aggregate employee entitlement liability recognised and included in the financial statements is as follows:		
Provisions for employee entitlements		
Current (note 9.)	61,678	74,178
Non-current	-	-
	61,678	74,178
Number of employees (on a full-time equivalent basis) at the end of the financial year	6	6

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

2005	2006
\$	\$
40,869	-
74,654	-
115,523	-
1,048,890	1,060,900
12,010	(60,988)
-	115,523
1,060,900	1,115,435
16 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS	
Remuneration of the auditor for:	
5,000	3,000
1,000	2,000
-	300
6,000	5,300

17 SEGMENT INFORMATION
The RSL operates in one industry as a national representative body of the members of the Returned & Services League in one geographical area in Australia.

18 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a. Interest Rate Risk

The following table details the RSL's exposure to interest rate risk as at the reporting date.

2006	Average Interest	Variable Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Maturity		Non Interest Bearing	Total
			Less than 1 year	1 to 5 Years		
Financial Assets	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash	2.50%	214,618	-	214,618	-	158,240
Investments	5.20%	-	158,240	-	-	23,179
Receivables	0.00%	-	-	-	23,179	396,037
Financial Liabilities		214,618	158,240	23,179	396,037	
Creditors & accruals	6.23%	-	-	-	68,090	68,090
Bank loan	-	48,000	-	-	-	48,000
Employee entitlements	-	-	-	-	74,178	74,178
		48,000	-	-	142,268	190,268

2005	Average Interest	Variable Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Maturity		Non Interest Bearing	Total
			Less than 1 year	1 to 5 Years		
Financial Assets	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash	3.00%	242,341	-	-	-	242,341
Investments	5.15%	-	150,437	-	-	150,437
Receivables	0.00%	-	-	-	64,354	64,354
Financial Liabilities		242,341	150,437	-	64,354	457,132
Creditors & accruals	0.00%	-	-	-	45,729	45,729
Bank loan	6.23%	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
Employee entitlements	0.00%	-	-	-	61,678	61,678
		90,000	-	-	107,407	197,407

b. Credit Risk

Credit risk refers to the risk that a customer or business partner will default on its contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Company. The RSL has adopted the policy of only dealing with creditworthy companies and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults. The RSL measures credit risk on a fair value basis.

The RSL does not have any significant credit risk exposure to any single company.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any provisions for losses, represents the RSL's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED
A.C.N. 008 488 097

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

2005	NOTE	2006
\$	19 TRUST FUNDS	\$
194,480	(a) JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE FUND OF THE RSL	201,802
8,425	Cash at bank and on deposit	9,022
9,840	Australia/Korea - (ACT) Society - sub account	10,538
212,745	Australia/Korea - War Memorial - sub account	221,362
14,472	(b) RSL OVERSEAS AID FUND	15,307
	Cash at bank and on deposit	
253,167	(c) RSL NATIONAL WELFARE AND DISASTER FUND	265,521
	Cash at bank and on deposit	
2,625	(d) VICTORIA CROSS AND HISTORIC MEDALS TRUST	2,748
	Cash at bank	
109,276	(e) THE MOUNTBATTEN FUND	110,387
	Cash at bank and on deposit	
10,917	(f) "THE AUSTRALIAN" WORLD WAR 1 VETERANS' WELFARE & COMMEMORATIVE FUND	11,561
	Cash at bank and on deposit	
713,682	(g) WAR VETERANS HOMES & WELFARE	645,330
	Cash at bank and on deposit	
36,100	(h) COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES	51,929
	Cash at bank	
114,990	(i) RSL & 6TH DIV HELLENIC MEMORIAL FUND	117,193
	Cash at bank and on deposit	
4,720	(j) THE MONA TAIT & MAY HAYMAN MEMORIAL FUND	4,917
	Cash at bank	
99,094	(k) NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN FORCES OVERSEAS FUND	261,143
	Cash at bank & on Deposit	
217,568	(l) RSL FOUNDATION FUND	287,205
	Cash at bank & on Deposit	

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED
A.C.N. 008 488 097

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

2005	NOTE	2006
\$	20 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (GENERAL FUND)	\$
	a. Reconciliation of (Loss)/Profit From Ordinary Activities After Related Income Tax to Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities	
12,010	Profit/(Loss) From Ordinary Activities After Related Income Tax	(60,988)
33,335	Depreciation and amortisation	34,074
1,043	Profit/(loss) on trade-in of assets	221
6,354	Staff entitlement provisions	12,500
	(Increase)/decrease in assets	
(6,247)	Current receivables	41,175
(18,553)	Current inventories	38
64	Other current assets	(14,650)
(59,510)	Current trade payables	22,361
(9,857)	Other current liabilities	
	Increase/(decrease) in reserves	
(41,361)	Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities	34,731
	b. Reconciliation of Cash	
	Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:	
242,841	Cash	214,118
150,438	Investments	158,240
393,279		372,358
	c. Cash Flow Statement Accounting Policy	
	Cash represents highly liquid investments which are readily convertible to cash on hand at the investor's option and which the RSL uses in its cash management function on a day-to-day basis.	
	d. Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities	
	During the financial year, the RSL traded in property, plant and equipment with an aggregate fair value of \$14,500. This disposal is reflected in the statement of cash flows.	
	e. Financing Facilities	
	Secured loan facility with upper limit of \$48,000.	
2005		2006
\$		\$
90,000	- Amount used	48,000
-	- Amount unused	-
90,000		48,000

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

NOTE

21. DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

The directors of the National Headquarters do not receive any remuneration for services performed as directors.

Registered Office

81 Constitution Avenue
Campbell
ACT 2601

Principal Place of Business

81 Constitution Avenue
Campbell
ACT 2601

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

The directors of the company declare that:

- 1 The financial statements and notes as set out on the attached report are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001:
 - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations Act 2001; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2006 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company and economic entity
- 2 In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director.....

Dated this day of 2006

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 307COF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001
TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2006 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit;
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit

Houston & Hanna

Chartered Accountant
Suite 15, George Turner Offices
11 Mackay Gardens
TURNER ACT 2600
Ph: 02-6249 8515 or 02-6248 8175

K.D. Hanna, Principal

Date:.....

National Recruiting / Membership Report – 2006

Introduction

The inevitable ageing of League membership unfortunately continues to be demonstrated, with all Branches showing a decline in Service Member numbers. The nomenclature for these members was changed from Ordinary Members to Service Members as it was deemed that there is nothing ordinary about RSL membership. The Service Member

loss for the year was 10,716. With the exception of South Australia/Northern Territory, Affiliate numbers in those states with this form of membership have generally, but only marginally, increased; indeed, the increase in Victoria of 2,345 affiliates this year went some way to offset the loss of 5,207 Service Members for that state. Detailed statistics for the year follow.

Membership Statistics

State	% of National Population	Ordinary Members 31/12/05	Life, Life/Sub Members 31/12/05	Affiliates 31/12/05	Total Members plus Affiliates 31/12/05	% of RSL for 2005	Service Members 31/12/06	Life, Life/Sub Members 31/12/06	Affiliate 31/12/06	Total Members plus Affiliates 31/12/06	% of RSL for 2006
NSW	33.7	55,734	10,546	Nil	63,280	30.9	50,548	10,109	Nil	60,567	31.2
VIC	24.9	41,346	2,875	19,747	63,986	31.3	36,139	2,042	22,018	60,173	31.0
QLD	18.7	36,075	5,083	Nil	41,158	20.2	34,784	5,572	Nil	40,379	20.7
SA/NT	8.8	9,310	1,489	5,167	15,966	7.8	8,304	1,364	4,612	14,280	7.3
WA	9.9	10,470	356	1,715	12,541	6.2	10,115	340	1,888	12,343	6.3
TAS	2.4	4,883	147	692	5,722	2.8	4,244	143	649	5,036	2.6
ACT	1.6	1,463	181	32	1,676	0.8	1,431	183	33	1,647	0.9
TOTAL	100.0	156,281	20,686	27,353	204,320	100.0	145,565	19,753	29,200	194,425	100.0

State Branch Activities

State Recruiting/Membership reports indicate that:

- All states continue to maintain their own internet web page with provision for potential members to download an application form as a first step to joining the League. All state sites are linked to the national site.
- Marketing and membership incentives continue to be sought by all state branches with the National Membership Committee still seen as the forum to share results and wider experiences.
- The value of RSL ADF Link is gaining more visibility as a tangible sign of RSL interest in ADF matters, with Queensland RSL Branch offices being established at Townsville and Enoggera.
- As a consequence of enquiry and after discussion at a National Membership Committee meeting, in line with ADF policy on the matter, there is no discrimination by the RSL against “gays”. However, current RSL Standing Policy on the subject should be reviewed before the next National Congress in September 2007.

Challenges For The Future

The challenge, as ever, remains at sub-branch level. Active, informed and interested sub-branch members are the strength and future of the League. Disaffected members are those who drop out of the League. Disaffection invariably is exacerbated by poor communications particularly at Sub-Branch level. Informed members are the members who renew their membership, who promote League ideals within the community, who project an informed and healthy relationship with other ex-service organisations and who recruit new members into the RSL. A strong membership means not only a greater ability to meet the administrative costs of running the RSL and of generating funds and capacity to meet the League’s welfare responsibilities, but more importantly of fulfilling our enduring objectives of commemoration, welfare support and fellowship. The RSL remains the most significant ex-service organisation in Australia; a strong active membership will keep it that way.

BILL CREWS
Chair, National Membership Committee

Queensland Branch Report

– 2006



Doug Formby
State President

Leadership, Structure and Accounting

By any definition, 2006 was a difficult year for the RSL in Queensland. There is no point in seeking to disguise the trouble the Branch found itself in as much of the difficulty is widely known. On a positive note however, the leadership changes that took place in June marked a new start on the long road to recovery.

While much work was done in early 2006 to implement the foundations of good corporate governance, this had not been supported by appropriate corporate behaviour and the necessary leadership.

The problematic situation was finally brought under control at State Congress, held in a very cold but welcoming Roma, where the membership elected a new leadership team. Now, with a majority of the work completed by State Council and staff (with much more to come), we are seeing the revival of strong support from our membership base across the State.

Moving into the future, since State Congress in June, considerable effort has gone into reforming our administrative structures and procedures. In particular, the control and accounting of our finances were in need of major work and most of this is now complete. During this period our staff was subjected to a good deal of stress and continued to work very hard; recognising long-overdue change, though never easy, was necessary.

Community Relationships

Our focus has been on maintaining a healthy and ongoing relationship with the public, political figures and business leaders of the Queensland community. In re-establishing these links, it was pleasing to experience the long held appreciation and respect that the RSL has been afforded over many years.

One of our major challenges has been to re-engage with other areas of the veteran community. We have reconvened the 'Kindred Organisations Committee' (KOC) that meets regularly under the roof of the RSL, chaired by our State Deputy President. The willingness of the other major ESO's to join the KOC has enabled us to have a stronger voice and lobby for veterans' issues as a united front.

Throughout the year, the 244 sub-branches across this vast State have continued to go about the traditional good works of the RSL. It has rarely been the case that sub-branches become only concerned with their own backyard and don't trouble themselves with the activities at State and National level. For a while many sub branches were distracted by the events at State level and were concerned that this would reflect poorly upon the RSL as a whole. By and large, we can be reasonably confident that our current image is one that helps sub-branches gain and maintain the support of the wider community they need.

Membership

The Queensland RSL is not alone in experiencing a steady decline in its membership. For many years now we have shared in the national trend. Gaining new members and retaining current ones, to say the least, is very difficult. Queensland membership as at 31 December 2006 was 40,379, a loss of 780 from the previous year.

This loss of members, due to an aging membership base, is coupled with the difficulty of attracting younger members from the ADF. As some other States have, we will be looking to conduct youth forums, initially as an adjunct to the KOC. A more direct approach has already been taken with a plan to establish an RSL office and staff member on each major Defence Force base in Queensland. This has already been achieved at RAAF Base Amberley. In doing so, we seek to have direct and full-time contact with young servicemen and women rather than infrequent contact. We also take the view that no amount of membership committees and the like will solve the problem.

At all levels, we have to accept that gaining new members is best done at the grass-roots sub branch level within their local community. Our task at State is to create an image of the RSL throughout the veteran community that is positive and attractive, achieved through carefully crafted public relations and branding

campaigns that are effective in pursuing veterans' issues. In December, State Council approved budget for a widespread advertising campaign across TV, radio, display and print advertising to commence early 2007. This is a big step forward in the right direction.

Youth Initiatives and Programs

Queensland has continued to act upon our *Youth Charter* that calls for support in the development of the nation's youth. Support for the cadet movement and the continuing success of the *RSL/ADF Cadet of the Year* program has been achieved during 2006. State Council have budgeted a considerable amount of funding to establish a school-based scholarship program throughout the State, assisted by world renowned Bond University.



JPC Student with Studies Program

The *STUDIES* program developed for middle school students by Ryebuck Media was launched successfully at Parliament House in Queensland by Education Minister, Rod Welford. This program was well received and several schools have since implemented it into their *SOSE* curriculum. Many sub-branches have continued to initiate education programs with their local schools and we continued to receive magnificent support from the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee for their exceptional schools memorial program and range of educational material.

RSL Care

The aged care arm of the RSL in Queensland, *RSL Care*, has continued its success with considerable growth both in geographic reach and the extent of services provided. The all important *HomeCare* budget increased by 27% to \$14m, with 6,100 clients receiving 284,250 hours of service provision. From those residents who left our independent living units, 92% were transferred to other *RSL Care services*. During the year, new facilities were opened at Bowen, Banora Point (in northern NSW), Longreach, Waterford and Alexandra Headland.

While *RSL Care* cannot be everywhere, we will continue to enhance our support of individual sub-branches to develop community retirement facilities within their own local community. These initiatives allow veterans to

continue to live in affordable accommodation within their local area.



RSL Care staff member and resident at Alexandra Headland

Fundraising Initiatives and Programs

As part of our restructure, we have consolidated a number of successful entities, including our fundraising, marketing, RSL Girl in a Million Quest and RSL Art Union under one management. Throughout 2006 all of these areas continued their history of success.



Hailee Florence and Bill Thomas at the Poppy Launch

The net profit of the RSL Poppy Appeal and our merchandising activities amounted to \$230,000 that was promptly donated to The Eternal Flame Foundation. 2006 saw the 47th year of the RSL Girl in a Million Quest draw great support, culminating in a gala final night of judging with the Queensland State Premier, Mr Peter Beattie in attendance.



GIM Kelly-Anne Taylor



Golden Girl Alison Stewart

Commemoration

Increased support and attendance at the 2006 major commemoration services of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day reflected upon the nationwide trend. Throughout Queensland, many veterans chose to commemorate and march within their local community in preference to the major city and regional services and marches. This is a healthy reflection of the RSL, showing all veterans are becoming closely involved and recognised within their local community.

The Road Ahead

Many challenges remain before us and they are not confined to Queensland. We were pleased to see the National President meet with the State Presidents at a special session to address and review many of our long-standing policies and procedures. This allowed us to focus on the long-term situation and the RSL must work hard to maintain its relevance. It is essential that the RSL draws strength from being seen as a unified body across the nation.

We share the concern of others that our National President has been subjected to a great deal of public criticism. His task is big enough, but the level of support resources currently available to him at National Headquarters is quite inadequate. Queensland has chosen to provide a specific level of funding to National Headquarters for the purpose of increasing their capability and support to the National President.

The time has long since passed when the RSL was the unquestioned principal representative of the veteran community. We have now been joined by an ever-growing group of organisations who seek to represent parts of the veteran community. It is important that we work together with these groups.

The RSL has a 90-year history of achievement. Now is not a time to relax and live off the memories. The veterans and the wider community have an expectation that the RSL will continue the legacy of our hardworking members who have gone before us. We have to be prepared to initiate change, ensure we remain relevant, be an attractive organisation to our wide potential membership and truly serve the interests of the members we already have.

New South Wales Branch Report – 2006

Membership

The NSW Branch has made a concerted effort in recent years to recruit new members from the ranks of those still serving in the ADF and those recently retired. As a result of our involvement with ADF Transition Seminars throughout 2006, we recruited more than 600 new members. Early indications are that at least 50% will be retained. In all, nearly 3000 new members joined in 2006 through recruiting drives at both State Branch and sub-Branch levels.

Despite these initiatives, membership continues to fall as the World War II generation fades. At the end of 2006 the total membership in NSW was 60,567 - down from the figure of 63,280 a year earlier.

It is interesting to note that membership 10 years ago stood at 91,558 and 20 years ago at 120,470.



Trailer and equipment used in recruiting

State Congress

The 2006 State Congress was held at the Rooty Hill RSL Club on May 23 and 24, and was attended by newly appointed Veterans' Affairs Minister, the Hon Bruce Billson MP. The Minister told delegates that mental health was a priority for the Department and that \$20m had been provided in the 2006 Budget for veterans' mental health, on top of the \$148m already allocated.

In his official address to open the 90th State Congress, Rear Admiral Rowan Moffit RAN, Deputy Chief Joint Operations Command, assured members that the RSL was still as relevant as ever to those serving in the ADF. "There are men and women engaged today in armed conflict in Australia's name who will need the services you provide,"

he said. "They will need advocacy, they will need friendship, they will need any number of other types of help and support."



At State Congress were (l to r) the National President, the State President, Rear Admiral Rowan Moffit and Veterans' Affairs Minister, Bruce Billson MP.

In voting for positions on State Council, Don Rowe was re-elected for three years as State President; Mike George replaced the late Cliff Savage as Northern Country Vice-President; and Eileen Henderson replaced the retiring Amy Taylor as Women's Services State Councillor. Congress nominated Major General Bill Crews for another term as National President and Don Rowe to continue as Deputy National President.

Former NSW Premier Bob Carr attended the opening day of Congress and was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the support he has given the RSL and its associated projects throughout his political career.

Commemorations

RSL and Schools Remember ANZAC

The annual RSL & Schools Remember ANZAC service was attended by more than 700 students, with 74 schools laying wreaths at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park. Support for this service continues to grow and it is gratifying to note the willingness of school administrators and students alike to be involved in recognising ANZAC Day.

ANZAC Day

Commemorations in Sydney began with the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, attended by about 12,000 people. As usual, about 20,000 people took part in the March through central Sydney later that morning, with crowds five deep on footpaths in George and Bathurst Streets to pay tribute. The ANZAC Day service in Hyde Park was well attended once again, with NSW Premier Morris lemma urging Australians to commit themselves afresh to the ideals for which so many have fought and died. Mr lemma said the spirit of ANZAC was best demonstrated in the way Australia has shown ethnic and religious tolerance. A special guest was the US Secretary for Veterans' Affairs, Mr Jim Nicholls.

Many other commemorative services were held in towns and cities throughout NSW, with sub-Branches reporting greatly increased attendances, reflecting the renewed interest in the community at large in recognising the sacrifices made by earlier generations.

Long Tan Day

The 40th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan was marked by a number of events and services. One of the first was a march by as many as 800 Vietnam veterans and family members at Ettalong, on the NSW Central Coast, on Saturday August 12; one of the last was a service at the "veterans' hospital", Concord, on Monday August 21. More than 200 people filled the chapel at Concord Repatriation General Hospital, where the commemorative address was delivered by Major General Hori Howard, who served in Vietnam both with the US Marines and as an Australian company commander.

Battle of Fromelles

State President Don Rowe led a commemorative service at the ANZAC Memorial on July 19 marking the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles. Two students from Belgium, who had won an essay prize, were among those attending. The service recalled the events of July 19 1916, when the men of the Australian 5th Division and the British 61st Division were launched across open fields. The fighting that night and the following day resulted in 5100 men of the 5th Division being killed or wounded in less than 24 hours, and another 400 being taken prisoner.

Community Relations

The League has continued to enjoy a warm relationship with the community in general and with the media in NSW, and it is pleasing to see the support which news organisations give to commemorative activities.

During 2006, one particular incident attracted considerable community and media comment. This related to the theft of an Australian flag from the Brighton-le-Sands RSL Club during the Cronulla riots in December 2005. The young man who took the flag spent seven

months in a juvenile detention centre and was later placed on a good behaviour bond, on condition that he attend a juvenile justice conference and apologise to his victims. In September 2006 the NSW State President, Don Rowe, along with a State Councillor, the presidents of the Brighton-le-Sands RSL sub-Branch and RSL Club, and members of the NSW Police met the young man, who was accompanied by his solicitor and members of his family. It was a private conference.

The young man apologised and offered to buy a replacement flag. The State President suggested he might care to carry a flag during an ANZAC commemoration service, to help him understand how strongly veterans feel about the National Flag. When this became public knowledge sections of the media tried to exploit this in a sensational manner, seeking veterans, politicians and members of the public who were prepared to describe the offer as an outrage. This was fuelled by the ignorance of many in thinking, wrongly, that there is one single flag-bearer who leads the main ANZAC Day March in Sydney, and that this was the position offered to the offender.

When the facts became known, an overwhelming majority of the public and the RSL membership recognised that the offer to participate in an ANZAC commemoration had been made in a spirit of forgiveness, conciliation and education. Newspaper columns and letters praised the RSL leadership for what was perceived as an enlightened attitude. What had initially appeared to be a public relations problem ended as a thoroughly positive experience, which greatly enhanced the standing of the League in the eyes of the public and the news media.

Other issues during 2006 on which State Branch took a strong public stand included:

- The State President's call for the Federal and State Governments to abandon plans to sell the Snowy River scheme to private interests. Faced with growing opposition, the Governments decided not to proceed.
- On behalf of the RSL membership, the State President contributed an article calling for the European Community to recall Australian sacrifices in Europe during two world Wars and drop barriers on importing Australian lamb. The article was published widely by Australia's rural press and received coverage in Europe.
- State Branch took an active role in advocating the retention in Australia of two Victoria Crosses which came up for auction. It was pleasing to see that these were purchased privately and then donated to the Australian War Memorial.

Retirement Villages

The RSL Veterans' Retirement Villages in NSW is one of the nation's largest aged care services and a major employer in this sector, supporting more than 1200 residents.

At Narrabeen, the League has marked the first full year of operation for Peter Cosgrove House, regarded as the leading aged care centre in the country. With 161 beds and the best of facilities available, it has set a new benchmark. Other major projects include the expansion of the Evergreen unit which supports residents with high-care dementia and mental health; major refurbishments to other facilities; and the complete redevelopment of the former nursing home complex into 25 village apartments of superior standard.

At Rowland Village, 13 new cottages have been completed; nearby, the acquisition of management rights for the Lakes of Cherrybrook has been finalised. At Linton Village, Yass, work is about to start on 32 extra residential care beds and another 17 retirement village units.



The Lakes of Cherrybrook

Scholarships and Awards

The Sir Colin Hines scholarship was established to assist the children of Vietnam veterans resident in NSW with tertiary education, and is conducted through the RSL Welfare and Benevolent Institution. 15 awards were made in 2006.

The F S Maher Memorial Scholarship, established in 1972, honours the late “Skippy” Maher, a former State President, and assists in nurse training and education for those involved with caring for ex-servicemen and women. Four scholarships of \$500 and two of \$250 are awarded annually. The 2006 recipients were Anita Vidmar and Siobhan Meaney (both from Concord Hospital), Carol Whitehouse and Natasha Murrell (both Lady Davidson Private Hospital) and Christine Hughes and Dorothy Lewark (RSL LifeCare Narrabeen).

The George Quinsey Trust Fund pays for enrolment or tuition fees for University or TAFE students in accountancy, business, commerce or economics, or in an arts degree incorporating those disciplines. Five scholarships were awarded in 2006.

14 school students were awarded first prizes in the Australia My Country state-wide competition, designed to develop a sense of pride and patriotism in being an Australian. The awards were presented by the NSW Governor, Prof. Marie Bashir.

The NSW winners in the RSL/ADF Cadet of the Year contest were Cadet PO Jarrod Huisman (Navy Cadets), CUO Paul Buckley (Army Cadets) and CSGT Annie Anderson (Air Force Cadets). They will join winners from other states on a tour of historical sites in Sabah and Borneo, including a Dawn Service at Sandakan on ANZAC Day 2007.

Distinguished Service

A dinner was held in February 2006 to honour Miss Annette Mulliner OAM, who has been employed by the NSW State Branch for 30 years. Annette, currently Assistant State Secretary and Chief Financial Controller, was granted Honorary Membership for Life of the League. She was first employed on February 23 1976 on a temporary basis to assist with *Reveille*; three years later she was promoted to Accountant and has progressed through the ranks, serving under five State Presidents and three State Secretaries. Annette is also Treasurer of the United Returned Soldiers’ Fund, Minute Secretary of the ANZAC House Trust, and a Director of both RSL Custodian Pty Ltd and RSL Retirement Villages.

The winners of the Sir Colin Hines Scholarship are pictured with Don Rowe.





ANZAC of the Year, Joe Bieniek, receives his award from the Governor, accompanied by her husband Sir Nicholas Shehadie

ANZAC of the Year

A former Polish prisoner-of-war, who came to Australia to become a pioneer of sports medicine, joined the RAAF and rose to the rank of Squadron Leader, was honoured with the RSL's ANZAC of the Year Award. Joe Bieniek, from Erina on the NSW Central Coast, set up one of Australia's first sports medicine clinics, and was selected as chief physiotherapist for the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne. In 1973 he was invited by the RAAF to become a sports medicine specialist at No 3 RAAF Hospital Richmond, eventually retiring after 20 years service. Mr Bieniek is a Life Subscriber of the RSL and a Life Member of the Ex-POW and RAAF Associations.

Victorian Branch Report

– 2006

The Victorian Branch has pleasure in submitting its report for the year ending 2006. This was another successful and busy year for the Victorian State Branch and a new CEO, Colonel Michael Annett CSC was “broken in” during the year. Whilst highlighting many of our key events and achievements in 2006, in 2007 we will face many challenges in the important work and relevance of the League with a major focus on our core objectives of welfare support to Veterans and their dependents. We are also continually improving our communications as a State network through traditional mediums as well as improving our website and electronic communications.

Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd) was re-elected as State President for his fifth year and continues to guide the State Branch and its operations in a progressive and erudite manner.

We bade a fond farewell to a great servant of the League and its members in Brigadier John Deighton AM MC (Retd). He remains actively involved as the RSL’s representative on the new Veteran’s Council and in a number of other unit and regimental associations.

The financial affairs of the State Branch remain transparent and well managed through the continued diligence of the State Honorary Treasurer, John Cullen, and Mark Sherlock and his team. Our property portfolio, insurance and opportunities for assisting Sub-Branches in redeveloping their facilities have been areas that have been particularly active. The potential to access new sources of Government regional development funds to assist many of our older, rural and regional Sub-Branches to upgrade their buildings, will be actively pursued in 2007.

Welfare & Advocacy

A number of significant location changes occurred at ANZAC House with the relocation of the Welfare and Pensions Office to the Ground Floor, directly opposite Reception on Collins Street.

Another significant change has been the establishment of several RSL Aged & Health Care Coordinators around Victoria, which remains a work in progress. The Welfare & Community Support and the Aged & Health Support Departments have established a good, positive, working relationship with the ongoing

aim of providing a first class welfare service to members of the ex-service community in Victoria.

Throughout another busy year, ANZAC House assisted veterans, widows and dependants with claims for Government Pensions and Benefits and provided financial assistance through the Victorian Branch Welfare Funds and helped many others with a variety of personal problems.

There has been a significant drop in the number of claims lodged through the Department of Veterans’ Affairs during 2006, in keeping with the decline within the Department of Veterans’ Affairs in Victoria. At the coal face, the Welfare Officers in Sub-Branches continue to deliver direct assistance and advice and, wherever possible, ANZAC House staff assist and facilitate this effort. Many of the larger commercial Sub-Branches employ full-time or part-time Welfare Officers, but the majority are volunteers who do wonderful work on a 24/7 basis. The RSL representatives at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital continue to do a magnificent job and Mr Rob Winther the Veterans’ Liaison Officer continues to be of great assistance - we thank him for the tireless work he does.

Our direct welfare grants continue to be a key part of our assistance to veterans and dependants, made possible through the continued success of our Appeals effort. These can range from assistance with utility bills and mortgage payments, to putting a week’s food on the table. We also provide a range of mobility aids to veterans, including electric wheelchairs and scooters, which are on long-term loan, to disabled and aged veterans and widows throughout Victoria.

Pensions & Advocacy

During 2006 we received 304 new cases, 45 fewer than last year. At the end of December the Advocates had a total caseload of 309, an average of almost 78 cases per Advocate. There were 460 cases finalized with an acceptance rate, at the Veterans Review Board, of 34%.

Victorian Branch Advocates have all received ‘Training & Information Program’ (TIP) training. The Advocates provide advice and/or assistance on compensation matters arising out of the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986, the Safety & Rehabilitation Compensation Act 1988, as amended by the Military Compensation & Rehabilitation Act 1994, and the recently introduced Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 2005.

We would like to thank the staff of the Veterans' Review Board and the staff of the Melbourne Office of the Department of Veterans' Affairs for their ongoing cooperation and support.

Aged Care And Health Support

The success of the trial period of our Aged Care Facilitation Model has been particularly pleasing and we will be looking at, with Sub-Branch support, a measured and sustainable expansion of the Model beyond State Regions 1 and 8 in 2007. The activity of our Aged Care Coordinators must be seen in the context of supporting the fine work done by Sub-Branch volunteers for many years and assisting in the recruiting and training of new volunteers in the contemporary environment. Response to the appointment of the Aged Care Coordinators has been very positive with many older members of the ex-service community and their families benefiting from having someone at a local level who can assist with information and support about aged care issues.

The past 12 months have brought new challenges and further growth and development of the programs started in 2004 / 05. Sub-Branches, other ESOs, aged care providers and individuals are aware of the support offered and the requests for assistance and advice have grown immensely.

The RSL Home and Hospital Visiting Program has continued to grow. The Commonwealth Government legislation mandating police record checks for all volunteers necessitated significant changes in 2006. By the end of December, over 350 RSL Home and Hospital Visitors had applied for clearance with no issues arising.

The RSL is now a member of several community volunteer networks and has formed positive connections with a number of community care providers, as well as residential care facilities.

Veterans' Affairs, Welfare & Aged Care Committee meetings commenced in all Hubs around August with high attendance and feedback indicating that Sub-Branches find these meetings worthwhile.

Appeals

2006 followed an outstanding year when the ANZAC Appeal broke through the \$2m barrier with a collection of \$2,020,000 - a truly magnificent effort.

The traditional football match at the MCG on ANZAC Day raised an incredible \$58,855 in just three hours.

Unfortunately our ageing force of volunteer ranks is thinning, so the need to encourage our younger members is becoming increasingly more important. The need for welfare funds is increasing and the relevance of the RSL and its appeals is stronger than ever, so it goes without saying that the RSL will continue to be on active service for many years to come.



Miss Sarah De Bono, a 14 year old singer, accompanied by a chorus of children from St Mathews Primary School North Fawkner sang "The Last ANZAC".

Poppy Appeal Launch

Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Honourable Bruce Billson MP, launched the 2006 Poppy Appeal at ANZAC House on Friday 3rd November. Mr Michael Travers, the composer and writer of the song "The Last ANZAC", provided the background to the song and explained the inspiration given to its writing was the passing of the last ANZAC Alec Campbell in 2002.

Proceeds from the 2006 Poppy Appeal reached \$1,492,132.49, compared to the 2005 total of \$1,482,425. This is a testament to our tireless volunteers and a supportive public who understood the importance of our work.

Membership

Our membership, and the RSL's Sub-Branch "footprint" across our regions, present us with challenges. Our current membership is stronger than ever before in many ways but the core of our Service Membership is still heavily composed of Second World War veterans. It is wonderful that so many are still actively involved in League activities. But we know the scene will look very different in 2015. Our membership figures totalled 60,173, of which 22,018 were Affiliates.

We must continue to grow Affiliate membership and look at ways of further integrating our many community/ social members, but we must be equally vigorous in attracting more and younger Service members. Our integrity as the peak national Ex-Service Organisation, and our influence with Government, depends on it.

The Future of the League Forum conducted in December discussed these realities. It resolved to support work which will happen in 2007 to reflect these demographic changes in a pro-active approach to membership recruitment and Sub-Branch development planning, ensuring that we will still have a viable RSL presence in every part of Victoria come 2015.

Committees and members are also urged not to forget those senior Veterans in Nursing Homes and Hostels and those who are frail aged and housebound who need support and friendship.

The future manning and administration of our very effective Veteran's Centres throughout the State is also linked to this issue of ensuring we continue to gain new Service Members.

Corporate Governance Compliance Committee

The State Branch's Corporate Governance which began with the adoption of the Corporate Governance Charter by Sub-Branches in mid-2006, will be rolled out as a Guidance/ Implementation Manual, developed by Victorian Branch Staff. This Manual will assist both Managers and Committees of Licensed Sub-Branches, and the Committees of traditional Sub-Branches in achieving best practice in their responsibilities. In the contemporary environment, which is ever more regulated, it is important we do everything we can to protect our reputation and this is an important part of that objective.

RSL Licensed Sub-branches Association

Our commercial activity continues to grow and expand with one eye on adapting to gaming issues such as regional caps and other legislation such as the indoor smoking bans which will take effect in mid-2007. The strong community support provided at so many levels by our Licensed Sub-Branches, and our reputation as a responsible and caring employer and good corporate citizen, must be sustained and protected.

Human Resources were a priority in 2006 with many initiatives successfully undertaken and delivered - a dedicated Australian Workplace Agreement was rolled out to all Sub-Branches. A HR manual, complete with 24 position descriptions, and a staff induction handbook were produced and made available to all Sub-Branches.

Two new deals, one with Telstra with an estimated saving of \$500,00, and the other with Fosters on behalf of our Licensed Sub-Branches providing bulk purchasing discounts, were established.

The LSBA has looked at several amalgamations and relocations including Sale, Darebin, Ballarat, and Portland. It has been obvious that as Sub-Branches grow, so too do the challenges they face, and more Sub-Branches are calling on the LSBA for strategic support and input as well as for counsel on day-to-day operational issues.

Major events in the LSBA Calendar included, ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast & Luncheon, Kokoda trip, Grand Final Luncheon, Brownlow Medal Dinner (with the Ted Whitten Foundation), Hall of Fame Dinner, Future of the League, AGM (in Shepparton), Melbourne 50 Years On Exhibition.

Commemorations

ANZAC Day Reception

This year's ANZAC Day reception was one of the first official engagements of new Governor Professor David de Kretser, and Mrs de Kretser. They were very gracious in both attending and staying for the duration of the reception, meeting many of our Veterans and those who support them. There was also a very strong attendance by invited Parliamentary, Service and Ex Service representatives. The Reception is one of our most important opportunities during the year to thank all those who assist us in our work.

ANZAC Day 2006

While a chilly and slightly misty morning made for an atmospheric dawn service at the Shrine of Remembrance this year, the day turned into a bright and sunny one for the March.

The Dawn Service was moving and appropriate, attended once again by record crowds, estimated at between thirty-five and forty thousand. This augurs well for the continuing strength of our dawn commemoration and the commitment of the wider community.

Once again, all present were most appreciative of the warming Gunfire Breakfast laid on by the Defence Force School of Catering personnel after the service in Birdwood Avenue.

The March was well attended and well supported with crowds four and six deep as the March passed over Princess Bridge; but we will need to review and adjust our arrangements for the next year to make it more manageable for all concerned.

All agreed that our new Governor gave a wonderful speech at another of his first official duties as viceroy. The traditional ANZAC Day football match between Essendon and Collingwood capped off the day in wonderful fashion, with a capacity crowd filling a magnificently updated MCG to witness a very close and exciting game. The solemn and silent observance of the tribute before the game by over 90,000 people was very special and we are, as always, very grateful for the generous donations made to the RSL by the spectators.

Given his association with the ANZAC Day football match since its inception, and his imminent departure as CEO, it was particularly fitting that the toss of the coin was made by John Deighton. He, jointly with the State President, presented the Winner's Cup to the Collingwood Captain at the end of the game. In summary, ANZAC Day in Melbourne in 2006 underlined the continued strength of the day and the increasing commitment to respectful observance of it by all sections of the community.

2006 State Conference

A relevant and challenging opening address from the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency Professor David de Kretser on men's health issues set the tone for a progressive and very significant conference. As the RSL's Victorian Branch 90th Anniversary year conference, the opening was marked by a special ceremony which was appreciated by all present. Official guests included Major General Bill Crews (National President), the Hon. Bruce Billson (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), Mr Alan Griffin (Shadow Spokesman for Veterans' Affairs), Mr Mark Sullivan (Secretary, DVA) and Professor Ken Donald (Chairman, Repatriation Medical Authority).



The Governor, His Excellency Professor David de Kretser addressing the State Conference

During the official opening, awards were presented to various individuals in recognition of their contribution in a variety of ways to the League. ANZAC of the Year Awards were presented to Mr John Sewell and the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade Charity Running Club.

The guest speakers, including the new Minister for Veterans Affairs, Bruce Billson, gave the delegates a good feel for current topical issues across the Veteran community. All of our speakers were generous with their time in speaking to individuals after their speeches and this was much appreciated.



ANZAC of the Year Mr John Sewell



Mr Paul Ritchie from the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade Charity Running Club

The State Branch elections saw Mr Robert Webster elected as the Senior Vice President and Mr Malcolm Bugg elected as Vice President. Both the State President, Major General David McLachlan, and the State Honorary Treasurer, Mr John Cullen, were elected unopposed.

There were 99 remits canvassing a wide range of issues. There were also issues of national significance raised such as developing a League position on nuclear and water policy.

During the course of the Conference, the remits discussed had the following results:

Carried	61
Carried as Amended	13
Lost	10
Referred To	2
Withdrawn	6
Lapsed	2
Recited	2
Noted	3

Fifty-two motions were forwarded from the Victorian Branch to the National Headquarters for inclusion on the National Congress agenda.

It was pleasing to see younger Veterans from recent deployments playing a prominent and persuasive part in discussion. This has been extended through our recent Young Veterans Forums for currently serving personnel and post-1975 Veterans, but it is important we see this interaction continue at subsequent State Conferences as well.

Other significant discussion revolved around the role of Affiliates. The Conference clearly expressed its view that they should have the opportunity to play a greater role in the governance and management responsibilities of the State Branch. The ability of Affiliates sustain and to play key roles in the committees and active membership

base of our smaller rural Sub-Branches, in particular, was strongly supported. These issues were taken forward to the National Conference. While not all our fellow State Branches share our view on Affiliates at this time, we did receive the authority required at that level to make the provisions we believe we need for Affiliates in Victoria.

The strength of the League is never more apparent than during a well attended State Conference, when one sees robust debate on a wide range of issues of common concern to the ex-service community, all united by common values and objectives.

90th Anniversary Dinner

The League's 90th Anniversary dinner was an outstanding success with over 300 attending. There were many more who wished to attend, but we ran out of room! The mood of the dinner characterised the positive and cordial atmosphere of the Conference as a whole. Achievements within our Veteran community by both members and supporters were marked by several categories of award and recognition, all richly deserved.

As always, the staff of ANZAC House did a great job pulling the activity together.

'Cadet Of The Year' Programme

Once again Cadets from each of the three Services were selected to participate in the annual National RSL/ADF Cadet of the Year ANZAC Tour. They were CUO Tom Woodroffe - Air Force Cadets, CPO Tara Whelan - Navy and WO1 James Fazzolari - Army. The tour will focus on Sandakan and the infamous Death March, with side trips to Singapore and related areas. It will certainly be a memorable and moving trek for these fine young Australians and we hope to hear of their thoughts and impressions after they return in the latter part of 2007.

Young Veterans Forum

The Young Veterans Forums we conducted this year have been very useful in understanding what the needs of the post-1975 Veteran community are and what the RSL and other Ex-Service Organisations should focus on in supporting them. We have been working on these findings and we will conduct further activities in 2007 with this group as we develop an action plan.

Remembrance Day Service At Springvale

The Annual State Branch Remembrance Service was held at the Springvale War Cemetery on Sunday 5th November 2006 in fine weather. We were privileged to have the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy AO, attend and deliver the Address.

The Service attracted its usual excellent turnout of Federal and State Members of Parliament, Local Government, Australian Defence Force heads, senior officers of the State Branch, members of the ex-service community and the public.

The Botanical Cemetery, Springvale and Australian War Graves Commission staff had worked hard to present the Cemetery and surrounds in the very best setting for the Service, which was not an easy achievement given the dry conditions. Reverend Bryan Nicholls conducted the Service and was supported by the Box Hill City Band. The Melbourne Welsh Male Choir led the singing, Mr Kelvin Mounsey from the Clayton RSL Pipe Band was the Piper and the two buglers for the Service were from the Box Hill City Band.

Mounted troopers from the Light Horse Field Artillery Museum provided atmosphere to the Service, as did personnel in World War I infantry battledress, who were from the Australian Great War Association.

Participation of local schools in the Service was a new initiative and students laid poppies at the headstones of each of the 611 servicemen and women interred at this Cemetery.

The supporting Service clergy were Chaplain Air Commodore A M (Steve) Box AM, Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Graeme Redfern and Reverend Geoff Evans.

Remembrance Day itself was solemnly marked by a well attended service at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Melbourne CBD came to a halt on a busy Saturday morning as over a dozen volunteer buglers played the Last Post and Reveille on main city intersections. This traditional aspect of Remembrance Day has been recently re-introduced and warmly received and respected throughout the City Centre. All around the State our Sub-Branches conducted Services and reported strong attendances.

Future Of The League

A 'Future of the League' Seminar was held on 9th December 2006 at the Copeland Theatre, Melbourne University at which discussions took place on:

- State Branch Structure
- Development Fund
- Sub-Branch Coverage in 2015 – Trends and Options
- Meeting Membership Challenges – A Strong RSL in 2015

The State President opened the Forum. He said that topics for the day should be approached with an open mind and a willingness to embrace change where necessary to continue so that we can deliver our core business of welfare to Veterans.

Mr John Wells, Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee, presented the Committee's report and recommendations.

Several significant proposals were discussed concerning the best way to get appropriate skills and representation on the State Executive and how to refine the current system of Regional Committees and advisory input to State Executive. There will be further work done on these initiatives for consideration by the 2007 State Conference.

Membership

The Chief Operations Officer, Mark Johnson described general membership trends, especially the gradual decline in Service members and advised of renewal and recruitment incentives currently being rolled out across the network. Delegates from non commercial Sub-Branches requested that some tailored products and materials to assist them in membership drives be developed for distribution early in 2007.

The push for nationwide RSL Sub-Branch access for all current ADF members on production of their ID Card was warmly supported. The continual review of what appealed to younger generations and the inclusion of these in the commercial and recreational mix within Sub-Branches, was also discussed.

State Development Fund

The Chief Financial Officer, Mark Sherlock described the proposal which received strong support and will be introduced as soon as possible.

State Sub-Branch Coverage in 2015

A strategic objective statement was agreed that:

“By 2015, the RSL will continue to have a strong and sustainable Sub-Branch network that delivers Veteran and community support, and the capacity to establish new Sub-Branches where demand and opportunity arise, including in conjunction with other Ex Service Organisations where appropriate.”

A comprehensive demographic analysis of Veteran concentration trends, post-ADF discharge settlement patterns and overall Victorian growth trends and concentrations will need to be done. This will form a Sub-Branch coverage plan for 2015 to guide strategic planning for new developments, amalgamations and the targeting of some traditional Sub-Branches to evolve into strong commercial operations to underpin the surrounding area's RSL effort and presence.

Conclusion

Victoria enjoyed another extraordinary year. With our core objectives as our focus, we move forward into another year on a positive note and with the enthusiasm to face the challenges of another demanding year ahead.

The new Membership System, with Reciprocal Rights offered to members across the State, encourages interaction and intermingling, and Affiliates are being warmly welcomed as a key part of the continuation of the RSL in Victoria.

The 'Friends of the RSL' groups being set up around the State show the dedication of the younger generation to keep alive the spirit that the many servicemen and women who served before us, created for the care of their mates.

Victoria wishes its sister State Branches and the National Headquarters the very best for another successful year.

South Australian Branch Report – 2006



Jock Statton OAM
State President

Our 90th Year in Retrospect

Our 90th Anniversary Year was one of consolidation, innovation and celebration.

The reorganisation of the employment conditions of the State Branch office staff has been satisfactorily completed and, with the benefits likely to accrue from the integration of specific activities within each of our Trust Funds, I consider that the financial position will improve considerably.

We commenced the celebration of the 90th year with a League Cocktail Party held in Ayers House, the original headquarters of the RSL in South Australia.

Guests included members of the Consular Corps, State Parliamentarians, Defence Force Chiefs and representatives of our many of our fellow Ex-Service Organisations, as well as past State Presidents and other RSL members. I can say that this event was an outstanding success, especially as much of our earlier memorabilia was on display in its 'old home'.

Following a kind offer from the Liberty Church at Camden Park, a Service of Appreciation was held to recognise the role played by the RSL over its 90 years of welfare and support to the Ex-Service Community.

The readings were undertaken by Mrs Betty Bradwell OAM, a member of the Returned Sisters & Returned Servicewomen's Sub-Branch and State Vice President Mr Peter Stanford.

One of the outstanding features of the Service was the rendition of the Australian National Theme by the 'Junior Youth Choir', which was not only a tribute to the children's upbringing but a really fine ending to a marvellous day of commemoration.

Mid year, an open day was held at the State Branch Headquarters and various items tracing the history of the League through sound and vision were presented.

Well known ABC Radio personality, Mr Peter Goers, provided the key note speech and the audience were introduced to students selected to undertake an overseas visit to battle sites in Europe.

The year ended on a high note with various 90th Anniversary Open Days conducted successfully by many of our Sub-Branches. In particular, the Marion Sub-Branch hosted members from a number of other Ex-Service Organisations, including the State President of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam at their open day. The Master of Ceremonies for the day was Pat 'Big Pretzel' Kennedy, with Bev Harrell (both former Vietnam AFOF performers) providing entertainment.



Memories: Pat Kennedy with Vietnam War Veteran Ian Hodgson
(Reproduced by kind permission of The Sunday Mail and photographer Dylan Coker.)

Membership

The overall drop in membership numbers from that of the previous year was 352, a little less than for 2005. New applications for Service Membership were 516, with 796 for Affiliates. Service Member non-renewal numbers were slightly down on the previous year and with the advent of the new plastic membership cards and the option to pay subscriptions by Credit Card Direct Debit, it is hoped that this trend will continue.

The Membership Committee, chaired by State Councillor Mr Frank Owen, comprises State Vice Presidents Brian Symons and Jeff Barrett with State Branch Marketing Manager Keith Harrison, Mrs Kaye Moseley, Secretary of the Henley & Grange Sub-Branch and Ms Carol Van der Peet. Meetings are held monthly at State Branch.

Due to initial difficulties with the input of membership data experienced by some Membership Officers, a series of mini seminars were held over a period of one week, during which procedures were explained by staff members involved with membership up-dating. From the information provided, it is planned to compile an easy to follow instruction booklet.

The Membership Committee is also in the process of compiling a new Secretary's Hand Book. It will attempt to make the job for new Secretaries a little less daunting and, hopefully, explain many of the administration procedures by creating a better understanding of the reasons behind these procedures.

The Recruiting Trailer purchased by State Branch, has proved to be popular with Sub-Branches. It is difficult to gauge at this stage how it will translate into new memberships but, because of its size and distinctive markings, it is very visible when on location or in transit to the various areas.



The trailer is a 7' x 4' single axle, Tradesman's lock up type, manufactured by Sar Major Trailers. It is fitted with hydraulic brakes and a swivel jockey wheel. The lockable compartment has top mounted doors on either side. Equipment and stores include; a trestle table, square fold up table, four fold up chairs, a large plastic storage container, the Australian National Flag, League and Women's Auxiliary Flags with socket holders, assorted tools and awnings. Because of the carrying space, there is scope for display equipment specific to the occasion and room for other memorabilia held by Sub-Branches, which can be displayed for local interest.

Welfare and Advocacy

Pension/Welfare Interviews

The total number of interviews conducted by the State Branch Office for 2006 was 88 less than for the previous year. Although the workload at the office remains constant, there appears to be a large increase in the number of telephone enquiries and home visits. Over the period, a total of 36 home visits were carried out, 16 of those to Nursing Homes. This number reflects the general age increase and lack of mobility of our members.

The break-up by classification was as follows :

World War 2	365
Vietnam	145
Serving Military Personnel	48
Welfare cases	20
MCRS claims	22
Gulf War	5
East Timor	4
Peacekeepers	11
Korea	5
Borneo	2
War Widows	19

Veterans Review Board Hearings

Over and above the welfare and advocacy cases, Veterans Review Board Hearings were as follows :

World War 2	28
Vietnam	21
Serving Military Personnel	11
Korea	1
East Timor	1
Malaya	2
War Widows	4
Cyprus	1

The staff provided assistance with TIP training courses and Defence Force Transition Seminars, as well as attending numerous DVA Committees and projects.

The Pension/Welfare section of the RSL State Branch Office continues to provide ongoing professional services to its members and supports Sub-Branches with assistance and advice.

Darwin Pension/Welfare Support

The Welfare and Pensions section of the Darwin RSL operates from within the Sub-Branch Office on the first floor of RSL House in Cavenagh Street. This section is manned by Eddie Josephs, a TIP trained Level 4 Advocate. Peter Mansell, who is trained to Case Officer Level, is also available to assist with welfare and pension matters.

Indicative statistics (not complete) for the past year are as follows :

Contacts	399
Primary Claims	64
Primary Claims finalised	16
Section 31 Reviews submitted	3
Section 31 Reviews finalised	2
Veterans' Review Board matters submitted	4
Home visits	17
Hospital visits	2
AAT matters submitted	1
AAT matters finalised	0

Welfare matters

Contacts	22
War Widows	3
War Veterans	13
Serving Defence	3
Spouses/Partners/Children, etc	3

Darby & Joan Cottages

There are five discrete complexes operating throughout South Australia, these being :

Campbelltown

Major improvements were made to the 16 units in 2005 which involved replacing kitchen fitments, bathroom refurbishment, repainting and replacing floor coverings.

Clovelly Park

The 10 units continue to be managed successfully by Westside Housing Association. The most successful part of the partnership is that all the aspects of maintenance and dealing with the South Australian Community Housing Authority is conducted by Westside, while the RSL still retains control over tenant waiting lists and selection of new tenants.

Mount Gambier

Demand for the 7 units in Mount Gambier has fluctuated for some years now and the continued demand is being monitored for effectiveness.

Semaphore

There has been remarkably little turnover of tenants in Semaphore in recent times and minor maintenance only has been undertaken.

Walleroo

The Trustees have only undertaken minor maintenance on these properties although, under the latest strategic plan, a number of redevelopment aspects are planned.

RSL Villas

In June, the Poppy Day Trust Fund was pleased to announce the successful tenderer for the proposed 14 bed extension to the RSL Villas Angle Park. Tagara Builders, the firm that undertook the renovations to the Torrens Training Depot, were accepted to construct the new dementia wing following the successful purchase from the Westwood Developers of the adjoining land.

Included in the work will be an upgrade of the fire safety requirements and a redevelopment of the visitor parking facility.

Construction is expected to be completed by April 2007, at which time a dedication and naming of the wing will be undertaken.



Richard Hancock (CEO, James Brown Memorial Trust) and Marie Whitehead (Residential Care Manager, RSL Villas) inspect the plans for the proposed extension

The upgrading of the gardens adjacent to the property has been completed and now forms an integral part of the Villas. The residents can now commemorate Memorial Services at the Wall of Honour as well as entertain visitors, including children who will have access to a modern playground.



Wall of Honour in RSL Villas Community Park

Vietnam War Memorial

Sunday 15th October witnessed a memorable occasion at the Torrens Parade Ground with the dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial - a project undertaken by the RSL, VVAA, VVF and the Vietnamese Veterans Association.

The work on this Memorial commenced some five years previously, when the concept was discussed by several RSL members with the President of the Vietnamese Veterans Association.

Following the successful fund raising activities, sufficient monies were available to redesign the original concept to that of the present Memorial. The approval by the Adelaide City Council enabled the Memorial to be placed in the CBD rather than in one of the outer suburbs, thus ensuring that access could be available to many more users and visitors to the City.

The 'sod' turning ceremony was undertaken on Saturday 18th February by the Premier of South Australia, The Hon Mike Rann MP and the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor, Mr Michael Harbison, in the presence of the Co-Chairmen Mr William Denny AM and Dr Anh-Tuan Ngo. Several thousand spectators attended and were thrilled by the display of a wax model of the proposed statues.

Mr Denny said at the opening, "Today, together, we will take a giant and long overdue step for all Vietnam Veterans, nay, for all South Australians ... in a broader sense, however, this Memorial remembers all who died in the Vietnam War, every soldier, every civilian - every son, every daughter, every father, every mother, every brother and sister. They too must be remembered. Finally, this Memorial will stand as a beacon to the young".

The dedication in October was performed by a Past Governor of South Australia and Commander of the Australian Forces in Vietnam 1971-1972, LTGEN Sir Donald Dunstan AC KBE CB.

Those present acknowledged the significant contribution by the Committee and the fine addition to the City of Adelaide's Memorials which recognise the dedication to duty performed by members of the Armed Forces.

The State President, Mr Jock Statton OAM, commented in his opening speech that, "in particular, we acknowledge those who ultimately made the supreme sacrifice. We pay tribute to those 58 South Australians listed on the Memorial and to those many Vietnamese, of which we do not know the exact number, who were killed during the conflict. The inscriptions on the Memorial of loyalty, remembrance and mateship, are the values that our Armed Forces both past and present, stand for. The inscription Lest We Forget conveys the most important of messages - we must never forget those which this Memorial honours. Their service represents the highest ideals of the ANZAC tradition that we so highly value as a Nation and which is uniquely Australian".



Victoria Cross Gifted to South Australia

The Victoria Cross of one of South Australia's most well known WW1 soldiers - Reginald Roy Inwood of the 10th Battalion, which was presented to the 10th Battalion AIF Association and then donated to the Adelaide City Council, has recently been returned for public display.



The Medal was housed in the Council's Chambers from 1972 to 1989 when safety concerns resulted in it being placed into secure storage and a replica put on display.

The 10th Battalion AIF Association and the Royal South Australian Regiment (RSAR) agreed to the other medals of SGT Inwood being reunited with the Victoria Cross, providing a specially constructed secure cabinet was produced to enable their safe display.

On Remembrance Day 2006 the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor (Mr Michael Harbison) hosted a Civic Reception at which Mr Keith Payne VC OAM and Mr Roger Cundell (President of the 10th Battalion AIF Association) unveiled the new display.

At the Opening, State President, Jock Statton, welcomed the fact that many students and citizens of the State would now be able to view a significant Victoria Cross collection without having to undertake travel to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Launch Of Website - Tributes of Honour

History has been made with the launch of an RSL database that lists over 1000 War Memorials throughout South Australia. Modern technology now allows people from around the world to learn about the memorials and monuments dedicated to the contribution that our people have made towards peace and this project has placed South Australia at the forefront of historical research.

Several years ago, the RSL Executive Director, John Spencer, addressed the State History Conference with a paper titled 'A Legacy Lost' which was subsequently printed in the History Trust of South Australia Magazine. It addressed the fact that there was no consolidated register of memorials and questioned whose responsibility it was to ensure that such a record was created. Was it the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Returned & Services League, the Australian War Memorial, Governments or

Local Councils? He lamented that memorials had been lost due to roadworks, change of use of a premises, vandalism and ignorance.

Recording and preservation is not just an Ex-Service responsibility but a community concern which requires cooperation at all levels.

At about this time the then Riverton RSL President Will Clough and his wife Jacqui had begun their own personal mission to record memorials. Their passion for the project saw them take on the responsibility for something that would be a major part of their lives for the next few years. Their interest and dedication to those who served has culminated in a database that includes a memorial's location, description, construction, names, photographs and responsibility for its upkeep and maintenance.

Logistically, the project took the Cloughs 6 years, 36000 kilometres of travel, 3 computers and thousands of hours. It involved a huge amount of research, cross checking and interpretation. Originally it was conceived to take book form, then as a CDROM, and finally as an internet accessible website. With Will's guidance, the RSL State Board commissioned the development of a web database through Darren Falkenberg of Barossa Printmasters.

The team produced a site that allows users to search by town or suburb, by memorial type such as building, gates, trees or weapons. A name can be entered to find out where it is shown, in some cases it may be included on several memorials. As a research, educational and general interest resource, it is invaluable as well as being a solid record which can be added to as new memorials are established and others are altered or moved. A highlight of the webpage is a unique recording of the Last Post that can be played by clicking on a bugle symbol.



The site was launched in the Memorial Hall at the Torrens Training Depot, Adelaide on the 62nd Anniversary of D-Day, the 6th of June 2006. The Hon. Kate Ellis MP, Member for Adelaide, opened the site before 80 invited guests.

Honours

Many of our members were honoured throughout the year by various awards and are to be congratulated on their service and devotion to the League, in particular :

LEGION OF HONOUR (FRANCE)

Mr Neil Conway, Northern Territory

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

Mr Maurice Riddle

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Mr Frank Owen, State Councillor - City of Onkaparinga

RSL MERITORIOUS MEDAL

Mr Jock Statton OAM, State President

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Amongst the ten awards to members in South Australia were :

Mr WT (Bill) Denny AM

Chairman ANZAC Day Committee

Brigadier LJ (Laurie) Lewis AM

VACHAC Committee

Brigadier Nick Williams AM

Member State Ethics Committee

Mr Ian Dunne OAM

Past State President

JOCK STATTON OAM

State President

Western Australian Branch Report – 2006



William Gaynor OAM RFD
State President

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the League and I am honoured to be able to report to you on its achievements for the current year and the vision we have charted for the future.

The past year has been an outstanding year for the Western Australia Branch. The administrative restructure and governance model has delivered a progressive, responsive and sharply focussed organisation that is committed to serving its membership. Many of the initiatives set in place as long term projects several years ago have now started to deliver the expected outcomes and this can be seen in almost every area of our operation.

We are now operating within the corporate environment and have retained command and control over our traditional functions and core business.

Our Corporate Plan is regularly reviewed against our key performance indicators to ensure we are operating within our Charter. I am confident we are conducting our business with best practice, aimed at achieving excellence in our service delivery. The current Plan will continue to be a blueprint from which the State Executive will operate for the next five years and it will be constantly monitored to ensure progress is along the planned course.

The RSL, as the peak ex-service organisation in Western Australia, continues to show strong leadership in the veteran community and contributes responsibly with comment on many social and community issues. It regularly challenges decisions that have or could impact on veterans and at all times stood steadfastly for those traditional values that are essential in our society. In that context, we continue to maintain a strong a-political position and as such have enjoyed the on-going support from both sides of Parliament at Commonwealth and State level. Our responsible comments, coupled with a willingness to address

controversial issues places us in high esteem with the media and the general public.

We continue to take every opportunity to present a good public image through our exposure as a caring organisation that takes the future security and development of our country seriously. We are regularly consulted on many topical issues and are invited to make public comment on social, commemorative, security and veterans' affairs matters.

Welfare

The welfare of veterans is our core business and continues to be the main focus of our activities.

As part of the founding Charter, the RSL is there for all veterans, not just RSL members. We are a lifeline to those veterans in distressed or necessitous circumstances. Our welfare structure at both State and sub-branch excels in dealing promptly with those who seek assistance. Contacts are professionally dealt with and those in genuine need receive suitable care. Confidentiality is of prime importance and the rights of the individual are well respected by our trained officers.

In the year under review the State Branch has initiated a complete review of RSL's welfare operations. A select committee has been established with terms of reference to look at how we serve the veteran community and to gauge the effectiveness of our commitment. The committee will look at funding sources and disbursements at State and Sub-Branch level and make recommendations for improvement. It is our aim to engage in providing superior service to veterans through this review.

This year State Branch committed well over \$200,000 to veterans in need and this is in addition to the on-site counselling and domestic assistance offered by sub-branches throughout the State.

As in past years, we continue to access funding to cater for an ever increasing demand for welfare funding. Government grants from Lotterywest and the Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Trust Fund are generous in their allocations, and this is further supplemented at Sub-Branch level from the Annual Poppy Day Street Appeal that forms the basis of Sub-Branch Amelioration Accounts. State Branch is also very appreciative of the substantial donations to its welfare operations from sub-branches. This has enabled a far wider group of veterans in need to receive assistance.

Our outreach programs continue to operate. Our welfare staff and volunteers, led by Mrs Pat Rowland, continue to co-ordinated our various welfare entities.

Cypress cottage (our half-way house) the Legal Service, prison welfare and overseas pensions applications still fall within the overall framework of our welfare operations and all are serviced with efficiency and compassion.

Veterans' Issues

Acting on advice from the various veteran groups our Veteran Affairs Committee was restructured to make it more representative and responsive to veteran affairs issues. Representation from major Ex-Service Organisations were invited to join the committee and bring to the table their particular issues. This has proved an outstanding success as the level of debate in this area of our operations has proved beneficial.

WAVAC Chairman, Mr Ray Ward has regularly represented our WA Veterans at the National Veteran Affairs Committee and has regular contact with DVA Officers and several working committees. I am confident that the voice of WA Veterans is now well and truly heard on the national scene.

The new Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act is now in force. It has received cautious approval from the veteran community and is being closely monitored to ensure any anomalies are quickly addressed. At this point in time it would appear as though the application of some of the provisions contained within the Act may need to be addressed.

We have identified that the new Act is primarily applicable to the military. The Australian Federal and State Police, who are deployed overseas on peacekeeping duties, are not provided with appropriate cover under this new legislation. Thankfully the Government has implemented an interim arrangement to protect those so deployed. There is still a need for some independent legislation to cover those on such duty.

The State Branch continues to host the Younger Veteran's Forum, aimed at discussing the repatriation needs of post-Vietnam service personnel. While we have seen progress made in addressing issues related to transitional processes, superannuation and compensation issues, health and wellbeing matters and counselling services, there are still on going concerns in these areas that need to be addressed by RSL at both State and National levels. We have undertaken to work with this group of young people to assist them to establish a sound and secure future for themselves and their families.

Tenders closed in March 2006 for the supply of Tier One hospital services in the Perth Metropolitan Area. We expect that the new mode of operation will be announced shortly. The new contracts will offer veterans open access to private hospitals that meet the contracts requirements. While the Branch has no problem with open access, it will object in the strongest possible way if there is any compromise in the extent and quality of the current services offered. We will not trade off open access for quality of service.

The Department of Veteran Affairs recently conducted a review of how it conducts its business with the Veteran Community. The review, prompted by a projected decline in demand for its services, looked at a departmental restructure that would continue to provide a quality service to veterans. The new method of operation has been well received and supported by the veteran community in Western Australia and once fully operational will see that the quality service we are accustomed to is maintained and perhaps enhanced.

Advocacy

Our advocacy service continues to represent Ex Service personnel in their on-going claims for entitlements. In the last twelve months we have seen the retirement of Mrs Margot Harness and the appointment of Mr Jim Boland as our senior advocate. I do acknowledge the great work done by Mrs Harness and wish her well for the future. Our focus continues to be on both primary level claims to the Department of Veteran's Affairs and the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Scheme as well as the Veterans Review Board. Our services also include representation for Veterans at The Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

It is interesting to note that there has been a slight reduction in the number of new claims for DVA but an increase in Section 31 reviews and VRB cases.

Our Advocate's work extends to providing a consultancy role to our volunteer pension officers – both within the RSL and to external agencies. His expertise in handling Repatriation Medical Authority cases and knowledge of the various Statement of Principles associated with cases make him a valuable resource and asset to the RSL. Mr Boland has also acquired a sound working knowledge of Comsuper issues and in June this year he had the opportunity to attend an Advocates conference in Melbourne where he was able to put our local perspective before a national forum

His workload is on the increase, with focus on elderly World War II Veterans seeking EDA pensions.

RSL Retirement & Aged Care Association- Trading as RSL Care (WA)

The redevelopment of the former War Veteran's Homes site at Menora is now in its final stage. We are proceeding to plan and on budget. In the period under review, the Independent Living Units both Apartment Blocks have been completed and are now occupied.

The community centre and chapel are completed and occupied and the official opening of the Chapel was recently held.

An official opening of the total complex was held during the National Congress in September.



State President, Bill Gaynor and the Governor-General, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC at the opening of the Complex.

With the generous financial assistance of \$300,000 from the National Headquarters, our architects have completed all necessary documentation and have let a \$16m tender for the construction and fit out of our 120-bed high care nursing home. It is expected that building will be completed around September 2007. The completed facility will be a 'state of the art' facility that will incorporate a dementia wing.

Upgrading of our other facility at Meadow Springs in Mandurah has been completed and it is now a modern well run facility

We have independent living unit villages at Mandurah and Geraldton with plans to develop new centres at Geraldton, Dongara and Jurien Bay.

Our creditability in the industry is also evident with approaches by other aged care providers to assume control of their administration. Country Shires have also entered into discussion with the RSL over the provision of retirement and aged care facilities in their towns.

I am now delighted to again say, financially, the Retirement and Aged Care Association has put the horrendous losses of the past behind them. There has been a dramatic improvement in operating accounts and with respect to the redevelopment initiatives; we have not had to draw on bank finance to service the projects. The Board of Management led by Graeme Sherriff with its financial experts, lawyers and businessmen has used their collective knowledge to ensure the success of the redevelopment project and the operational viability of our Aged Care facilities.

Our success is a credit to their commitment.

Finance

Our overall financial position continues to improve. Budget controls and sound financial management have contributed to this position. Much of the credit to placing us in this position is due to the late Brian Martin, our

Treasurer until his untimely death an August last year. We are now benefiting from his wise counsel while he occupied that position.

His successor, Mr Paul Rengel has taken up the reins from Brian and firmly established himself as part of the executive team

The Finance Committee meet regularly and monitor all aspects of League finances. There are still areas of concern but these are being addressed.

The Branch also expresses gratitude to the Department of Veteran's Affairs, the State Government, and in particular Lotterywest, for their on-going support for Veterans in funding equipment, furniture and events. Without such support we would be struggling. The grants to refurbish ANZAC House were most welcome and, with the headquarters transformed into a facility that will service the members and veteran community for years to come, I'm sure all members will concur with my remarks.

I must at this stage acknowledge the bequest State Branch received from the will of one of our members. His bequest will be applied to the welfare and administration of the League

In an endeavour to facilitate best practice in Sub-Branch Administration a series of training modules has been developed to raise awareness of Sub-Branch Officers in matters related to financial management, welfare issues, membership processing and pensions entitlements. Two modules have already been presented and have been well received and supported.

ANZAC Club

At long last the refurbishment of ANZAC Club – and House – have been completed. With over six months of disruption we finally have a facility that is outstanding. Our special thanks go to Lotterywest who provided the funds and also to the architect and contractors who have delivered to us a facility that will last for years to come.

Since refurbishment, changes to the method of operation and delivery of service to members using ANZAC Club have resulted in favourable reports from members as well as an increase in patronage. Shortly we will be offering a breakfast service as well as an alfresco coffee area on the Terrace. While this has not yet translated into increased profits it is expected that in time, with better surroundings, quality product and improved service we will be able to attract greater member usage as well as private functions. Shortly, displays of our memorabilia and establishment of the Library will provide an amenity that we hope will be well used by members.

The State Executive has every confidence in Ian Mulholland and his Corporate Affairs Committee that when all initiatives are fully functional ANZAC Club will be an asset – and no longer a liability.

Membership

Our membership has plateaued at around 13,000 members. While most State Branches are experiencing a decline in membership we have been able to maintain our numbers despite the loss of our aging Second World War Veterans. An aggressive, well-resourced recruiting drive has produced results, not only in the stability of membership, but with the opening of four new sub-branches. These new sub-branches will be presented with their Charters later this morning. I am also pleased to announce that no sub-branches have surrendered their Charters.

With declining membership, particularly in country regions, it is essential that we maintain a presence in those areas. State Executive have endorsed the establishment of 'Post Box Sub-Branches' which will activate for ceremonial and welfare matters. The concept is being developed but with the heightened interest in the community for ANZAC Day and other RSL matters, it is essential we maintain a presence in as many areas throughout Western Australia as possible,

The Community Link Program – an initiative of the Queensland State Branch – is beginning to find its way into Western Australia. Boddington and Ballajura Sub-Branches have solid support from their local schools, and with the involvement of our youth in our affairs, we can certainly see our way forward in passing our values and traditions on to future generations. I do acknowledge Dr Steffan Silcox, Principal of Ballajura Community College for embracing Community Link and getting his students involved in our activities.

Our recruiting initiatives have produced remarkable results. The Recruiting/information trailer – our travelling information centre – is about to undergo a refurbishment and with some modest sponsorship will become a regular feature at city and country shows and functions.



Membership & Youth Promotional Trailer

Affiliates

Affiliates of Sub-Branches play an important role in assisting in the administration and development of our organisation at sub-branch level. They have joined us as a way of showing support for the ideals and principles for which the League stands.

National Congress in September approved new rules to cover Affiliates and this will empower State Branches to prepare By Laws governing their affiliation with the RSL. The only limitation specified was that an affiliate is not to be a Sub-Branch President or a Congress Voting Delegate.

State Executive has approved new State By-Laws to further integrate Affiliates into Sub-Branches to recognise the valued contribution they make to the organisation.

We must, however, be careful to distinguish between Affiliates and Social Members. Their role in sub-branch affairs is totally different and must be recognised by sub-branches soliciting such members.

Youth Programs

Our focus on youth, through the RSL National and State 'Cadet of the Year' programs and the WA Government's 'Spirit of ANZAC Tour' Program, has seen groups of young senior school students visiting battlefields where Australians have fought. These tours are now firmly supported by the RSL, our sponsors and the Government and are a fitting reward for our young people.

RSL involvement in the Education Department's 'Spirit of ANZAC Tour', in the planning and selection of students, is a positive way that shows RSL's commitment to youth and our commemorative activities.

To service our Cadet travel program we continue to enjoy generous financial support from Hollywood Private Hospital whose generosity services our National and State 'Cadet of the Year' programs.

Western Australia State Branch, in association with ADF, has assumed responsibility for the planning and conduct of the National Cadet of the Year Program. Now in its third year of operation the program is one that is attracting strong support within the Service Cadet movement.

This year the State Cadets visited Borneo and the site of the Sandakan Death March, while the National Group visited Kokoda.

In 2007, we plan to amalgamate the National and State Groups and support the National RSL/ADF Cadet of the Year program.

We proudly acknowledge the sponsorship of Australian Defence Credit in their co-sponsorship of the Annual Service Cadet Efficiency Trophy. A magnificent Perpetual and Annual Trophy, together with a cheque for \$500 is presented annually to each of the Service Cadet units judged as the most efficient for the current year.

The RSL, at all levels, is delighted to be involved in youth programs. The enthusiasm and positive response from the recipients, their schools, families and wider community is proof that our organisation is held in high esteem in the community. Special thanks go to Olga Greig and her committee for their work in co-ordinating our youth affairs program.

Marketing

One of our most important portfolios is that of Marketing. Many of our members would have received a professionally designed survey seeking information on membership profiles. With the assistance of Curtin University, a research project has been undertaken to enable us to better service our membership. Currently, data is being analysed and a report prepared. It will be of interest to all members as it could form the basis for our recruiting and membership initiatives. Thanks go to David Messer, Director of Marketing for driving this project.

Defence

The Defence Committee has been active throughout the year, particularly with reference to policy decisions being concerning the War in Iraq and on homeland security. Their deliberations and advice has been of value, particularly when there is a need to comment on the interpretation of Defence policy.

The RSL continues to acknowledge the professionalism of our Defence Force personnel and the magnificent work carried out by our deployed troops. The RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund sends over two thousand gift parcels to our deployed troops and from reports received such a gesture is well appreciated by our men and women on operational deployment.

The issue of a medal to recognise service in the Australian Defence Forces has finally been resolved. Unfortunately not to everyone's satisfaction. The RSL is strongly in favour of recognition for those who serve their country and in this respect acknowledged the Government's initiative.

Communications

Effective two-way communication is vital in any organisation. We have been able to provide sub-branches with up to date information through the Sub-Branch Signal and the membership at large with information and items of general interest through The Listening Post.

Both these publications are of high quality in their production is of professional standard. Plans are now in hand to widen the distribution of 'The Listening Post' to related community and service organisations. I thank Len Copley and his editorial team for their commitment in producing a high quality media presentation to our members

Sub-Branches & Associations

The strength of our organisation is in our sub-branch network. Our 135 sub-branches do a magnificent job, not only in servicing the needs of the Veterans, but also presenting the public face of the RSL to their local community. When we work in partnership with them we then have a strong voice on service, civil and social issues.

In association with The Australian Research Council, Curtin University and Lotterywest, the RSL is entering into agreement to secure a grant to engage in a study of how local communities relate to their War Memorials. It is an interesting study of local communities and their people and how they perceive the sacrifices their members have made in the defence of their country.

As visits are made to sub-branches it is a delight to note the mature and professional manner in which issues are treated. The Branch also acknowledges the members of the Unit and Kindred Organisations. While the RSL is responsible to its membership through the sub-branch network, the input on ceremonial and policy matters that is offered is valued and enables the RSL to be aware of the specific needs of members of various associations.

Working side by side with sub-branches are the ladies of the Women's Auxiliary. For years they have supported the RSL in social activities, fund raising and caring for, and visiting our elderly and sick veterans. Their work is valued at both Branch and sub-branch level.

Our parent body, The Returned and Services League of Australia Limited meets quarterly in Canberra. The State President and the State Secretary represent this Branch. Matters relating to Veteran's affairs issues, as well as League Policy, are regularly discussed. They are at all times clearly focussed on satisfying the need of the veteran community.

Our 90th Anniversary

As mentioned, this year we celebrate our 90th Anniversary. To provide a legacy for our younger generation the League commissioned Rybuck Media to produce a resource for schoolchildren that will encourage them to research the foundations of the League and how the RSL has influenced the society in which we live. It is an impressive program and one which will open the enquiring minds of our children. We could have funded a range of commemorative activities that would not really have achieved our desire to promote that which many Australians fought and died for – freedom, democracy and a very unique way of life.

The Way Ahead

The next twelve months will be challenging for the League in Western Australia as we continue to implement our Corporate Plan.

Priority initiatives will be:

- Implementation of the recommendations of the Welfare Review
- Further development of RSL Care WA profile in the Aged Care industry
- Continuation of strong alliances with Corporate entities
- A Review of Sub-Branch operations through regular visits and training modules; and
- An enhancement of our leadership role in the Veteran Community

Acknowledgments

To the State Executive and League Trustees, thanks are expressed for the commitment made to the League and loyalty to the State Branch. The task of serving on committees and representing the membership is demanding but also rewarding. In particular the country representatives do a magnificent job in keeping our country sub-branches in touch. The reports that are furnished provide the State Executive with a good overview of happenings at our many country outposts.

The work of State Secretary Shane Seers, his office staff and his assistant State Secretaries Gary Sutherland and Geoff (Blue) Dunne is valued. Their loyalty, professionalism and willingness to undertake tasks at short notice are very much valued.

The Branch further acknowledges the support given to the League by our Patron, Dr Ken Michael AC Governor of Western Australia. His Excellency recently commenced his term of office and has willingly participated in League activities – even though his first official function was a bit of a wash out. We do however all wish, Dr & Mrs Michael well for the future.

Conclusion

We still have a long way to go in the development of the League but with the commitment of elected representatives and the sub-branches there is a bright future for the League.

William Gaynor OAM RFD
STATE PRESIDENT

Tasmanian Branch Report

– 2006

State Congress

The 91st Annual Congress was opened by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon Bruce Billson MP. Delegates representing 42 Sub-Branches attended. The Minister presented Life Membership of the League to Geoffrey Ralph, Kerrie Petrie, Peter Hanson and Ron Tiffin.

Others to address the delegates were; the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr Alan Griffin MP, Alderman Mike Downie, Mayor of the Central Coast, Mr Mark Sullivan, President of the Repatriation Commission and Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Mr Don Rowe OAM, RSL NSW State President and Deputy National President, Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd), RSL (Victoria) State President, Squadron Leader Alan Robinson, representing the Senior Air Force Officer Tasmania and Mrs Anne Drake, State President, RSL (Tasmania) Women's Auxiliary.

Presentations were given by Mr Adrian Howard, Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue, Representatives of the TIP training program, Cadet Midshipman Kirsty Foale, RSL (Tasmania) Defence Cadet of the Year and Mr Adrian (Richo) Richardson, RSL (Tasmania) State Membership Officer.

Of the 27 motions on the Agenda, 19 were carried forward to the National Congress.

A vote of thanks to the Ulverstone RSL Sub-Branch was made by Mr Chris Oakes, Vice President, Eastern Division and the State Secretary, Ms Noeleen Lincoln OAM thanked the out-going State President, Mr David Moles DFM for his contribution during his time in the chair and congratulated him on his appointment as Deputy State President.

40th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan

Vietnam veterans all over Australia celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan on Friday 18th August 2006, which is also known as Vietnam Veterans' Day.

In Tasmania, commemorations marking the 40th Anniversary commenced with a Reception, hosted by the Governor of Tasmania, His Excellency William Cox AC RFD ED, and Mrs Jocelyn Cox, at Government House on Thursday 17th August. Some 300 Vietnam veterans, wives and family members attended.



RSL State President Tony Scott OAM JP, COL Reg Beesley AM (Retd) and David Moles DFM

On Friday 18th August, Vietnam veterans marched to the Hobart Cenotaph where a wreath laying and commemoration service, led by the Governor of Tasmania, took place.

Following the service a luncheon was held at the Lindisfarne RSL Club where all enjoyed a great lunch and reminisced over the odd ale. Those able to survive the first couple of days returned to the Lindisfarne RSL Club on the Saturday evening for a social theme night based on "6 O'clock Rock". It was a great night of dancing, laughter and catching up with old friends.

We would like to thank the Department of Veterans' Affairs for their financial support towards the activities surrounding the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize Tour of Gallipoli and The Western Front

The State Government of Tasmania is to be congratulated for its ongoing commitment to the Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize. The Prize consists of a 16 day tour to Gallipoli and the Western Front. In 2006 the prize was expanded to allow for six student winners. It also gave RSL representatives the opportunity to share in the experience of a lifetime. We are grateful to our State Government for making this change. The 2006 tour was led by Mr Graham Sturges MHA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, representing the Premier of Tasmania. The RSL was represented by Mr David Moles DFM, State President RSL (Tasmania Branch), Mr Kerry Petrie and Colonel Jim Stewart MC (Retd).

The 2006 student prize winners were Casey Turner, Michael Latten, Tom Vautier, Kathryn Willis, Matthew Hennessy and Nicholas Jones. They were accompanied by two teachers from the Education Department of Tasmania.



2006 Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize Tour Party

The memorable experiences gained by the students were evident at their presentation to members of Parliament, the League and the public at the announcement of the 2007 Prize Winners in November 2006.

Defence Cadet of The Year – Spirit of Anzac Award

The Defence Cadet of the Year and Spirit of ANZAC Award for 2006 was awarded to Cadet Sergeant Riley Reynolds. Cadet Sergeant Reynolds was also successful as the RSL (Tasmania) Army Cadet of the Year. Cadet Sergeant Reynolds is in the midst of undergoing testing for entry into the Australian Defence Force Academy and we wish Riley every success in this venture. Cadet PO Ben Sansom was successful as the RSL (Tasmania) Navy Cadet of the Year.



L-R Cadet Sergeant Riley Reynolds and State President, Tony Scott

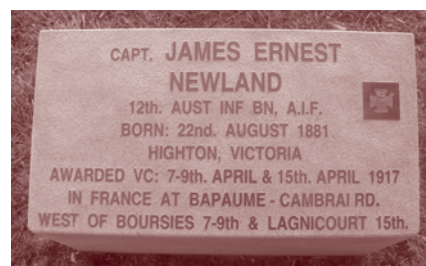
VC Memorials Project

During 2006, the Tasmania Branch was fortunate to receive a grant from the Federal Government for a project to have 12 individual VC Memorials made and delivered to the schools where our 13 VC winners attended. An individual

memorial was not made for Harry Murray VC, because on the 24th February 2006 his statue was unveiled in his home town of Evandale, in northern Tasmania. Funding from the Federal Grant was allocated towards the costs of that statue in lieu of an individual VC Memorial. Where it wasn't possible to place them in schools, the Memorials were placed alongside an existing memorial where they formerly resided, or in the Memorial Garden within Anglesea Barracks in Hobart.

The Memorials were in the form of sandstone plinths, engraved with details of the recipient. Replicas of the Victoria Cross were embedded into the top of the plinths. The creator of the memorials were John Dunn Stonemasons of Prospect, Tasmania. The dedication and workmanship of the stonemasons is to be commended. They also undertook to provide delivery of the completed Memorials to their resting places all over the State. By the end of 2006, individual Memorials for these VC recipients were located in the following areas:

- SGT Percy Statton VC MM
 - Zeehan Primary School
- LT Alfred Gaby VC
 - Scottsdale Primary School
- SGT Stanley McDougall VC MM
 - Dover RSL Sub Br
- SGT Lewis McGee VC
 - Ross Cenotaph
- SGT John Dwyer VC
 - Alonnah, Bruny Island
- LTCOL Harry Murray VC CMG DSO* DCM
 - Evandale
- TPR John Bisdie VC OBE
 - The Hutchins School
- LT Guy Wyllly VC CB DSO
 - The Hutchins School
- CAPT Percy Cherry VC MC
 - Huonville Primary School
- SGT John Whittle VC DCM
 - Cygnet Primary School
- CPL Walter Brown VC DCM
 - New Norfolk Primary School
- LCPL Sidney Gordon VC and CAPT James Newland VC
 - Anglesea Barracks Memorial Garden



Individual VC Memorial
– CAPT James Newland VC

Australian Capital Territory Branch Report – 2006



State President
Gary Brodie OAM

Australia Day Medallions

Three of our members were very worthy recipients of the annual presentations of the Australia Day Medallion. Those presentations were awarded to –

- Mr Ian Gollings AM – Woden Valley Sub-Branch
- Mr James Hume – Woden Valley sub-Branch
- Mr Dennis Wilkes – Belconnen Sub-Branch

Major Commemorative Events

Each year, many commemorative services and related activities are held in Canberra and the surrounding area. This year was a particularly eventful one.

As you would expect, April is always a very busy month. In the build up to ANZAC Day, the Branch was represented at a dedication Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Deployment of 32 Small Ships Squadron RAE to Vietnam; the Woden Valley Sub-Branch's annual Combined Schools ANZAC and Peace Ceremony at Eddison Park; the Veterans Lounge and Garden, Canberra Hospital, ANZAC Commemoration; the War Widows' Guild Field of Remembrance Service; and the pre-match Commemorative Service at Manuka Oval.

ANZAC Day

Dawn Service and Parade

This year, as in previous years, the Dawn Service was well attended. The large numbers are evidence of the growing support of the general public for the sacrifice of Australians who have suffered and died in war. The Administrator of the Commonwealth, Her Excellency, Marie Bashir AC and her husband, Sir Nicholas Shehadie, AC, OBE were in attendance. At the conclusion of the Dawn Service,

a ceremony to honour the service of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans was conducted at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Memorial on the slopes of Mt Ainslie.

During the National ANZAC Day Commemoration Service, RSL National President, Major General Bill Crews gave the Commemorative Address. The Administrator took the salute during the March, which was lead by the Deputy State President, Mr John Merrick and the New Zealand Defence Adviser, Air Commodore Gavin Howse ONZM AFC.

Embassy of France Memorial Service

Following the Parade at the AWM, the Deputy State President attended the Memorial Service and Reception at the Embassy of France. During the Service, he addressed the assembly on the significance of ANZAC Day and its relationship to those who gave their lives in service to their country in all wars, and laid a wreath at the Australian–French War Memorial within the Embassy grounds.

Other Commemorative Events

Sandakan Memorial Service

On Sunday 28 May, at the AWM, a ceremony was held to commemorate National Sandakan Remembrance Day. This Ceremony remembers the 1,787 Australians who lost their lives in Sandakan and Ranau, Borneo in WW 11 and in particular, the infamous 'death marches' between the two Sandakan and Ranau sites. The Branch was represented by the State President, who also represented the National President. During the service he recited the Ode and laid a wreath on behalf of the League at The Tomb of The Unknown Australian Soldier.

Reserve Forces Day

The Canberra Region Annual Reserve Forces Day Parade and Commemoration Service was held on Saturday 24 June at the Australian War Memorial. This was a well attended and supported event.

Aboriginal & Torres Straits Islander War Memorial

A Memorial Service was held in the bushland setting of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander War Memorial on the slopes of Mt Ainslie, Canberra on Wednesday 5 July. A traditional 'cleansing smoking ceremony' was performed on the Memorial site by Ngunnawal Elder Mrs Matilda House and the traditional 'welcome to country' was provided by Mrs Louise Brown of the Ngunnawal people.

This year the Service was hosted and also formerly addressed by the Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston AO AFC. Also in attendance from the ADF were the Service Chiefs of the Navy, Army and Air Force. The Principal Chaplain was (AIRCDRE- RAAF) Revd Royce Thompson. A flag party and bugler were provided by the Australian Federation Guard.

Korean War Veterans' Day

The annual Service to commemorate Korean War Veterans' Day was held on Thursday 27th July at the Korea War Memorial, ANZAC Parade. As in past years this is a well attended and supported Memorial Service. The Presiding Officer Mrs Christine Coulthard OAM, State President, Korea & South East Asia Forces Association of Australia (K&SEAFA), offered the welcoming address, with Remembrance Service addresses presented by The Hon Bruce Billson MP, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and the Minister assisting the Minister for Defence, His Excellency Mr Cho Chang-Beom, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and Air Marshall Angus Houston AO AFC, Chief of the Defence Force. Also in attendance were senior Embassy or High Commission Defence Attaches from the Republic of Korea, Belgium, Britain, USA, New Zealand and Canada, as well as many senior representatives of the Canberra based ESOs.

Vietnam Veterans' Day

Through Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th August, the National Capital was host to a number of significant Memorial Services and activities held as a 'Salute to Vietnam Veterans' and in particular, Services of Remembrance on the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan (SVN). Many activities, including vehicle displays and a free concert, were provided for Vietnam veterans, their families and interested members of the public in and around the precincts of the Australian War Memorial.

The first event of the took place at the recently dedicated ACT War Memorial on Thursday 17th August. A plaque presented to LTCOL Harry Smith MC (Rtd) [OC, D Coy, 6RAR at long Tan] by the ACT Chief Minister Stanhope during the ceremony will be placed among equipment, artefacts and art works in a 'new' Vietnam War exhibition within the post WW II areas currently under construction at the AWM.

On Friday 18th August, a 'Stand To' Ceremony was held at the AWM Parade Ground. The Commemorative Address was given by His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, followed later that morning by the Vietnam Veterans' Day Memorial Service in ANZAC Parade.

A Commemorative Service for the Vietnam Veterans commenced at 10 am at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial, ANZAC Parade. This was a very well attended and supported Service. The Principal Guests of Honour were; Their Excellencies Major General Michael Jeffrey AC CVO MC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Mrs Jeffrey; The Hon John Howard MP, Prime Minister of Australia and Mrs Howard and Air Chief Marshall Angus Houston AO AFC and Mrs Houston.

The poignant Reading of the Long Tan Hour Roll of those (18) young Australians who made the supreme sacrifice in the rubber plantation at Long Tan, was read jointly by former Captain Maurice ('Morrie') Stanley MBE (161 Battery, RNZA) and former Second Lieutenant Dave Sabben (12 platoon, D Company, 6 RAR). During the reading, gun detachments from Australia's Federation Guard and 161 Bty RNZA fired a simulated 'Fire Mission' from the foreshores of Lake Burley Griffin.

National Police Memorial Service and Memorial

The annual National Police Memorial Service was held at St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka on Friday 29th September. This Memorial Service commemorates each year those members of the Australian Civilian Police, including our Civilian Police Peacekeepers and our nearby allied South Pacific Region Police, who were killed/died on duty during the past year.

Later on that day, the National Police Memorial in Kings Park was dedicated.

UN Day Service

On Tuesday 24th October, the State President joined members of our RSL ACT Peacekeepers' Sub-Branch for the UN Veterans' Parade at the UN Day Commemoration Service held in the AWM Western Forecourt area. This was a well supported Service, with a combined Flag Party from Australia's Federation Guard and the AFP, the Band of the Royal Military College of Australia, a Piper from the Band of the AFP Pipes & Drums and members of the Australian Rugby Choir.

Remembrance Day

The principal focus on 11 November in Canberra, is the observance of Remembrance Day at the Australian War Memorial. Following that service the State President attended a Service at the Embassy of France where he delivered the address, and laid a wreath on behalf the League at the French- Australian War Memorial within the Embassy grounds. Both Remembrance Services are always well attended and supported.

Membership

Membership of the ACT Branch remains constant, but with the average membership age now in the late seventies, we are sadly beginning to experience a rising number of deaths of members in that age group. Some of the recent deaths are known to have been caused both directly and/or indirectly, by war related wounds, injuries or re-occurring illnesses suffered whilst serving Australia in overseas conflicts.

Welfare & Advocacy

Led by our Senior Welfare Officer, Peter Kelly OAM, our State Branch and Sub-Branch Welfare and Advocacy groups are highly respected, and continue to be proactive and maintain excellent results with their respective case loads and in their hospital and home visiting roles for Veterans.

Finances & Fundraising

Our financial position continued to improve. This was due to three main factors which were, sound budget and financial management, and excellent responses to our ANZAC and Remembrance Day Appeals, with support from our sub branches members, veterans and serving ADF personnel together with the ACT public at large. Future developments in the fields of welfare, advocacy and aged care continued to focus our requirements on conservative forecasting and savings.

Branch Congress

The ACT Branch State Congress was held at the Hellenic Club, Woden on Friday 23 June. As usual, the day commenced with a Memorial Service and wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier in the Australian War Memorial.

This year our Guest of Honour and keynote speaker was The Hon. Bruce Billson MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister assisting the Minister for Defence. Among our many VIP Guests were RSL National President Major General Bill Crews AO (Retd), who also formally addressed Congress, RSL National Secretary, Derek Robson AM, RSL Assistant National Secretary Mrs Helen Britten, Mr Don Rowe OAM, President RSL NSW State Branch (who also addressed Congress), Her Excellency Mrs Kate

Lackey, High Commissioner for New Zealand, Mr Alan Griffin MP, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon Bob McMullen MP, Federal Member for Fraser, Richard Mulcahy MLA, representing Senator Gary Humphries, Mr Bill Stefaniak, MLA Leader of the ACT Opposition, Mr Ashley Mulgrave, representing Ms Annette Ellis MP, Federal Member for Canberra, Major General Adrian Clunies-Ross AO MBE, Chairman of the Australian War Memorial Council, Senior Officers representing the Service Chiefs, Mr Mark Sullivan, Secretary Department of Veterans' Affairs, , Mr Ed Killesteyn PSM, Deputy President of the Repatriation Commission, RADM Simon Harrington AM RAN (Rtd) Repatriation Commissioner, Mr Gary Collins, DVA Deputy Commissioner for NSW/ACT, BRIG Brian Dawson AM CSC, Commandant ADFA, RSL ACT Past Presidents Ron Metcalfe OAM, Colleen Thurgar AM, Derek Roylance AM, and Brigadier Peter Evans (Retd), and Presidents and representatives of ACT Kindred Organisations.

Minister Billson formally opened our Congress and presented League Awards to a number of our well deserving State Sub-Branch members for their service to the Veteran community.



The Hon Bruce Billson MP presenting a Long Service Award to Mr Eric Dunn, a member of City of Canberra Sub-Branch at the 80th ACT Branch Congress.

League Awards

Our congratulations are offered here to our members who received League Awards at the Congress.

Life Membership

Mr Frank Boyle OAM
Mr Arthur Burt
Mr Dennis Wilkes

Honorary Life Membership

Her Excellency Mrs Kate Lackey, High Commissioner for New Zealand

Certificate of Appreciation

Mr Brian Alabaster
Mr Mark Bainbrigge
Mr Peter Dinham AM
Mr Barry Johnson
Mrs Gloria Robbins OAM
Mrs Dorothy Roberts
Mr Speros Vardos OAM

Long Service Awards

Mr Graham Bartlett
Mr G R Beard
Mr Frank Boyle OAM
Mr Eric Dunn
Mr Norman Grylls
Mr Keith Hooper
Mr Harold Jones
Mr Frank Rees
Brigadier John Salmon CBE (Retd)
Mr Lorance Thompson

Notification of State Branch Executive Elections (Unopposed)

President	Mr Gary Brodie OAM
Deputy President	LTCOL John Merrick (Retd)
Treasurer	Mr Mickey Michaelis
Vice Presidents	Mr Jan Paulga Mr David Millar
Asst Secretary	Mr Bruce Tunnah OAM JP

Retirement

We farewell Mr Colin Berryman OAM after many years fine service, who this year chose to retire from his former position as Asst State Secretary.

Other Branch Positions

Our Appointed State Secretary Mr James Davidson continues in his appointment, as does our State Branch Office Assistant (Honorary position) Mr David Mills.

Sincere thanks is offered here to our State Secretary James Davidson and our Office Assistant David Mills, who provide so much of the required organisation and detail in the lead-up and running of the Congress

Inaugural Annual Sub-Branch Meeting

The inaugural meeting for ACT Sub-Branches was held at RSL National Headquarters. Our Sub-Branch Presidents, Treasurers and respective Financial Committee members were invited to attend to discuss banking and investment strategies to accomplish better returns for individual or collective S-B's, as is now in place for our National and ACT State Branch funds.

The meeting was addressed by our RSL National Treasurer Mr David Sinclair and our State Treasurer Mr Mickey Michaelis. The Banking and Investment strategies/options offered were discussed and well received.

ACT War Memorial

The ACT War Memorial, sited in Ainslie Avenue (off London Circuit) Civic, was commissioned to recognise the service of ACT residents who served in wars, conflicts, peacekeeping missions and the allied humanitarian missions.

The well attended and supported Dedication and Inaugural Memorial Service of the Memorial was held on Thursday 10 August. The Memorial consists of two parts, the physical sculpture in Ainslie Avenue and the records of the people being honoured, which can be accessed through www.memorial.act.gov.au.



ACT War Memorial

RSL – ADF Involvement

We continue our strong bonds forged over many years with the Staff, Officer Cadets and Midshipmen and Staff Cadets of both the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College Duntroon. We continue our support by awarding RSL ACT State Branch prizes for nominated Officer Cadets or Midshipmen, prior to the respective Graduation Ceremonies.

Farewell to Her Excellency Mrs Kate Lackey, New Zealand High Commissioner

On Tuesday 22 August, the Woden Valley Sub-Branch hosted a farewell luncheon at the Commonwealth Club, Canberra for Her Excellency Mrs Kate Lackey, the NZ High Commissioner and Mr David Lackey.

Mrs Lackey followed the tradition of her predecessors in accepting the position as Patron of the Woden Valley Sub-Branch. Mrs Lackey's posting to Australia was completed early in September. During the luncheon, the National President presented Mrs Lackey with Honorary Life Membership of the League.



L-R Woden Valley Sub-Branch President Neil Horn, Her Excellency Mrs Lackey and National President Major General Bill Crews

National Conditions of Service Committee Report – 2006

The Committee continued to meet on a regular basis to both monitor Defence conditions of service and to action representations from individuals and State Branches.

Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal

During 2006, the Chairman continued to represent the League as an intervenor at the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal. In addition to a range of pay and allowance cases applying to individual mustering or groups, the two major DFRT cases related to the first of the pay cases under the new General Officers Pay Scale resulting from the Remuneration Reform Program.

These two cases relate to Air traffic Control Officers and ADF Engineers. Decisions are awaited from the Tribunal; by virtue of being the first cases certain precedents as to interpretation and processes will be established by the Tribunals reasoning.

Other Matters

The Committee considered and received briefings from Defence representatives on a range of issues including ADF Vocation Education & Training updates, and Army Unit Movement & Operational Deployment records storage and archival issues. Additionally, the Committee Chairman represented the League on a DVA working party reviewing the operation of the Defence Service Homes Insurance Scheme.

The Committee discussed with the Regular Defence Force Welfare Association the ramifications of the proposed Simpler Super changes and also received briefings from COMSUPER personnel.

The Committee wishes to encourage both individual League members and Branches to represent matters of concern and more general feedback in order that the League might maintain an informed view on issues affecting current and former ADF members.

PHIL MORRALL
Chairman

National Defence Committee Report – 2006

General

Although the operational tempo in 2005 was high by historical standards, the first nine months of 2006 have been higher. Troop strength in Iraq was maintained and the planned commitment to Afghanistan has been significantly increased. During the period, a large commitment to East Timor was made to counter political instability and a re-deployment to the Solomon Islands became necessary to counter widespread anti Chinese rioting and to restore law and order generally. Early in 2006 Australian medical personnel and support staff were withdrawn from Pakistan where they had been providing relief to earthquake victims. On 17 November a force of 50 ADF personnel was deployed to Tonga to restore stability and returned to Australia at the end of the month.

Internal security continued to be a priority for the Australian Government following the London Underground bombings in July 2005 and the Government continues to strengthen anti-terrorism legislation. The failed plot to blow up US aircraft, unearthed by British police in August, provided even more emphasis, if it was needed, on the necessity for constant vigilance. Most Australians, and certainly the RSL, support the Government's stance on terrorism as evidence of its widespread and indiscriminate nature grows.

While the China Taiwan question and the fact or otherwise of the North Korean nuclear arsenal continue to cause concern on the world stage, both issues were dwarfed in July by the commencement of full scale hostilities between Israel and the Hezbollah militia. By late August a cease fire had been negotiated and a Security Council resolution, which was generally acceptable to Israel and Lebanon, had been drafted. Hezbollah reactions to a multi national force in the border area of Lebanon remained unclear, however it was highly unlikely that the organisation would accept disarmament whoever proposed it. Subsequently, a UN force was deployed and by the end of the year the situation had stabilized for the time being.

The international situation and the Government's response to it, highlights the wisdom of the non threat based defence policy, which provides for maximum flexibility in a rapidly changing defence environment. The Defence Budget of May 2006 gave further impetus to the capacity to respond as required to situations that develop at short notice.

Iraq

The third contingent of Australia's contribution to the Al Muthanna Task Group (AMTG) began its deployment in May with most personnel coming from the 3rd and 6th Brigades in Townsville and Brisbane respectively. In May it was announced that the 470 men in this contingent would continue to provide security to Japanese engineers and train Iraqi Security Forces, but in June the Prime Minister detailed a different role. In his statement he said that the Australian contingent would continue to protect the Japanese engineers until they withdrew in July, but would assume other responsibilities in the support of the Iraqi government and security forces. To achieve this, the contingent would re-deploy to the Coalition Air Base at Tallil with two responsibilities; the first, to continue to support Iraqi Security Forces and local authorities in a broad range of activities and the second to support Iraqi Security Forces in crisis situations. This second role clearly changes the nature of Australia's involvement to a more direct and active participation with greater risks. The force will comprise two Combat Teams one from 2/14 Light Horse Regiment and one motorized infantry combat team from 2 RAR. The force will also include a 30 man Training Team. One naval vessel remains in the Gulf and the Air force continues to fly Orion and Hercules aircraft in support of operations. In his statement, the Prime Minister declined to detail any timetable for withdrawal. In October, ADF personnel took over the operational overwatch role in Dhi Qar Province in southern Iraq from the Italians after security responsibilities had been handed over to the Iraqis in September.

Afghanistan

The Government announced in May that it would contribute 240 ADF personnel to the Netherlands led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Afghanistan. This team will work on reconstruction and community based projects including skills training for the local population. This commitment in Oruzan province will form part of the NATO led expansion within southern Afghanistan to begin in the second half of the year.

This commitment is in addition to the 190 man Special Forces Task Group which is due to return home in September. In August, a Government announcement

increased the size of the Reconstruction Task Force (RTF) to 390 men. This would include a further 30 engineers and an infantry company of 120 men for protection. This increase signifies the Government's commitment to the conflict in Afghanistan but is also a recognition that the deployment into the southern regions represents a significant risk. The Force deployed between August and November.

Timor

Australia's contribution to East Timor's stability, which began in 1999, was finally withdrawn in 2005. However, in May 2006, a significant Australian force was again deployed to that troubled country to counter political instability and friction between the Army and the police. The contingent consisted of a Brigade Headquarters and three rifle companies of 3RAR plus support and admin companies, one company of 2RAR, a battery of gunners in an infantry role and other elements from 1 and 2RAR. Police from the Federal and State forces were also deployed. By July the situation had apparently been temporarily resolved with a change of Prime Minister. The deployment demonstrated Australia's commitment to the long term future of East Timor, but also made plain that the commitment will be expensive in both ADF and Police resources for many years to come. In December the Force was reduced to about 800 personnel consisting of a battalion group based on 6RAR.

Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands again erupted with civil unrest in April which required the deployment of a Ready Company Group (RCG) of 1RAR to support the RAMSI police contingent permanently in place. In July, one company of 1RAR was still in place. Although the initial deployment to RAMSI in 2005 was considered a success, the necessity to redeploy troops illustrates that political instability will be an ongoing problem requiring a permanent police presence and the likelihood of ADF reinforcements from time to time.

Tonga and Fiji

On 17 November an ADF element of 50 personnel was deployed to Tonga to assist in the restoration of stability following rioting in the capital and to evacuate Australian citizens if necessary. This force joined Australian Federal Police and New Zealand elements and was withdrawn on 30 November after the situation was stabilized.

In December HMAS KANIMBLA, HMAS SUCCESS and HMAS NEWCASTLE, with Army personnel on board, were deployed to Fijian waters in the face of a threatened coup that eventually took place. There was no requirement to deploy on land, although two servicemen were killed in a helicopter accident.

Defence Budget

In general, the 2006-07 Budget continued the trends set in the last few years, but accelerated the process. The most telling statistic was that the Government committed to extending the 3% real growth in spending, originally announced in the 2000 White Paper, to 2015-16, amounting to \$10.7b in five years. In addition another \$4.5b was provided over the next ten years for new initiatives. Overall the Budget for 2006-07 is \$19.6b, an increase of \$1.9b on last year, and continued growth is planned for the next four years to \$21.1b for 2009-10.

The key initiatives are:

- Four C-17 strategic lift aircraft are being brought for \$2.2b, with each aircraft having a capacity of four times the C130 Hercules.
- \$1.2b over ten years is provided for the Hardened and Networked Army initiatives. In this process the Army is restructured into combined arms battle groups and is increased in size by 1,485 permanent personnel. Army Reserve elements will form a High Readiness Reserve component which will be integrated with permanent units.
- Previously deferred capital investment spending of \$625m has been accelerated over the next four years. This will speed the delivery of equipment set out in the Defence Capability Plan (DCP). The non ability to meet DCP targets has been a major criticism of previous budgets.
- \$623m for four years has been allocated to extend operations in Iraq over one year and in Afghanistan for two years.
- \$560m will be spent over the next ten years on remuneration for the Active and High Readiness Reserves. In addition, \$194m will be spent over four years to improve recruitment and retention in the permanent forces and an increase in civilian employment in non operational roles.
- \$252m over ten years has been provided to reactivate and operate the two mine hunting vessels withdrawn from service in 2003.
- \$661m will be cut over ten years through an efficiency dividend and a hand back of money from the reorganisation of ADF command and control arrangements.¹

Although the increased funding is welcome and something the RSL has been proposing for years, there is some doubt as to whether these initiatives will meet rising personnel costs and investment levels. From 2008-09 on, operating costs will probably be eroded if more money than already planned is not provided.

¹ ASPI Strategy Paper 'Your Defence Dollar The 2006-07 Defence Budget'

The RSL Submission to the Senate into its Inquiry into Naval Shipbuilding in Australia.

On 10 November 2005, the Senate referred the matter of naval shipbuilding in Australia to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Reference Committee for inquiry and report by the last sitting day of 2006.

The issues for consideration were:

- the scope and opportunity for naval shipbuilding in Australia;
- the capacity of the Australian industrial base to construct large naval vessels over the long term and on a sustainable basis;
- the comparative economic productivity of the Australian shipbuilding industrial base and associated activity with other shipbuilding nations;
- the comparative economic costs of maintaining, repairing and refitting large naval vessels throughout their useful lives when constructed in Australia vice overseas; and
- the broader economic development and associated benefits accrued from undertaking construction of large naval vessels.

Consistent with recent practice, the RSL National Defence Committee elected to provide a submission to this parliamentary inquiry. Rear Admiral Ken Doolan and Commodore Terry Roach wrote a submission which was cleared by the Defence Committee in February 2006 before being forwarded by the National President to the Senate. This submission included consideration of two items in addition to those listed by the Senate. These were:

- strategic versus economic imperatives; and
- building for and focusing on the long term future.

Rear Admiral Doolan and Commodore Roach appeared as witnesses before the Senate Committee on Monday 3rd July. The Chairman expressed pleasure with the RSL's interest in the matter and thanked the witnesses for their participation. In response to a repeated question from Senator Hogg seeking an indication of a likely naval shipbuilding programme for the next 30 years, the witnesses agreed to take the question on notice.

A detailed response to the question on notice was developed, agreed by the Defence Committee out of session and forwarded to the Senate in early August. It included an Indicative Australian Naval Shipbuilding programme to 2036. The submission and subsequent appearances significantly enhanced the RSL's standing with the committee.

Defence Management Review

In August, the RSL was asked to make a submission to a Defence Management Review established by the Minister for Defence. The matter was discussed by the Defence Committee and a submission was subsequently forwarded to the Chairman of the review team. In late December verbal evidence was subsequently provided. It is worth noting that the Defence Committee is by no means supportive of Defence management reviews in general, given evidence that some of the numerous reviews in recent years have been more detrimental than beneficial to the ADF. This is not to say that constructive developments could not result and it is hoped this may be the case in this instance.

Heavy Lift Capability for RAAF

In March, the Minister for Defence announced the acquisition of four Boeing C-17 Globemaster III aircraft to provide a heavy lift capability for the RAAF for the first time. With four times the carrying capacity of the C130 Hercules, this aircraft will greatly increase the capacity of the ADF to deploy rapidly within the region and globally. The C-17 is capable of carrying the M1 Abrams Tank as well as Black Hawk, Sea Hawk and Chinook helicopters, five Bushmaster Infantry Vehicles and three Tiger helicopters. The first aircraft should be delivered this year with the balance by mid 2008. Significant Australian input is proposed over the life of the aircraft.

This is a most important acquisition for Australia and one which is enthusiastically supported by the RSL Defence Committee.

Joint Strike Fighter

At mid year, media reports appeared which stated that the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program is flawed and should be abandoned by Australia. The media reporting referred to two risk assessments done by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) in 2005 which identified possible risks associated with the program at that time. As a result of the DSTO assessments in 2005 actions have been taken, both in Australia and in the US, to ensure that both possible risks have been adequately catered for. Because this is not the first time such reports have surfaced, the RSL Defence Committee has ensured that it has been well briefed on the questions, notably by two Chiefs of Air Force and the JSF program director. The Committee is satisfied that there are no unusual problems associated with the program, other than what would normally be expected with a project of this complexity and cost. The Government has yet to finally decide on acquisition of the JSF, although it has already contributed to its development and signed a further agreement with the United States in December.

Collins Class Submarines

The Government has given first pass approval for the Collins Continuous Improvement Program. This program will deliver upgrades to the Collins fleet to maintain its high level of conventional submarine technology. The program will replace the conventional mid life upgrade and has the advantage of lower cost and reduced technical risks.

The decision is a further step in the development of a submarine industry support capability in this country.

Personnel Issues

For a number of years, the RSL Defence Committee has argued that there were considerable problems with recruitment and retention in the ADF and these issues have been taken up with the Government from time to time. It is interesting to note that although many initiatives and much money has been spent on improving recruitment and retention in the ADF, since 2003-04 numbers have actually fallen. The average strength of the permanent ADF fell by 46 positions in 2003-04, by 221 in 2004-05 and in 2005-06 is projected to fall by another 624. In 2004-05 and 2005-06 the final result was about 1000 below the target figure. Although overall Air Force is in the best position, all three services suffer from retention problems in the skilled trades area.² Apart from the skilled trades, retention rates are not bad, but recruiting appears to be a far more difficult problem.

Against this background it was interesting that the Government announced plans on 24 August to increase the size of the Army by 20% to 30,000 and to raise two new battalions in the process. It was also announced that the Minister for Defence had called for a detailed review of recruitment and retention and that this review has been completed with numerous recommendations now under consideration. In December the Government announced that a further \$597m would be allocated to improve both retention and recruitment as a result of this review.

While the intention to increase the size of Army is admirable and long overdue, how the aim to improve both recruitment and retention, to not only retain the current structure in all three services, but to increase it substantially in Army's case, and marginally in the case of Air Force, will succeed, remains to be seen. There is no doubt the Government is serious in its intentions to substantially improve both situations.

The Defence Capability Plan (DCP) for 2006 - 2016

At mid year the government produced a public version of the DCP, the main elements of which were:

- Modifying helicopter plans to reduce the number of aircraft types to create a common joint training and management system at a cost of \$3.7b.
- More than \$500m of new naval surface capability projects to enhance the ANZAC class air search radar systems and to develop undersea warfare detection capabilities and sea mine counter measures.
- An increase by 40% in Army networking projects as part of the Hardened and Networked Army initiative. A deferment for three years of the 105mm and 155mm artillery replacement and an enhancement of Army's Ground Based Air Defence capability in a new project in around 2018-2020.
- Continuing support of Australia's Air Combat capability including a mid-life upgrade of the Hawk lead-in fighter from 2017-2019 and future upgrades of Airborne Early Warning and Control (AWACS) Aircraft. Additional provisions for FA-18 Hornet structural refurbishment to ensure operational capability in the transition to the Joint Strike Fighter.
- About \$1b allocated to refurbish or replace the C-130H Hercules and Caribou fleets. A deferment for 2 years of the decision to refurbish or replace the Orion AP-3C fleet. Increased funding of \$250m to the UAV project – Air 7000 Phase 1B.
- \$1b to be invested in military satellite communications capability.
- Continual improvements to a new improved logistical management system to be operational by 2012-2014.

While these initiatives provide increased operational capabilities, the decision to defer replacement of the current 105 and 155 artillery weapons is disappointing. It is hoped that this does not signify a down-grading of the value of artillery in a general sense.

Visit with the Minister for Defence

In February, the National President and the Chairman of the National Defence Committee called on the newly appointed Minister for Defence, the Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson MP. There was a wide ranging and constructive discussion on defence issues in general. The principle issues that were canvassed with the Minister were:

- The need for an increase in the Defence budget and a commitment to increased spending.
- Support for the Government policy of a flexible and mobile ADF capable of carrying out the full range of potential missions, in the national interest.
- RSL support for the Air Warfare Destroyer project and for Naval shipbuilding in Australia.

² ASPI Strategic Paper 'Your Defence Dollar The 2005-06 Defence Budget'

- The continuing problems of sustainability of a deployed force and the inability to presently achieve the Government's stated aim of deploying a brigade and a battalion simultaneously overseas.
- The need to retain and reinvest in logistic capability to counter the long term trend of reducing logistic capability in the ADF.
- The need for a fresh approach to recruitment and retention problems in the ADF, to which the Minister responded that he was taking personal control of these issues.
- The need for an increase in the size of the ADF, particularly for additional infantry battalions.

It is pleasing to see that there has been considerable progress on a number of these issues in the ensuing months.

Consultation with the Defence Committee

As usual there have been a number of consultations with various members of the ADF and others during the year. These consultations are very useful in keeping the Committee and the National President well informed on current issues, and allowing a free flow of ideas between the Committee and the Defence establishment.

- Major General Evans, Head Personnel Executive on current personnel issues.
- Assistant Commissioner Jevtovic, AFP, of the Police International Deployment Group, on police and ADF cooperation in overseas deployments.
- Commodore Leschen RAN, Director General Command and Control Implementation, on the new Defence operational headquarters structure.
- Colonel Norris, Director Security Capability Development, on the subject of domestic security.
- Rear Admiral Bonser RAN, CDF Office, Military Justice System, on the new military justice structure.
- Air Marshall Shepherd, Chief of Air Force, on current Air Force capability and future plans.
- Professor Anthony Bergin, Director of Research Programs ASPI, on the Israel-Hezbollah war.
- Lieutenant General Leahy, Chief of Army on current Army issues.
- Mr Mark Thomson, Program Director ASPI, on the Defence budget and recruitment and retention issues.

Conclusion

There have been a number of positive developments over the last few months. While the operational commitments of the ADF have been high, there is no doubt that generally there is a beneficial result which keeps the Defence structure focussed and positive. The Government's commitment to increased defence spending in the medium term means that not only can operational requirements be properly funded, but medium to long term planning can take place, particularly in relation to capital equipment. Even higher levels of funding will be necessary in future if plans for increases in manpower and current capital equipment acquisitions together with operating costs associated with overseas commitments are to be maintained. The major problem however is manpower. Not only must recruiting and retention cater for the current structure, but plans to increase the size of the ADF must also be catered for. That the government is devoting attention to this aspect is encouraging and it is hoped that results match expectations.

ADRIAN CLUNIES-ROSS
Chairman

National Trustees Report – 2006

General

The National Trustees met on four occasions during the year. Pressing matters were also addressed out of session. Interest returns, which are the major generator of funds for the Trusts, except for those funds supported by capitation charges, remained at the same general level as in recent years. The Trustees noted the decision of the National Executive to waive Trust Fund Administrative Fees.

Trustees

The National Trustees during the year were Brigadier John Sheldrick OAM (Retd) (Chairman), Major General Sir William Refshauge AC CBE ED (Retd), Mr Harold Fife OAM, Mr John Button OAM, The Hon Mr Justice Dennis Cowdroy OAM, Mr Eric Kay AM ED, Mr Derek Roylance AM, Major General Peter Day AO (Retd). Meetings were also attended by Major General Bill Crews AO (Retd) (National President), Mr Gary Brodie OAM, President ACT Branch (National Executive Representative) and by Mr David Sinclair – National Treasurer. Mrs Helen Britten, the Assistant National Secretary of the RSL, acted most competently as Secretary to the Trustees.

The RSL & 6th Division Australian-Hellenic Educational Memorial Fund

This Trust Fund was established to take over the funds remaining after the completion of the Hellenic Memorial on ANZAC Parade, Canberra, built to honour all those who fought and died in the Greek Campaign of World War II and in the Battle of Crete. The Fund was augmented by funds received from the 6th Australian Division Association and the Preveli Monastery Fund in Western Australia. Every year two scholarships are provided to assist Cretan students under 25 years of age to undertake tertiary education in Greece. One Scholarship is known as the 6th Australian Division Scholarship and the other is known as the Preveli Monastery Scholarship.

At the award ceremonies on 11 and 12 December 2006, Ambassador Paul Tighe presented the 6th Division Scholarship certificate and cheque for \$2,500 to Ms Kalliope Manta and the Preveli Monastery Scholarship certificate and cheque for \$2,500 to Ms Sofia Chrysoula Dimitrakaki.

The Trustees were pleased to have confirmed to them the benefits of the Bishop of Spili's Destitute Fund and in 2006 raised the donation to \$750.00. This was again presented by Ambassador Tighe.

There were continuous small donations to the Fund during the year.

It would be appropriate, in order to maintain the spirit of the wartime Australian/Hellenic relationships among Australian youth, for the Fund to support a scholarship for tertiary study to an Australian student in an Australian University. However, at this stage, the funds available and current practice of allocation preclude such a move.

The Mona Tait & May Hayman Memorial Fund

This Fund commemorates the memory of two nursing sisters, formerly of the Canberra Community Hospital, both of whom were murdered by the Japanese during World War II. Sister Mona Tait was killed off Banka Island whilst attached to the 8th Australian Division, and May Hayman was killed when she was attached to an Anglican mission in Papua New Guinea. The Fund was initiated by staff of the old Canberra Hospital but after some time they requested it be transferred to the RSL National Trustees.

The Trust Fund enables books to be purchased and presented to the Nurses' Library at the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Canberra each year.

The Trustees were pleased to again this year, grant the money generated from interest earned from this account towards the purchase of further books for the Nurse's Library in the School of Nursing at the University of Canberra.

The Mountbatten Fund

This Trust, which was established in 1979, perpetuates the memory of Lord Louis Mountbatten. The invested capital of the Fund is maintained and the interest earned each year is provided to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL) to assist in relieving distress and hardship amongst disadvantaged ex-servicemen and women in countries presently or formerly members of the Commonwealth of Nations.

During 2006, the Trustees made a further grant of \$5000 from interest earned by this Fund to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL).

The Australian World War I Veterans Welfare & Commemorative Fund

The primary purpose of this Trust was to provide assistance to World War I veterans and their dependants in necessitous or deserving circumstances, but also permits the Trustees to make contributions towards the commemoration of service of World War I veterans. No grants were made from this Fund during 2006.

The Victoria Cross & Historic Medals Trust (including the Special Commemorative Plaques)

This Trust allows the League to assist in the purchase of historic medals for display to the public in museums and, in particular, the Australian War Memorial. No such assistance was sought from the Trust. A payment of \$17,980 was made from the Special Commemorative Plaques Sub Account for the production of three Korean War Plaques depicting Army, Navy and Air Force, and a plaque at Anglesea (Victoria) for the Great Ocean Road Series.

The RSL War Veterans' Homes and Welfare Trust

This Trust was established in 1995 with a donation from the Queensland State Branch of the RSL from some of the proceeds of the Queensland RSL Art Union conducted by that Branch. During 2006 grants amounting to \$40,000 from the interest accruing in this Fund during the year, were paid to RSL National Headquarters to meet a small proportion of the welfare costs it incurred. A final payment of \$100,000, of a total of \$300,000 over three years, was made from the Fund to the Western Australia Branch as a contribution to the development of their Aged Care facility.

The RSL Overseas Aid Fund

This Trust Fund was established to assist in the relief of persons in developing countries, particularly those of the Asia-Pacific region, and which had been recognised as developing countries by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. During 2006 there was no activity with this Fund.

The National RSL Welfare & Disaster Fund

This Trust Fund is a charitable trust and was established by the League some years ago to assist persons in Australia who were in necessitous circumstances. Grants totalling \$15,100 were made from this fund during 2006.

The Jubilee Commemorative Fund of the RSL

This Fund enables the League to promote understanding and friendship between Australia and neighbouring countries, particularly those in the Asia-Pacific region. It also enables the League to assist the families of ex-servicemen in that region who are in need, and families of ex-servicemen of countries presently or formerly members of the Commonwealth of Nations (excluding Australia). A recent amendment to the Trust Deed now also allows the Fund to support the Reg Saunders Scholarship and scholarships for Australian veteran's children in necessitous and deserving circumstances, while undertaking tertiary education in Australia.

The Trustees maintained the Kapyong Middle School Scholarship commemorating the bravery of the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment during the Battle of Kapyong in Korea in 1951 and funds were again provided for the Medical Student exchange programs which are administered by the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney. This exchange involves medical students from Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Vietnam (Hoc Mai Scholarship). The Trustees acknowledge the kind donation again from the Wally Lussick Trust Fund in PNG, which contributed to these payments.

The recipient of the Hoc Mai Scholarship for 2005, Mr James Postle, attended a Trustees meeting during 2006 and gave a most enthusiastic and encouraging report as to the benefits of his exchange to Vietnam. These benefits applied to himself and to colleagues in Vietnam and Australia. Mr Postle was encouraged from the exchange to recommend the establishment of an electronic link between senior medics in Vietnam and Australia for an exchange of information on medical cases and situations.

The Reg Saunders Scholarship, to the value of \$3,000 was awarded to Miss Sharon Donovan. Miss Donovan has been directly involved in Aboriginal health for 17 years, and the scholarship will assist her to improve her professional skills by undertaking a Bachelor of Midwifery degree. The Trustees acknowledge the continuing interest of the Forestville RSL Sub-Branch in this award and their generous contribution towards it.

Two scholarships, each of \$3,000 were awarded to Australian veteran's children to assist them to undertake tertiary studies. The recipients were Ms Tammy Rayner and Ms Cecelia Vagg.

Both the Reg Saunders Scholarship and the scholarships for children of Australian veterans are administered through the Australian Veterans Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) and the RSL acknowledges their assistance. Administrative costs paid to AVCAT were \$2,992.

Separate scholarships to the same value as the RSL Kapyong Scholarship were provided from the funds of each of Australian Korea Society (ACT) and from the Australian Korean War Memorial Fund which are held as sub accounts in this Fund.

\$38,090.28 (£14,500) was paid as RSL Affiliation Fees to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League from the Fund.

RSL Foundation

The RSL Foundation was instituted in 2000 as an approved Trust Fund to provide welfare and other activities in the public interest, for the benefit of returned and Service personnel and the public generally. It seeks to continue the work of the RSL which was begun by our Gallipoli veterans in 1916.

A payment of the interest accrued by the Fund in 2006 to the value of \$12,000 was made to the RSL National Headquarters as a contribution towards its verified welfare costs. The balance in the Fund at the end of the calendar year 2006 was \$319,716.90.

J A SHELDRIK
Chairman

National Veterans' Affairs Committee Report – 2006

Introduction

This is my third and final report as Chairman NVAC. Although I did not stand for appointment at Congress in 2006 and effectively concluded my official duties at the rising of Congress, I have followed the tradition, established by my predecessors, of writing the annual report for 2006. I believe it is appropriate to continue to acknowledge, as I have on previous years, the enormous contribution made to the operation of NVAC by members of the League in many roles and locations across the country. There are pension officers, welfare officers in many Sub-Branches, State Branch veteran affairs' committees, the rather significant number of individuals who represent the League on a large number of health studies, working groups, joint steering committees and the like. Many of these individuals contribute valued technical and professional expertise and the ever important "grass roots" knowledge of veteran issues which is often unheralded and seemingly unrewarded. To those many supporters of the RSL I thank you for your efforts and suggest that there are many, many ex-servicemen and women who would also thank you.

NVAC Meetings

The members of NVAC met on four occasions during the year, twice in Canberra, once in Melbourne during the launch of the 90th anniversary of the League, and once in Perth during National Congress. The activities and decisions of those meetings are regularly relayed, through the minutes, to members of the League in the various states. As a whole perhaps we could be a bit more vigilant in passing progress information back to originating sub-branches. Last year saw a considerable number of requests made to me from around the country for follow-up or progress information.

One achievement for the year was the decision to establish an RSL Aged Care Forum reporting to the National Executive on issues of particular relevance or concern to members. Following a position paper I prepared on this matter, Victoria responded with a suggested way forward which was then accepted by National Executive and implemented with meetings being held both face to face and by teleconference.

Another minor achievement was the posting of the first RSL Fact Sheet dealing with Family Court Rulings on Veteran Allowances on the national website. This matter has been of concern because of the misinformation/disinformation that surrounded

the matter. The League continues to seek a review of the entire position that veteran allowances are treated in family law decisions.

The RSL was particularly delighted to learn of the upgrade to war-like service of the Rwanda deployment that finally recognized the onerous nature of that duty.

A major win was the announcement at the RSL National Congress by Minister Billson that an extra \$600m dollars, over five years, would be provided to "boost" veteran health care by providing an increase in fees paid to health providers who treat veterans using the Gold Card. This extra allocation of funding will go a long way to preserving the integrity of the Gold card which the RSL, and other ESO, had long sought and is referred to in my 2006 report.

Outstanding Issues

There are three essentially administrative matters that NVAC has been expressing concern about for some time.

In 2004, following a Repatriation Medical Authority Forum, the RSL, with strong support from other ESOs, wrote to Government requesting an amendment to legislation to permit a review of a single factor in a Statement of Principle by the RMA. This request has been supported by the RMA, DVA and other players but is still travelling at snail pace through the parliamentary legislative system.

Despite agreement during the deliberations of the MRCA working party a number of years ago, a follow-up working group on the MRCA rehabilitation protocols has yet to be established by DVA. The RSL continues to press for this action to be expedited.

There is also disappointment that the DVA operational working party has not met in well over 18 months. While the RSL understands that DVA has been undergoing both an organisational review and restructure, there is need to action this and the previous program point without further delay

Proposals for the 2007 Budget

The veterans' affairs issues that the League have identified as the most critical are submitted to Government in priority order, that order being determined by voting by State delegates at National Congress. Items of concern but not listed in the priority budget items are of course pursued through the League's normal dealing with DVA and other Departments. The following items, in priority order, are the current proposals for 2007. Further information, including a detailed rationale for each point may be found in the Veterans Affairs section of the RSL national website (www.rsl.org.au).

Mental Health Disorders and Rehabilitation: Formally recognise and foster the critical role that primary carers and families provide for veterans suffering from mental health disorders and, where necessary, provide additional support services, particularly in respect of funding the infrastructure to support the DVA policy of placing more reliance on community health structures. Develop a national mental health rehabilitation scheme for veterans suffering with chronic mental health problems based on individual case assessment and management programs which includes, where necessary, accommodation assistance options for homeless veterans.

- Aged Care Facilities: Provide an increase in, and more ready availability of, aged care facilities and services and, as a priority, meet the special needs of veterans and war widows.
- Special Rate Pension: That the Government acknowledge that erosion of the Special Rate Pension has occurred prior to 2004 because of inappropriate indexation, and that the rate of pension now be reviewed, with the application of appropriate indexation, to ensure the Special Rate Pension retains its original parity.
- Funeral Allowance: Amend Section 98B and 99 of the Veterans' Entitlement Act to change the words "Funeral Benefit" to "Funeral Assistance"; increase the payment to bring it into line with the payment made under MRCA (currently \$5,117.23); and remove the GST from all funerals for veterans and war widows.
- European POW Payment: That a one-off ex-gratia payment of \$25 000 be paid to all surviving former Australian servicemen who were prisoners of war in Europe during WWII, or their surviving spouses.

RSL Practitioner Meeting

The third annual practitioner meeting was held in Melbourne in June in conjunction National Executive meetings. A wide range of topics were on the agenda following prior input from State Branches. A full report on this meeting has been previously circulated to States.

The National President welcomed members and thanked them for their work and effort given to the League. He expressed his personal view that Advocacy and Welfare was the engine room of the RSL, and that the League depended upon the pensions/welfare staff and volunteers for advice in regard to its submissions to DVA.

As would be expected, pension claim issues received considerable attention with a good brief from Viv Quinn, the Qld pensions manager, especially in regard to the process of addressing claims under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA). The meeting noted that the original procedure of processing all claims in QLD had been amended to allow NT, SA and WA to process their claims within their own States.

The States agreed to explore with each other the possibilities of interchange of personnel to achieve a

balanced standardisation of experience within the State Branch's Advocate and Pension Officer's group.

Health Studies

Last year I wrote a comprehensive section on health studies, this year I make comment on only three and invite readers to visit the DVA web-site (soon to be more user friendly I am told) for additional information on a wide range of health studies and relevant references.

Three reports in a series of studies of mortality and cancer incidence in Australian Vietnam veterans were released on September 5th 2006, namely: Cancer Incidence in Australian Vietnam Veterans Study 2005; The Third Australian Vietnam Veterans Mortality Study 2005; and Australian National Service Vietnam Veterans: Mortality and Cancer Incidence 2005. The reports were produced by the Department of Veterans' Affairs with the assistance of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Each of the three completed reports can stand alone as a complete study. However, all three should be taken together for a more thorough understanding of the mortality and cancer incidence of this cohort of Australian Vietnam veterans. An overarching Executive Summary has been produced to assist in understanding the three reports as a whole.

All Australians who took part in the British Nuclear Testing Program in Australia from 1952 to 1963 can now access health care through the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Government has recognised, on a non-liability basis, the special health needs of nuclear test participants, identified in the recently released Mortality and Cancer Incidence of Australian Nuclear Test Participants study

The study finding, that the rate of some cancers among the nuclear test participants was higher than in the general Australian population, although it did not find any link between the increase in cancer rates and exposure to radiation, has puzzled many of the remaining participants and the widows of those who are deceased as result of cancer.

One study that has caused quite considerable concern in the Vietnam veteran community is the progress, or lack of significant progress, on a study of children of Vietnam veterans following the feasibility study which was completed in 2005 and found that such a study was feasible. This issue is receiving the close attention of the RSL, and other ESOs.

While the reaction from the veteran community on the release of the various health studies varies in relation to the expectations and beliefs held about a particular study, one constant emerges; deployment on warlike or non-warlike operations is highly likely to pose a range of health hazards. The findings of the Australian National Service Vietnam Veterans study specifically reinforces this view given that it controlled for the "healthy warrior effect" by comparing two similar groups, one who went to Vietnam and one who did not. The range of longitudinal

studies being conducted into operational deployments by the Centre for Military and Veterans Health will, in due course, add considerably to the body of knowledge required to adequately manage health issues arising from deployment.

Younger Veterans Consultative Forum

This body is an advisory and consultative group consisting of representatives from major ESOs (many of them National Presidents), Directors and Senior Managers from DVA, and ADF representation. Meetings are held three times a year in Canberra, usually with an exhaustive agenda. The topics covered are wide ranging and include reports and updates on the Vietnam Veteran Counselling Service, rehabilitation issues, mental health, disability and compensation, Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health, Principal Medical Advisor, research and health studies, ADF issues, and ESO Issues.

The RSL has been an effective member of the Forum since its inception and has been instrumental in broadening the forum to include other organisations such as the Australian Peacemakers and Peacekeepers Veterans Association, who were invite to join a few years ago, and the Partners of Veterans Association who joined last year. After many years as the RSL representative, I decided I was not really a younger veteran and indicated I would step down. My place has been taken by Ann Pahl, a current Navy reservist, with operational service, a keen worker for the RSL in the welfare side of the house, much younger than I, who I am sure will do a great job of representing the RSL.

Conclusion

The benefit of cooperation with the various members of DVA, the ADF and other ESOs at a range of meetings, working groups, and forums continues to be demonstrated by the outcomes achieved as a whole; not withstanding some delays and setbacks.

My successor as the chair of NVAC, John Hodges, is well credentialed to take over the role and was selected by the National Executive from a small, but highly competitive, panel at the June 2006 National Executive meeting. John and I carried out a handover over a period of several weeks commencing at National Congress and concluding in Brisbane with meetings with CMVH staff and DVA National Claims Manager and staff. My best wishes go to John in his future work with the League.

My thanks are extended to my fellow NVAC members for their input into discussion during meetings, their guidance from time to time, and their friendship during the year. Thanks also to the staff at NHQ for their assistance on various matters; the efforts of Mickey Michaelis in his role as secretary NVAC. I have also very much appreciated the support of Viv Quinn from Queensland as my advisor on technical issues.

RAY DE VERE
Chairman

National Youth, Heritage & Citizenship Committee Report – 2006

The Youth, Heritage and Citizenship Committee (YHC) held six meetings during the year.

The main business of the Committee was, at the request of the National President, to review those sections of the Standing Policy of the RSL pertinent to the YHC areas of interest. The review was required to both accommodate recent National Congress resolutions, and to more accurately reflect the League's considered views on a range of contemporary public issues such as immigration, terrorism, citizenship, and the Flag.

It is expected the review will be completed during the February 2007 meeting of the YHC and forwarded to the National President. It is expected that the review will be considered by National Congress in 2007.

The YHC considered a Discussion Paper on Australian Citizenship from the Citizenship Task Force of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural (now Citizenship) Affairs.

The Task Force invited comment under the categories of:

- Formal citizenship test
- Knowledge of Australia
- Knowledge of the English language
- Commitment to the Australian way of life
- Commitment to Australian values

The YHC forwarded a submission to the National President, which was forwarded to the Department in time to meet a November 2006 deadline.

In addition to addressing the above categories, the submission opined that legislation should be introduced which would enable a court of law to revoke the citizenship of a naturalised Australian should the commitment not be adhered to by an individual in a serious matter considered to be prejudicial to law and order within the country. This would have to be subject to the condition that the person still retains citizenship of another country and has not lost his previous citizenship by virtue of becoming an Australian citizen.

JOHN MOYLE
Chairman

National Advisory Committee on Veterans' Health Report – 2006

The National Advisory Committee on Veterans' Health (NACVH) once again had a very quiet year in 2006. The Committee has not received any further requests during the year to review the restrictions on the Government's funding of Visudyne and so the matter has now been placed under periodic review.

May I extend at this time my sincere appreciation to my colleagues on the Committee for their assistance and counsel

on all matters placed before them in the course of our deliberations, and thank the National Headquarter's staff who kindly assisted and cooperated with the secretariat responsibilities during the year.

Dr M D MILLER
Chairman

The RSL Captain Reg Saunders Memorial Scholarship – 2006

The Scholarship

The RSL established this tertiary level scholarship for drug and alcohol abuse studies in 1992 for students of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background. The Scholarship provides a \$3,000 grant to assist with these studies

In the development of the Scholarship, consultation with ATSIC revealed the urgent need for qualified substance abuse professionals among the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. As such, the Scholarship requires an applicant to major or specialise in drug and alcohol abuse targeted courses. Where these courses do not specifically contain subjects or units dealing with substance abuse, the students must be able to provide scope for such studies in their elective subjects and field placements.

The closing date for applications is 31 October each year for studies commencing the following year.

This Scholarship is now administered by the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust Limited, known as AVCAT. Requests for Scholarship Applications can be forwarded to:

AVCAT
PO Box K978
HAYMARKET NSW 1240
Telephone: (02) 9281 7077
Facsimile: (02) 9281 9164
E-mail: vvt@accsoft.com.au

The 2006 Recipient

The winner of the 2006 Reg Saunders Scholarship is Miss Sharon Donovan.

Miss Donovan has worked in the area of Aboriginal health for 17 years and will be studying Midwifery at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Captain Saunders

Captain Reginald Walter Saunders, a member of the Gunditjmara tribe, was born on 7 August 1920, in the small town of Purnim just outside the Framlingham Aboriginal reserve in the Western District of Victoria.

At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 he joined the Second Australian Imperial Force. This was part of his heritage, that of being a warrior. His people, the Gunditjmara, had fought many battles with the white settlers in trying to retain their land.

He then began his military career, serving in World War II and Korea. During World War II he was selected for training at an Officer Cadet Training Unit, where he graduated as a Lieutenant with men such as Tom Derrick VC. Later promoted to Captain, Reg Saunders served in the 6th Division and saw action in the Middle East and New Guinea.

In Korea he was the Officer in Command of 'C' Company of the Third Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR). This Battalion won a United States Presidential Citation for the Battle of Kapyong.

During the last 20 years of his life, Reg Saunders worked with the former Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Reg travelled widely and was able to meet with Aboriginal people from a variety of backgrounds. He was awarded an MBE in 1977. He died in 1990.

RSL AFOF Report

– 2006

The RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF) provides packages to Australian Defence Force and Australian Federal Police personnel serving overseas.

The majority of these personnel serve in peacekeeping or peacemaking missions on a six month rotation basis and, to ensure that each receives the benefit of a package during his period of service, the packages are made available for delivery twice yearly. These packages are loosely referred to as the mid-year and Christmas packages.

In 2006, RSL AFOF provided packages to personnel serving overseas in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Bougainville, Cyprus, East Timor, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Middle East, Sinai, Solomon Islands, Sudan and Syria.

The packages contained various items to remind personnel of home, and included ANZAC biscuits, confectionery, dried fruit, salted peanuts, muesli bars, cake, a selection of RSL newsletters, a letter of appreciation on behalf of all Australians, RSL State Branch contact details and RSL membership details.

Australia has large numbers of personnel serving in these overseas missions. A total of 1759 mid year packages and 2885 Christmas packages were prepared in facilities kindly made available by the Deployed Forces Support Unit within Randwick Barracks (DFSU Randwick). The packages were prepared on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of May and November.

The new AFOF Brochure has been widely distributed. It contains a brief history of the Fund and explains how it

supports our personnel and, as a direct result of this, we have received many individual donations from the Veteran and general community. It is intended that we continue to promote the Fund through a wide distribution of the brochure and by using it as an insert in our various mailouts. AFOF is supported by all Australians and their ongoing personal monetary donations ensure the continuance of the Fund's activities.

We receive regular support from the RSL community and were most grateful for the significant \$2,000 donation received from the Maroochydhore Sub-Branch in November.

AFOF relies on the many volunteers who give so freely of their time to assist in the preparation of the packages, and in particular, the contribution given by personnel from DFSU Randwick, Directorate of Personnel Support Amenities in Canberra, the Malabar RSL Sub-Branch, RSL National Headquarters staff, and friends of AFOF from the general community, was greatly appreciated.

RSL AFOF is proud to have been able to make this contribution to the welfare of our serving personnel on behalf of our grateful Nation.

We wish all those serving overseas good fortune and a safe return home.

DEREK J ROBSON
Executive Commissioner

RSL Awards

– 2006

Meritorious Service Medal

VIC

BUGG OAM JP, M J
BROGAN, E A

GUPPY, N H
PROSSER, H W

SCOTT, J R
WEBSTER, R G

SA

STATTON OAM, J

WA

COURT AK KCMG OBE, Sir Charles
MUNDY, H J

QLD

BAULCH OAM, R

NSW

BUCKMASTER, E W
COWAN, J R

GIBIAN, J G
HALL, K W

HAWKEY, F H
HOPKINS, D J

LAANEMAA, L
PAROW, W F

Life Membership

ACT

BOYLE OAM, F

BURT, A

WILKES, D E

TAS

HANSON, B
PETRIE, K

RALPH, G
SCOTT, B

TIFFIN, R

VIC

ANDERSON ED, M
BEDFORD, S
CARSON, M
COX, R D
DEAN, M W
FAGAN, C
FERGUSON, R H

GARDINER, R F
GIBSON, K A
HELMS, R F
HUNTER, K
KOWARZIK, A F
McCANN, A
McKECHNIE, J

MELROSE, J F
MURRAY, G R
RICHARDS, E
SCHNEIDER, M P
SHIELDS, D W
SNAITH, L
SORENSEN, C J

STEPHEN, R
SUMMERS, I G
WEBB, L M
WHITING, M
WICKS, J M

QLD

BARRETT OAM, G S
BLACK, N
BOWTELL OAM, W H
BRIDGES, K J
BURNELL, E R
BURTON, T V
COLLINS, C

COOMBS, J M
CLAYTON, L D
DEAN, K
GILMOUR-WALSH, P A J
GILVEAR, A W
GREGORY, H
GROUNDWATER, M G

GUY, N F
HANSEN, D J
HARVEY, P
HIGGINS, D A
HIGGINS, P J
HORNE, M
LATEMORE, N J

MAYES, R G
MUNDT, S C C
PARKER, N
RYAN, K D
SIMEON, W M
WARDEN, D J

NSW

BAILEY, D
BRIDGE, J W
BROOKS, C
BROWN OAM, K R
BULLIMORE, R K
COURKE, B W
CLARKE, K S
CRANE, P
DEERE, T K
DURBIN, R A C

DURHAM, I L
FINDLAY, I
FIRMAN, W J
GARRETT, E R E
HALL, N C
JANSSEN, A
JOHNSTON, G L
KELLY, G
KERR, J L
KNOW, E T

LeCERF, F A
LOWDER, D G
MACKAY, W
MacRAE, L B
MAY, W
McMANUS, N J
MORROW, P R
MURAKAS, O
O'DONOGHUE, W
OHLSON, G

RANKIN, J
REINHOLD, U
RIDGEWELL, M R
ROOKE, A
SELBY BEM, I J
SHARPE, H
WATTS, J E
WHITE, J M
WILSON, E J

WA

AXFORD, R A	GRIFFITHS, B W	PHILP, E F	WESTON, S H
BLAIR, G	HANSSON, S E	RIPPER, H G	
GAYNOR OAM RFD, W E	HAYES-THOMPSON, R B	ROWBOTTOM, W L	

SA

ANDERSON, A H	HARRIS, R G	ROGERS, G	WYLY, E T
BURNLEY, M N	LEE, W W	SHEPHARD, N P	
COYER, W J	PEAKE, W	STANFORD, P	
DENNERT, M E	RAMAGE, L E	SYMONS, B R	

Honorary Life Membership**ACT**

Her Excellency Mrs Kate Lackey

QLD

WARRICK OAM, F

TAS

Senior Constable Stephen Timmins SC

VIC

ARCHIBALD, K	KENNEDY, R	RUSSELL, J
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Honorary Membership**WA**

AINSWORTH, I	EILEFF, C	HAMMOND, J	van DYKEN, V
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His Excellency Dr Kenneth Michael AC

Certificate of Appreciation**ACT**

ALABASTER, B	DINHAM AM, P M	ROBBINS OAM, G E	WARDOS OAM, S
BAINBRIGGE, M	JOHNSON, B C	ROBERTS, D Y	

VIC

BERRYMAN, R D	COPELAND, P	NICHOLS, T	ROADLEY, A
BOWERS, T	NATIVO, S	OLIVER, M	

Chevron Indonesia Company
Ryebuck Media
Watsonia RSL Sub-Branch
The 'Women in Custody' Dame Phyllis Frost Centre

SA

HARRISON, K	SPENCER, J	Mr Michael Nguyen	City of Onkaparinga
MARCHANT, K	STEER, G H	Mr Tay Van Nguyen	Radio 5RPH
MILLIGAN, D	Dr Anh-Tuan Ngo	Dr Hung Khac Vu	
MILLIGAN, K	Mr Cong Duyet Nguyen	General Nhut Van Tran	

Vietnamese Veterans Association

WA

HARPER, B J	MARTIN, B A	TATHAM, E M
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Certificate of Merit & Gold Badge**SA**

FABER, P J	GEDDES, B
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NSW

BOSSARD, O P	DOWNTON, K	MASON, W	O'SULLIVAN, L M
CHRITCHLEY, E	HOUGHTON, H	NANGLE, T D	THORNE, K
ELLIOTT, C	HYDE, J K	NARKER, S C	TRIBOLET, L I
DAVIS, P C	JONES, D G	O'REGAN, M	TYNDALL, D

TAS

HANSON, T	WILCOX, C
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VIC

FRASER, F	HUTCHESON, A	SHARP, E	STUBBS, S
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Women's Auxiliary Life Membership

TAS

BARRETT, R	DOBSON, L	HAWKINS, E	STEVEN, B
DALY, S	DRAKE, A	JACKSON, M	

QLD

BATEMAN, F	COURTNEY, M E	HARVEY, P	MUNDT, D
BURNELL, E R	CRAIG, D	HINDMARSH, C	TARRY, J M
CHANT, A	ELWELL, L	HUXLEY, M	WHITELY, P
COLLINS, C	FERGUSON, K	ILLIDGE, J	

NSW

ABBERFIELD, D P	BURGESS, P	GARDNER, M N	MASHMAN, J D
BABINGTON, V	CASEY, B C	HAMILTON, L	McNAUGHT, R
BARCLAY, D L	CRILLEY, C M	HAWTHORNE, J	RITZAU, L
BEARD, B	DALTON, L	JOSS, K	SANSOM, B
BROWN, B	DODDS, M	KAVANAGH, J A	YOUNG, B

SA

CUMMINGS, M E E	FABER, P	GOWER, I L	SCHWARTZ, L B
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VIC

CONNOR, M A	ELLIS, D E	KENNEALLY, B	TODD, I
CORBETT, E W	GROSS, N M	PRESCOTT, O F	

Long Service Award

SA

BALDWIN, M H	HEINRICH, N R	RICHARDSON, R M	SIBLY, J F C
BALDWIN, R G	HISCOCK, R S	SHEPHARD, N P	
CHAN, A	MARSH, L M		

VIC

ALDRED, J W	HAYES, R C	McMILLAN, D C	SINCLAIR, A J
ALDRICK, T	HAYES, R M	MOYLE, C J	SOUSSA, A
ATKINSON, C E	HERDMAN, W	MOODY, R W	SPOONER, S
BLACK, S O	HOOPER, L C	NEAVES, J G	SPROATS, J J
BOX BEM, F G	HUTCHESON, I H	NEWITT, K E	STOCKS, K J
CAMERON, K	HUTCHINSON, W	O'CALLAGHAN, J J	STRATFORD, W H
CHANDLER, P	INGRAM, A C	OLVER, W F	STREAT, R S
COLLINS, G H	ISAACS, J A	O'SULLIVAN, L D	SURTEES, K F
COOPER, W A	JAMES, L J	OWENS, C R	TAPPE, H R -
DIXON, R	JENKINSON, C B	PEARCE, J W	(Posthumous)
DUNCAN, S B	KECK, C M	PENNY, K M	TOOLE, H J
ECHBERG, G A	KERGER, R C	PERHAMS, F A	TRUSCOTT, O H
FLANAGAN, F A J	KERSHAW, R B	PICKERSGILL, W F	WHITE, H A
FOX, R	LEAN, E A	PIRIE, H	TURNER, E H
FRASER, L L	LISTER, W H	RIXON, M M	WILLIAMS, A T
GILBERT, P R E	LUSHBY, R A	ROLL S, J B	WILLMOTT, J W
GRASKE, W E	MARSHALL, H	SCHIAVONI, F	
HAIGH, R F	MARVIN, T S	SEAKINS, C N	
HANDLEY, C W	McCALLUM, M W	SHAW, B A	

ACT

BARTLETT, G L	DUNN, E L	JONES, H	THOMPSON, L C
BEARD, G R	GRYLLS, N E	REES, R J	
BOYLE OAM, F C	HOOPER, K H	SALMON CBE, J R	

WA

CARVILL, S	FORD, M M	KNEEBONE, R E	MITCHELL, M M
CAUBO, C	FORSTER, J M	KORFF, K	PACK, L
DAY, Y M	HARVEY, R A	MORGAN, B I	PORTER, T R
EASTCOTT, J	HASLEBY, M	MURPHY, D L	REID, J

QLD

AGNEW, L H
ARNOLD, M W
ATHERTON, A A
ATKINSON, O J S
BACK, B J
BALLANTINE, G M
BANNAH MM, T J
BAXTER, R
BECKETT, J W
BLAKE, K G
BRUCE, W W M
BURGESS, E L
CLARKE, G
DEAN, N R C

DICKENSON, C C
DICKSON, H
FAIRBAIRN, D J
GARDINER, L E
GREENBURY, L
GRIMMER, A R
HOFFMANN, R G
IZATT, J H
JAMIESON, G D
JOHNSTON, M P
JONES, G H
JONES, T
JONES, W L
KANE, M E

KEEN, D L
KERWICK, D
LE PETIT, A H
LUHRMANN, P
MANSELL, L A
MARTIN, T H
MEARS, J A
MITCHELL, W L
MORGANS, E
MULHALL OAM, Z J
PERRETT, N C
PIOTROWSKI, F
PITKIN, F T
RODEN, F B

RODEN, W P
ROFE, E J
ROSS, I
RUTLEDGE, G G
SCHAFFER, W D
STEWART, C H
TRIMBLE, R K
TRUSSELL, J W
TUNI, G
VOEVODIN, V B
WARE, R S
WELLS, A J
YATES, D N
YOUNG, I L

TAS

BUNTON, B L

NEWSUM, C

WILLCOX, L J

50th Anniversary Certificate

WA

Kwinana Sub-Branch

NSW

Berowra Sub-Branch

60th Anniversary Certificate

NSW

Botany Sub-Branch
Nambucca Heads Sub-Branch

Padstow Sub-Branch
Sawtell Sub-Branch

70th Anniversary Certificate

NSW

Branxton Sub-Branch

Oberon Sub-Branch

75th Anniversary Certificate

QLD

Maleny Sub-Branch

Redlands Sub-Branch

80th Anniversary Certificate

NSW

Ingleburn Sub-Branch

QLD

Southport Sub-Branch

85th Anniversary Certificate

NSW

Blackhealth-Mount Victoria Sub-Branch
Grafton Sub-Branch
Rockdale Sub-Branch

South Lake Macquarie Sub-Branch
Wagga Wagga Sub-Branch

SA

Auburn Sub-Branch
Booleeroo Centre Sub-Branch
Brinkworth, Koolunga & Yacka Sub-Branch
Burra Sub-Branch
Clare Sub-Branch
Jamestown Sub-Branch
Laura Sub-Branch

Melrose Sub-Branch
Peterborough Sub-Branch
Riverton Sub-Branch
Saddleshworth RSL Sub-Branch
Wilmington Sub-Branch
Wirrabara Sub-Branch

QLD

Nambour Sub-Branch

90th Anniversary Certificate

NSW

Singleton Sub-Branch

RSL Prizes – 2006

Awards to Service Colleges

Australian Defence Force Academy

RSL Sword for Service

Officer Cadet Liesl Franklin

Royal Military College of Australia

June Graduation – Staff Cadet Sean David McCulloch

December Graduation – Corporal Aaron Porto

ANZAC Awards

ANZAC Peace Prize

The recipient of the ANZAC Peace Prize for 2006 is Professor Ian Constable AO. Professor Constable is a world renowned eye surgeon who has devoted his professional talents to the betterment of mankind by reducing blindness and visual impairment on a global scale who designed and spearheaded state-wide fundraising and community screening programs for glaucoma, amblyopia, trachoma and diabetic retinopathy.

ANZAC of the Year Awards

The 2006 ANZAC of the Year awards have been made to:

- The Metropolitan Fire Brigade Charity Running Club (MFB CRC) - a charity club within the Melbourne Fire Brigade which, from its inception in 1977, has raised well in excess of \$2million for various charities.
- Mr John (Jack) Sewell AM from Creswick Victoria – for his untiring service to the community in a positive, compassionate and selfless manner.
- Mr Joe Bieniek from Erina NSW – for his years of dedicated and committed service to the community both in Australia and overseas and in particular, the Gosford region.
- Mr Ronald Stone AM JP from Perth WA – to acknowledge the long and significant contributions he has made to his community, the City of Perth and the City of Stirling and the Nation.

RSL Scholarships 2006

The RSL Scholarships were introduced this year by the RSL National Trustees. Two scholarships, valued at \$3,000 each, are awarded to children of veterans in necessitous and deserving circumstances while they undertake tertiary education in Australia.

The inaugural RSL Scholarships have been awarded to:

- Ms Tammy Rayner
- Ms Cecilia Vagg

National Executive Members – 2006

National President

Major General William Crews AO (Retd)

Deputy National President

Mr Don Rowe OAM

National Secretary

Mr Derek Robson AM

Victorian Branch President

Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd)

Western Australian President

Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD

New South Wales Branch President

Mr Don Rowe OAM

South Australian Branch President

Mr Jock Statton OAM

Queensland Branch President

Mr Bill Mason (until March)
Mr Doug Formby (from June)

Tasmanian Branch President

Mr Ian Kennett OAM JP (until March)
Mr Tony Scott OAM (from May)

Australian Capital Territory Branch President

Mr Gary Brodie OAM



Back Row: Jock Statton, Gary Brodie, Tony Scott, Bill Gaynor
Front Row: David McLachlan, Don Rowe, Bill Crews, Doug Formby

National Treasurer

Mr David Sinclair

National Legal Adviser

Mr Brian Loftus RFD

National Defence Adviser

Major General Adrian Clunies-Ross AO MBE (Retd)

Veterans' Affairs Adviser

Mr Ray De Vere MC OAM (until September)
Mr John Hodges (from Sept)

Veterans' Health Adviser

Air Vice Marshal Mick Miller AO (Retd)

National Headquarters Staff Members as at December 2006

National Secretary

Mr Derek Robson AM

Assistant National Secretary

Mrs Helen Britten

National Project Officer

Mr Bruce Tunnah OAM JP
Mr Mickey Michaelis (from June)

Personal Assistants

to National President:

Mrs Jan Ormerod

to National Secretary:

Mrs Denise Howard

Office Assistant

Mrs Linda Munro

Accounts Officer

Mrs Jean Xiao

Honorary Research Officer

Mr Jock Scott OAM (deceased 2006)

Honorary Research Assistant

Mr Ian Gleeson



L-R Helen Britten, Linda Munro, Bill Crews, Mickey Michaelis, Jan Ormerod, Derek Robson, Denise Howard, David Sinclair, Jean Xiao

RSL Membership Details

as at 31 December 2006

STATE	RSL MEMBERSHIP		WOMEN'S AUXILIARY	
	Membership	Sub-Branch	Membership	Sub-Branch
ACT/Overseas	1,647	14	–	–
NSW	60,567	425	4,445	202
QLD	40,379	251	983	49
SA / NT	14,280	149	675	43
TAS	5,036	54	394	30
VIC	60,173	307	2,450	121
WA	12,343	135	300	18
ANNUAL STATISTICS TOTALS				
2006	194,425	1,335	9,247	463
2005	202,957	1,336	9,745	508
2004	201,593	1,332	10,412	520
2003	208,772	1,354	12,025	577
2002	212,074	1,363	12,690	590
2001	214,647	1,373	12,168	606
2000	220,600	1,395	13,121	628
1999	226,843	1,408	13,807	652
1998	227,040	1,418	14,607	670
1997	229,588	1,426	15,966	685
1996	235,905	1,436	17,034	690

Registered Offices

The Returned & Services League of Australia A.C.N. 008 488 097

is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in the ACT.

National

RSL National Headquarters
Cnr Constitution Avenue and
Blamey Crescent
CAMPBELL
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CANBERRA ACT 2601
Phone: (02) 6248 7199
Fax: (02) 6247 7637

State Branches

ACT

ANZAC House
13 Moore Street
CANBERRA
Postal: GPO Box 708
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Phone: (02) 6162 2670
Fax: (02) 6162 2673

VIC

ANZAC House
4 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
Phone: (03) 9655 5555
Fax: (03) 9655 5500

TAS

ANZAC House
68 Davey Street
HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: (03) 6224 0881
Fax: (03) 6223 1229

QLD

283 St Paul's Terrace
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006
Postal: PO Box 629
SPRING HILL QLD 4004
Phone: (07) 3634 9444
Fax: (07) 3634 9400

NSW

ANZAC House
245 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone: (02) 9264 8188
Fax: (02) 9264 8466

SA

ANZAC House
Torrens Training Depot
Victoria Avenue
ADELAIDE SA 5000
Phone: (08) 8232 0322
Fax: (08) 8232 0377

WA

ANZAC House
28 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6832
Postal: PO Box 3023
Adelaide Terrace
PERTH WA 6832
Phone: (08) 9287 3799
Fax: (08) 9287 3732



Photographs from RSL National Congress Wreathlaying Ceremony

Back Cover

- Top: L-R Mr Don Rowe OAM, Deputy National President and New South Wales Branch State President; Mr Tony Scott OAM, Tasmanian Branch State President; Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd), Victorian Branch State President
- Centre: RSL State Presidents and Memorial Wardens
- Bottom: Eternal Flame, Kings Park, Perth

Inside Back Cover

- Top: Kings Park Memorial, Perth
- Centre: Mr Bill Gaynor RFD, Western Australian Branch State President
- Bottom: Naval Sunset Band

RSL

Returned & Services League of Australia



90 YEARS
1916-2006

