



# RSL

Returned & Services League of Australia  
National Annual Report

# 2009



RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund



Front page: Soldiers of Combined Task Force 635 Operation Anode enjoy their RSL gifts on Christmas day in the Solomon Islands.  
(Photo courtesy of the Department of Defence – [taken by Sergeant Frank Mazzella])

Inside front page: Private Russell Peacock (A Coy, 7RAR), Corporal Trish Grace (1 CSSB) and Trooper Tim Bruschi (2 Cav) open up care packages sent to them in Baghdad by the RSL (2008 mid year parcels).  
(Photo courtesy of the Department of Defence)

# 2009 RSL National Annual Report

## Contents

Message from the National President .....
Farewell Message from the Immediate Past National President .....
National Congress Report .....
<b>National Secretary's Report</b> .....
<b>National Treasurer's Report</b> .....
National Membership Report .....

## State Branch Reports

Queensland .....
New South Wales .....
Victoria .....
South Australia .....
Western Australia .....
Tasmania .....
Australian Capital Territory .....

## Committee Reports

Conditions of Service .....
Youth, Heritage & Citizenship .....
Defence .....
Trustees .....
<b>Veterans' Affairs</b> .....

## Miscellaneous

Captain Reg Saunders Scholarship .....
RSL AFOF Report .....
RSL Awards .....
RSL Prizes .....
National Executive Members .....
National Headquarters Staff .....
Membership Statistics .....
Registered Offices .....

# National President's Report



Ken Doolan

The League continued to prosper during the latter part of the year despite the inevitable thinning of our ranks as those who served during World War II became less numerous. Offsetting this we gained some new members from those who have seen service in Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and several other parts of the world where members of the Australian Defence Force are deployed on operational or peace keeping duties. In addition, our National Membership and Marketing Forum made good progress in our quest to launch a new RSL 'online' Defence Sub Branch in 2010.

We continued to give particular emphasis to the welfare of our men and women in uniform and through our Australian Forces Overseas Fund supplied each one deployed away from the nation with a parcel before Christmas.

As a follow up to our 2008 submission about national defence needs, the League undertook a detailed examination of the contents of the **Australian Government's 2009 Defence White Paper *Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century: Force 2030***. This gave rise to a further submission to Government late in the year in which we sought clarification about a few issues while at the same time giving general support to what was a robust statement of government intention to maintain a strong, effective Australian Defence Force capable of undertaking high intensity operations in defence of the nation. The National Executive also approved a substantial revision of the RSL Defence policy emphasising our intention of making sure we continue to give substance to our motto that *The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance*.

The welfare of our veteran community and their dependants continued as our core business in the final months of the year. To ensure our advocates, pension officers and welfare officers are fully informed about entitlements under various Acts of the Commonwealth Parliament, we continued to arrange training for them under a program designed and operated by the **Department of Veterans' Affairs**.

As the year drew to a close we were well advanced with a submission to Government about

improving the indexation of military superannuation payments. The National Executive took the decision that this should be a 'stand alone' RSL document of considerable substance and that it should focus solely on the vexed issue of indexation. It was also decided that a paragraph would be included in this submission indicating our intention of forwarding further submissions to Government about other less than satisfactory aspects of the Defence Force Retirements and Death Benefits superannuation scheme.

The National Executive looks to the future with great optimism. Plans for a completely national membership scheme are well advanced and it is expected this will be fully implemented by 2011. We have also commenced work on a substantial submission to Government aimed at improving the transitional arrangements for members of the Australian Defence Force as they end full time service and return to the civilian workforce. We aim to forward this document to Government by the end of 2010.

The League is in good shape, we are 'on the front foot', and our advice is being sought by national decision makers. We remain true to the ideals of our founders and have every reason to look to the future with confidence.

KEN DOOLAN  
National President

# A Farewell Report from the Immediate Past National President — Major General Bill Crews AO (Retd)



Bill Crews

I am pleased to offer this report covering the period 1 January 2009 until I stood down from the Presidency at our National Congress in September 2009.

## Overview

The year began on a most positive note, with the announcement that one of our members, Trooper Mark Donaldson, was to be awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous gallantry under fire in Afghanistan.

This was the first such award for some 40 years, and when the Citation was published, no one was left in doubt that it was an award richly deserved. Trooper Donaldson is a member of our Dorrigo Sub-Branch in NSW. I was privileged to be able to represent the League at his investiture in January in Canberra, and was able to extend personal congratulations on his extraordinary achievement. He was subsequently awarded Honorary Life Membership of the League at the NSW State Branch Congress. Trooper Donaldson VC is a fine ambassador for the Australian Army.

With such an encouraging introduction, this year subsequently could be fairly described as another successful one for the League and our members as we continued to work with the Commonwealth Government in both enhancing veteran benefits, and in ensuring that the mechanisms for their delivery were further improved. The year also saw the resolution of a large number of medallic recognition anomalies as the newly established Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal responded to its Terms of Reference.

## Commemoration

ANZAC Day 2009 saw increasing numbers of Australians in attendance and showing their respects. We engaged in the usual discussion about the inclusion of children in the various marches, and learnt again the need to decide

early what the rules were to be in each city and town, to be able to explain such decisions, and to do so well in advance. The League continued to support the retention of the ANZAC Day marches as primarily for veterans, ensuring that such veteran groups were afforded priority over children and other community groups seeking to participate.

This year was the first year of the three year agreement between the League and Legacy with Fosters Group in **implementing the 'Raise a Glass Campaign'**. The campaign was an initiative of Fosters, but presented the League with an opportunity to promote the commemorative objectives of ANZAC Day while also offering a substantial income stream for our welfare endeavours. While our Queensland State Branch elected not to participate (as they were entitled to do), this did not detract from a successful campaign with generally strong and favourable media coverage.

A private organisation, The Memorials Development Committee, **sought the League's** endorsement, early in the year, of its proposal to construct two memorials for World War I and World War II in the vicinity of the Rond Terraces, on the north shore of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra. We offered support in principle, and I was subsequently invited to chair the design jury for the international design competition. The **Committee's task now is to raise substantial funds** for the construction of the memorials – some \$21 million, noting that both the Peacekeeping Memorial Project and the Boer War Memorial Project are concurrently engaged in raising funds for those memorials to be constructed on Anzac Parade.

2009 saw the excavation of the mass grave at Fromelles in France. This is an ambitious project. While the League initially opposed the proposal to excavate and reinter these remains, we subsequently became convinced of both the practicality and the merits of doing so.

Following the success of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in 2006, and subsequently of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral, the Government supported a more modest observance of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Binh Ba. This was exceptionally well conducted and received, and further enhanced public awareness of the Australian experience in

Vietnam, and the contributions made by our Vietnam veterans.

We recorded with regret the passing on 8 July 2009 of Ted Kenna VC, our last World War II Victoria Cross recipient.

2009 also saw the return to Australia of the remains of the last two of those listed as Missing in Action from the Vietnam War. Flying Officer Michael Herbert and Pilot Officer Robert Carver lost their lives when their Canberra Bomber crashed in a remote part of Western Vietnam near the Laotian border. Locating these remains had been regarded as highly unlikely only a matter of a few years ago. The discovery, like that of the remains at Fromelles, was the result of dogged determination by committed individuals, thorough research, enlistment of political support to the cause, and the application of modern technology.

## Veterans' Affairs

The Review of 'One DVA', commenced in late 2008 as an initiative of the incoming Secretary of DVA, received substantial comment from the Ex-Service Community, and delivered its findings early in the year. This led to some rearrangements within the Department which have subsequently proven to be most effective. In particular, a more effective role has been established for Deputy Commissioners in the States.

The most significant development of 2009 was arguably the release of the two reports into mental health by Professor David Dunt. These addressed Suicides in the Ex-Service Community (a study advocated by the former National Veterans Mental Health and Well-being Forum), and Mental Health in the ADF. The recommendations of these studies have largely been accepted by Government, and funded, demonstrating a renewed commitment to mental health support both in the ADF and for veterans. We applaud these initiatives, and the consequent prospect that mental health support for those on operations may be able to limit the extent of psychological damage suffered by our serving men and women.

Responding to a 2007 Election commitment, the Government sought to examine those recommendations from the 2002 Clarke Review which the previous government had not actioned. This attracted a large number of submissions, most of which dealt with only a limited number of the recommendations. The RSL submission was the only one which addressed all of the

outstanding recommendations in any detail. This process will take quite some time, but the prospects for sound outcomes are favourable, particularly in respect of Atomic Veterans and members of BCOF.

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade delivered its long-awaited examination of the administration of the RAAF F-111 Deseal-Reseal Program in early 2009. The RSL had made substantive submissions to this enquiry and was called to appear before it. The Government has now to determine its response to the recommendations.

In response to earlier concerns raised by veteran groups about the multiplicity of medical examinations for those separating from the service and claiming disability payments or pensions, Defence has developed a Single Health Examination Form, and obtained the agreement of all relevant departments and authorities. Unfortunately, we had to express our concern that the form also attempted to initiate a claims process, without warning of the need for applicants to seek some expert pension officer advice. This aspect is being addressed during the course of the trial with the form.

In the light of the Global Financial Crisis and **recent enhancements to veterans' disability pensions**, expectations for further advances in the 2009 Federal Budget were modest. We were pleased, however, that the Government proceeded with increases to Aged and Service Pensions, and improved further the support for Carers. Other veteran-specific provisions in the Budget were well targeted, and included the additional funding for mental health support referred to above.

This year saw the institution of the full extent of **the Department of Veterans' Affairs' revised consultative arrangements**. This included the first two meetings on the Ex-Service Round Table, **intended to complement the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters**. This enhanced framework removes much of the duplication which existed previously, and ensures that the relevant ex-service organisations are better placed to offer their considered views on the most important issues.

Military Superannuation continued to be the source of much angst within the veteran community throughout 2009. The Government deferred any decisions on the 2007 Review of Military Superannuation, pending the completion of a more recent examination of all Public Sector superannuation arrangements. In the event, that

latter review did not support any change to the basis of indexation of military superannuation, and despite separate and extensive representations by several individuals and organisations, including the League, the Government announced that there would be no changes made.

Implementation by Defence of their Integrated People Support Strategy recorded mixed success and some particular concerns. This Strategy was intended to offer more substantial support to Servicemen and women preparing to separate from the Service, and ex-service organisations, coordinated by the RSL, stood ready to offer substantial assistance. There appeared to be some communication difficulties within Defence on the nature of this program, and very limited understanding in some areas of the nature, purpose, and capabilities of Ex-Service Organisations. To be fair, there was also some **reluctance to accept the legitimacy of the RSL's coordinating role in spite of the Chief of Defence Force's specific intentions in this regard.**

The Nature of Service Review within Defence continued its work on both providing a more sustainable basis for determining the classification of current and future operations, and addressing some of the historical anomalies brought before them. We have continued to be impressed with the thoroughness of their work, and the close cooperation we have enjoyed with the Review. It is expected that when the decisions are **eventually made from the Review's work, we will** have a much better appreciation of both deployment entitlements and consequent repatriation benefits.

Government sought submissions during the year on the Review of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004. 67 Submissions had been received by June, and the Steering Committee then began determining the key issues identified with a view to reporting to Government by March 2010. Our initial understanding of these issues has suggested that some valuable enhancements will be made to the legislation reflecting the experience of the five years of its operation.

## Defence

Our engagement with Defence and the ADF continued actively during the year, through our relationship with both senior officers of the ADF, and Ministers. We were actively involved in the Defence Reserves Support Council, the Forces Entertainment Board, and our Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF). Our Defence Committee

met with several leading figures in Defence to better appreciate their intentions, and present the **League's considered views.**

I attended, on invitation, the launch of the Defence White Paper in Sydney on 2 May 2009. Our Defence Committee had previously met with the Community Consultative Group during the development of the White Paper. On balance, the League was broadly supportive of the philosophy and intentions of the White Paper while noting that it was particularly ambitious in some capability aspects, and the financial detail was very limited.

**In respect of Australia's commitment to the war in Afghanistan,** the League maintained its support so long as the objectives remained clear, and we could have a positive impact on the Coalition strategy. Recognition had to be given, however, to our capacity to sustain any increase in troop commitment which may be sought.

We were particularly pleased that the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal actively sought our views on many of the issues before it. In addition to making several written submissions, we were invited to appear before the Tribunal. The League has to date had no disagreement with the **Tribunal recommendations, nor the Government's** decisions on those recommendations.

Our ability to respond constructively to a large number of diverse media issues relating to the Defence Force continued to be assisted greatly by Defence offering explanations and detail in advance of the issues becoming matters for public debate. This reflected the trust in which the League was held in respecting privileged information.

## The League

This year as in previous years, the League was asked to lend its support, sometimes in a practical way, to a number of causes. We continued to actively support those endeavours fundamental to our core business and objectives, but we were less inclined to dissipate energy on matters not seen as beneficial to our members. One of the former issues was the implementation of the Joint Understanding between Australia and Papua New Guinea on the development of the Kokoda Track and the Owen Stanley Region. Representatives of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts have provided periodic briefings on implementation of this project, and sought our broad agreement to the steps being taken. We have been greatly encouraged with the understanding being shown in balancing the

environmental, historical, economic, and cultural issues involved in this area which is so important to our military heritage.

**The League's National Congress was this year** held in Adelaide, with excellent support from our South Australian State Branch, the State Governor and both the Adelaide City Council and State Government.

Federal Parliamentary representation was by the Minister and Shadow Minister, and both the business and social elements of the Congress were successfully conducted. The National Congress elected Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd) as National President, unopposed.

This year, as on some previous occasions, there were no nominations for the ANZAC Peace Prize. However, a number of well-deserved ANZAC of the Year Awards were made. It is still a matter of concern that only a limited number of nominations are received each year, and some States are not adequately being represented.

In addition to a strong representative group of international visitors to our National Congress this year, the League received visits by the Deputy Grand President of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service League, General Sir Sam Cowan, and the Commander-in-Chief of the US Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mr Glen Gardner.

## Summary

It has been a great privilege to have been able to serve the League in this capacity over the past six years. This has been a unique opportunity to meet and to work with some of the finest men and women of Australia, many of whom have given and continue to give outstanding service to the League and to fellow veterans. Our strength and reputation has been built entirely on their dedication and commitment. I have been humbled by what I have seen, and applaud them all. I have been grateful also for the wonderful opportunities extended to me to visit many of our sub-branches around Australia, and have valued the fellowship, hospitality and support so generously extended on all of the visits we have undertaken. Our sub-branches are truly the heart and soul of the League.

Finally, I record my appreciation for the superb support, friendship, tolerance and loyalty I have been fortunate to receive from members of the National Executive, and the staff of the National Headquarters. I would want to single out our National Secretary, Derek Robson AM, without whose advice and wise counsel I could not have fulfilled my responsibilities. I extend every good wish to my successor, Ken Doolan, and to all in the League for continuing success in the challenges that still lie before us.

Bill Crews



# National Secretary's Report



My report this year follows the predictable theme I have followed for some time - the existing National Office building is not the preferred venue for the League to be conducting its activities as we move forward.

The National Executive has set some innovative directions for the League so that we can enhance our standing with the serving, ex-serving and broader communities, but their effective implementation will demand that we have access to the spatial layouts already envisaged and planned for in the redeveloped National Office.

The plans for the redevelopment of the National Office site have been approved for some time. The reason that we have not been able to proceed is that, with the financial difficulties being faced by all levels of Government and private commercial activity, we have had no success attracting a commitment to the larger net lettable areas available within the overall building. The agents have had some enquiries from smaller statutory bodies seeking to commit to smaller footprints, but until 60 - 80% of the building can be committed as a total package, there is no likelihood of bank finance being made available to commence the project.

There are other options which could be explored for the site and these are being actively pursued. One clear option would be for the National Office to be constructed as a completely separate facility, not reliant on construction of the larger building, but that would require some independent funding arrangements to be in place until such times as the remainder of the site is developed and the larger stand-alone commercial office facility is built. If we were able to take this option, the RSL would later benefit financially from the transfer of the remaining leasehold and this would effectively offset the construction costs for the separate facility. There are many issues to consider and we continue to pursue the concept. There should be no doubt that we will continue to strive to achieve a quality facility which we will be proud to call our new National Office.

With an appropriate facility not being available at this time, we have enormous problems effectively implementing some of the preferred directions of the National Executive. We are looking to enhance our youth policy outcomes, work toward better engagement processes with serving Defence members, improve our interactions for Transition management, better prepare ourselves to respond to incoming Government legislation

and regulation, and continue toward providing a better membership experience through improved reciprocal arrangements. We continue to progress toward our goals but remain hampered by the ever present poor physical state of the building and the uncertainty of how long we will remain in the present facility.

It is pleasing to note that the rehabilitation of both sides of the ANZAC Parade pavement has been completed over the past two years, and with the works to improve the main intersection of the Parade with Constitution Avenue to be completed later this year, the problems which we have had with traffic in this precinct over the past few years will be improved dramatically. The improved traffic flow issues were resolved as part of the approval process for the redevelopment of the Office.

The National Office staff continue to do amazing things. Given the state of their work environment and the fact that the reference library is still largely unavailable, the effort that they have put in has been exceptional - and their results have been remarkable. I am honored to have been able to lead this loyal and hard working team who give so much support to the RSL.

The National website attracts many visitors and, through links to all related websites, we are trying to ensure that our broader audience is kept well informed and has access to all information which may assist them in their research or commemorative activity. The website also has a helpline which allows the broader audience to seek direction on any subject and this attracts considerable attention.

The Headquarters hosted the regular meetings of the National Executive in March, June and November, there was an Extraordinary National Executive meeting held in Melbourne in February, and the September National Executive meeting was held in conjunction with the National Congress in Adelaide. The Directors have also met privately to further particular League activity.

The League, and the National Executive in particular, continues to receive fine support from **the National Advisory Committees for Veterans' Affairs**, Defence, Defence Conditions of Service and Youth Heritage and Citizenship, along with other advisory bodies, the Aged Care Forum, National Membership and Marketing Forum, the National Clubs and Licensed Sub-Branches Forum, the National Tribunal, ANZAC Awards Committee and the National Finance Committee. Each of these bodies has made a significant contribution,

and we are most grateful for the support of so many well respected and eminently qualified people who freely give so much of their time in a voluntary capacity.

The National Office is a proud unit and stands ready to progress the workings of the League.

DEREK J ROBSON  
National Secretary

# National Treasurer's Report

The following Financial Report is the audited financial statements for the National Headquarters of the League for the year ended 30 June 2009.

**The net result of the year's operations on an accrual basis** was a surplus of \$99,151 compared with a surplus of \$68,381 for the previous year. This result reflects, on the income side, a 2.4% erosion of capitation (membership) fees to a total \$403,835 as well as the second tranche of a three-year commitment to additional support to **National Headquarters' activity** from Queensland and NSW totaling \$175,000. This support is scheduled to continue into 2010, following which the increase in capitation fees agreed by the 2009 National Congress should enable the Headquarters to function effectively for the foreseeable future.

Expenditure in total remained almost unchanged with salaries and superannuation, together with provisions for long service leave and annual leave comprising 54% of total expenses.

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 and to our auditor, Kim Hanna, whose assistance, guidance and support make my own involvement a pleasure.

DAVID SINCLAIR  
National Treasurer

# 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 2009. 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 - 7 years, 11 months	5	5
DJ McLachlan AO JP	Member National Executive - 7 years, 1 months	5	5
W J Crews AO	Member National Executive - 5 years, 9 months	5	5
D E J Rowe OAM	Member National Executive - 5 years, 7 months	5	4
J H Statton OAM	Member National Executive - 5 years	5	5
A J Scott OAM	Member National Executive - 3 years, 1 month	5	4
D A Formby	Member National Executive - 3 years, 1 month	5	4
J J Merrick	Member National Executive - 1 year	5	5
B Kaine MBE	Member National Executive - 2 months	1	1
J King	Member National Executive - 1 month	0	0

The following changes of Directors occurred during the financial year:

Retiring Directors:     A J Scott OAM  
                              J J Merrick

Incoming Directors:    B Kaine MBE  
                              J King

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 surplus( loss) of the National Headquarters for the year was \$99,151 (2008:\$68,381).

### 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

**DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION**

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 2009 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                                2009

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION  
UNDER SECTION 307C OF 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 2009 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

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**K.D. Hanna, Principal**  
Date:.....

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

INCOME STATEMENT and STATEMENT of CHANGES in EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

2008 \$		Notes	2009 \$
879,564	Revenue from ordinary activities	3a	908,299
114,405	Administration expenses		114,033
435,767	Employee benefits expense		448,486
36,019	Occupancy expenses		43,100
29,681	Depreciation		38,442
24,796	Meeting and conference expenses		18,977
19,507	Insurance costs		17,373
9,445	Accounting and auditing fees		16,783
27,323	Commissions - to States for UNIBIC sales		21,041
<u>114,240</u>	Other expenses from ordinary activities		<u>90,913</u>
<u>811,183</u>	Total Expenses	3b	<u>809,148</u>
<u>68,381</u>	(Loss)/Profit from ordinary activities before income tax		<u>99,151</u>
<u>-</u>	Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities		-
<u>68,381</u>	Net Surplus for Year		<u>99,151</u>

Statement of Changes in Equity

	\$
Balance at 1st July, 2007	1,264,454
Surplus for Year, 2008	<u>68,381</u>
Balance at 30th June, 2008	1,332,835
Surplus for Year, 2009	<u>99,151</u>
Balance at 30th June, 2009	<u>1,431,986</u>

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

BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

2008		Notes	2009
\$			\$
	Current Assets		
329,376	Cash assets	4	381,495
74,923	Receivables	5	97,890
18,059	Other	6	18,518
24,561	Inventory		18,186
<u>355,161</u>	Investments	7	<u>455,985</u>
<u>802,080</u>	Total Current Assets		<u>972,074</u>
	Non-Current Assets		
<u>828,042</u>	Property, plant and equipment	8	<u>842,553</u>
<u>828,042</u>	Total Non-Current Assets		<u>842,553</u>
<u>1,630,122</u>	Total Assets		<u>1,814,627</u>
	Current Liabilities		
23,244	Payables	9	72,936
113,587	Provisions	10	159,705
<u>150,000</u>	Income received in advance		<u>150,000</u>
<u>286,831</u>	Total Current Liabilities		<u>382,641</u>
	Non-Current Liabilities		
<u>10,456</u>	Provisions		-
<u>10,456</u>	Total Non-Current Liabilities		-
<u>297,287</u>	Total Liabilities		<u>382,641</u>
<u>1,332,835</u>	Net Assets		<u>1,431,986</u>
	Equity		
<u>1,332,835</u>	Retained earnings	13	<u>1,431,986</u>
<u>1,332,835</u>	Total Equity		<u>1,431,986</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 2009

NOTE 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations ACT 2001.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in a financial report containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions to which they apply. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of this report are presented below. They have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

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.

b. Inventories

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

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	7 years
Plant and Equipment	5-13 years

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

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.

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.

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

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.

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 has been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

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.

*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.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

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. 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 TRUST FUNDS HELD

The financial transactions of the Company are recorded in eleven separate funds, each being represented by separate net assets and are shown in Note 17 to these financial statements.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

2008	NOTE		2009
\$			\$
	3	PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	
		Profit from ordinary activities before income tax includes the following items of revenue and expenses:	
		(a) Operating revenue	
414,875		Capitation fees	403,835
292,466		Commission - UNIBIC	135,332
40,000		Grants	40,000
63,588		Donations	242,073
20,457		Royalties	23,935
25,228		Interest	43,034
<u>22,951</u>		Other revenue from ordinary activities	<u>20,090</u>
879,564			908,299
		(b) Expenses	
		Depreciation of Non Current Assets:	
10,615		Buildings	10,615
14,579		Equipment, furniture and fixtures	8,180
3,463		Motor vehicles	15,292
2,445		Computer hardware and software	4,016
<u>355</u>		Library, plaques & RSL march	<u>339</u>
31,457			38,442
		Net transfers to/(from) provisions:	
		Employee entitlements	
13,097		Annual leave	33,927
<u>23,586</u>		Long service leave	<u>1,735</u>
36,683			35,662
<u>16,911</u>		Operating lease rental expenses	<u>23,719</u>
		Government Grant - Contributions towards:	
3,000		- National Executive	3,000
6,000		- National Congress	8,000
13,000		- National President's Expenses	13,000
12,000		- National Headquarters Travel	12,000
<u>6,000</u>		- Community Consultation	<u>4,000</u>
40,000			40,000

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

2008	NOTE	2009
\$		\$
	4	
	CASH ASSETS	
500	Cash on hand	500
328,876	Cash at bank - General Funds	280,888
	Cash at bank - Building Fund	<u>100,107</u>
<u>329,376</u>		<u>381,495</u>
	5	
	CURRENT RECEIVABLES	
28,582	Trade receivables	83,544
<u>46,341</u>	GST receivable/sundry debtors	<u>14,346</u>
<u>74,923</u>		<u>97,890</u>
	6	
	OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	
<u>18,059</u>	Prepayments	<u>18,518</u>
	7	
	INVESTMENTS	
	Current	
<u>355,161</u>	Term deposit	<u>455,985</u>

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
Gross Carrying Amount	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance start of year	822,896	204,931	52,347	18,714	13,378	1,112,266
Additions	-	6,193	55,637	22,167	-	83,997
Disposals	-	-	(52,347)			( 52,347)
Balance at end of year	822,896	211,124	55,637	40,881	13,378	1,143,916
<i>Accumulated Depreciation and Amortisation</i>						
Balance at start of year	(112,537)	(137,984)	(12,139)	(12,513)	( 9,051)	(284,224)
Depreciation	( 10,615)	( 8,180)	(15,292)	( 4,016)	( 339)	( 38,442)
Disposals	-	-	21,302		9,483	21,302
Balance at end of year	(123,152)	(146,164)	(6,129)	(16,529)	( 9,390)	(301,364)
Net Book Value						
As at 30 June 2008	710,359	66,948	40,208	6,201	4,327	828,043
As at 30 June 2009	699,744	64,960	49,508	24,352	3,988	842,553

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

2008 \$	NOTE		2009 \$
	9	CURRENT PAYABLES	
12,381		Trade creditors	61,196
<u>10,863</u>		Other payables	<u>11,740</u>
<u>23,244</u>			<u>72,936</u>
	10	CURRENT PROVISIONS	
54,369		Annual leave (note 12.)	88,296
<u>59,218</u>		Long service leave (note 12.)	<u>71,409</u>
<u>113,587</u>			<u>159,705</u>
	11	NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS	
<u>10,456</u>		Long service leave (note 12.)	<u>-</u>
	12	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	
		The aggregate employee entitlement liability recognised and included in the financial statements is as follows:	
		Provisions for employee entitlements	
113,587		Current (note 10.)	159,705
<u>10,456</u>		Non-current	<u>-</u>
<u>124,043</u>			<u>159,705</u>
7		Number of employees (on a full-time equivalent basis) at the end of the financial year	7
	13	CHANGE IN EQUITY	
		RETAINED EARNINGS	
1,264,454		Balance at the beginning of financial year	1,332,835
<u>68,381</u>		Net Profit(loss) attributable to members	<u>99,151</u>
<u>1,332,835</u>		Balance at the end of the financial year	<u>1,431,986</u>
	14	REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS	
		Remuneration of the auditor for:	
3,800		Auditing the financial report	3,300
1,400		General accounting services	1,400
<u>300</u>		FBT return	<u>400</u>
<u>5,500</u>			<u>5,100</u>



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

NOTE

15 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.

16 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS  
a. Interest Rate Risk

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

2008	Average Interest	Variable Interest Rate Maturity	Fixed Interest Rate Maturity		Non Interest Bearing	Total
			Less than 1 year	1 to 5 Years		
	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial Assets</b>						
Cash	1.00%	328,876				328,876
Investments	7.80%		355,161			355,161
Receivables	0.00%				<u>28,582</u>	<u>28,582</u>
		<u>328,876</u>	<u>355,161</u>		<u>28,582</u>	<u>712,619</u>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>						
Creditors & accruals	0.00%				23,244	23,244
Bank loan	6.23%	-			-	-
Employee entitlements	0.00%				<u>124,043</u>	<u>124,043</u>
					<u>147,287</u>	<u>147,287</u>
<b>2009</b>						
	Average Interest	Variable Interest Rate Maturity	Fixed Interest Rate Maturity		Non Interest Bearing	Total
	%	\$	Less than 1 year	1 to 5 Years	\$	\$
<b>Financial Assets</b>						
Cash	2.50%	403,835				403,835
Investments	3.75%		455,985			455,985
Receivables	0.00%				<u>97,890</u>	<u>97,890</u>
		<u>403,835</u>	<u>455,985</u>		<u>97,890</u>	<u>957,710</u>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>						
Creditors & accruals	0.00%				72,936	72,936
Employee entitlements	0.00%				<u>159,705</u>	<u>159,705</u>
					<u>232,641</u>	<u>232,641</u>

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 2009

2008 \$	NOTE		2009 \$
	17	TRUST FUNDS	
		(a) JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE FUND OF THE RSL	
<u>278,127</u>		Cash at bank and on deposit	<u>344,371</u>
		(b) RSL OVERSEAS AID FUND	
<u>17,388</u>		Cash at bank	<u>-</u>
		(c) RSL NATIONAL WELFARE AND DISASTER FUND	
<u>276,876</u>		Cash at bank and on deposit	<u>232,884</u>
		(d) VICTORIA CROSS AND HISTORIC MEDALS TRUST	
<u>15,146</u>		Cash at bank	<u>14,602</u>
		(e) THE MOUNTBATTEN FUND	
<u>111,630</u>		Cash at bank and on deposit	<u>112,039</u>
		(f) WAR VETERANS HOMES & WELFARE	
<u>641,253</u>		Cash at bank and on deposit	<u>650,427</u>
		(g) COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES	
<u>28,084</u>		Cash at bank (Bastiaan Plaques)	<u>25,288</u>
		(h) RSL & 6TH DIV HELLENIC MEMORIAL FUND	
<u>121,082</u>		Cash at bank and on deposit	<u>124,864</u>
		(i) THE MONA TAIT & MAY HAYMAN MEMORIAL FUND	
<u>5,583</u>		Cash at bank	<u>5,066</u>
		(j) NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN FORCES OVERSEAS FUND	
<u>290,498</u>		Cash at bank & on Deposit	<u>282,218</u>
		(k) RSL FOUNDATION FUND	
<u>348,913</u>		Cash at bank & on Deposit	<u>324,652</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 2009

2008	NOTE 18	2009
\$		\$
	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	
68,381	Profit/(Loss) From Ordinary Activities	99,151
28,406	Depreciation and amortisation	38,442
7,688	Trade-in of assets & Depn Adjustments	-
36,683	Staff entitlement provisions	35,662
	(Increase)/decrease in assets	
( 64,708)	Current receivables	( 22,967)
( 3,086)	Current inventories	6,375
( 18,059)	Other current assets	( 459)
150,000	Income in Advance	-
<u>( 19,274)</u>	Other current liabilities	<u>49,690</u>
<u>186,031</u>	Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities	<u>205,894</u>
	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:	
329,376	Cash - working account	381,495
<u>355,161</u>	Investments - Term deposits	<u>455,985</u>
<u>684,537</u>		<u>837,480</u>
	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 \$31,045. This disposal is reflected in the statement of cash flows.	

NOTE 19

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

# Membership Report

## Membership Statistics

Nationally RSL membership at the end of 2009 was:

State	Service Members	Life, Hon Life/Life Subscribers	Affiliates	Total Members (incl. Affiliates)	% of RSL	Women's Auxiliary Members
ACT	1,544	192	388	2,124	1.14	Nil
NSW	43,944	7,953	Nil	51,897	27.80	3,633
QLD	27,570	11,332	Nil	38,902	20.85	n/a
SA/NT	7,298	1,057	5,258	13,613	7.29	512
TAS	3,804	130	993	4,927	2.64	355
VIC	32,795	1655	29,643	64,093	34.34	<b>858</b>
WA	9,080	236	1,780	11,096	5.94	175
TOTAL	126,035	22,555	38,062	186,652	100%	5,533

2009 saw the development of new initiatives designed to boost our ranks and also improve retention and value for existing members. A very important new approach to attracting currently serving ADF personnel to join the RSL was also endorsed by National Executive for launch in 2010.

The continued adoption of a standard format 'national look' **card across the state** branches will assist in our move to reciprocal rights based on the card and in the meantime the use of such a card sends an important message about the League as a cohesive and effective national organisation.

Work continues on being able to transfer key membership details between branches which will make it easier to both transfer and in time support the recognition of members and extend them reciprocal access between sub-branches and clubs. Linked membership databases that can facilitate this is the important first step.

With the majority of state branches now on board with the Ambassador Discount Scheme in 2009, we offer a significant additional value add to RSL membership and in some states this has already been a powerful incentive for people to move to Service Member or Affiliate categories where Ambassador is linked to these. With the merging of the marketing dimension of RSL activity into the National Membership Forum in 2009, there is now the opportunity to develop the obvious synergies between promoting products and services with RSL endorsement and linking that to membership opportunities. In future the combined forum will drive more value behind any marketing opportunities, with the aim of providing

more direct benefits to RSL members as the first priority.

Other significant outcomes in 2009 have been the rewrite of the National Membership By-Law, which is By-Law 1, in a more succinct and contemporary form, removing many now redundant areas and focussing on the key criteria for Service Membership. A new simplified membership application form was also approved this year and early in 2010, a completely re-written Sub-Branch Membership Officer handbook, reflecting the new By-Law and giving guidance on recruiting and retention strategies will be considered by the National Executive, for endorsement and distribution to state branches and sub-branches.

Many of the initiatives and changes already mentioned are important in their own right but they are also underpinning one of our most important initiatives in recent years. In 2010 we intend to introduce the RSL Defence Sub-Branch, a virtual webpage based sub-branch designed exclusively for serving ADF personnel. We hope to launch this as a joint activity with Defence and its key elements will be a national card that will offer **the first year's membership free, online renewal,** information and enquiry responses via e-mail to the sub-branch members and removing the need for the member to transfer between branches and sub-branches every time one is posted interstate or deployed on operations. As we know, this aspect of service life has traditionally made it hard for us to retain serving personnel as RSL members.

Our 'market research' has indicated that this easy and convenient way to belong to the League will

be well received and it is vital that all sub-branches give a warm welcome to ADF personnel presenting a Defence Sub-Branch card in the new national format. The sub-branch they belong to will be a virtual one of course and they can transfer to a 'physical' one at any time; hopefully they will certainly do this when they cease their ADF service and put down roots somewhere. Though this new Defence Sub-Branch is particularly suited to permanent ADF members it will of course be equally available to Reserve personnel. The Defence Sub-Branch website will have links to all state branch and national websites and they will receive a regular members' magazine as well as e-mail information about RSL activities, services and events.

In summary, 2009 has been a year of significant development of a number of new incentives and some overdue updating of membership processes that began in 2008. This has occurred at the right time in regard to the decisions on new initiatives to address our first priority; the involvement of currently serving ADF personnel in the life of the League, to ensure we remain capable of delivering our objectives of support to younger ex-serving and serving men and women. Please support our initiatives in the year ahead in whatever way you can.

MICHAEL ANNETT

Chairman

RSL National Membership and Marketing Forum

# Queensland Branch Report



State President  
Doug Formby

2009 has been a year of change for the Queensland RSL, particularly at Brisbane's head office. This has resulted in clearer lines of communication and responsibility between head office, the districts and our 250 RSL sub-branches.

The construction of a sound operating base started in 2007 and gains have been made thanks to the relevant modern business practices and corporate governance that have been adopted and implemented.

The delegation of much decision making out to district and sub-branch leadership continues to have an energising affect on members, especially those who assist in the delivery of veteran welfare.

## Community Relationships

Our ongoing relationship with the public, political figures and business leaders of the Queensland community is still an important focus.

Respect for the RSL amongst these groups is, in some cases, being shown via a willingness to provide support for our various activities and events.

Our practical co-operation with the wider veteran community has also continued to grow and develop.

What was known as the Kindred Organisation Committee (KOC) has now become the Queensland Forum of Ex-Service Organisations (QFE).

The QFE continues to meet regularly to address and advance issues that affect us all.

The QFE has been looking to assist with programs that address the issues of the transition of servicemen and women from the ADF back into the community and the needs of our younger veterans.

During my travels across the State, I have been impressed many times over by the efforts of the 250 sub-branches to forge meaningful connections with their modern day communities while continuing to go about the traditional good works of the RSL.

The majority of sub-branches have forged strong relationships with their school communities and the positive results of this can be seen at commemorations across the State, with youth attending in increasing numbers.

Record attendance numbers were recorded at the majority of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services across the State in 2009.

Many sub-branches have also joined forces with health and service providers to give vital assistance to those in need within the larger community, not just veterans.

As our veteran population continues to age, it is vital now more than ever, that the RSL cements itself as a long-term and important organisation **within a community's framework.**

## Welfare and Pensions

The Queensland RSL has continued to expand and develop its pensions and welfare services across the State due to the growing difficulties in maintaining volunteers to provide this vital work.

As a result, the PAWS team now has 13 fulltime trained Pension Officers and Advocates, some of whom work from defence facilities in Townsville, Brisbane and Amberley.

New offices have also been opened in regional Queensland to meet the growing numbers of veterans in these communities, namely Hervey Bay and Cairns, with offices being open five days a week.

The Toowoomba and Rockhampton offices have also moved to more central locations and all staff are continuing to work closely with volunteer PAWS practitioners in RSL sub-branches, as well as those in other ex-service organisations.

## Membership

Membership of the Queensland RSL has remained static in 2009 due to a decreasing and aging membership. However, the recruitment of younger, serving Defence Force members

throughout the year has been cause for some celebration.

We continue to engage with the Australian Defence Force as a source of future membership. While we are doing so at high levels within the ADF, our sub-branches are also having great success by engaging with servicemen and women within their communities.

In late 2009, the Queensland RSL has initiated steps towards gaining a clearer picture of how the League is perceived by serving men and women through our ADF contacts and is gathering information to ensure our services remain **relevant to not only our veterans but today's modern Defence Force personnel.**

This information will be used in 2010 to further develop the TV, radio and print marketing campaign launched last year and implemented by the majority of states to promote the RSL brand.

## RSL Youth Development Program

Now in its third year, the number of program applicants continues to grow as past winners share their experience as a RSL Youth Development Program recipient with fellow students.

In 2009, 124 high achieving Queensland senior school students were awarded over \$500,000 worth of grants for excelling in their academic, sporting and community related fields.

In April 2009, the Queensland RSL and **Bond University, the program's partner, hosted a one-day leadership forum** for the 2009 grant winners and their families. The forum, attended by 50 students, focused on motivating and educating students on change, leadership and teamwork.



2009 RSL Youth Development Program recipients partake in a campus tour around Bond University at the Leadership Forum on April 19, 2009.

Leadership presentations were given by paralympic swimmer Marayke Jonkers, former Governor General of Australia, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, and past RSL Youth Development Program winners.

The high calibre of applicants each year continues to impress and many program recipients are acknowledging the support provided to them by the Queensland RSL in assisting them to achieve their long-term goals.

The RSL Youth Development Program is continuing to evolve and in 2010 grants will be **offered to 180 of the State's high achievers** who will receive a grant of \$2500, and the top 10 percent will receive greater recognition with a \$5000 grant.



RSL (Queensland Branch) CEO Chris McHugh and National Secretary Derek Robson AM watch on as 2008 and 2009 RSL Youth Development Program recipient Jax Kotzur addresses delegates at the 2009 State Congress.

## State Congress

The 94<sup>th</sup> State Congress was held at Maroochydore and attracted a record number of delegates in 2009.



RSL (Queensland Branch) CEO Chris McHugh

The central Sunshine Coast location attracted sub-branch members from the far north and deep south of the state, with about 450 attending.

Among those attending were the Minister for **Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Alan Griffin MP; Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mrs Louise Markus MP; Deputy Commissioner Alison Stanley,**

**Department of Veterans' Affairs; and National RSL**  
President Major General Bill Crews AO (Retd).

Overall feedback from delegates about the progress made regarding restructuring of the Queensland RSL since the first steps taken back in 2006 was positive and the level of involvement and active participation by delegates at State Congress was high.

Doug Formby was re-elected unopposed as State President, Terry Meehan was appointed Deputy President and Rodger Bow as Vice President.

### Girl in a Million Ends after 50 Years

The 2009 RSL Girl in a Million final saw RSL (Queensland Branch) say goodbye to a longstanding community initiative in its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

The last RSL Girl in a Million ever, 26-year-old Sara Dieckmann of Toowoomba, took out the major title on August 1 at Brisbane City Hall in front of over 270 people, beating nine other finalists from across Queensland.



Last ever Girl in a Million Sara Dieckmann with the 2009 crown.

The 2009 RSL Girl in a Million Quest attracted 30 entrants who managed to raise over \$274,000.

The Queensland RSL has now directed its support towards youth programs like the RSL Youth Development Program and Yalari Scholarship Program to remain relevant in light of changing societal attitudes.

The Quest began as a creative platform for the development of young unmarried women, while at the same time raising funds for the veteran community.



2009 RSL Girl in a Million Sara Dieckmann (left) and Golden Girl Christina Gilrithie (right); are surrounded by district finalists and charity queens (left-right) Renee Whyte, Aleisha Norton, Michelle Lyons, Rebekah Belle, Jessica Brownhalls, Melinda Bradford, Kathryn Muldoon, Natalie Wynne, Rachael Wright, Emma Boccalatte, and Brooke Ettema; with Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman and Quest patron Lady Mayoress Lisa Newman (centre-back).

Entrants have raised over \$12 million during the **Quest's history.**

### 2009 Poppy Appeal Goes Digital

**Brisbane's Queen Street Mall was abuzz** on October 30, as the Queensland RSL kicked off its annual Poppy Appeal fundraiser with a Mobile Poppy launch and arm wrestling competition between Defence Force personnel.



The Mobile Poppy initiative was the first time a poppy has been available for mobile phone download.



ADF personnel from the **Australian Regular Army's 2nd Health Support Battalion** compete for the RSL Poppy Appeal's arm wrestling title.

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh officially launched the event and donations with a Queensland Government contribution of \$25,000.



**The Australian Army's highest ranked female, Major General Liz Cosson CSC, also donated her time and support to launch RSL Queensland's new Mobile Poppy fundraising initiative.**



Major General Liz Cosson CSC officially launched RSL Queensland Branch's new Mobile Poppy campaign.

The Mobile Poppy website was designed to include modern, mobile and time-poor generations in Remembrance Day commemorations, allowing them to download a digital poppy wallpaper to their mobile phones for a \$2 donation.

With the help of new technology and the dedicated support of over 20 Westpac and 100 Defence Force fundraisers, the Queensland RSL raised over \$119,000 to help Queensland veterans in the Remembrance Day city ambush alone – **more than twice last year's ambush funds.**

Volunteers throughout Queensland sold over 430,000 poppies on behalf of the Queensland RSL.

Through embracing modern technology for our annual Poppy Appeal, we were able to promote the significance of Remembrance Day across the generations while raising vital funds for welfare services to veterans, current serving members and their families.

## Art Union

The RSL Art Union consolidated its position as the leading charitable lottery in Australia in 2009. Continuing to offer a broad range of exciting prize homes and property portfolios maintained customer interest throughout the year leading to a sound financial result.

A total of 10 new millionaires were created from all around Australia during 2009 with the range of emotional responses from each winner matched only by the diverse range of prizes on offer.

From a Sky Home located on the 62<sup>nd</sup> floor of **Brisbane's tallest residential tower to a fully furnished block of apartments plus penthouse** in Burleigh heads to the instant property portfolios on offer in locations such as the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Sydney, the RSL Art Union continues to offer a means through which the everyday Australian can help support the veteran community.

# New South Wales Branch Report

## Afghanistan

The current ADF mission in Afghanistan was a source of both pride and sorrow for NSW Branch members in 2009.

In January the Governor-General, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC, invested Trooper Mark Donaldson with the Victoria Cross in a ceremony at Government House, Canberra. Trooper Donaldson is a member of the Dorrigo Sub-Branch.



Trooper Mark Donaldson is presented with his Victoria Cross by Governor-General Quentin Bryce.

In September 2008 Trooper Donaldson repeatedly fought alone in open ground under heavy Taliban machine-gun fire to allow wounded comrades from 1 Troop, 3 Special Air Service Squadron, to be hauled to safety. He deliberately exposed himself to enemy fire and then sprinted 80 metres with disregard for his own safety in order to save the life of a seriously wounded Afghan interpreter.

Trooper Donaldson was honoured with Honorary Life Membership of the League at the NSW Branch Annual Congress in May 2009.

In March 2009 two soldiers from NSW were killed in Afghanistan, one of those a member of the **League's South Lake Macquarie** Sub-Branch.

21-year-old Corporal Mathew Hopkins of 7RAR died when about 20 Taliban insurgents attacked a joint Australian-Afghan patrol north of Tarin Kowt with small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades. Corporal Hopkins left a widow, Victoria, and baby son Alex, who was only seven weeks old when his father was killed. Through the year the League, and in particular the South Lake Macquarie Sub-Branch, has given strong support and advice to the Hopkins family.

The second NSW soldier killed in March was Sergeant Brett Till. Although he was not an RSL member the League has also been proud to support his widow and three children.

## Commemorations and Memorials

A long-held dream to build a memorial in Sydney to those who died in the Korean War was realised on 26 July when a ceremony was held to dedicate a unique tribute in slate, stone, steel and bronze in Moore Park. The memorial was suggested by the RSL and the Australian and Korean War Veterans Shrine/Monument Association, and completed with the assistance of the NSW Government. Korean and Australian veterans stood side by side as the memorial, featuring 136 steel and bronze hibiscus flowers, was dedicated.



Korean veterans pay their respects at the new Korean War Memorial in Sydney's Moore Park.

In the early evening of 24 November a spectacular ceremony was held in Hyde Park to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the ANZAC Memorial, coinciding with its reopening after a multi-million dollar refurbishment.



The ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park at night was illuminated as never before during the 75th anniversary commemoration.

The NSW Premier's Department put enormous effort into making this a remarkable and memorable event. In a theatrical masterstroke the RSL State President, Don Rowe, and the TB Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Association President, Stan Poulsen, laid a wreath in the floodlit Pool of Reflection and watched as it was carried by a hidden wire to the far end, where it was retrieved and placed on the Memorial steps. The refurbished ANZAC Memorial now includes a modern museum display area run by the League, with memorabilia and audio-visual presentations, making it a focal point for visitors to Sydney and those wishing to learn more about the sacrifice of earlier conflicts.

On ANZAC Day the official number of people taking part in the March in Sydney was 18,800 – a fall of about 1200 on the previous year. The rapid decline in the number of WWII veterans taking part was highlighted by the fact that some unit associations had minimal representation by veterans themselves, but were taken over by descendants. The March Committee is concerned that this trend obscures the objectives of the March and the veterans themselves cannot receive the public tribute they deserve.



Increasingly WWII veterans are being surrounded by descendants and carers during the ANZAC Day March.

## Membership

Once again membership fell during 2009 to a total of 51,897 at the end of the year, reflecting the decline in the number of WWII veterans. This is a fall of 3,160 in 12 months, and a drop of 32,046 in the past decade.

In the Metropolitan area there are 8 districts with 130 sub-branches and 24,753 members. In the Country area there are 17 Districts with 263 sub-branches and 26,074 members. A little more than 1,000 members are unattached.

## State Congress

The 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual State Congress was opened on 26 May at the Rooty Hill RSL Club by the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir AC. It was the last to be addressed by outgoing National President Major General Bill Crews. The NSW Branch proudly welcomes one of its members, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan, as the new National President after he was elected unopposed in September.

Congress was addressed by Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Alan Griffin MP, NSW Premier the Hon Nathan Rees MP, DVA representatives and other State Presidents.

State Congress took a strong stand against any move to increase subscription fees, rejecting a motion from State Council that the annual fee be raised by \$6 from \$29 a year to \$35.

## Overseas Visits

In April the State President, Mr Don Rowe, accompanied the then Premier of NSW, Nathan Rees MP, and 12 children who had been awarded the NSW Government's ANZAC Memorial Scholarships, on a tour of the battlefields at Gallipoli. The focal point of the visit was the Dawn Service on ANZAC Day, followed by a wreath-laying at the Lone Pine cemetery, the Australian memorial service, and the New Zealand service at Chanuk Bair.



NSW State President Don Rowe (at right) with students and then Premier Nathan Rees at Gallipoli on ANZAC Day

In March the State President, Vice President John Haines and State Secretary Chris Perrin accepted an invitation to visit Vietnam for discussions with **veterans and veterans' organisations there**. The trip included discussions and wreath-laying ceremonies at Ho Chi Minh City, Vung Tau, Long Tan, Long Hi Hills, Saigon and Hanoi.

Mr Rowe and Mr Perrin represented the RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF) in East Timor during October, handing over a large number of items to help keep Australian troops entertained during their leisure time. They also met a number of troops stationed in and around Dili, encouraging them to join the RSL on their return home.



State President Don Rowe and State Secretary Chris Perrin with troops during their visit to East Timor.

## Scholarships and Awards

### Sir Colin Hines Scholarship

Five scholarships were awarded in 2009 to help the children of Vietnam Veterans with their tertiary education. They went to Quoc Hung Diep, Gavin Truong, Yen Doan Vu, Joachim James McLean and Sarah Louise Lazarou.

### FS Maher Memorial Scholarship

These scholarships assist in nurse training and education for those involved in caring for ex-servicemen and women. They were awarded in 2009 to Kristy McDonald and Minette Dunne from Concord Hospital, Czaryna Canlas from Lady Davidson Private Hospital and Faith Shava from RSL LifeCare.

### George Quinsey Trust Fund

This bequest assists descendants of those who served in the Australian Armed Forces and who are enrolled at a University or TAFE College in accountancy, commerce or economics. Five scholarships were awarded in 2009.

### ANZAC of the Year Awards

The NSW recipients of the ANZAC of the Year award for 2009 were Mr Ivor Elliott of Forster and Mr Frank Williams of Wee Waa.

## Australia My Country

More than 500 entries were received in the 14 sections of this award, which allows students to express the thoughts on what it means to be Australian through written work, art projects and electronic means. The 14 winners came from a variety of schools, public and private, in metropolitan and country areas.

## Cadets of the Year

The NSW State Branch makes an award each year to the top cadet in each of the three services. Winners are given a berth on the training ship Young Endeavour.

The 2009 winners were:

CDTSMN Myles Boatman	(Navy Cadets)
CDTWO1 Gabrielle Hammond	(Army Cadets)
CDTCPL Ryan Thurbon	(Air Force Cadets)

## RSL Welfare and Benevolent Institution

**The Institution's primary focus is to provide** welfare, pension and advocacy support for ex-service and serving defence personnel, widows, their dependants and others. A specialised service to assist with pension claims and DVA entitlements is easily accessed at ANZAC House.

WBI staff make regular visits to regional and remote areas and liaise with RSL sub-branch welfare officers. Major areas of support are financial assistance for funerals, payment towards medical expenses, utility accounts, relocation of residence, repair costs, rent assistance and the issue of vouchers towards the purchase of essential goods and services. Many veterans remain in necessitous circumstances.

## RSL Day Clubs

Day Clubs began in NSW in 1977 as a successful joint venture between the NSW Branch of the League and DVA. There are now 70 RSL day clubs in the State, each sponsored by a sub-branch. New clubs this year opened at Evans Head and Armidale.

The clubs are a volunteer run day program for socially isolated older members of the community who are unable to take part in more active programs. Each club is autonomous in operation and financially independent, with ongoing support provided by the sponsoring RSL sub-branch.

# Victorian Branch Report

2009 has been a year of continued achievement in the delivery of our welfare and veteran support services and continuing support from the public for our commemorative and educational objectives. At the same time we have begun to implement many of the changes identified in 2008 to meet future challenges – structural, demographic and commercial. The Branch Corporate Plan continues to guide this longer term focus and activity through till 2015.

## Veterans and Dependent Support Services

We continue to be well served by Jeff Jackson and his team of professional advocates who assist veterans and dependents throughout the State with DVA related claims and entitlements. Jeff also works very closely with our Aged and Health Support team at ANZAC House and mentors our volunteer pensions and welfare officers in sub-branches. The TIP trained personnel here, and in the Veteran Centres that are run as a partnership between the RSL and VVAA, are always in a position to refer cases of need back to Jeff at ANZAC House if extra resources are required to assist.

Jeff provided expert support to the State President in his representation of the Branch at NVAC and we continue to find new areas where the knowledge and assistance of Jeff and his team is required. One example is the discussions Jeff initiated with Victorian Corrections in 2009 over having a liaison presence in the prison system, to support both Prison Officers and inmates who have a service background or may be veterans.

Jeff also oversaw the operation of the Bushfire Relief Fund which we established immediately after the Black Saturday fires to assist RSL members, staff and family affected by the terrible fires. We received wonderful support from other state branches and also many sub-branches nationwide and well over \$100,000 had been provided in assistance by the end of 2009.

The Aged and Health Support team continues to do great work under the proactive leadership of Wendy Bateman, who provides a strong voice on the many representative bodies on aged care and wellness that the RSL has a seat at. 2009 has completed the transition of Aged Care Coordinators or equivalent staff to the employ of larger licensed sub-branches, rather than ANZAC House, and we have seen the overall maturing of this network.

Volunteer management in terms of handbooks, protocols, ID cards and the inevitable Government regulation continues to be streamlined and simplified wherever possible by Jane Goninon as we work hard to recruit and retain our most valuable asset in welfare work – our volunteers. Our dispatch of Christmas Parcels to those in hospital, aged care facilities or at home alone over Christmas gets more popular each year, with many rural and regional sub-branches now involved. The most important part of this is of course the personal visit, delivering the parcel, by someone from a sub-branch. **Erica D'Iasselle, Wendy's PA, does great work in co-ordinating this effort with over 5,000 parcels being delivered in 2009.**

Our relationship with Vasey RSL Care continues to be a constructive and practical one in meeting veterans' **needs in terms of aged care accommodation and services.**

At the other end of the spectrum, our plan to have 'shopfront' facilities on all our major ADF bases in Victoria, where suitably qualified younger RSL veterans can be available to assist serving men and women with the range of services and support the League provides has progressed to the point where we have a presence at RAAF East Sale. We have agreement with Defence to establish a presence at the other major Victorian Bases and this will be implemented in 2010. This initiative demonstrates the ongoing commitment and relevance we have to all generations of serving and ex-serving people.

## Commemorative Activities

### ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day 2009 continued the trend of recent years with strong and growing attendances at the Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance and several major suburban and regional centres. Preceding ANZAC Day, the Reception at ANZAC House, and the Church Service at St Patrick's Cathedral, were both well supported and successful activities. Indeed the Shrine Service was estimated at between 35,000 to 40,000 and strong attendances also supported the March and the Official Commemoration Service that followed. This year the State President was absent on ANZAC Day as he was invited to accompany the Governor, His Excellency Professor David de Kretser AC, on a trip to Gallipoli, hosted by the Turkish Provincial Governor, over the ANZAC Day period. A number of mobility aids and increased free public parking close to the route assisted marchers and despite the increasing age and

gaps in the ranks of Second World War veterans many descendants and younger veterans took part, some 11,000 in all.

**The AFL's Essendon vs Collingwood ANZAC Day** game was again a sell out crowd of almost 100,000, with the State Vice President Dr Rob Webster presenting the winning trophy to Essendon as the heavens opened. Fortunately until then the weather had been kind to the Commemorative Services and the March.

A respectful tribute to our war dead and strong crowd support to the Veteran motorcade again characterised the lead up to the game at the MCG. The historical focus this year was on the Battle of Binh Ba which took place in Vietnam in 1969 with many veterans attending, including the OC of D Coy 5 RAR at that battle, Major General Murray Blake MC. He and many other veterans were again guests of the AFL for lunch and the match. Thanks to the support of the AFL we were again able to have HMAS Cerberus sailors sell ANZAC tokens at the MCG before the game and we were also able to provide game tickets to our ADF School of Catering staff and trainees who do such a great job for us at the Gunfire Breakfast at the Shrine. In 2009 we also had an evening AFL game at Docklands and a NRL game at Olympic Park, and our commemorative activities and Appeals efforts at these venues was also well supported and capped off a busy day for State Executive members and ANZAC House staff.

### Remembrance Day

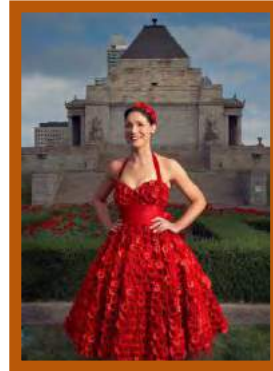
The RSL again conducted the Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service at the Springvale War Cemetery with the Chairman of the Australian War Graves Commission MAJGEN Paul Stevens as the guest speaker. Mal Carson, our convenor did his normal splendid job with the arrangements and the day was very well supported. The official Commemorative Service at the Shrine on 11 November, presided over by the Governor, Professor David de Kretser was again well attended in brilliant sunshine and continued the recent trend of strong support from school contingents and the general public for this longstanding tradition.

### Appeals

Our Appeals underpin much of this commitment, with resources generously donated by the Victorian public, and 2009 was another excellent year with new records being set for both the ANZAC and Poppy/Remembrance Day Appeals. Peter Smith has brought fresh ideas and energy to the role as we knew he would and we

promoted our Appeals through Channel 9 and other commercial partners in 2009.

A highlight was the innovative 'Poppy Dress' campaign which received wide media coverage and also our ability to sell ANZAC Appeal tokens through the Officeworks franchise earlier in the year.



Giaan Rooney wearing the 'Poppy Dress'

Using commercial partners to supplement our older veterans in CBD token/poppy sales was also tried for the first time and was very successful.

A complete revamp of the range with new items such as wrist bands and decals to appeal to an introduced younger demographic, will be progressed through both 2009 and 2010 and we will further develop the synergies between marketing our Appeals and thereby promoting the **League's work more broadly**. Peter is wonderfully supported by his small team of Penny and Bob, but equally the Branch relies on our huge army of volunteer sellers who do a fantastic job year in and year out. This group is ageing and dwindling with each passing year and one of our major challenges remains finding new volunteer sellers and appropriate alternatives.

### Property, Commercial and Financial Affairs

Through the tough economic conditions of 2009 our financial affairs remain well managed through the efforts of the Chief Financial Officer Mark Sherlock and his staff. In Victoria the stewardship of Patriotic Funds, both Building and Welfare is actively reviewed and checked by State Branch, ensuring sub-branches are in accord with the Veterans Act.

The Branch said farewell to Kris Stockdale our Property Manager early in 2009 but we were fortunate to have Mr Bernard Churchill, who has both extensive property and legal experience, join us midyear. Bernard has taken on the dual role of Property and Legal Manager and, in addition to his thorough and meticulous management of our complex and varied property portfolio, he has assisted many sub-branches with their building

projects in a para-legal sense, undoubtedly saving both them and the Branch, significant legal fees.

Bernard has also worked closely with Bryan Arendse, our Patriotic Funds and Grants Liaison Officer to oversight the twenty plus projects of building improvements in traditional sub-branches initiated in 2009. This was made possible by the \$1.8 million the Branch received from the Victorian Government as a Community Support Grant. This work has been targeting those sub-branches where the building is also extensively used by other groups in the local community. This has been a welcome boost to the standard of sub-branch facilities and amenities where funds for such work were otherwise very limited. Smaller traditional sub-branches such as Whitfield, Alexandra, Tongala and Clunes are examples where the grant money has been used.

The Branch staff actively assist sub-branches, especially those Licensed Sub-branches with commercial activities, in their financial management and during 2008 the need for a proactive approach in regard to this has become evident. The Quality Assurance program, overseen by Dennis Everitt, ensures that we certify and quantify the very significant Veteran and broader community support that flow from the commercial activity of our licensed sub-branches (LSB). This data provides a powerful argument for the Branch in dealings with Government, especially in the context of Licensed Gaming.

A small number of our licensed sub-branches have encountered significant cash flow, liquidity or commercial operational viability issues. In the main this has stemmed from a lack of relevant skills on committees or a systemic problem between management and the committee, often exacerbated in 2009 by challenging economic conditions and the uncertainty of preparing for 2012 licensed gaming changes.

One of our major challenges for the future is ensuring the right skills are present on committees and they work effectively with the manager in allowing him to get the business right in operational matters. This will be reflected in changes approved at the 2009 State Conference which has given more flexibility to licensed sub-branches in appointing people with the right skills to key governance positions on committees.

## Project 2012

In 2009 the Branch commercial and financial team worked hard on preparing the LSB network for the changes to gaming arrangements in 2012.

There is the potential in these changes to give the Victorian network or RSL licensed sub-branches more control over future earnings and therefore put more resources into veterans' welfare and other worthy community objectives by the preparation for this major change and providing well argued RSL input to various Government policy papers in the lead up to 2012 is vital.

In the latter part of 2008 Mark Johnson, our Chief Operations Officer assumed responsibility for the planning and preparation for 2012, as a Branch project. It is particularly pleasing to report that the Victorian Government has listened carefully to our input and clearly recognises the significant role the RSL plays in delivering vital services. The fact that our commercial operations are simply a means which to an end and revenue is generated responsibly ultimately goes back to members and the community is well understood.

Brian Cairns has made a strong start as the Licensed Sub-branch Executive Officer and in 2009 he has focused on monitoring and enhancing the operational/commercial performance of all our current licensed sub-branches. Mark Johnson has kept the network updated and prepared the ground work for moving to new arrangements which promise greater autonomy for our network and sustainable viability beyond 2012.

A number of important submissions have been made, including to the Productivity Commission and we have continued to press the State Government for timely and accurate information to assist our sub-branches in their own strategic planning in relation to 2012.

In 2009 the senior Finance and Commercial staff conducted, with the State President, a round table with every licensed sub-branch as part of an extensive strategic analysis of how well each sub-branch could cope with purchasing gaming machine entitlements in the 2012-15 period and whether each sub-branch should take up the pre-auction machine entitlement. This was a central part of the Branch supporting the LSB network as we approached 2010, when the entitlement and auction process will commence for 2012. John Mackay continues as Chairman of the Licensed Sub-branch Association and has worked closely with Mark Johnson on these issues.

The Association continues to act as a cohesive body to assist all members of the group operationally and to recognise sub-branch and individual achievement through the Hall of Fame awards, which were again presented at a Gala Dinner at the Melbourne Sofitel in November.

Some of the notable winners this year were Leongatha and Healesville.

The focus on volunteers and meeting our welfare objective was again to the fore and this was also reflected in the third update of our Community Benefits statement which was embedded in the 2008 Annual Report, telling of the work of sub-branches and individuals in delivering over one million volunteer hours in support of the League's objectives across Victoria in the past year.

## Membership

The membership focus for 2009 has been on building Service member numbers, culminating in an incentive campaign to retain existing members and attract new ones. Early indications were that this, together with the introduction of the Ambassador discount scheme has resulted in many new members and importantly a significant number of previously social members becoming Affiliates. As Affiliates their direct financial support of the Branch is welcomed, as well as their ability to serve on sub-branch committees and other important League forums and committees.

The increased priority given to boosting Service membership was reflected in Membership staff remaining directly under the control of the CEO and the adoption of a single membership application form which was integrated into an RSL promotional leaflet. Progress towards a single national membership card format and the extension of reciprocal rights at Victorian sub-branches for all interstate Service Members and Affiliates were also positive steps to boost the attractiveness and utility of RSL membership.

As the year closed, other national membership initiatives that will also have positive effects on the Victorian Branch were taking shape or progressing. Key amongst these were a standard database of core member information which will make reciprocal access and transfers much easier and also the launch in early 2010 of a virtual sub-branch, called the Defence Sub-branch, designed to be an online sub-branch for serving ADF personnel so it is much easier for them to join and stay a member as they move on posting/deployment. This will be a national initiative but the Victorian Branch will host it.

This is a great responsibility as this initiative has the potential to reinvigorate our profile with the current ADF and get many new serving members.

At December 2009, membership of the Victorian Branch stood at:

Service Members	35,270
Affiliates	<u>26,862</u>
Total	<u>62,132</u>

## Womens Auxiliaries

Our Womens Council and the 106 Auxiliaries across the State have had a successful and progressive year with a well attended Annual Conference which had a focus on fellowship and shared endeavour and built on the changes approved last year. The results achieved by the Auxiliaries in support of their respective sub-branches continue to give great support to the League.

At the State level the decision of the Council to make a donation for the re-building of Broadford RSL Sub-Branch reinforces the ability and relevance of this longstanding and vital arm of the 'RSL family'.

## State Conference and Future of the League Forum 2009

The 2009 State Conference was held at Caulfield Racecourse on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> July and was officially opened by the Minister of Veteran Affairs the Hon Alan Griffin MP. He was joined by the Shadow Minister Mrs Louise Markus MP and also at the State level, the Hon Mr Tony Robinson MP. The Conference had the benefit of an overview of current Defence operations provided by a senior ADF officer from Canberra and the State President invited leaders of the other key ex-Service Organisations in Victoria to discuss their relationship with the RSL. These presentations were well received and thought provoking and **complemented the CEO's presentation** on membership issues.

Key remits passed by Conference included greater flexibility in filling sub-branch Committee positions with skilled individuals and to remove anomalies in status between Service Members and Affiliates at the Branch level. A total of 79 remits were discussed, ranging from veterans Affairs and welfare matters to medal entitlements and municipal concessions on rates and utilities for veterans and widows.

Important reforms identified at the 2008 Future of the League Forum which were approved included changes to the State Executive composition, with a state wide ballot for all



elected positions approved from 2010, also the abolition of the State Advisory Council and having its sub-Committees now reporting directly to the State Executive.

Other matters such as a review of regional boundaries were conducted after the State Conference, and pending approval by the State Executive this will result in additional regions in East Gippsland and Western Victoria. Changes to the composition and tasks of regional committees **will be further considered at next year's State Conference.**



Delegates at this year's conference

The Conference, from both an agenda and social perspective was a harmonious and positive gathering for the League in Victoria and all delegates were happy with the current structure and the informal supper on the evening of Day One was well received as was the early finish on the second Day. Sub-branch delegates also had the opportunity to meet the incoming National President Rear Admiral Ken Doolan and farewell Bill Crews after his outstanding period of service in that role.

### ANZAC House Volunteers

Our Librarian Fred Pratt has done a great job in 2009 of archiving our valuable primary source collection of papers, letters and photographs and making the space available in the collection area for a research/reading annex. His re-cataloguing and filing has put our collection on a sound basis for the future.

Keith Rossi our Branch Historian continues to provide invaluable insight and knowledge to so many enquiries seeking help with research and family stories, especially from the Second World War, and Chris Handley ensures our medal collection is well managed assists with medal mounting, replacements and other queries on related matters.

One area we continue to work on is developing more assistance and guidance to sub-branches with their memorabilia collections although Bruce

Shelton and Rob Ferguson already provide good support in the weapons area in this regard.

### Community Engagement

Two great examples of our delivery of RSL community objectives during the year have been in our Cadet Achievement Awards and our Branch wide sponsorship of needy children at a Portsea Summer Camp.

The Cadet services each identify their most outstanding Cadet and they are then formally recognised in the presence of the State Governor at our Remembrance Day Reception. The event is a great thrill for the young people involved and the Cadet staff and parents who attend. A further selection interview with the State President sees one of the three awarded a berth on the Young Endeavour training ship and the other two attend a leadership and teamwork activity week at the Lord Somers Camp on the Mornington Peninsula.

The successful Cadets in 2009 were:

Navy	Laura Muscat
Army	Andrew Wilson
Air Force	Angelika Schuck

with the Young Endeavour prize winner being Andrew Wilson.

This year over 70 children from around the State, from generally disadvantaged or needy backgrounds have been sponsored by local sub-branches to attend a summer holiday camp at Portsea. This is a great opportunity to promote the role of the RSL as a vital part of local communities and strengthen the existing links with schools and youth groups around the State. Many children affected by the bushfires also **attended this year's** camp and this reinforced the good work clearly done through the Relief Fund established earlier in the year.

The Victorian Branch looks forward to 2010 with confidence, having already addressed many areas where we knew needed to focus our effort in 2009/2010 while maintaining our core welfare, commemorative and education objectives in a contemporary way.

I would like to thank all the State Branch Staff for their professionalism and unstinting commitment to the League and its objectives in 2009 and also pay tribute to the many volunteers who work at ANZAC House who are an integral part of what we deliver and achieve and they remain a great inspiration.

# South Australian Branch Report

## Commemorations

The ANZAC Dawn Service continues to grow in popularity with the public. This year we had in excess of 6,000 in the City and another several thousand in the satellite areas. But the most heartening news is in the rural areas where literally entire communities are turning out for either the Dawn Service or the march. The ANZAC Committee made a few slight changes in the ceremonial routine for ANZAC Day services for 2010 which were developed with the RSM of the Central region in order to bring SA in line with the other states. We also added the New Zealand National Anthem in the Services again is to recognise that the ANZAC spirit is trans-Tasman!

The 2009 Remembrance Day Service was held in extremely hot weather at the War Memorial and, due to the heat, numbers were down. Next year we are looking to put up a marquee to ease the issues around the heat.

## Appeals

Work at the State Branch would not be possible without the support received from the ANZAC and Poppy Day Appeals. In 2009, well over 100 sub-branches participated in the Poppy Day Appeal and even more in the ANZAC Appeal. They were supported by businesses, schools and aged care facilities. They were also supported by a record number of sellers in the city including National Servicemen and current ADF personnel (mainly RAAF). The considerable support of the Women's Auxiliaries is also gratefully acknowledged.

## Headquarters

There are certainly some exciting developments to keep us all busy. Firstly we welcomed a new CEO Mrs Sam Jackman. Sam is ex-Navy and has come on board to move the RSL in our regions into the future. We also welcomed a new member of our staff here at the HQ. Wendy Rydon has come on board to assist in the Pensions and Welfare department. Wendy has a wealth of experience as a current serving Army Reserve Major; she is a qualified counsellor and has done a significant amount of work in the field of welfare.

## Ambassador Card

We provide the Ambassador card and all its associated benefits to our members at a cost of approximately \$50,000 per annum, please use it.

One of our members has reported that he pays \$70 per year in fees for both himself and his wife to be members of his sub-branch. He and his wife went to the Barossa Valley for a weekend and saved \$90 on his accommodation, just for one weekend. All benefits of the card are available to both Service and Affiliate members of the RSL. We have worked very hard at promoting these benefits but still find that very little is known about it.

## RSL SA/NT and Broken Hill Future

The RSL faces a number of challenges in the future as our veteran numbers decline. We need to adapt to the different needs and inspirations of the younger generations of veterans now being produced by the conflicts in East Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan.

We are currently looking to restructure the RSL SA State Executive. By changing the way we do business and modernising our business practices to enable us to attract the younger veterans, we will ensure the RSL continues after we are gone.

Our will take a holistic approach, by developing a plan which will include streamlining and rationalising the State Executive to try to work better within our regions, working to modernise our financial practises, and restructuring the headquarters along more functional lines. When would we like to do this? Well not in a big hurry, and not without a lot of consultation with people both inside and outside the organisation.

## The ADF

To improve the recruiting of ADF members we, along with the other state branches, have developed a Defence Online Sub-Branch which will enable our serving men and women, no matter where they are posted to around the country or the world, to become members of the RSL and remain informed of all the League has to offer. Defence has agreed to link the Defence Sub-Branch website to their intranet and the CDF has agreed to host the launch when the sub-branch is launched in early 2010.

## NT and ADF Members

The Northern Territory has one of the largest numbers of ADF personnel in one location, but has very few pension advocates. The State President has discussed this problem with Mr

Malcolm Uren, DVA Deputy Commissioner for Northern Territory.

The majority of claims lodged with DVA have been processed with no assistance of an ESO, the member has attempted to do this themselves. Whilst this is possible, it is not recommended.

One of the real problems for serving members is that our pension officers are in Darwin. SA State Branch has applied for BEST funding for a pension officer to work out of the Palmerston and Darwin North Sub-Branches. It will also be possible for the trained officer to visit serving members in their homes.

TIP Chairman, Mike Dennis MBE, along with 2 other members, conducted pension officer training courses in early March, with some of those trained being serving ADF members.

## Youth Programs

One of the programs run during the year to support our youth is the **Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize**, sponsored by the State Government. This year, the 6 selected High School students were escorted on a tour of the Western Front where they attended the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux.



We are hoping that the Government will expand this program to include a Remembrance Day activity that may include tours of the WW2 battle fields of the Pacific and Vietnam.

## Cadet of the Year

In November 2009, the RSL SA hosted the three winners of the RSL's **Cadet of the Year** program on a tour of Canberra including to the Australian War Memorial. All then attended the

Remembrance Service at the Cross of Sacrifice. All of the Cadets are a credit to the ADF Cadets and their generation. The financial support of the **Women's Auxiliaries** which makes the project possible is gratefully appreciated.

## Raise a Glass Appeal

The RSL and Legacy will be the beneficiaries of a promotion '**Raise a Glass Appeal**'; the promotion, run by Fosters, was held in the lead up to ANZAC Day.

The money received from this Appeal must be used for welfare purposes. The State Board has agreed to be involved in the promotion on the condition that any monies RSL SA Branch receive is used in programs for the treatment of alcohol and substance abuse.

The program run by The Royal Australian Regiment, "**Trojan's Trek**", is an ideal project for these funds to be used.

## Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) and Veterans Health Advisory Council (VHAC)

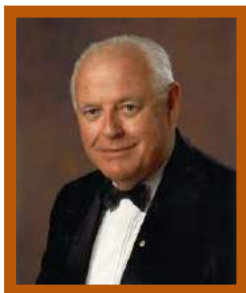
The membership of the VAC and VHAC have been announced and include a good representation of veterans and serving members. Issues arising at the Councils will be raised with the respective Ministers, the Hon Michael Atkinson MP, Minister for Veterans, and The Hon John Hill MP, Minister for Health.

## Flying Officer Michael Herbert Funeral

The return of Flying Officer Michael Herbert and Pilot Officer Robert Carver, missing since their aircraft went missing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1970, brought a final chapter to the Vietnam War, with **a big attendance at Michael's Memorial Service** held in Adelaide on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009.



# Western Australia Branch Report



Bill Gaynor  
State President

It is with pleasure the Western Australian Branch submits its Report for the year ended December 2009. The year under review has been highly successful in all areas of our involvement in veteran and community matters.

Highlights include:

- Our membership, both Service and Affiliate, has stabilised with a steady stream of new members joining.
- The opening of three new sub-branches – metropolitan and country areas.
- The servicing of veterans in need and necessitous circumstances is better focussed.
- Our Aged Care and Retirement Villages are in a growth phase.
- Our commemorative activities continue to attract large crowds.
- Support for our youth programs are expanding and well supported.
- Alliances with the corporate world and government have been mutually beneficial.
- Our relationship with Defence has shown RSL as a vital support element for ADF personnel and their families.

Our active involvement in veteran and community affairs presents RSL in WA as a leading community organisation worthy of the iconic status it commands.

The State President and the Executive Team are acknowledged as leaders in the community and through sensible and logical application of RSL Policy enjoy the respect of other community leaders, government and the corporate and business world.

## Welfare / Advocacy Restructure

The welfare of the veteran and his family was one **of the founding principles of the League's Charter** and today it still is the prime cause for our existence.

The recent review of welfare operations at State Branch resulted in significant changes to the manner in which Headquarters delivered welfare assistance to veterans. The changes have also impacted on sub-branch operations and generally have provided an enhanced method of attending to the needs of those seeking assistance.

**Funding sources for veterans' welfare is** generated by grants from Lotterywest, Burswood Casino, bequests and donations from supportive donors and from the Returned Sailors, Soldiers & **Airmen's Imperial League of Australia Trust Fund**. Allocations from these sources allow us to service the operations and fund veterans accordingly.

In the past year we have provided assistance and support to veterans and their families well in excess of \$150,000 and that is from State Branch Welfare operations only. Sub-branch distributions would swell that amount to well over \$200,000. We have observed that in the present economic climate demands on welfare funds are on the increase.

Collections from the Annual Poppy Day Appeal resource a large portion of our welfare operations at State Branch and the Amelioration Accounts at sub-branches allow for onsite welfare grants to be issued in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Fund Act.

A Compliance with the Requirements Survey by the State Trustees with a focus on the collection process and distribution criteria revealed some shortcomings in accountability and these issues are in the process of being addressed.

A positive outcome of the review was the encouragement of sub-branches to deal with their own welfare applications. Personal contact at the local level will allow support to be delivered to those in need in a caring and compassionate manner. As it is not always financial support that is required, immediate personal contact at the local level will always deliver a better understanding of the needs of the individual.

Our advocates continue to provide a first class service to veterans who seek their assistance. A highly trained small group of volunteers are rostered to provide a daily service that is used to capacity. This has resulted in a significant increase in the amount of advocacy work being undertaken by the Senior Advocate and volunteers operating out of ANZAC House. It appears this increase is occurring because a number of advocates either in the RSL or other

ex-service organisations are not available for consultation at the local level. Furthermore, active referrals from the DVA and TIP training obligations have added to the current situation. Our advocacy work has been extended to country and regional locations and regular visits by senior pension officers and advocates not only service veterans but provide a much needed mentor role for local practitioners.

To provide greater access to our advocacy services we have established Service Centres in key locations in the metropolitan area and they are staffed with trained officers. Initial reports indicate that these centres are proving popular with clients seeking initial consultations.

The requirement for those pension officers practicing under the RSL to undertake regular updates and re-accreditation has been well received as a necessary measure to ensure the quality of advice given is not compromised.

Advocacy has become more complex particularly with increasing **variations to operative veterans'** legislation, and therefore, the skills necessary to act in the best interests of the veteran need to be improved. The RSL is covered for insurance for any possible negligence claim made by a veteran but this insurance cover could be deemed invalid if a pension officer or advocate has not actioned accreditation renewal.

Thanks to various funding sources we have been able to undertake professional development of our staff, both paid and volunteers. This has provided skill training in claims associated with VEA, SRCA and MRCA. As younger veterans will come under the provisions of the new legislation we are now well positioned to offer such a service.

For the statistically minded, out of ANZAC House Pension and Advocacy Services in the last 12 months we received around 2,000 telephone calls - enquiries and assistance – and devoted some 5,000 man hours servicing veterans in their queries and claims.

## Veteran Affairs

**The Western Australian Veterans' Affairs** Committee has representation across all services and key ESOs and is effective as it undertakes a monitoring and initiative developing role on matters affecting the health and well being of veterans from all services and all conflicts. It has a strong perspective of the needs of various groups within the veteran community and is well

placed to initiate action to preserve the best interests of the veteran.

It is proactive in developing relationships with **officers of the Department of Veterans' Affairs** (DVA) and that has provided a valuable communications link that has facilitated the prompt resolution of problems.

Our members hold positions on consultative committees and have input to programs and processes that have been of benefit to both administration and the veteran.

There has been careful monitoring of the quality of health services offered to veterans and of the service delivery by DVA. Problems that have been encountered have been discussed and invariably promptly addressed.

**Through the State Veterans' Affairs Committee** we have input into the establishment of League priorities for budget consideration by government. For years the RSL has been actively lobbying for the Government to redress the many inequities **evident in veteran's welfare and usually through logically presented argument, we see significantly enhanced support to Australia's veteran community.**

Each year we find that at least five of our highest priority recommendations for inclusion in the budget are addressed. However, being mindful of the achievements realised through the collective endeavours of many ESOs, there are other issues that need to be dealt with and again, our input to **the National Veterans' Affairs Committee will** receive consideration as priorities are re-ordered for future budgets.

Since its inception the RSL has been the leading ESO serving Australian Defence Force (ADF). Our lead role in Transitional programs including the Integrated Personnel Support Program has formed a partnership that well services those exiting the services into the wider community.

## RSL Care WA

The RSL WA Retirement and Aged Care Association (Inc) trading as RSL Care WA is our agent in operating our Aged Care operations in WA and continues to service the needs of the veteran and wider community.

From its establishment in 2003 the entity has served its clients well but with unprecedented growth it became time to review its organisational and operational structures. This has resulted in a

new management structure and enhanced financial and operational accountability.

Development of the apartment block at the Menora Gardens has commenced and the Jurien Bay development is undergoing risk assessment procedures at this point in time.



Grandview Apartments, Menora Gardens

We believe we are acting responsibly in exercising caution and examining all risks prior to commencement of construction.

At our Meadow Springs Nursing Home we have been granted additional bed licences and planning is under way for a building program that will extend the nursing home to approximately a 100 bed facility.

Our Geraldton Village is also set for further development. We have been granted land adjacent to our existing Crown Grant and we plan to erect an additional 13 units. In the growing mid-west town there is a demand that needs to be satisfied.

The Aged Care industry is not just about residential and nursing homes. RSL Care WA is proactive in servicing veterans and the community through Home Care Packages in both country and metropolitan locations. The Geraldton Home Care packages operate from the Geraldton Village and the Eastern Hills Operations is centred on League owned premises in Kalamunda. With government aged care policy moving in that direction we are keen to see we are looking after our aged veterans in their homes wherever we can.

## Finance

Due to the changed financial reporting period we are again not in a position to present the audited annual financial report at State Congress. This obligatory requirement was met by holding a Special General Meeting to deal with this matter. To overcome this problem State Executive has

resolved that future State Congress will be held in October each year.

**The League's financial position is sound and** considering the current economic climate that is a great achievement. The Finance and Audit Committee constantly reviews income and expenditure profiles and have closely monitored all League financial operations.

The Branch is in receipt of financial grants that assist state and sub-branches. Through the generosity of Lotterywest, DVA, the ANZAC Working Committee and our valued sponsors we are able to support our many veteran and community activities. All these bodies value the sacrifices and contribution veterans have made for their country and are always willing to support needy causes.

## ANZAC Club

Operations at the ANZAC Club continue to improve with increased patronage both from members and the corporate world. Positive comments on the quality of service provided and the enhanced environment are a regular feature of feedback received. The increased use of the facility has, at times, placed a strain on available resources but through negotiation we have generally been able to satisfy all clients, members and association groups.

Staffing ANZAC Club has proved a challenge with staff in the hospitality industry in constant demand, but I am confident our current team, headed by Matthew Holyday, will serve you for quite some time to come. It has been a hard task but the **ANZAC Club's financial position has shown** a marked improvement with operational percentages moving closer to industry standards.

## Membership

State Branch membership is stable at around 12,000 members including affiliates. There is a steady stream of new members that more than compensate for losses through the passing of our Second World War veterans. We have a well resourced and aggressive recruitment program and this is paying dividends, particularly in country regions.

**The concept of 'Post Box Sub-Branches' has** prevented the closure of smaller sub-branches due to declining numbers and this format will see an RSL presence retained in the regional areas. A further refinement of this operation has emerged with larger nearby sub-branches offering

administrative support to their neighbouring struggling sub-branch.

We will continue to exercise every option available to us to attend to the welfare needs of veterans living in country locations and that appropriate commemorative services are conducted in cities and towns throughout Western Australia under RSL guidance.

Our educational, recruiting and welfare trailer, proudly sponsored by Hollywood Private Hospital and the Australian Defence Credit Union, has been completely refurbished and is a useful resource available to sub-branches, schools and communities to promote the RSL and to provide an educational resource for veteran activities. Visits to country schools and local shows have presented the trailer as a great educational tool with sub-branches capitalising on its value as a membership recruiting tool.

## Marketing

Our marketing strategies are producing valued alliances with sponsors and the community. Our sponsorship program has enabled our supporters to obtain a better understanding of the objects of the League and this in turn has encouraged them to promote the work we do with veterans and our community development projects.

The support we enjoy through our membership value added discounts is recognition by them of our standing in the community.

Still building on the outcomes of our research into member satisfaction survey conducted by Curtin University we have endeavoured to satisfy as many of the identified areas of concern as possible – and, I believe, there is strong member support for our programs generated by their responses.

Our supporters are more than willing to be associated with that great Australian icon, the RSL, and sub-branches have formed strategic alliances to further that partnership. The obvious point of all our marketing effort is to increase the profile of the League and provide a support base for assisting us to provide welfare services and fellowship opportunities to our members.

## Defence – ADF Support

The Defence Committee has been restructured with a more focussed role that encompasses deliberations on Defence issues, homeland security and other related topics. It now covers

recruiting, retention and conditions of service as well as personnel support programs offered to members taking discharge from the ADF.

The Committee has produced a comprehensive matrix that outlines the full range of benefits and entitlements available to members discharging from the ADF together with strategies for accessing such benefits. This document will soon be published and should prove a valuable guide to those requiring such information.

The related issue of the ongoing enquiry into conditions of service in the ADF is also being monitored and reported on regularly to members. Issues relating to deployment of reservists are being investigated and, where appropriate, **concerns channelled through our Veterans' Affairs Committee.**

The RSL, at all levels, continues to support our Defence Force personnel, both those on deployment and in reserve. Sub-branches in close proximity to Defence Force bases have established supportive relationships with personnel and their families and honour that commitment when troops are on deployment. The WA State Branch financially supports the Australian Forces Overseas Fund that regularly sends gift parcels to our troops on deployment. From all reports received from overseas troops, this gesture is very much appreciated.

## Communications

Effective communication is essential in any **organisation. Our flagship publication is 'The Listening Post' that is posted direct to all financial members six times a year.** It has recently been upgraded to a 32 page newspaper style production and is a vehicle not only for State Branch to communicate to the membership but also for sub-branches to communicate with each other. The editorial team, under the editorial guidance of Denis Connelly, is constantly reviewing the effectiveness of the publication and is most responsive to suggestions that make it more relevant to the members.

Sub-branches and Unit & Kindred Associations **receive the monthly newsletter 'The Sub-Branch Signal.'** This keeps those who attend sub-branch meetings informed on the activities of State Executive and the Board of Directors with respect to policy and other matters affecting the day to day running of the Branch.

Our website has taken on a new look. A commercial group have rebuilt the site and it is now fully operational. Those with the internet are

able to gain direct access to material that often took a long time to obtain. It has proved its worth in membership on-line renewals and well as disseminating operational information such as ANZAC Day arrangements.

Our most recent communication method is by our weekly radio program. In association with community broadcaster Capital Radio 90.5FM we host a program aptly titled – The Listening Post. It is a three-hour program that goes to air each Thursday from noon to 3pm. Public feedback to the presentation style and content has been most encouraging.

However, I am convinced that the best communication is through a personal approach. State Executive members have personally visited many country sub-branches. We have now visited, at least once in the past two years all regions and, time and funding permitting, we expect return visits in the near future. The warmth of the welcome and the diverse range of issues discussed certainly gave the Executive a greater insight to how the RSL operates in regional Western Australia.

Our Communications Director has responded well to requests for assistance from sub-branches and is currently working through issues with a number of groups to solve administration and operational issues.

### Corporate Alliances

The research links we have with Curtin University has produced the launch of the first edition of **"Remembering the Wars"** – a guide to War Memorials in Western Australia and how to determine the historic link to the families whose relatives appear on town War Memorials. The initial production run has been used and shortly an updated version will be released.

In the course of this project it became evident that the records of the RSL at both state and sub-branch tell a story of the development of our state from the perspective of one of the largest community organisations in the country. Realising that unless some action was taken to research and preserve the documented history a vital link with the past will be lost.

With a significant grant from the ANZAC Day Small Grants Scheme we have been fortunate in funding a project that will facilitate the research and preservation of RSL History. This project will involve sub-branches and local communities where there were sub-branches. An archivist has been employed and is currently sifting through

the mountain of material and placing it in order ready for display and presentation. Sub-branches are involved in this exciting project as are individual members, many of whom possibly have irreplaceable memorabilia in their possession.

Corporate alliances have been established with many business entities who have pledged support in the conduct of our activities. Their valued support has boosted fundraising and assisted in the maintenance of premises, particularly in country locations.

The 'Raise a Glass' fundraising project conducted by Fosters over the ANZAC Day period was well received by members and the wider community. The beneficiaries of the campaign were the RSL and Legacy and recently we received just on \$30,000 as our share of the proceeds. This amount will be applied to our RSL welfare programs.

Australian Defence Credit Union have always enjoyed a strong relationship with the veteran community and shortly will be working with the State Branch to further service RSL members by opening an agency in ANZAC House.

### Commemorative Services

The State War Memorial continues to be the principal place for RSL commemorative services. Apart from the RSL conducted ANZAC Day Dawn Service and Remembrance Day Service the War Memorial and its precinct are used by ex-service organisations and community groups to honour their fallen. With the assistance of the Warden, Deputy Warden and Sub-Wardens all user groups receive valued assistance in the conduct of services which are in keeping with established protocols.



ANZAC Day March

ANZAC Day Services continue to be well supported with reported increases in attendances throughout the State. In Perth it was estimated



that over 45,000 were in attendance at the Kings Park ANZAC Day Dawn Service and up to 50,000 attended the March through the city and the service on the Perth Esplanade. The pleasing feature is the family participation that is emerging. If this trend continues the future of ANZAC Day as a time when we can honour our fallen is assured.

From reports received we note that increased attendance at ANZAC Day Services was a pattern throughout Western Australia. This, no doubt, is part of the greater community awareness and the media promotion it receives will further encourage the community to honour our fallen as we move towards the Centenary of the Gallipoli Landing in 2015.

The generous local community support and the financial assistance from Lotterywest in funding ANZAC Day services, not only in Perth but also in regional areas are acknowledged. In particular, 2009 **Lotterywest's commitment to further** enhance services by funding gunfire breakfasts in Perth and regional areas is a most welcome gesture that is proving very popular in drawing communities together at this time of remembrance.

The support given to schools and community groups by sub-branches is also acknowledged. That support is valued by the younger generation who have a thirst for knowledge of the sacrifices made by their parents and grandparents in the defence of their country.

The interest in commemorative services reflects a growing support for our past and present servicemen and women. The increase in attendance at almost every service we conduct indicates that this interest will continue well into the future. With the centenary of the Gallipoli Landing in 2015 we can expect a significant increase in support for our services. Obviously we can not do this by ourselves and the direction we must take is to further engage our local communities in the presentation of the services. The expectation will be that ESOs and community partnerships will be formed for the presentation of such services.

## Sub-Branches

The heart of our organisation is our 134 sub-branches. They all do a magnificent job in servicing the needs of the veteran. They are, in turn, supported by interest groups that have undertaken the **RSL's commemoration role** in small rural communities where there were once sub-branches. These groups are taking up the

important role of remembering the sacrifices made by veterans in the defence of our country.

We regularly receive contacts from members about establishing new sub-branches or reforming ones that have closed or are in recess. We are pleased to note that Walpole and Halls Creek Sub-Branches will come out of recess and present a strong RSL image in their respective towns. We are also pleased to see the amalgamation of the Belmont and Rivervale-Carlisle Sub-Branches to form a stronger City of Belmont Sub-Branch.

RSL caters for all veterans of all conflicts and our Charter requires us to service veterans whether they are members or not. On that basis our work is truly humanitarian. Our sub-branches are the public face of the RSL and I am proud of the manner in which our organisation presents itself in the community.

Many sub-branches have promoted the enrolment of Affiliates to boost their numbers. This is a positive step in securing the future of the League as these persons can bring administrative expertise to the sub-branch and take a share of the workload in running the sub-branch. As the number of Affiliates in sub-branches continues to grow we need to give them due recognition for the contribution they make to the RSL. They play a major role in the operation of small sub-branches and this needs to be encouraged, and furthermore recognised.

Working in association with sub-branches are the **ladies of the Women's Auxiliary**. Although diminishing in numbers they still fulfil a vital role in our organisation. At many sub-branches they still have significant influence in attending to social and welfare needs of members and as well as visiting our elderly and sick veterans. They regularly contribute financially to RSL operations and their work is valued and very much appreciated.

Men in Sheds is another program that has been embraced by sub-branches and local communities. The RSL has been proactive in establishing relationships to develop centres where men can engage in vocational and social activities and share knowledge and expertise for the benefit of peers.

On the governance and administration of sub-branches, the State Branch is preparing documentation for the establishment of incorporated licensed sub-branches. This exercise is being undertaken to protect assets as well as providing groups with the opportunity for self government. To assist in the transition State

Branch, in association with the peak Licensed Clubs organisation, is holding training courses to ensure the success of the initiative.

## State Branch

The appointment of Mr Kevin Davidson MVO OAM as CEO/State Secretary together with the restructure of our accounting services to separate RSL operations and RACA Financial and Corporate Sections significantly altered our staff profile. This has enabled each section to focus better on their respective core business and deliver an improved quality of service to sub-branches and members. With these new structures in place we will further reduce the response time to member queries and improve the quality of advice given on specific matters.

The Library facility is now available to members and is open on Thursdays for research and general perusal of the collection; however, in the interests of preserving our collection it is a Reference Library - not a lending library.

## National RSL

The Canberra based The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited is our parent body. It meets quarterly and is the policy making group of the organisation. Through its various sub committees it is active in attending to veteran affairs matters with government. Its professional approach to issues is its strength and in this manner it invariably produces good outcomes.

We acknowledge the strong leadership shown by our recently elected National President Rear **Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Ret'd)**. It has been consistent and strong and through his endeavours good outcomes have already been achieved for veterans.

The work of our retired National President, Maj-Gen Bill Crews AO, must not be forgotten. He achieved much for the League and the veteran community. He was the cornerstone of the negotiations that led to upgrades to many of the entitlements and benefits veterans now enjoy. He was an active participant on many committees and review groups that have examined the health and well being of veterans. All of which have served to enhance the quality of life for veterans.

## Congress 2009

Congress 2009 authorised the State Executive to review the overall organisation of future Annual General Meetings and Congresses. For many

years we have had the current traditional format and it became time to investigate whether we are conducting Congress in the most appropriate way. In particular were we covering all the statutory requirements of an Annual General Meeting and **communicating the League's activities to the membership** in a clear and concise manner. With a marked shift in emphasis from Congress Motions it is obvious we must look at making the best use of time and in doing so ensure the membership has adequate time to debate issues that are of concern to them.

With the quarterly cycling of Congress motions to National Executive we will see fewer motions appear on the notice paper for our annual meeting therefore that will create a significant void in the Congress program. The State Executive will be considering the Congress 2010 format over the coming months and expect to announce the revised format early in 2010.

## Scholarships and Awards

The Membership and Youth Committee oversees the Cadet of the Year Program and the Cadet Efficiency Trophy.

The Cadet of the Year Program enabled three Service cadets to participate in the 2009 Quiet Lion Tour to the Thai Burma Death Railway. While the overseas visit proved popular with the cadets it did present many administrative problems. In an initiative to develop leadership skills in young people and to present young people with a challenge we will, in future, offer as the award to the winners leadership training on STS LEEUWIN.



Cadet of the Year Winners

The financial support from Hollywood Private Hospital, sub-branches and the interest shown by numerous local supporters of the initiative continues to underpin the success of the program.

The Cadet Efficiency Trophy which is financially supported by Australian Defence Credit results in the award of a perpetual and annual shield to the

most efficient Navy, Army and Air Force Cadet Unit in Western Australia together with a cheque for \$1,000 to each of the winning Units.

The RSL values the contribution the Cadet movement makes to the youth of our state and is a willing supporter of rewarding excellence in achievement.

In association with the Australia Day Council we continue to acknowledge excellence within our organisation. Annual Australia Day Awards are made by RSL WA in three categories and are becoming a feature of our recognition program. The Awards are for a Corporate Group that supports veterans, a sub-branch that is proactive in fulfilling its Charter obligations and to an individual who has served the veteran community well above normal expectations.



State President Bill Gaynor OAM RFD  
& Award Winner Marija Jelavic

## 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:

- To provide focus on our welfare and advocacy services for veterans with an emphasis on outreach initiatives;
- An extensive review of our aged care operations to ensure they meet the need of our members;
- Promotion of commemorative activities associated with Gallipoli 100;
- Plan for the future financial viability of the State Branch;
- Continuation of strong alliances with corporate entities;
- Establish positive relationships with all ESOs;
- Support 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 are thanked for keeping our country sub-branches in touch with the wider RSL family.

The work done by our administration element under the leadership of CEO, Kevin Davidson MVO OAM is acknowledged. The work done at the aged care facility as well as Headquarters remains focussed and has contributed greatly to the period of stability we are now enjoying.

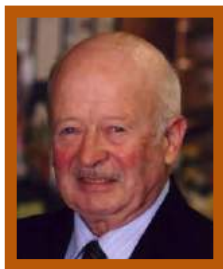
The Branch further acknowledges the support given to the League by our Patron, Dr Ken Michael AC Governor of Western Australia. His Excellency is a willing participant in League activities and we value his patronage. We take this opportunity to wish, His Excellency & Mrs Michael well for the future.

## Conclusion

The State Branch is in a healthy state. It is well administered and enjoys the commitment of a dedicated group of willing workers. We still have challenges ahead but with the determination of elected representatives and the support of the sub-branches there is a bright future for the League.

WILLIAM E. GAYNOR OAM RFD  
State President

# Tasmanian Branch Report



Bill Kaine MBE  
State President

## State Branch Headquarters

During the year we continued to receive great support from our counterparts in the larger states. Again this year we were supported by our State Government when, in the State Budget, \$100,000 dollars was allocated to RSL (Tasmania Branch) to assist in maintaining the objects of the League here in Tasmania. In the latter part of the year we commenced a lengthy project to ensure that all our sub-branches adopt a standard constitution and are tax compliant.

It is anticipated that this project will not be completed until late 2010. The overall result will be that the League in Tasmania will have a sound administrative footing on which to carry itself well into the future. With this achievement comes the responsibility for the State Branch to be across the workings of our licensed sub-branches in all aspects of human resources, licensing and gaming and all other associated staffing and corporate issues which is part of their day to day operations. To this end we will be looking to employ a Commercial Manager during 2010.

## State Congress

State Congress was this year was held in the north west of the State at Smithton and was officially opened by Major General Bill Crews AO (Retd). Recognized for their service to the RSL and the veteran community were:

### Meritorious Service Medal

Mr Raynard (Ricky) Bott OAM

### Life Membership

Glenn Cash	Launceston Sub-branch
William Deverall	Penguin Sub-branch
Peter Martin	Kingston Beach Sub-branch
Terrence McKenna	Penguin Sub-branch
Colin Smee	Beaconsfield Sub-branch
Peter Woolford	Primrose Sands Sub-branch

Sub-branch Charters were presented to the Zeehan Sub-Branch and the Queenstown Sub-Branch.

## Membership

We now have 80% of our sub-branches operating off the online membership database with constant training in place as new people come on committees. Our membership in Tasmania remains constant with an increase in Affiliate membership prominent during the year.

## The Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize

The Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize is a joint initiative of RSL (Tasmania) and the State Government of Tasmania.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at Ogilvie High School in Hobart, the Premier of Tasmania, the Hon David Bartlett MP announced the winners of the 2009 Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize.

**This year's** winners were:

Louis Coad	(Clarence High)
Samantha Flight	(Wynyard High)
Jess Hawtree	(Rose Bay High)
Thomas McNamara	(Launceston Church Grammar School)
Rebecca Northrop	(Riverside High)
Michael Willis	(Scottsdale High)



Left to right:  
Louis Coad, Jess Hawtree, Michael Willis, Samantha Flight, Thomas McNamara and Rebecca Northrop.

The six year nine student winners will tour Gallipoli in April/May 2010 and attend the ANZAC Dawn Service. They will then go on to tour of the battlefields of the Western Front through Belgium and France and will follow many of the footsteps of Frank MacDonald MM. **Australia's oldest World War I** veteran and its last surviving serviceman to have been cited for bravery in that war, Frank died on

23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2003 in Burnie, Tasmania. He was 107.

We remain grateful to the State Government for their continued support to the Memorial prize which is a major youth activity for RSL (Tasmania) and is one of the very best ways we can achieve our objects in ensuring that the memory, courage and spirit of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice is never forgotten. These six students, like those fortunate young winners who have gone before them will return from their tour with a strong understanding and respect for our military heritage and become great ambassadors for their schools and the RSL. Each winning student has their name engraved on a perpetual shield which is then displayed in their school for the following 12 months.

# Australian Capital Territory Branch Report



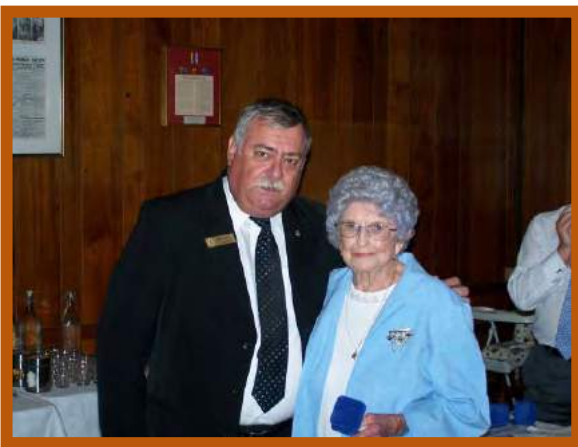
ACT President  
Mr John King

The Branch President from January-June 2009 was LTCOL John Merrick (Retd). At the conclusion of the Branch Congress Mr John King assumed the Presidency.

## Australia Day Medallions

The Australia Day Council provided the Branch with three Australia Day Medallions to be presented to three worthy members of the Branch. These were presented to the following members at a special morning tea at the Canberra Services Club, Manuka:

- Sam Fein, Belconnen Sub-Branch;
- Edna Hillier, Barton-Capital Sub-Branch; and
- John Kent, Woden Valley Sub-Branch



Mrs Edna Hillier of Barton-Capital Sub-Branch receiving her Australia Day medallion from Mr John King

## Commemorative Events

The Branch continues to organise and participate in national and local events. The premier event is the ceremonies associated with ANZAC Day.

### Pre ANZAC Day

The Australian War Memorial and the Department of Veterans' Affairs jointly provided a special wreath laying day prior to ANZAC Day for persons unable to attend on the actual day. Special buses were provided and special seating was arranged

to accommodate the elderly and infirm. This pre ANZAC Day ceremony is always well attended and supported by the many aged care homes within the ACT and local area.

### ACT Schools ANZAC Ceremonies

The Branch involvement in ACT school based ceremonies has grown in the last 12 months.

The Woden Valley Sub-Branch organised a special ANZAC and Peace ceremony for school children and members of the Woden Valley environs. The occasion was a splendid success attended by a record number of student and locals.

The Tuggeranong Sub-Branch was invited by the Richardson School in the Tuggeranong Valley to participate in their ceremony which allowed a number of the sub-branch veterans to mix with the students and parents, and relate personal experiences during their service.

### Dawn Service

The Branch conducted a very successful Dawn Service in conjunction with the Australian War Memorial. The ceremony followed the protocol of previous years with the laying of wreaths by the Military Attaché from the New Zealand High Commission and a veteran selected from the Hellenic Sub-Branch, representing the Branch. The Australian Federal Police Pipes and Drums again provided a piper **to play the Piper's Lament**. As in previous years a Junior Legatee read the **poem 'In Flanders Field'**. As well, the Branch President read the ANZAC Dedication and the **Branch Deputy President recited the 'The Ode'**. The Australian Broadcasting Commission broadcast the ceremony live on radio and television.

The Branch would like to sincerely thank the New Zealand High Commission, the Australian War Memorial, the Australian Federal Police Pipes and Drums, Legacy and the Australian Broadcasting Commission for their continued support for this most important ceremony.

The Branch also would like to pass on its sincere appreciation to the Dawn Service Coordinator Vice-President Jan Paulga for all the time and effort he put in to seeing this ceremony through to success.

## ANZAC Day March

The ANZAC Day march, organised by the Branch, was once again an outstanding success. The weather remained reasonable for the many dignitaries, veterans, families and friends who turned out to cheer on those able to march up ANZAC Parade to the ceremonial grounds of the Australian War Memorial.

The Branch would like to sincerely thank the ANZAC March Coordinator, Mr Derek Roylance AM and Senior Parade Marshal, Mr Kevin Noon CSM, for the continued time and effort they give for this truly important occasion.

In addition, the Branch would like to express its appreciation to the Chairman, Director and the staff of the Australian War Memorial for their kind assistance to make the march a success. The Branch members truly appreciate the seating arrangements provided by the Memorial as none of us get any younger and can no longer remain "on parade" as we did when we were younger.

## Embassy of France – ANZAC Day Service

At the conclusion of the ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, the Ambassador of France held a service in the grounds of the Embassy to commemorate the special bond between France and Australia. The Branch President was invited to lay a wreath and deliver a formal address to the invited guests. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Ambassador invited guests to the Embassy residence for a formal reception.

## Other Commemorative Events

Throughout the year the Branch participated in numerous commemorative events in the ACT and local area. Of note is the Prize Giving and Graduation Parades of the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College, Duntroon where the Branch offers support in the manner of book prizes to a student from each institution. The Branch and Sub-Branches will continue to support events and local institutions within the ACT and local area.

## Branch Congress

The ACT Branch Congress was held at the Hellenic Club, Woden on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The opening of the Congress was preceded by a memorial service and wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Australian War Memorial.



MAJGEN Bill Crews AO (Retd), National President and LTCOL John Merrick (Retd) laying wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Australian War Memorial

The Congress was opened by the National President, Major-General Bill Crews, AO (Retd) and was attended by the Hon Alan Griffin, MP, **Minister for Veterans' Affairs**, Mrs Louise Markus MP, **Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs**, Major-General David McLachlan AO (Retd), Victorian State President of the RSL, Mr Ian Campbell PSM, **Secretary, Department of Veterans' Affairs** together with other distinguished guests.

The Branch was fortunate to have two overseas members from the Port Moresby Sub-Branch, President Joe Filippi, DMS and Secretary Mick Pye attending the Congress.

## Branch Executive

The following members were announced as being elected to the Executive as follows:

Branch President	Mr John King
Dpty Branch President	Mrs June Healy OAM
Vice President	Mr David Millar
Vice President	Mr Jan Paulga
Vice President	Mr Bruce Tunnah OAM
Branch Treasurer	Mr Mickey Michaelis
Assistant Secretary	Mr Paul Bohun

## League Awards

The following were presented with League Awards and Certificates by the National President, Major-General Bill Crews:

### Life Membership

- Ian John Gollings AM  
(Woden Valley Sub-Branch)
- Thomas Herbert Roberts  
(Campbell-Russell Sub-Branch)

Long Service Award  
Anthony Patrick Ablong  
(City of Canberra)  
Neville Frederick Funnell  
(Belconnen Sub-Branch)  
Raymond Joseph Jenkins  
(City of Canberra)  
Robert Malcolm Thomson  
(Gungahlin Sub-Branch)

Certificate of Appreciation  
Nadia Blackley  
(ACT Senior Concert Band)  
Clive Mitchell-Taylor JP  
(Barton-Capital Sub-Branch)  
Robert Noel Bell  
(Woden Valley Sub-Branch)  
Ella Campbell  
(Woden Valley Sub-Branch)  
Keith Maxwell Cossart  
(Woden Valley Sub-Branch)  
Merna Gillard  
(Woden Valley Sub-Branch)  
Neil Horn  
(Woden Valley Sub-Branch)  
June McQuinn  
(Woden Valley Sub-Branch)  
Angela Muir  
(Woden Valley Sub-Branch)  
Peter Muir  
(Woden Valley Sub-Branch)  
Kenneth Francis Neil  
(Woden Valley Sub-Branch)  
Louis Donald Wallington  
(Woden Valley Sub-Branch)  
ACT PA Hire - presented after the Congress.

## Membership

During the year membership has shown a continued steady slow growth, with a particular emphasis on Affiliate memberships.

## Welfare and Advocacy

Arthur and Kathleen Craig have continued their dedicated support to assist all applicants, members or not with their claims and submissions to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

## Finance

The Branch financial position remains strong in spite of the economic downturn. Predictions that the Branch would be in a difficult position due to a possible reduction in public donations did not materialise. The Branch recorded a slight increase in most sub-branch collections from

ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day fund raising activities.

## Overseas Sub-Branches

The Branch has four overseas sub-branches namely, in PNG, Port Moresby; the Philippines, Subic Bay and Angeles City; and USA, Washington. These sub-branches, particularly in PNG and the Philippines, are doing excellent work to assist ex-patriot veterans with their issues. Also there is much being done to assist the local communities in the areas of education, health and minor construction of civic facilities.

## Note of Appreciation

As with most organisations nothing is achieved without the tireless efforts of a small group of dedicated people. Firstly, I offer thanks and deep appreciation to the National President, RADM Ken Doolan, AO, (Retd) and the National Secretary Mr Derek Robson, AM, for their efforts in providing guidance and mentoring. Also to the staff at the National Headquarters who are ever cheerful and provide excellent support whenever requested by Branch.

Sincere thanks and appreciation is also given to the small but very dedicated members who carry out the Branch operations with extreme efficiency given the minimum resources available to them. Many thanks to the Office Manager Mr Dave Mills, our advocate Mr Arthur Craig, OAM and Pensions Officer Mrs Kathleen Craig for their efforts on behalf of the membership.

I would also like to record a note of appreciation to the members of the Branch Executive who have provided me with sterling support and who give their time freely on behalf of the membership.

## Conclusion

I have found it a pleasure and an honour to serve the Branch as its President. I look forward to progressing the changes that are happening within the League and the challenges those changes will bring to the Branch.

JOHN KING  
Branch President



# National Conditions of Service Committee Report

The Conditions of Service Committee continues to monitor the situation into both the Review of Military Superannuation (still with Government awaiting decision) and the Indexation of Military Superannuation Pensions. In relation to the latter the outcomes of the Matthews Review were most disappointing and unsatisfactory – this issue will be further progressed in 2010 in consultation with the National Executive and National President.

The principal activity of the Conditions of Service Committee over 2009 has been the monitoring of current entitlements and projected changes in relation to:

- ADF Relocations, Removals and Housing
- ADF Transition Management
- ADF Bereavement Support

The committee received briefings from appropriate senior ADF and civilian officers within the Department of Defence on these issues, at which concerns raised through RSL Branches and committee member personal channels were presented and discussed.

The Chairman of the Conditions of Service Committee, in his Air Force Reserve capacity formed part of the Defence Tender Evaluation

Team which analysed and reported upon the re-tender of the ADF Relocations and Removals tenders. The outcome of this process has been announced by Defence with Toll Holdings being the successful tenderer for all ADF Relocation & Removals services from mid year 2010.

In addition, the Chairman of the Conditions of Service Committee continues to intervene at Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) matters on behalf of both the League and the Defence Force Welfare Association. The principal DFRT issues in this year included the finalisation of the Graded Pay Structure. All ranks other than those in Specialist Pay Structures (Medical, Chaplain, and Legal) now have a graded pay structure within which any applications for **revised placement for a 'trade group' will be** considered by the DFRT.

The major DFRT issue for 2010 will be a comprehensive Review of Salary Related Allowances to be conducted by Defence. The League hopes to be involved in the iterative process of this Review.

PHIL MORRALL  
Chairman

# Youth, Heritage and Citizenship Committee Report

The Youth, Heritage and Citizenship Committee (YHC) did not meet during the year, although the Chairman, Brigadier John Moyle (Retd), continues to represent the RSL on the Simpson Prize Advisory Committee. The Simpson Prize, sponsored by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and

**Department of Veterans' Affairs, provides for an** expenses paid trip for a secondary student from each State and Territory each year to the ANZAC Day Ceremony at Gallipoli.

JOHN MOYLE  
Chairman

# National Defence Committee Report

## General

The most significant event of the year domestically was the production of the Defence White Paper in May. The paper projects forward to the year 2030 and proposes a comprehensive expansion of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in that period. It also analyses the strategic situations that Australia **will face with particular emphasis on China's** economic and potential military influence. While the United States of America (USA) will remain the dominant military power in the world, the capacity of China to project power, particularly in the Pacific will grow. While the document can be legitimately criticised, particularly with regard to the lack of clarity in financial aspects, it has generally been accepted with remarkably little opposition, either politically or by the community in general.

Internationally, apart from Iraq and Afghanistan, the three most serious trouble spots remain North Korea, Iran and Pakistan, all of which present significant threats to the West and the world, for varying reasons.

## North Korea

In April, North Korea announced that it was expelling UN nuclear weapons inspectors and was resuming its nuclear program. Whether this was in **retaliation for the West's criticism of its launch of a rocket** which it said was a test of a potential nuclear weapon and Korea maintained was for the purpose of launching a satellite, or as an excuse to resume nuclear testing, was unclear. In any case, a new nuclear test was carried out in May of what appears to be a plutonium bomb, which together with the belief that North Korea possesses five to ten nuclear devises has heightened tensions. Subsequently, belligerent official statements have done nothing to lessen apprehension in the West. In June, the US Defence Secretary stated that his country was well prepared to counter any moves by North Korea against US or South Korean interests. While generally the belief is that Pyongyang would not be foolish enough to use nuclear weapons, the possibility cannot be absolutely eliminated. It would appear, however, that much of the posturing from North Korea is more designed to gain economic concessions from the US, and for internal political reasons, rather than to create a military confrontation.

## Iran

Iran continues to pursue its nuclear ambitions, although in contrast to western beliefs, she claims

they are for peaceful purposes only. The main cause for concern is that Israel may act **unilaterally to destroy Iran's nuclear** capability, if that is possible, if she believes that Iran presents a real threat to her existence. While the elections in June in Iran prove that there is considerable opposition to the hard line regime, it is unlikely that **country's attitude to Israel and the West will** change in the short term.

This attitude was confirmed towards the end of the year as the Iranian government rebuffed all approaches from the USA and the European Union (EU) to open up its nuclear facilities to international inspection and continued to crack down on mounting internal unrest.

## Pakistan

The situation in Pakistan has deteriorated over the last few months and is inextricably linked to the situation in Afghanistan and hence to Australian and western interests in general. The West cannot allow Pakistan to revert to Taliban control, due to the inevitable consequences for Afghanistan and also to the fact that Pakistan has nuclear weapons.

In April, it was reported that Taliban elements had extended effective control of territory in the north west to within 100 kilometres of Islamabad. The US expressed alarm at this development and the consequences for the Pakistani government and it would appear issued an ultimatum for it to take aggressive action. The government responded with a major military offensive to regain control which has apparently been largely successful. Although control has been re-established, vast numbers of refugees have resulted with much destruction and civilian loss of life. Whether control will be permanent depends on the willingness of the government and the military to remain in the contested areas. If not, the situation may deteriorate again. In June, the Government announced that the campaign would be extended to the tribal areas of Waziristan, indicating a degree of resolution which has not been apparent in the past. The success of this campaign can be gauged by the upsurge in terrorist activity towards the end of the year, when military, police and civilian facilities were targeted in the major population centres in retaliation.

## Afghanistan

The Australian commitment to Afghanistan remains with the Australian Reconstruction Task Force (RTF) comprising engineers and infantry, the Special Operations Task Group of Commandos and SAS and an RAAF Radar Surveillance Unit providing the main elements. Additionally, Chinooks from 5 Aviation Regiment operate in the province of Kandahar supporting a Coalition force, and Australian gunners continue attachments to British artillery regiments, together with a training team element dedicated to training the Afghan Army.

Recently, NATO developed a Comprehensive Strategic Military Plan for the prosecution of the war in Afghanistan and the US and Britain followed through on upgrading troop numbers, with the US increasing its contingent by 30,000 over time. As a result of US pressure, Australia announced that it would increase its troop numbers by 450 by the end of the year. The additional force numbers will **increase Australia's total contribution to Afghanistan** to approximately 1550 ADF personnel. This increase represents an easily sustainable contribution while allowing for some expansion of current operations. The focus of the increase is in more effectively training and mentoring the Afghan National Army (ANA). The increased contribution is made up of two additional Operational Mentor and Liaison teams (OMLTS) of approximately 100 personnel each, approximately 70 additional personnel to the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force and an additional 70 personnel to the embedded staff. As well, 40 more engineers will be included as will an Election Support Force of 120, together with logistic and transport specialists and an extra C130 aircraft.

The Government announced that it would remain committed to Afghanistan until the Army had trained a full Afghan brigade. Whether this can be taken as an end point in our commitment or not remains to be seen, as any end point should be more related to the situation at the time rather than any arbitrary event. The situation has been complicated by the fact that the Netherlands has announced that she will withdraw her contingent in August 2010. Currently the Dutch train one rifle battalion in the same brigade as Australia and one service support battalion, as well as providing numerous combat and combat service support to the Australians, while Australia trains one battalion and a combat support battalion. At present, no country has announced that it will fill this gap. If no country comes forward, the problem will inevitably revert to the Americans. **In the RSL's view, Australia could and should** take over this responsibility as a minimum. Overall the situation in Afghanistan is fragile and any ultimate success will necessarily include a non corrupt and stable government, economic development on an

unprecedented scale, together with a security situation in which the Taliban are eliminated as an effective and influential force. Whether the West in general has the long term commitment, only time will tell.

## Iraq

On the eve of the federal budget, the Department of Defence announced that Australia would conclude its military commitment to Iraq on 31 July, ending a six year involvement. The Australian Security Detachment (SECDET) which guards diplomats and other officials will remain indefinitely.

The situation in Iraq with regard to general security has markedly improved over the last year, but there was a worrying increase in indiscriminate terror attacks against Iraqi civilians in the middle of the year, to test the Iraqi Army and police as the Americans gradually withdraw from an active role in the cities. Although the government appears comparatively stable, successful elections have been held and the economy is improving, the situation is by no means without short term risks.

## The White Paper – Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century

The long awaited Defence White Paper was brought down by the Government in May. This comprehensive document seeks to define the strategic environment in which Australia will find itself from now to the year 2030, to determine the capabilities required to meet the challenges presented by the strategic situation and to propose the force structure required as a result.

A key section of the paper defines the tasks required of the ADF, which determine the priorities for the force structure requirements. The priorities that the White Paper lays down in order are:

- Deterring and defeating attacks on Australia.
- Contributing to stability and security in the South Pacific and East Timor.
- Contributing to military contingencies in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Contributing to military contingencies in support of global security.

The force structure decisions that flow from the priorities will focus on developing an ADF

that meets the primary objective of deterring and defeating an attack on Australia. While the remaining priorities and other considerations, such as domestic and emergency responses that may be required, will have some effect on force structure, the force designed for the primary task should generally be capable of meeting the remaining priorities.

To meet the first priority a maritime strategy is **preferred with forces that "can operate with decisive effect throughout the northern maritime and littoral approaches to Australia, and the ADF's primary operational environment more generally"**<sup>1</sup>. The maritime strategy will be proactive and seek to control the dynamics of the conflict by sea and air control and by defeating hostile forces in bases, staging areas and in transit. Land operations in our approaches and strategic strike may also be used.

The requirements of the remaining priorities are also set out. To meet these challenges, a force structure is detailed which is identical to that proposed or set in train by the previous government with some additions. The main Naval elements consist of 12 new submarines, 3 Air Warfare Destroyers, 8 Future Frigates to replace the ANZAC class vessels, 24 naval combat helicopters and 46 new MRH-90 helicopters shared between the Navy and the Army, and 2 Landing Helicopter Deck (LHD) amphibious ships, and a large strategic sea lift ship.

The Army structure remains the same with certain capability improvements such as 1,100 deployable protected vehicles, the upgrade of existing M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers, a new fleet of HC-47F Chinook helicopters, a share of the 46 MRH-90 helicopters and the acquisition of new towed and self propelled 155mm artillery.

The Air Force will benefit from the new F/A-18F Super Hornets being currently acquired and 100 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters (JSF). Initially one squadron of F/A-18 Hornets and three squadrons of F-35 JSF and ultimately four squadrons of JSF. Additionally, six Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft and five KC-30A air-to-air refuelling aircraft will be acquired as will additional C-130J Hercules aircraft, and ten light tactical fixed wing aircraft to replace the Caribou, to complement the existing C-17 fleet.

The White Paper maintains that the United States will remain the principal military power in the Asia-Pacific, but acknowledges that Chinese military power and influence will increase over the next twenty years. However, the treatment of China is somewhat ambivalent, varying between the

**inference that China's military expansion is the reason for Australia's response, to assertions that China does not present a threat.**

One feature of the White Paper is that a new paper will be produced every five years with a re-assessment of force structure requirements as each paper is produced. This is a constructive suggestion and it will be interesting to see whether this commitment is adhered to.

The White Paper is an ambitious document which sets some significant goals, however, these goals are un-costed and no timelines are laid down. This point was emphasized in November when press reports from reliable sources indicated that there appeared to be a major budget shortfall which would require a reassessment of the major capital equipment acquisitions forecast in the document. This shortfall was said to be as high as \$3bn from 2011 to 2013 and had already delayed the purchase of naval helicopters, Army self propelled artillery and a fourth air warfare destroyer, although the latter had never been a firm proposition. The 3% real growth commitment to 2018 in the White Paper was also said to be inadequate to fund the ambitious program. It will require considerable political will from this and subsequent governments to ensure the goals will be partially, let alone totally, achieved.

In August the Defence Committee forwarded a comprehensive analysis of the White Paper to the Minister for Defence setting out the RSL response to the document.

## The Defence Budget 2009-2010

A critic has stated that the budget papers are the least comprehensive of the past decade despite foreshadowing some of the most significant developments in the ADF for many years. It is further stated that the barest details are available for the financial plan which extends to 2030, with actual funding only disclosed for the first four years.

The White Paper emphasised a new funding model which consisted of 3% annual real growth in the budget to 2017-2018, 2.2% annual real growth from 2018-2019 to 2030 and 2.5% fixed indexation from 2009-10 to 2030. This was coupled with a direction to create \$20billion worth of savings for re-direction during the next decade, an extremely ambitious target.

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<sup>1</sup> The White Paper p.59

When the budget was handed down however, the new indexation commitment was deferred for four years, \$2billion was cut from the next four years and deferred indefinitely, in addition to \$1billion from 2015-16 and \$500million from 2016-17. It is estimated that \$8.8billion has as a result been cut from the budget for the first six years.

As there is no funding growth over the next three years, growth in the years that follow will have to be very rapid to average 3% by 2017-18.

Despite deferrals, defence funding will reach an historic high at \$26.8billion for 2009-10 representing 2.3% of GDP, the highest figure since 1986 which has been inflated by the recession and is predicted to fall to 1.9% over the next four years as the economy recovers. Over the next three years the budget will not change dramatically, with a small decline in real terms.

Supplementation has been provided including \$214million for East Timor, \$60million for Iraq, and \$1.4billion for Afghanistan. Initiatives that are self funded by Defence include \$1.5billion over the next decade to increase Navy numbers by 700 permanent personnel, \$71million over four years to enhance land operations in complex environments and \$45million for health care for Defence Force families.

Since 2000, there have been a number of initiatives to improve personnel management and to improve recruiting and retention. In the 2006-08 budget, \$376million was allocated for these purposes followed by a further \$1billion over ten years in late 2006 for recruiting and retention and a further \$2.1billion in 2007-08. **This year's budget contains** a further \$480.3million for personnel measures.

These measures have generally been successful and in 2009-10 Defence will be funded to maintain 55,771 full-time personnel, 30,592 civilians and 21,630 Reservists. Targets for 2008-09 have been exceeded by 363 in the Army, 11 in the Air Force and break even in the Navy, with an overall increase of 1,951. Over the following three years, the ADF is planned to increase by 1,749 personnel to 57,526, with the Navy increasing by a further 700 personnel over an unspecified period.

The budget is clear on the situation over the next four years, but much less so over the period to 2030 which the White Paper covers. It remains to be seen how the ambitious plans outlined in it will be funded and when these initiatives will occur.<sup>2</sup>

## Defence Budget Audit

The 2008 Defence Budget Audit, otherwise known as the Pappas Review, was released in November. The audit advised on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Defence budget and how to improve budget management and was independently conducted by Mr George Pappas. The Government accepted most of the recommendations of the Audit which will be implemented through the Strategic Reform Program. One recommendation that was not accepted was for consolidating the Defence estate into a super base model. The justification for not accepting this recommendation was that the Audit focussed on the financial benefits but did not consider the strategic, economic and social impacts of the proposal. In other words, the political implications of such a scheme were unacceptable, which is probably fortunate for the ADF. However, further studies in the area of base consolidation will proceed.

## Army Reorganisation

A new headquarters Forces Command was raised on 1 July. This command combines the former Land Command and Training Command and will be responsible for the war-fighting capability of the Army. Its formation removes a layer of headquarters between units and Army Headquarters and in theory should allow for the better passage of information and greater flexibility than the previous structure. In addition, it should provide for improvements in individual and collective training by centralising the responsibility in one entity.

As a result of this change, the 1<sup>st</sup> Division will assume the primary role as the mounting, assessment and certification authority for all individuals and conventional force elements deploying on operations. Presumably 1<sup>st</sup> Division will also remain the deployable two star headquarters, if one is required for overseas deployments.

## Army Reserve Pay

Reports surfaced in November that budget cuts considered by the Government to offset defence pay hikes have halved the Army Reserve training program. This will result in total training days for 2010 being cut from 48 to 24 and would have a significant effect on operational readiness. This situation may well

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<sup>2</sup> The Cost of Defence: ASPI Defence Budget Brief 2009-2010

exacerbate the current problems of falling Army Reserve numbers. How such a situation can occur when the Reserve is supposedly a key element in Army readiness is beyond belief.

## Navy Action Plans for the Submarine Fleet and Future Submarine Project

The Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Crane, released a plan in April to improve the submarine workforce. This Submarine Workforce Sustainability Program lays down a five phase strategy designed to stabilise, recover and grow the submarine workforce over the next five years. The program focuses on getting more submarines to sea and on improving support for them once deployed and increasing crew sizes from 46 to 58 people. These measures are designed to ensure a fourth submarine crew will be operating by 2011.

In all the Review made twenty nine recommendations, all of which will be implemented, including the relocation of the Submarine Communications Centre from eastern Australia to Fleet Base West by the end of this year.

It is to be hoped that these initiatives will enable the submarine fleet to become a viable force in the short to medium term. This improvement will be **essential if the Government's plans, which some consider overly ambitious, of acquiring twelve new generation submarines by 2030 are to be realised with manpower problems solved.**

In November, Defence announced that a contract had been signed with the Rand Corporation to complete a Domestic Design Study for the Future Submarine Project, SEA1000. This is a phase in the acquisition of the new generation submarines and **will examine Australia's** submarine design capability and capacity. Investigations to date by the Project have aimed at developing an understanding of the capabilities of the international submarine industry.

## Defence Capability Plan

The Minister for Defence, Senator Faulkner released the Defence Capability Plan 2009 (the DCP) in July which is designed to strengthen the partnership between Defence and defence industries. The DCP contains a detailed account of major capital equipment proposals that are planned for Government consideration over the period 2009/10 to 2012/13 and foreshadows demand beyond that period. The DCP contains 110 capability projects or phases of projects with a total budget of over \$60billion and a summary of some of the major programs anticipated beyond 2013.

**The Government's aim in releasing the DCP is to provide defence industry with substantive and reliable information about intended capability acquisitions, to inform industry's investment decisions and to facilitate quality tenders for planned projects.**

## Amphibious Watercraft Replacement

The Government, in May, announced the first pass approval for a number of landing craft to complement the two Canberra class Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) amphibious assault ships currently under construction for the RAN. These landing craft will enable the LHD ships to conduct operations over the shore where there are no fixed port facilities.

The landing craft will be able to lift heavy equipment embarked on the ships including the Abrams tanks currently in service and transport them to shore. A final decision on the landing craft will be made in 2010 once cost information has been determined and offers sought from Navantia the builder of the LHD ships. An Australian builder will also be considered.

These craft, together with the LHD ships will **greatly increase Australia's amphibious capability** and hence our ability to operate in our immediate region and beyond, by the capacity to deploy men and heavy equipment rapidly and flexibly. The Defence Committee has long advocated this vital capability and welcomes this development.

## Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft

The Defence Department has taken the first step in acquiring a manned Maritime Patrol and Response Aircraft after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States Navy (USN) to cooperatively develop upgrades to the P-8A Poseidon aircraft and support systems.

The P-8A is a highly reliable aircraft based on a civil Boeing B737, modified to incorporate surveillance and attack capabilities. Through participation in this process, Defence will gain information to support the acquisition and support of the aircraft and also provide opportunities for Australian industry. Eight new aircraft will eventually replace the AP-3C Orion when that aircraft is retired in 2018.

It is said that these new aircraft will provide highly advanced surface search, radar and

optical infra-red and electronic surveillance systems. Together with a high transit speed and air-to-air refuelling they will significantly enhance rapid area search and identification tasks.

## Unmanned Aerial System

The RAAF has recently acquired Heron Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in collaboration with the Canadian Defence Force. The Heron UAV is a one tonne aircraft capable of medium altitude, long endurance flights. In 2009, RAAF and Australian Army personnel undertook Heron training in Canada. These personnel have now been absorbed within the Canadian UAV Detachment at Kandahar airfield conducting operations in Afghanistan. When the systems acquired through the contract with Canada are delivered to Kandahar, Australia will establish a full detachment of RAAF and Army personnel. Heron can conduct operations in excess of 24 hours with a maximum speed of 180kph at altitudes of up to 10,000 metres.

## Change of Minister for Defence

In May Senator John Faulkner replaced Mr Joel Fitzgibbon as Minister for Defence. At the same time Mr Greg Combet replaced Mr Warren Snowden as Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, at the same time assuming the role of Minister for Defence Production, a position he had previously held.

## Guest Speakers

During the period the Committee was able to hear first hand from a number of speakers on matters of defence interest.

- Vice Admiral Crane - Chief of Navy  
– on current naval issues.
- **Mr Michael L'Estrange** - Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
– **on Australia's strategic situation.**
- Air Marshal Binskin, Chief of Air Force  
- on current Air Force issues.
- Dr Mark Thomson - Program Director Management & Budget ASPI  
- on the Defence budget.
- Major General Abigail - Director, Australian Strategic Policy Institute  
- on the White Paper.
- Professor Alan DuPont – Director, Centre for International Security Studies, University of Sydney  
- on the White Paper.

- Mr Rapsal Khosa, Research Fellow and Outreach Program Manager, ASPI  
- on Afghanistan
- Dr Andrew Davies, Program Director Operations and Capability Program, ASPI  
- **on Australia's strategic situation and** ADF capability developments
- Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, Chief of Army  
- on current Army issues.

## Conclusion

The production of the White Paper was the most significant event in the first nine months of the year, laying out as it does a framework for the ADF to the year 2030. While the White Paper is ambitious and unusually blunt in its strategic assessments, it has generally been well received. There has been, however, legitimate criticism that the budgetary underpinnings of such a comprehensive program are at best unclear and at worst deceptive, and that the document underplays the role of the Army in general. Only time will tell whether the proposed developments can be achieved in a reasonable time. This point was emphasised in November when reports surfaced of a significant shortfall in the Defence Budget.

**Australia's operational commitments continue** with a drawdown in Iraq and an expansion in Afghanistan. In the latter case it appears that **Australia's involvement will be long term and** although public opinion is generally negative, it is not sufficiently strong to cause the Government political problems.

Generally the Government has maintained the impetus and initiatives developed by the previous government, both structurally and in acquisition of capital equipment and therefore it can be said that substantially the country has a bi-partisan defence policy, something that the RSL has advocated for years.

A CLUNIES-ROSS  
Chairman

# National Trustees Report

## General

During 2009 the National Trustees Committee met 4 times and handled some more pressing matters out of session. Considerable effort was

also devoted towards a review of all Trusts and the re-writing of The Jubilee Commemorative Fund of the RSL By-Law.

The National Trustees were:

Mr John Sheldrick OAM - Chairman

Major General Sir William Refshauge AC CBE ED (Retd) until his death in May 2009.

Mr Harold Fife OAM

Mr John Button OAM

The Hon Mr Justice Dennis Cowdroy OAM

Mr Eric Kay AM ED

Mr Derek Roylance AM

Mr Gary Brodie OAM

Major General Peter Day AO (Retd) retired as a National Trustee in February 2009 when he completed his appointment.

Meetings were also attended from time to time by Major General Bill Crews AO, until his retirement as National President, Lieutenant Colonel John Merrick, President ACT Branch of the RSL, (National Executive Member); Mr John King replaced Lieutenant Colonel Merrick on his election as President ACT Branch of the RSL in June 2009. The Trustees acknowledge the considerable support and counsel given the Committee from the National Treasurer, Mr David Sinclair who attended all meetings and the fine secretarial support from Mrs Jan Ormerod who also attended all meetings.

Sadly we report the death of Major General Sir William Refshauge AC CBE ED (Retd). Sir William had been a National Trustee continuously since 1977 and consistently over the many years of his service was a formidable and most conscientious and considerate contributor to the workings of all Trusts, but particularly that of the RSL & 6<sup>th</sup> Division Australian Hellenic Educational Memorial Fund. The National Trustees extend their sincere condolences to his family and friends.

## Review of Trusts

At the request of the National Executive, the National Trustees provided for that Executive a brief description of the objects of each Trust and of the background surrounding its adoption within the League.

Complementing the consistent considerations of the National Trustees to ensure that all Trusts remained relevant, the National Executive requested the National Trustees to consider consolidating the existing Trusts into one or two major Trusts which in term could service all of the objects of the existing Trusts. On examination by

the National Trustees, it was determined that each Trust should remain as a separate identity for the present time and the National Executive accepted this position.

## Income from Interest

The Trustees noted that there will be comparatively reduced income from interest earned during 2009 for each Trust as a result of the Global Monetary Crisis and reduction in Reserve Bank interest rates. The Trustees also noted that the impact of these reduced incomes would, in general, not be felt until 2010. This may reduce overall benefits available in that year unless additional contributions could be forthcoming for all Funds.

## Welfare and Disaster Fund

A grant of \$30,000 was made to the Red Cross in Victoria to assist in relief of persons affected by the bushfires in that State in early 2009. A grant **of \$20,000 was made to the Premier's Relief Fund** in Queensland to assist in relief of persons affected by the floods in that State again in early 2009. Letters of acknowledgement for each grant were received from the Premiers of Victoria and Queensland respectively.

A grant of \$10,000 was made through a trust fund established by the Commanding Officer of 1 Signal Regiment set up to assist recently discharged soldier, Corporal Darren Gibson, who was badly burned in the Victorian bushfires and who lost his wife, 3 children and home in the fires. The Commanding Office of 17 Signal Regiment and ex-Corporal Gibson were most appreciative of this grant.



Other grants to a total value of \$6566 were given to assist other individuals in necessitous and deserving circumstances.

## Jubilee Commemorative Fund of the RSL

### General

During the year the National By-Law applicable to this Trust was reviewed and updated by the Trustees. The National Executive accepted the revised By-Law as recommended by the Trustees. An innovative approach was taken to include a 'preamble' to the By-Law outlining the circumstances of the establishment of this Fund in 1966.

### RSL Scholarships

The RSL Scholarships continued to be awarded through the Australian Veterans Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT). The recipients of the 2009 scholarships were Ms Caitin Bialy from Victoria and Ms Emily Mayberry from Queensland. Continuation awards were also made to awardees from 2007 and 2008 who had satisfactorily completed their study in 2008 and were continuing in that study during 2009. Total RSL Scholarship awards were \$12,000. The National Trustees acknowledge and thank the Board and staff of AVCAT for their considerate support in the selection process and administration of the RSL Scholarships.

### Reg Saunders Scholarships

AVCAT has also assisted over the last few years in the selection process and administration of Reg Saunders Scholarships. For 2009, Ms Sharon Weare of Tully, Queensland was selected as a Reg Saunders Scholarship awardee with a grant of \$4,000.

The Trustees, having regard to the eventual benefits that might accrue not only to the recipient but to the aboriginal community, decided that from 2010 the Reg Saunders Scholarship would be awarded through the Cape York Institute (CYI) whose office is located at the Griffith University in Queensland. This change will also result in a saving in administration costs for this scholarship.

The National Trustees noted support through the CYI was generally directed at aboriginal persons in the Northern Queensland area. To this end, the National Trustees decided to make an annual grant of \$2000 initially and, through the National

Executive, invited other State Branches to consider similar support through suitable organisations in their state.

During 2009, \$1,980 was granted to the CYI on their recommendation to allow two students Ms Yanti Ropeyan from Injinoo and Ms Kelsey Youngblutt from Palm Island to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum conducted at Parliament House Canberra in September 2009. Both recipients and CYI were very appreciative of this assistance. During the Forum, the new National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd) and some of the National Trustees were able to meet both students at an afternoon tea hosted by the RSL.

In October 2009, the National Trustees granted \$2,000 to CYI for the 2010 Reg Saunders Scholarship.

### Medical Exchanges

The National Trustees were pleased to maintain their support to the Royal North Shore Hospital program which provides for medical student exchanges with PNG and Fiji. Support was also given again to the Hoc Mai Foundation (conducted also through the North Shore Hospital) for medical student exchanges with Vietnam. A total grant of \$12,000 was made. The National Trustees gratefully acknowledge the contribution of \$4,000 included in this grant from the Wally Lussick Trust conducted by the Port Moresby Sub-Branch of the RSL.

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

Earnings from this Fund provide each year for two scholarships, the 6th Australian Division Scholarship and one name the Preveli Monastery Scholarship. As well, they provide for an annual **donation to the Bishop of Spili's Destitute Fund.**

During the year, Brigadier Keith Rossi AM OBE RFD ED made a contribution to the Fund which he couched in terms of a tribute to the work of Sir William Refshauge.

The scholarships and the contribution to the Destitute Fund constitute an annual commitment of \$6,500. The Trustees have noted that while current earnings of the Fund meet annual commitments, the comparative capital value of the Fund continues to diminish. Grants of \$2,750 were made to each of the scholarships again this year, together with a further grant of \$1,000 to the **Bishop of Spili's Destitute Fund. The Trustees**

were again especially appreciative of the effort of the Australian Ambassador to Greece to make himself available to present the scholarships and Destitute Fund grant in Crete. The Trustees also appreciate the work of his Embassy staff and their continued support and goodwill in their administrative assistance of these presentations

A substantial injection of Funds would allow the introduction of a scholarship in Australia. Such a scholarship would in turn perpetuate in Australia the deeds of the 6<sup>th</sup> Division in Crete and of the Cretan people during World War II, and the enduring bonds they forged.



Australian Ambassador to Greece, HE Mr Jeremy Newman presents the 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Scholarship to Ms Emmanouela Papalexaki.

The Trustees acknowledge the support of the outgoing Greek Ambassador and in particular his representative on the Committee, Mr Soultanopoulos who was personally thanked by the Committee at his last meeting in October.

### VC and Historic Medals Trust (including the Special Commemorative Plaques)

This Fund 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, and for commemorative purposes.

The Special Commemorative Plaques Fund is maintained to support the commemorative work of Dr Ross Bastiaan. During the year, the **Trustees agreed to Dr Bastiaan's request for a transfer of \$5,000 from the Commemorative Plaques account for work as part of the Cumberland Drive Ocean Road series of commemoration.**

### Mountbatten Memorial Fund

This Fund, which was established from funds raised by the RSL and a 1 for 1 grant from the

Commonwealth Government. It is named in memory of the late Lord Louis Mountbatten. The proceeds of the Fund are granted annually to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL). Lord Mountbatten was the president of its predecessor The British Commonwealth Ex-Service League (BCEL). The RCEL assists in relieving distress and hardship among disadvantaged ex-servicemen and women in countries presently or formerly members of the Commonwealth of Nations. A grant of \$7000 was made to the RCEL from the Fund during 2009.

### Mona Tait and May Hayman Memorial Fund

This Fund commemorates the bravery of two Nursing Sisters, both of whom trained at the Canberra Community Hospital, and both of whom were murdered by Japanese troops during World War II. Sister Mona Tait was killed on the shores of 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 Fund enables books to be purchased from accrued interest and presented to **the Nurses' Library at the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Canberra** each year.

During 2009, a donation to the Fund was gratefully received from The Gap RSL Sub-branch. A grant of \$200 was forwarded to **the Nurses' School** for the purchase books for their library.

### RSL War Veterans Homes and Welfare Australia Trust

This Fund was established in 1995 with a donation from the Queensland State Branch of the RSL. During 2009, grants from accrued interest amounting to \$50,000 were paid to RSL National Headquarters to meet a proportion of the welfare costs it incurred as certified by the RSL National Secretary.

### RSL Foundation

The Trustees made a grant from accrued interest of \$25,000 from the RSL Foundation to the RSL National Office to meet a proportion of the welfare costs it incurred as certified by the RSL National Secretary.

J. A. SHELDRIK  
Chairman

# National Veterans' Affairs Report



John Hodges  
Chairman

**The National Veterans' Affairs Committee (NVAC)** is charged with advising the National Executive on all matters pertaining to assistance and care of serving and former members of the Defence Forces.

## The Year in Review

Following the election of the Labour Government in 2007, it has delivered on the following election promises:

- increased payments for the General Rate of Disability Pension, the Special Rate Pension (TPI), and the Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA);
- Above General Rate pensions would be indexed at the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) rather than traditional CPI increases; and
- widows/ers of Veterans who died whilst in receipt of the Intermediate Rate and Temporary payment at the Special Rate (TTI) of Pension would be entitled to the War Widows Pension.

The Government has also started the review into the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act (MRCA) and has also commenced to re-examine the recommendations of the Clarke Review. The RSL is preparing submissions on both issues which will be forwarded to Government early in the new year.

The inquiry into former F-111 Deseal/Reseal workers was completed in June 2009 and the **Committee's report has been tabled in Parliament.** We await the outcome from Government.

The promises that are still to be ratified include:

- address the cost of pharmaceuticals for accepted disabilities;
- include young ex-service people with disabilities in the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement; and
- review the aged care needs of veterans and 'special needs'.

NVAC will consistently monitor the Government to ensure that all its election pledges for veterans and their dependents are implemented.

## RSL Budget Submission to Government

Arising out of each National **Congress is the RSL's** Budget Submission to the Government. The Priority Proposals are as follows:

### 1. Indexation

That the indexation of all components of Military Superannuation under the DFRDB and MSBS schemes be calculated with reference to both the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE).

### 2. Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme

That the Government ensures that the proposed 2.8 percent increase in the Disability, Service and War Widows Pensions, due to the expected increases in the living cost index from the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme does reflect the real cost of living increase.

### 3. Pharmaceuticals

Those entitled veterans are provided with free pharmaceuticals for accepted disabilities.

### 4. Mental Health Disorders and Rehabilitation

That the Government develop a national mental health rehabilitation scheme for veterans suffering with chronic mental health problems based on individual case assessment and management programs.

### 5. Residential Care-Younger Veterans

That the Government develop a system to ensure access to appropriate accommodation for disabled veterans who require 24 hour supported living but who are too young to qualify for aged care services.

## 6. Veterans' Aged Care

That the Government remove the barriers to veterans and war widows accessing higher levels of community aged care, thereby enabling them to make informed and appropriate choices regarding their ability to continue to live in the community. For nursing home accommodation, ensure that the 'special needs' status of veterans is recognised consistently across all States in the annual advertising and allocation of new aged care places and packages.

### 7. Home Respite Care

**That the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)** adequately resource the provision of the yearly

allocation of 8 days of in-home respite care under the **Veterans' Home Care Program (VHC)** for veterans.

## Department of Veterans' Affairs Consultation Framework

The **Veterans' Affairs Consultation Framework** is a structure to ensure effective consultation between the veteran and ex-service community and the Repatriation and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commissions and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The aim is to establish more formal channels for consultation that better suit **today's** ex-service and defence communities.

The new consultation framework consists of a high level strategic forum supported by four specific national forums that focus on policy/program areas and state level forums with a focus on state specific and age/stage of life issues.

The high level strategic forum is the ESO Round Table at which our National President represents the RSL.

The four national forums and their terms of reference are:

### The Operational Working Party:

- enhance the **ex-service community's understanding of DVA's service delivery** performance through information sharing and improved communication between DVA and the ex-service community;
- be a forum for ex-service organisations to discuss concerns arising from operational issues; and
- identify and provide recommendations for improvements in operational policy to promote quality and accountability in service delivery.

### National Health, Aged and Community Care Forum

- be a link between **ESO's**, providers and DVA in the dissemination of information on health, aged and community care issues;
- provide information on the current and future aged care needs of veterans and war widow/ers and other members of the ex-service and defence community including carers;
- be a conduit for developing and proposing better practice residential and community care arrangements for the ex-service community;

- ensure that non ESO aged care service providers are aware of the special commemorative and cultural needs of their ex-service community clients;
- influence future policy directions regarding ageing for the ex-service community;
- monitor developments in the aged care industry and the aged care needs of the ex-service community, including access to residential care; and
- consider how the Department better supports people at home with community support.

### Current and Former Members of the ADF – Emerging Issues Forum

- provide a mechanism for regular consultation and discussion about emerging issues affecting younger members and their families;
- assist in identifying priority issues that require consideration;
- consider how the Department engages with and provides services to younger members; and
- provide a mechanism to disseminate information about Departmental initiatives and other issues.

### National Mental Health Forum

- enable broad consultation on mental health issues;
- promote a network between ex-service organisations, health providers, Department of Defence and Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) that support the adoption of recovery and wellbeing orientations to mental health issues. This should focus on prevention, early intervention, diagnosis, assessment, rehabilitation, treatment and relapse management;
- contribute and be responsible for raising awareness of mental health issues although the forum will not develop educative processes directly; and
- provide a sounding board for advice on national mental health programs, services and initiatives, particularly as they affect the veteran community.

The RSL is well represented on all four Forums and the representatives provide a report on their latest meetings to NVAC. The minutes of Forum meetings are available on the Department of Veterans' Affairs website at:

[www.dva.gov.au/ex-service\\_organisations/consultation](http://www.dva.gov.au/ex-service_organisations/consultation)

If any member of the RSL has any issues or concerns that they wished to be raised at any of the forums they can contact the NVAC Committee

Secretary, Mr Herbert M. Michaelis, at [nhqresearch@rsl.org.au](mailto:nhqresearch@rsl.org.au) or by mail at RSL National Headquarters. He will ensure that your comments are passed to the relevant RSL representative.

## Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act Review

In April 2009 the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Alan Griffin MP, announced the formation of a Steering Committee to undertake the review. **The review is to address '... long standing issues with military compensation, including disparities and perceived inequities between systems and difficulties encountered by those transitioning out of the services or making claims'.**

The Steering Committee is chaired by the **Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs**, Ian Campbell. The members are drawn from senior officials from the Departments of Defence, Treasury, Finance and Deregulation, Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Following concerns expressed at an ESO Round Table meeting that there was no ESO representation on the Steering Committee, an ESO Round Table Representatives Group has been established.

This group consist of a representative from the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker **Veterans' Association**, Legacy, the Vietnam **Veterans' Federation** and I represent the RSL. This group meets regularly with the Steering Committee to brief the committee on the **concerns that ESO's have with MRCA.**

The review should be completed mid 2010.

## Conclusion

The main focus of NVAC continues to ensure that the Government honours its election promises to Veterans and that our hard won entitlements and benefits are not eroded either by budget restraints or the natural downsizing of DVA as the veteran population diminishes.

I would like to thank the fellow members of NVAC and all the staff at National Headquarters for their support throughout the year.

JOHN M HODGES  
**National Veterans' Affairs Advisor**

# The RSL Captain Reg Saunders Memorial Scholarship

## 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 provided a \$4,000 grant to assist with these studies

In the development of the Scholarship, consultation with ATSIC revealed then, the urgent need for qualified substance abuse professionals among the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. As such, the Scholarship required an applicant to follow studies associated with the eradication of drug and alcohol abuse. Where **student's** courses did not specifically contain subjects or units dealing with substance abuse, (e.g. nurses aid) the students must be able to provide scope for such studies in their elective subjects and/or field placements.

For some years now the RSL administration of the granting of the scholarships has been established through the RSL National Trustees and the value of the scholarships substantially increased.

More recently, the Trustees agreed to provide an annual grant of \$2000 through the Cape York Institute (CYI) in Queensland, and, through the National Executive, have invited other State Branches to consider similar support through suitable organisations in their state.

While a need for the eradication of drug and alcohol abuse remains important in applying the scholarship money, the grants may be used for leadership and personal development of recipients such that on their placement back in their communities they will be better equipped generally to provide a positive example and to advise on and assist in substance abuse among their other professional skills.

In 2009, a grant of \$1980 was made to the CYI to allow two students, Ms Yanti Ropeyan and Ms Kelsey Youngblutt, to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum conducted at Parliament House Canberra in September 2009. During the time they were in Canberra, Ms Ropeyan and Ms Youngblutt were able to meet with the new National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd), the ACT State President, Mr John King and some National Trustees at an afternoon tea hosted by the RSL.



The two CYI students with the ACT State President, Mr John King, National President, RADM Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd), National Trustee Mr Derek Roylance AM, Mrs Elaine Doolan and National Trustee Mr Gary Brodie OAM.

## The 2009 Recipients

The 2009 Reg Saunders Scholarships were awarded to Ms Sharon Weare, Ms Yanti Ropeyan and Ms Kelsey Youngblutt.

## Captain Saunders

Captain Reginald Walter Saunders MBE, 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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. He was awarded an MBE in 1977. He died in 1990.

# RSL AFOF Report

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 peace-keeping or peace-making missions on a eight month rotation basis, and to ensure that each receives the benefit of a package during his period of overseas service, the packages are made available for delivery twice yearly. The packages are prepared in May and November each year.

In 2009, RSL AFOF provided packages to personnel serving overseas in Afghanistan, Timor Leste, Iraq, Israel, Middle East, Sinai, Solomon Islands and Sudan. Australia has large numbers of personnel serving in these overseas missions.

A total of 2,915 midyear packages and 3,280 Christmas packages were prepared in facilities kindly made available by the 39th Personnel Support Battalion within Randwick Barracks. The packages were prepared during the first week of May and November.

The packages contained various items to remind personnel of home, and included ANZAC biscuits, glucose confectionery, salted peanuts, health bars, various lollies, a letter of appreciation on behalf of all Australians and a letter introducing the RSL State Branches and their Membership contact details.



The RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund is supported by all Australians, and the ongoing personal monetary donations from the veteran and general community ensure the continuance of **the Fund's activities**. **The Fund is promoted** through a wide distribution of the AFOF brochure which contains a brief history of the Fund and its purpose.

In particular, significant donations were received from the RSL Sunshine Coast & Regional District,

**War Widows' Guild of Australia WA Branch** Monday Craft Group, and the Bedford-Morley, Concord District, Mount Gambier, Castle Hill, Granville, Rye, Candelo, Kingsborough and Merebein RSL Sub-Branches. The fund is most grateful for this ongoing support and well acknowledges every donation with a written response.

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 the 39<sup>th</sup> Personnel Support Battalion, serving members from Randwick based Units, staff from the Directorate of Personnel Support Amenities in Canberra, the Department of **Veterans' Affairs Sydney office and the DVA** Military Compensation Group, NSW RSL State Branch, the Malabar RSL Sub-Branch, the staff of RSL National Headquarters, and the many 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 - 2009

## Meritorious Service Medal

### TAS

BOTT, R R

### QLD

GLENDON, K P

MUNDY, J

TOOHEY, J C

### VIC

CAUSER, E  
FULTON OAM, K

HUTCHESON, I

ROSSI AM OBE RFD ED, K V

STREETS OAM, L

### WA

GILMOUR, R J  
LYNCH, J T

### NSW

BURLEY OAM, J R  
DALY, G

EVENNETT, L N  
HURT, D

MAY, L K  
REYNOLDS, L T

ROWE OAM, D E J  
WEST RFD ED, C V

## Life Membership

### TAS

CASH, G  
DEVERALL, W

MARTIN, P  
McKENNA, T

SMEE, C R

WOOLFORD, P

### QLD

CAREY, P J  
DANSIE, T  
DEE, R  
FEATHER, K M  
GARRY, R D  
GIBBONS, M R  
GUILFOYLE, E P

HANSEN, K L  
HELLIER, A D  
JARROTT, R P  
JEFFREYS, S R  
LING, J A  
McELWAINE, R T  
McKENZIE, L

McMAHON, R A  
MURRAY, G R  
NORMAN, A  
**O'BRIEN, F J**  
ROWE, J W S  
SHARPE RFD, R J  
STRACHAN OAM, J

STRETTON, R  
SYCAMORE, R W  
VENNING RFD ED, J E  
WHIPP AM CSM, A J

### VIC

ALBRECHT, K H  
ANDERSON, D S  
BOTTRELL, F  
BOWLING, J E  
BOYLE, W M  
BRONDSEMA, J  
BROWN, J A  
CAMPBELL, J D  
CLAPPERS, W  
CLARKE, B T

CLARKE, L  
COULTER, E  
COVERDALE, H E  
DALY, J E  
DRAPER, G A  
EVERITT, D  
IND, K G  
LEE, J  
LITTLE, R A  
MEDLYN, W

MITCHELL, D  
MUIR, F G  
MUSTEY, K W  
NEULIST, F  
**O'MEARA, D J**  
ORMSBY, N  
PARKER, C  
PARKER, G  
PARR, N G  
PATERSON, J

PUTTYFOOT, R E  
RANDLE, W T  
RIDGEWELL, B W  
SIMPSON, R  
SLAUGHTER, R N  
THOMPSON, D  
TUCKER, G  
WATTERSON, R  
WEST, B  
WILLIAMS, S R



## NSW

BOURNELIS, J  
BOXSELL, R  
BRADY, F W  
BROWNE, H T  
CHRONOPOULOS, G  
CLARKE, I  
COOPER, J R  
DEANE, J  
FALCONER MBE, M L  
FERRES, M L  
FINDLER, K R

FISHER, G H  
FLATTERS, C J  
FORAN, J T  
GISSANE, T P  
GORDON, B E B  
GAINNEY, L W  
GREENBANK, D  
HAGGETT, L J  
HOCKNEY AO, B H  
HURRELL, A A  
KEYS, J G

KING, C R  
LARBARLESTIER, FJ G  
MESSENGER, W F  
MURRAY, G  
**O'GRADY, R P**  
**O'NEILL, M W**  
PLUNKETT, S J  
RAY, J C  
RAYNER, D L  
ROOIMANS, J J  
RUBIE, F

RYAN, M R  
SWANSON, G  
SMITH, C J R  
THOMPSON, L  
THOMPSON, W R  
THORN, J I  
TISDALE, E W  
WARD, R J

## WA

BANDY, R C S  
BENTLEY, A S  
BURNS, D H

CLEAK OAM, D D  
GIGGINS, J H  
McWILLIAMS, N J

PRATT, L R  
SUTHERLAND OAM, G J  
TILL, M F

WORTH, G G

## ACT

GOLLINGS, I J  
ROBERTS, T H

## Honorary Life Membership

### NHQ

Trooper Mark Gregor Donaldson VC

## Honorary Membership

Nil

## Honorary Membership for Life

Nil

## Certificate of Appreciation

### TAS

Bravo Company Tasmanian Battalion Australian Army Cadets

## ACT

BELL, R N  
COSSART, K M  
CAMPBELL, E  
MITCHELL-TAYLOR OAM JP, C  
ACT PA Hire  
ACT Senior Concert Band  
Australian Defence Force Federation Guard

GILLARD, M  
HORN, N  
McQUINN, J L

MUIR, A  
MUIR, P  
NEIL, K F

NOONAN, M  
PONTING, J  
WALLINGTON, L D

## VIC

COOMBES, S  
GORMAN, M

HUGHES, P  
MOORE, D

**O'REILLY, S**

SCOTT, A

SA

HEATHER, P  
LEMAR, P  
MICHAEL RFD, The Reverend Neale

LOXTON, R  
MILLER, W

TALMAGE, J

WESTON, J

WA

**O'SULLIVAN, E J**

QLD

WILLIAMS, F D L  
WILLIAMS, W M B

### Certificate of Merit & Gold Badge

TAS

BIRD, J

SA

ELLIS, E

JENKINS, I

YATES, S

RENSHAW, D

VIC

CRAVEN, A  
GRIFFITHS, D

McNAMARA, M

MURDOCH, J

PALMER, C

QLD

WILLIAMS, J J  
KERWIN, H E

### **Women's Auxiliary** Life Membership

TAS

EVANS, B  
HENRY, M

JONES, I  
NORRIS, D

PETRIE, D  
SMITHHURST, M

WALKER, D

QLD

BISSETT, G  
DAVIS, L  
DAVIS, M V  
DIXON, B  
FAWKE, S L

GOESSLING, F E  
HEIRONYMUS, V A M  
HARRIS, G M  
LARKINGS, D J  
LUKEY, D B

McKAVANAH, B S  
**O'CONNOR, P M**  
PAINE, M  
PERREM, S  
ROIKO, J E

SCOTT, J M  
SLATER, M  
SYCAMORE, W  
WRIGHT, K

VIC

ANDERSON, E  
BATH, D  
CARVILL, J  
CHIPPERFIELD, R

DEAN, G  
FORREST, D  
GALEA, L  
LARKINS, E

NELSON, E  
PORTER, Y  
PITMAN, C  
STAUGHTON, F

STOW, D  
WELLS, E

NSW

AUSTIN, F  
BAILEY, M  
BURNES, P  
CAMERON, C D

COSGROVE, F  
CURLEW, M  
DELL, L  
HAMILTON, N

McCLURE, D  
MILLS, V  
SHAW, S  
UROUHART, B

WATTS, V  
WILCOX, M

SA

THOMPSON, J

Long Service Award

ACT

ABLONG, A P

FUNNELL, N F

JENKINS, R J

THOMSON, R M

QLD

ADAMS-WHITE, F D  
AFFLICK, L C  
BAINBRIDGE, F P  
BOISEN, W B  
BRADSHAW, E  
CHAMBERS, J  
COMPAGNONI, W G

DONALD, W M  
ENDERBY, G  
HERRING, C S  
HODGE, W F  
HOYLE, W H N  
HOWLETT, C  
IRWIN, A G

JESSE, C H  
MOONEY, N  
PEARCE, B  
PRICE, C F  
RUSSELL, M W  
TARR, E C  
TINGAY, R R

WALTERS, M  
WEARE, K C  
WHITE, G H  
WILSON, T W

VIC

ALLEN, R  
BACON, E  
BUSH, R  
CHANDLER, K W  
DELLAR, R W  
DUCKETT, R  
DYAMOND, G H

EDWARDS, B  
ELDRED, S D  
FARISH, J  
HASSETT, E  
HAWKES, S A  
JEWELL, W  
LITTLE, H

PANTLIN, K R  
PARR, N G  
PERRY, D  
REYNOLDS, W K  
RODD, A H  
SAMPSON, S  
SHEPHERD, K J

SILVER, G E  
SMITH, A I  
WALKER, M K  
WILKINSON, R  
YELLAND, R

SA

WRIGHT, A R

TAS

ADAMS, E W  
BURBURY, P S  
CASEY, T  
DENNY, M W

GREEN, L M  
HALL, S J  
MITCHELL, C C S  
MUNDAY, E J

PETERS, T R  
SANDERS, M F  
SMITH, L E  
TUCKER, A F

WAGNER, A H  
WIGGINS, A J  
WILSON, D J

WA

ANDRE, M J  
BOLTO, V G  
BOND, F  
CROFTS, R

DRAKE, H F  
FLEAY, N  
JACOBS, H G  
JONES, C G

LOUDEN, R J  
NASH, G  
PUTLAND, V C  
ROBERTS, N

TAYLOR, N E  
THORN, S  
WATTS, E E

NSW

ADAMANS, D W  
ARCHER, L E  
ATKINSON, J C  
AVERY, G R  
BAILLIE, J G  
BARRY, J W  
BEACROFT, W H  
BEAVER, F  
BEDFORD, J J  
BERRY, F L  
BEU, J  
BOOTH, A G  
BRUCE, G H  
BURGES, L J  
BYNON, J G  
COLEMAN, J G  
COLLIER, L  
CRANE, G D  
CROMACK, N R  
DONNELLY, F  
DRINAN, K

ELVIDGE, T K  
FARMER, R  
FENWICK, J  
GARLAND, O E  
GIBSON, B P  
GRONO, G  
HARRINGTON, D  
HARRISON, A  
HOOPER, J T  
HOWE, A  
HUNT-SHARMAN, B  
JENKINS, F N  
JONES, D A  
KELSON, A J  
KNAGGS, D W  
LALOR, R K  
LIVINGSTONE, G C  
LOVELL, J F  
MAIDEN, J L  
MAPP, R G  
McCANCE, R

McGREGOR, J K  
McGRORY, J P  
McHOLLAND, G  
MERROTSY, J L  
MINTER, A E  
MINTER, N G  
MORRIS, M E  
MORRISEY, J W  
OLIVER, E F  
OLIVER, E F  
OVINGTON, R  
PALETHORPE, A T  
PATERSON, A  
PETERSEN, N S  
PHILLIPS, H K  
RICHARDS OAM, E J  
RIDLEY, M G  
ROOKE, C T  
RUGE, J A  
SCOTT, E D  
SEDGEWICK, V J

SKILLEN, R R  
SLAUGHTER, H W  
STARK, C  
STEVENS, J W  
TAYLOR, A  
TAYLOR, A M  
TAYLOR, W H  
TERRY, J  
THOMAS, J  
THOMAS, K F  
THOMPSON, J  
TURNER, K C  
WALKER, R B  
WARD, F W  
WEEKES, L E  
WESLEY, C P  
WHITE, L G  
WHITFIELD, A C

### **Women's** Auxiliary 50 Year Long Service Award

QLD

THALER, N

### 60 Year Certificate

NSW

Kensington RSL Sub-Branch

### 70 Year Certificate

QLD

Tiaro RSL Sub-Branch

### 75 Year Certificate

QLD

Millmerran RSL Sub-Branch  
Oakley RSL Sub-Branch

Redbank RSL Sub-Branch

NSW

Bondi Junction-Waverley RSL Sub-Branch  
Milton-Ulladulla RSL Sub-Branch

Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch

ACT

City of Canberra RSL Sub-Branch

## 80 Year Certificate

QLD

Clermont RSL Sub-Branch

## 85 Year Certificate

NSW

City of Blacktown RSL Sub-Branch

Rylstone RSL Sub-Branch

QLD

Clermont RSL Sub-Branch

## 90 Year Certificate

NSW

Ballina RSL Sub-Branch  
Bangalow RSL Sub-Branch  
Bellinger River RSL Sub-Branch  
Burringbar RSL Sub-Branch  
Coffs Harbour RSL Sub-Branch  
Dorrigo RSL Sub-Branch  
Dungog RSL Sub-Branch

Epping RSL Sub-Branch  
Gosford RSL Sub-Branch  
Goulburn RSL Sub-Branch  
Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch  
Maitland RSL Sub-Branch  
Merriwa RSL Sub-Branch  
Mortdale RSL Sub-Branch

WA

Katanning RSL Sub-Branch

QLD

Beaudesert RSL Sub-Branch  
Bell RSL Sub-Branch  
Bowen RSL Sub-Branch  
Bundaberg RSL Sub-Branch  
Caboolture-Morayfield & District RSL Sub-Branch Inc.

Clayfield-Toombul RSL Sub-Branch  
Kilcoy RSL Sub-Branch  
Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch  
Toowoomba RSL Sub-Branch  
Townsville RSL Sub-Branch Inc.

## **Women's Auxiliary 25 Year Certificate**

QLD

Mundubbera RSL Women's Auxiliary

## **Women's Auxiliary 70 Year Certificate**

QLD

Southport RSL Women's Auxiliary

## **Women's Auxiliary 75 Year Certificate**

QLD

Southport RSL Women's Auxiliary

# RSL Prizes - 2009

## Awards to Service Colleges

The RSL continues to support the pursuit of excellence and, accordingly, makes available a number of awards for Officer trainees. The **League's presentations to outstanding cadets** at the Defence Force Academy, the Royal Military College of Australia, and HMAS WATSON 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.

### Australian Defence Force Academy

The RSL Sword for Service is presented for outstanding achievement in Leadership and Officer Development by a 3rd Class Officer/Cadet/Midshipman of the Australian Defence Force Academy.

The RSL Sword for Service was presented to:

- Officer Cadet Timothy Modra

### Royal Military College of Australia

The National RSL Prize is presented to the Second Class Cadet of the Royal Military College of Australia who has attained the best results in all assessed subjects.

In 2009, the National RSL Prizes were awarded to:

#### June Graduation

- Lance Corporal Alison Heenan

#### December Graduation

- Staff Cadet Simon Shakhovskoy

### HMAS WATSON

The RSL Sword is presented biennially for outstanding achievement as Dux of the Junior Warfare Officer Application Course.

**This year's RSL Sword was** awarded to:

- Sub Lieutenant Sarah Tame

## ANZAC Awards

### ANZAC Peace Prize

The ANZAC Peace Prize was not awarded in 2009.

### ANZAC of the Year Awards

The 2009 ANZAC of the Year awards have been made to:

Ms Moira Kelly AO of Victoria - in recognition of her devotion and dedication over many years in providing social support and service for disadvantaged people.

Mr Lambis Englezos of Victoria - in recognition of his untiring and tenacious work towards the discovery of the burial site of World War I Australian soldiers at Pheasant Wood in France.

Mr Ivor Elliott of NSW - in recognition of his many years of service, through numerous community service groups and the RSL, to the communities in the Forster District.

Mr Frank Williams of NSW - in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the veteran and wider community of Wee Waa.

## Scholarships

### RSL Scholarships

The RSL Scholarships were introduced in 2006 by the RSL National Trustees. Two scholarships are awarded to children of veterans in necessitous and deserving circumstances while they undertake tertiary education in Australia.

The 2009 RSL Scholarships have been awarded to:

Ms Caitlin Bialy  
Ms Emily Mayberry

# National Executive Members

National President

Major General William Crews AO (Retd) (until Sept)  
Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd) (from Sept)

Deputy National President  
National Secretary

Mr Don Rowe OAM  
Mr Derek Robson AM

## State Presidents

Victorian Branch President  
Western Australian President  
New South Wales Branch President  
South Australian Branch President  
Queensland Branch President  
Tasmanian Branch President  
Australian Capital Territory Branch President

Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd)  
Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD  
Mr Don Rowe OAM  
Mr Jock Statton OAM  
Mr Doug Formby  
Mr Tony Scott OAM  
Lieutenant Colonel John J Merrick (Retd) (until June)  
Mr John King (from June)

## National Officers/Advisors

National Treasurer  
National Legal Advisor  
National Defence Advisor  
Veterans' Affairs Advisor

Mr David Sinclair  
Mr Brian Loftus RFD  
Major General Adrian Clunies-Ross AO MBE (RL)  
Mr John Hodges

# National Headquarters Staff Members

- as at December 2009

National Secretary  
National Project Officer  
Business Manager  
Secretaries  
    to National Secretary  
    to National President  
Reception

Mr Derek Robson AM  
Mr Herbert (Mickey) Michaelis  
Mrs Jan Ormerod  
  
Ms Dawn Kitchener  
Mrs Lorelee Mason (until October)  
Ms Tess Black

# RSL Membership Details - as at 31 December 2009

STATE	RSL MEMBERSHIP		WOMENS' AUXILIARY	
	Membership	Sub-Branch	Membership	Sub-Branch
ACT/Overseas	2,124	15	nil	nil
NSW	51,897	403	3,633	182
QLD	38,902	254	n/a	n/a
SA / NT	13,613	145	512	42
TAS	4,927	51	355	28
VIC	<b>64,093</b>	304	858	116
WA	11,096	134	175	13
<b>ANNUAL STATISTICS TOTALS</b>				
2009	186,652	1,306	5,533	381
2008	189,350	1,316	8,163	432
2007	193,418	1,327	8,626	441
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



# 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  
Phone: (02) 6248 7199  
Fax: (02) 6247 7637

Postal Address: GPO Box 303  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

## State Branches

### ACT

Canberra Services Club  
Canberra Avenue  
MANUKA  
Postal: GPO Box 708  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Phone: (02) 6260 6344  
Fax: (02) 6295 1628

### 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  
Postal: PO Box 629  
SPRING HILL QLD 4004  
Phone: (07) 3634 9444  
Fax: (07) 3634 9400

### SA

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

### VIC

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

### WA

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

### NSW

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

Back Page: RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund brochure.

Inside Back Cover: Photos taken during the packing of AFOF parcels at 39 PSB, Randwick Barracks Sydney, and soldiers in Iraq receiving their parcels.

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 the 39<sup>th</sup> Personnel Support Battalion, Directorate of Personnel Support Amenities in Canberra, members from local NSW Sub-Branches, local schools and Cadet units, RSL National Headquarters staff, and friends of AFOF from the general community is greatly appreciated.





**RSL  
AUSTRALIAN  
FORCES OVERSEAS  
FUND**



**SUPPORTING OUR PERSONNEL  
OVERSEAS**

